

# Tasmanian Ancestry



**TASMANIAN FAMILY HISTORY  
SOCIETY INC.**

Volume 36 Number 2—September 2015

# TASMANIAN FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.

PO Box 326 Rosny Park Tasmania 7018

Society Secretary: [secretary@tasfhs.org](mailto:secretary@tasfhs.org)

Journal Editor: [editors@tasfhs.org](mailto:editors@tasfhs.org)

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

**Patron:** Dr Alison Alexander

**Fellows:** Dr Neil Chick and Mr David Harris

## **Executive:**

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

## **Committee:**

Betty Bissett	Judith Cocker	John Dare
Geoffrey Dean	Lucille Gee	John Gillham
Libby Gillham	Julie Kapeller	Sue-Ellen McCregan
	Louise Rainbow	

By-laws Coordinator	Robert Tanner	(03) 6231 0794
Web Manager	Robert Tanner	(03) 6231 0794
Journal Editor	Rosemary Davidson	(03) 6424 1343
LWFHA Coordinator	Leonie Mickleborough	(03) 6223 7948
Members' Interests Compiler	John Gillham	(03) 6239 6529
Membership Registrar	Muriel Bissett	(03) 6344 4034
Publications Convenor	Beverley Richardson	(03) 6225 3292
Public Officer	Colleen Read	(03) 6244 4527
Society Sales Officer	Maurice Appleyard	(03) 6245 9351

## Branches of the Society

Burnie:PO Box 748 Burnie Tasmania 7320

**[petjud@bigpond.com](mailto:petjud@bigpond.com)**

Hobart:PO Box 326 Rosny Park Tasmania 7018

**[secretary@hobart.tasfhs.org](mailto:secretary@hobart.tasfhs.org)**

Huon:PO Box 117 Huonville Tasmania 7109

**[vsbtas@bigpond.com](mailto:vsbtas@bigpond.com)**

Launceston:PO Box 1290 Launceston Tasmania 7250

**[mandbbissett@gmail.com](mailto:mandbbissett@gmail.com)**

Mersey:PO Box 267 Latrobe Tasmania 7307

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

# Tasmanian Ancestry

Volume 36 Number 2

September 2015

ISSN 0159 0677

---

## Contents

From the editor .....	62
President's Report 2014/2015 .....	63
Best Journal Article Award [New Criteria] .....	64
Lilian Watson Family History Award 2014 .....	65
Awards at AGM .....	66
Auditor's Report .....	67
Branch Reports .....	70
<i>Sister Olive May Greer: a Nurse's story in the Australian Army Nursing Service (AANS) during WWI in England and France, Terese Binns .....</i>	<i>75</i>
<i>The Mermaid (1) 1828, an Unintended Arrival, Anne McMahon .....</i>	<i>82</i>
<i>Educating the Children of Hop-Pickers, Betty Jones .....</i>	<i>85</i>
<i>Voices from the Orphan School: the First Children, Dianne Snowden .....</i>	<i>89</i>
New Members' Interests and New Members .....	91
<i>Coming Home, Cecil Edgar Augustus (Gus) Williams, Jennifer Jacobs .....</i>	<i>95</i>
<i>The Hawthorn Family in Van Diemen's Land, Seeking a new start in a new land, Judith Carter and Don Bradmore .....</i>	<i>99</i>
<i>History of the Cronly Family, Br James Cronly OFM Cap. ....</i>	<i>107</i>
<i>Transportation to Van Diemen's Land, Leonie Mickleborough .....</i>	<i>113</i>
<i>Links with Lindisfarne: a Memoir, Marion Dowsett .....</i>	<i>117</i>
<i>Making the most of Trove: meet the Tilde '~', Catriona Bryce .....</i>	<i>119</i>
<i>Genes on Screen, Vee Maddock .....</i>	<i>121</i>
Library Acquisitions .....	123
Society Sales .....	124

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

---

## From the editor

Although the weather for the AGM at Swansea was rather chilly, everyone appeared to thoroughly enjoy the event. It was two days of typical frosty mornings which heralded clear, bright, sunny days. The speakers were well chosen and thoroughly entertaining, the food and coffee were excellent, even down to the jelly beans in our 'show bags'! Thank you to all who participated.

The dinner at the Bark Mill was great but possibly overshadowed by the impressive performance of the after dinner speaker, local identity Noel Stanley.

I spent the following few days in Hobart and was fortunate to attend the Dechaineaux Theatre at the Art School to hear the Irish sculptor, Rowan Gillespie, who has been chosen to produce a group of figures depicting the arrival of Irish convict women in Van Diemen's Land. When completed, they will be installed on the Hunter Street pier at the site of their arrival. You may like to watch <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CKfhbMnKTso>

Yvonne Airey in New Zealand sent me a newspaper clipping from the *Wellington Dominion Post* with an obituary for Dr Anthony Frank Bellette, art historian and lecturer at Victoria University in New Zealand. A descendant of Jacob Bellett, Dr Bellette was born in Hobart in 1937 and died in Hobart 19 May this year. There are many Tasmanians who have the Bellette name on their family tree.

He was described 'as quiet and unassuming, yet an enthralling and charismatic lecturer ... with a wry sense of humour.'

Rosemary Davidson

## Journal address

PO Box 326 Rosny Park TAS 7018  
email [editors@tasfhs.org](mailto:editors@tasfhs.org)

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

### Deadline dates are:

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

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

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

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

**Cover:** Sister Olive May Greer's cabin trunk from WWI with articles of the AANS uniform. See article p. 75 by Terese Binns

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2014–2015

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

Membership at 31 March 2015 was down 2 per cent on the previous year; a total of 1166 financial members was recorded. Whilst most branches have had a slight decrease in numbers, memberships from overseas, Launceston and Burnie areas were found to have increased.

Attendances at our branch libraries, by both visitors and members would appear to be down at most branches, compared to the previous year. However, Hobart Branch experienced increased participation from researchers using their services. Members' usage was up 4 per cent on the previous year. This increase may possibly be attributed to the various special workshops conducted over a period of several months.

Income from sale of society publications has been negligible during the 2014/2015 year, apart from modest sales of the new index to *Tasmanian Ancestry Vols 1–20, June 1980 to March 2000* DVD.

During the year, branches continued producing and publishing indexes and other reference material for the benefit of all researchers and to raise funds. As reported in *Tasmanian Ancestry* at various times: Launceston Branch continued with more volumes in their *Tasmanian Mail* and *Weekly Courier* series; Mersey Branch with more volumes in their *Advocate Personal Announcements* series and Hobart Branch has published another 'Millington' index in their *Undertakers of Hobart* series.

Branches continue to expend funds to upgrade their computers and/or reader/printer equipment in order to provide relevant

access to the numerous records held in-house and on-line.

Hobart Branch was successful in obtaining a grant to upgrading their photocopier/printer, from the Tasmanian Community Fund (Round 29).

The society's income has been slightly less than the previous year but our treasurer continues to find innovative ways to reduce our expenditure. Having successfully trialed the distribution of receipts and membership cards by email to interstate members, I am sure he will be able to reduce postage costs further when the process is applied to all payments by card or direct deposit.

The society continues to maintain a presence and contributes to the efforts of a number of organizations during the year. We were represented on the board of the Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations; the Joint Tasmanian Archive Consultative Forum, and the Digital Information Group [Tasmanian organizations involved in the collection of historical data].

We continue to produce the excellent product, *Tasmanian Ancestry*, thanks to the dedicated work of our editor Rosemary Davidson. The journal distribution being conducted by Clint Ayres and the members of Hobart's Monday Group. I thank them all for the service they provide.

On your behalf, I would also thank those involved with this year's Lilian Watson Family History Award—Leonie Mickleborough, the coordinator, for her organizational efforts and distribution of the various books; and our volunteer judges; Alison Alexander, Lucy Frost and Dianne Snowden for their services.

Having already apologised for my absence at the 2015 AGM in the June issue of *Tasmanian Ancestry*, I would now like to thank members of the society executive who have supported me in the years I have held the office of president. Particularly the efforts of Colleen Read (Secretary), Robert Tanner (Vice-President) and Peter Cocker (Treasurer) in more recent times. They have all been a great help and I deeply appreciate their efforts. ◀

Maurice Appleyard **Society President**

## BEST JOURNAL ARTICLE AWARD

New criteria for articles published in  
Volumes 36 and Volume 37

**I**N order for the journal to maintain high standards it is important the editor should have at his/her disposal a supply of articles that is ample, varied and of a high standard. Implied in this is that there should be a continuing supply of new authors; and all authors should be enthusiastic about developing their skills.

Traditionally the society has tried to encourage all authors by recognising the article which has been judged the 'best' for that volume; although determining the 'best' is often difficult and at times may even seem arbitrary. The problem is rendered complex by the wide range of skills among our authors, from novices to professional historians; and also the fact that some authors write prolifically and to a high standard.

There is scope to recognise novice writers with an Encouragement Award which would be awarded only to writers who have not received an award previously from the society. The society has decided there will be no Best Journal Article Award to cover the issues of Volume 36.

In Volume 37 only articles published by novice writers will be judged, for an Encouragement Award. A 'novice' writer is deemed an author who has not previously published in *Tasmanian Ancestry*.

This decision will be reviewed annually to allow professional writers to be judged for the Best Journal Article Award in future volumes. ◀

With thanks to Geoff Dean, Burnie Branch, Member 6020.

### *Tasmanian Family History Society Inc.*

## **2015 Lilian Watson Family History Award**

for a **Book**

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

**Entries Close 1 December 2015**

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

**[www.tasfhs.org](http://www.tasfhs.org)**

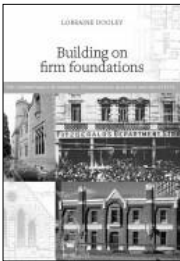
or

The Secretary  
PO Box 326 ROSNY PARK  
TAS 7018

email: **[secretary@tasfhs.org](mailto:secretary@tasfhs.org)**

# LILIAN WATSON FAMILY HISTORY AWARD 2014

**A**T the AGM, held during a most successful weekend at Swansea on 20–21 June, Lorraine Dooley was presented, by our Patron, Dr Alison Alexander, with a certificate and prize for her winning book, *Building on firm foundations: the Cooper Family in Tasmania: Stonemasons, builders and architects*, which she has gifted to the Hobart Branch.



**Lorraine Dooley, *Building on firm foundations: the Cooper family in Tasmania: stone-masons, builders and architects, Hobart 2014.* 243 pp. ill., maps.**

This year I was among the judges of the Lilian Watson Family History Award, and I could see first-hand the standard of the entries. I was extremely impressed. I don't like judging prizes because you have to choose a winner, and this is difficult when all the entries have something special about them. All are the product of hours of devoted work, all are interesting and all have some special attribute to note. I'm most impressed that in Tasmania we can, year after year, produce a group of books which are of such high standard. The winner is just the one which edged ahead of the others.

This year's winner is an excellent book. Lorraine Dooley tells the story of her family, beginning with Robert Cooper, a Scottish stonemason, migrating to VDL with his family in 1855. Robert worked on many major projects such as Government House. His sons William and

Francis established Cooper Bros, builders (1890) which later became William Cooper and Sons, and Claude Cooper and Sons. The firm folded in 1971. The various permutations of the firm worked on a number of major Hobart projects, building or extending St Davids and St Marys Cathedrals, the Magdalen Home at Mount St Canice, the Treasury Chambers, the Tasmanian Public Library, G P Fitzgerald's department store, Princes Street State School, Cascade Brewery and many others, all of which are described in short (four to five page) chapters.

Rod Cooper, Robert's great-grandson, became a well-known architect, especially for the Catholic Church. He was very friendly with Archbishop Guildford Young, and with him designed twenty-four schools, seventeen churches and fourteen major additions. When the Pope visited in 1986, Rod transformed Elwick racecourse into a place of worship. Rod's son and granddaughter became architects in their turn, so the family tradition continues after well over 150 years.

This book appeals on several levels. The descriptions and illustrations of each building will interest Hobartians. The family and business firm history is another interesting aspect, with sections on, for example, William's long connection with the Tasmanian Cricket Association; Rod's involvement in the 1986 Papal visit; William's and Claude's wages books, 1921–24 and 1947–71; and Rod's philosophy as an architect.

Thirdly, the book is beautifully designed by Julie Hawkins, who has been responsible for a number of attractive books of

Tasmanian history. Many photographs, plans, maps, designs and newspaper clippings complement the text, and there are a family tree, bibliography and index.

Lorraine Dooley (née Cooper) is to be congratulated on producing a fine book which extends our knowledge of one area of Hobart's history.

**Alison Alexander**

**Other LWFHA entries were:**

*A Reid and Shakespeare Family History.* Malcolm Ward, gifted to Launceston Branch.

*James Ginn, Robbery to Respectability. Transported to Tasmania in 1835 'for the term of his natural life'.* Jennifer Clark (née Ginn), gifted to Launceston Branch.

*The Remarkable Edward Myers. Convict, Fortune, Doctor of Medicine and Newspaper Publisher.* Don Bradmore and Judith Carter, gifted to Launceston Branch.

*Comfortable & Happy. Alexander Thomas Bisset Blair, Pioneer Shipwright of Launceston. Including accounts of the Hedington, Couch, Dell, Sleeman & Greene families.* Patricia J Fearnley, gifted to Launceston Branch.

*We are because ...* Cynthia Brock, gifted to Launceston Branch.

*Tree of Hazel Wood. A Family Chronicle.* Vere Heazlewood. Revised Edition by Ruth Hodges and Miriam Heazlewood-Peck with Ivan Heazlewood AM, gifted to Launceston Branch.

Robert Tanner with his Meritorious Service Award, Lorraine Dooley and her winning book with our Patron, Alison Alexander

*Clogs, Courage and Community. Stories of the Dutch settlers in Penguin, Tasmania.* Elizabeth Nickols, gifted to Mersey Branch.

These books will circulate the branch libraries as follows:

Hobart	20 Jun 2015
Huon	15 Aug 2015
Launceston	21 Nov 2015
Mersey	20 Feb 2016
Burnie	15 May 2016

**Meritorious Service Award**

At the AGM, Robert Tanner was presented with a Certificate of Meritorious Service by our Patron, Dr Alison Alexander, for his huge contribution to the society at both branch and society level.

**Best Journal Article for Volume 35**

Also announced at the AGM was the winner of the Best Journal Article for Volume 35—Erika Shankley for her article *Partridge Island, 'The Crown has no Claim ...' Part 3.* ◀

No award will be made for Volume 36 while the society reviews the criteria for the Best Article Award. See page 64.





**2015 INDEPENDENT AUDITORS REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF**  
**TASMANIAN FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.**

I have audited the accompanying accounts for Tasmanian Family History Society Incorporated for the year ended 31 March 2015 in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards.

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

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

- a) The Society has kept proper accounting records and other books during the period covered by the accounts.
- b) The accompanying accounts are properly drawn up and in accordance with the Associations Incorporation Act (1964) so as to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs as at 31 March 2015 and of the results for the period ended on that date according to the information given to me, the books of the Society and the explanations given.
- c) The accounts are properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the Society's financial position according to the information at my disposal and the explanations given to me.
- d) The rules relating to the administration of the Society's funds have been observed.
- e) I have obtained all the information required.

Devonport

5 June 2015

  
**NEIL WILKINSON**  
Registered Company Auditor

**TASMANIAN FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.**

**General Account**

Statement of Income and Expenditure  
For the Year 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015

2013/14		2014/15
<b>\$11,956.59</b>	<b>Balance as per Cash Book 1 April 2014</b>	<b>\$18,952.28</b>
<b>INCOME</b>		
13988.89	Membership Subscriptions IS/OS	14405.00
13709.00	Membership Subscriptions - Branch	8345.00
516.00	Donations	810.00
745.60	Society Sales - TFI CD Rom	0.00
170.40	- Publications	418.65
510.00	- TAMIOT CD	290.00
18.35	- P&P Received on sales	16.80
38.64	Bank Interest	725.45
95.00	Insurance Reimbursement from Branches	35.68
160.00	AGM Registrations	0.00
175.00	Journal Receipts - Advertising and Sales	790.00
1600.00	- Subscriptions	126.50
4176.00	Funds Collected for Branches - Membership	1400.00
204.00	- Donations	5258.00
0.00	- TFI Royalty	620.00
519.45	- Sales	0.00
0.00	Funds ex TPT transferred	2209.20
<b>\$36,626.33</b>	<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>8087.20</b>
<b>\$48,582.92</b>	<b>TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE</b>	<b>0.00</b>
		<b>\$34,724.83</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
4560.46	Insurance	4669.42
0.00	Sales - TFI CD Rom	0.00
0.00	- Publications	585.75
0.00	- TAMIOT	0.00
367.00	Bank Charges	585.75
16424.15	Journal Payments	412.41
	Administration Payments	16793.51
635.00	AGM Expenses	1156.67
0.00	Advertising	0.00
189.60	Audit Fees/ Corporate Affaris	190.40
1361.20	Executive Travel	1106.20
200.00	Lillian Watson and other awards	200.00
0.00	Membership Expenses	0.00
0.00	Repairs and Maintenance	50.00
1054.24	Postage, PO Box, Internet	1645.85
905.54	Printing and Stationery	324.35
287.40	Room Hire/Meeting Expense	312.05
150.00	Subscriptions AFFHO and FFHS	285.52
2896.00	Branch Payments - Membership	5039.00
134.00	- Donations	868.00
0.00	- Royalty	0.00
466.05	- Sales	1772.20
0.00	Capital Items	784.46
<b>\$29,630.64</b>	<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>	<b>7679.20</b>
<b>\$18,952.28</b>	<b>Balance as per Cash Book 31 March 2015</b>	<b>784.46</b>
<b>\$6,995.69</b>	<b>Trading Surplus</b>	<b>\$36,195.79</b>
		<b>\$17,481.32</b>
		<b>-\$1,470.96</b>

## Tasmanian Family History Society Inc.

### Statement of Consolidated Cash Flow for the year ended 31 March 2015

	Burnie	Hobart	Huon	L'ton	Mersey	Society	Totals
<b>Opening Balance</b>	4,986	4,579	3,014	2,957	4,153	18,952	38,640
<b>Consolidated</b>							
<b>Add Receipts</b>							
Membership Subscriptions	2,495	12,515	640	4,645	2,837	30,837	37,996
Donations	407	1,515	296	329	526	810	3,073
Fund Raising	1,770	1,273	70	355	1,673	0	5,142
Research	479	1,871	25	201	187	0	2,763
Sales	2,106	5,616	0	3,017	5,669	725	15,656
Interest	12	20	10	11	7	36	95
Library Revenue	1,753	1,736	30	509	1,001	0	5,028
Sundries	0	7,392	0	246	2,000	790	10,428
<b>Journal (Tas Ancestry)</b>						1,527	1,527
<b>Total receipts</b>	9,022	31,938	1,070	9,313	13,899	34,725	81,707
Transfers from term loan a/c	0	2,135	0	0	0	0	2,135
<b>Total funds available</b>	14,008	38,651	4,084	12,270	18,051	53,677	122,481
<b>Less Payments</b>							
Membership Subscriptions	500	5,129	275	1,903	1,355	0	0
Insurance	0	0	0	0	0	4,669	4,669
Fund Raising	21	844	0	100	294	0	1,259
Research	0	0	0	46	2	0	48
Items for re-sale	1,095	2,601	120	1,700	2,523	586	7,146
Bank Fees	0	36	0	0	0	412	448
Library Payments	5,510	7,759	1,042	5,309	4,152	0	23,771
Sundries	0	464	0	116	0	2,225	1,994
<b>Journal (Tas Ancestry)</b>						16,794	16,794
Assets/Capital	2,424	10,135	0	1,204	941	784	15,488
Administration Payments	60	4,116	0	867	989	10,726	9,947
<b>Total Payments</b>	9,609	31,084	1,437	11,244	10,255	36,196	81,565
Transfers to term loan a/c	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Closing Balance</b>	\$4,399	\$7,567	\$2,647	\$1,026	\$7,796	\$17,481	\$40,916
Term Loans, Float etc	\$12,487 *	\$15,038	\$2,440	\$8,241	\$17,179	\$0	\$55,385
<b>Total Cash Reserves</b>	\$16,886	\$22,605	\$5,087	\$9,266	\$24,975	\$17,481	\$96,301
<b>Value of Assets</b>	\$87,800	\$157,709	\$34,213	\$67,000	\$44,762	\$7,967	\$399,451

\* Includes special purpose grant from Burnie City Council

# BRANCH REPORTS

## Burnie

[http://www.clients.tas.webnet.com.au/  
general/burnbranch.htm](http://www.clients.tas.webnet.com.au/general/burnbranch.htm)

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

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

**PO Box 748 Burnie Tasmania 7320**

**email: petjud@bigpond.com**



It is with much pleasure that I advise Burnie Branch has been successful in obtaining a Tasmanian Community Fund

Grant. Our branch applied for a grant to help with the restoration of the two dozen or so remaining headstones from the View Road Cemetery. These headstones were removed from the cemetery some years ago, as they were suffering from the effects of weather and vandalism, and were placed in storage. With this grant we will be able to bring them back to something like their former glory and it is hoped that the Burnie Regional Museum will be able to find a permanent display area for them. Part of the grant will go towards running an 'Adopt a headstone' program. This program will be delivered to local service organisations and schools with a view for them to adopt a headstone and raise funds to go towards the cost or restoration. Part of the presentation of this program will be a power point presentation about the people named on the headstones and their descendants.

Our workshops have continued with the last two focused on hands-on use of our members own computers. Participants brought their own laptops to the workshop and were instructed on file creation, saving and retrieval. The last

workshop was on using MS Word, with basic instruction on formatting, inserting of images, drop caps, headers and footers with a final session on mail merge. Those of our members that have only recently started using computers are enjoying the workshops and some have remarked that they would like the workshops to be run weekly. Future workshops will probably include topics such as *Family Tree Maker* sessions and getting started in family history research for our newer members.

We are all wishing the warm weather to return as our library area, being such a large space, certainly takes several radiators to warm it up.

**Peter Cocker** Branch President

## Hobart

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

**President: Beverley Richardson**

**email: president@hobart.tasfhs.org**

**Secretary: Howard Reeves**

**PO Box 326 Rosny Park Tasmania 7018**

**email: secretary@hobart.tasfhs.org**

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



The branch has continued its frenetic start to the year with more workshops, meetings and activities. More

Saturday morning workshops have been held for members seeking to improve their research skills in specific areas and the branch continues to offer members 'one on one' dedicated access to experienced researchers to assist them with breaking down family research 'brick-walls'. Thanks are extended to members Brenda Richardson, Louise Rainbow and Rebecca Read who presented the work-

shops. Demand was such that many workshops were over-subscribed.

As the host branch for the 2015 Society AGM and conference, committee members were busy with the planning. The venue, the Swansea Town Hall, was magnificent, matched by the catering, the tours and the speakers. There were over 80 registrants (77 attended) for the event. The branch extends its thanks to the members of the East Coast Heritage Museum and the Glamorgan-Spring Bay Historical Society and to local historian and curator of the Museum, Maureen Martin-Ferris, who assisted the branch greatly in the planning for the weekend.

### General Meetings

Hobart Branch has continued to hold its regular general meetings featuring invited speakers on the third Tuesday evening of the month at 'The Sunday School' in the St Johns Park Precinct in New Town. Four meetings have been held in the three months April to June, including the AGM of the branch in April, with the additional meeting being arranged to take advantage a visiting interstate speaker in May.

The guest speaker at the April meeting, the AGM, was member Ros Escott. In her presentation, 'DNA Testing and Family History Research—Journeys of discovery', Ros introduced members to the use of DNA in family history research. This was an informative talk, enriched by Ros' personal experiences with DNA testing. Her first point was that DNA testing is of limited use without a good family tree to make it meaningful. There are three main types of DNA testing:

- Y-DNA tests the Y-chromosome possessed only by males; it tests the father's father's father's direct ancestry and is therefore surname related.

- Mt-DNA (mitochondrial DNA) possessed by both males and females, tests the mother's mother's mother's direct ancestry; only females pass it on to their children.
- Autosomal DNA (Family Finder) is possessed by both males and females and both pass it on. There are approximately one million SNPs (Single or Simple Nucleotide Polymorphisms—a DNA sequence variation occurring within species) on 22 chromosomes and potentially it is possible to find cousins with a common ancestor 6 or 7 generations back, sometimes more. This is the most interesting form of DNA testing for family historians.

The 'Big 3' DNA testing companies for family history are *Family Tree* DNA ([www.familytreedna.com](http://www.familytreedna.com)), Ancestry DNA (<http://dna.ancestry.com.au>) and 23andMe ([www.23andme.com/](http://www.23andme.com/)).

Privacy is an issue of concern to many researchers and so 'homework' should be done. Costs vary between service providers and are available on the above websites.

The guest speaker at the May meeting was Peter O'Hern who spoke on the topic 'The conscription issue in Australia during World War 1'. Using the *Zeehan and Dundas Herald* (4 pages, printed 6 times a week and ceased publication in 1922) as a source to assess the intense feelings surrounding the issue of conscription, Peter provided details of the 'key players' in the debate on the national and local scene. These included P M Billy Hughes, King O'Malley (Federal Labor Member for Darwin, now Braddon), Charles Howroyd, Wynyard priest Fr O'Donnell, and John Earle. It was a volatile time in Australian politics with several politicians changing party

sides and affiliations. At the time the Australian population was 5 million; Tasmania 200 000.

Britain, Canada and the United States had used parliaments to introduce conscription. Following Federation in 1901, there was a frenzy of policy development by the Federal government, all with war looming. While Australia introduced compulsory training for 18 year-olds in 1909, only volunteers served overseas. Conscription was a political 'hot potato'. In January 1916 the *Zeehan and Dundas Herald* reported Australia almost unanimously opposed to conscription. A referendum held on 28 August 1916 was preceded by an anti-conscription meeting on the West Coast was the first reported by the newspaper. If large numbers of miners were conscripted imported non-union miners (hence under-mining miners' conditions) would need to be imported to keep the mines operating. It was felt 200 000 conscripted soldiers would have little impact on the war but would decimate small communities. Pro-conscription meetings were also held and the West Coast, church communities and councils were conflicted.

A second referendum was held on 20 December 1917; both failing but there were interesting shifts in the voting patterns, both at a national and state level and within small communities such as the West Coast.

The speaker at the June meeting was Roger McNeice OAM who spoke on the topic of 'Colonial Coin and Notes in Van Diemen's Land'. Roger held the position of Honorary Curator of Coins and Medal at the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery for 22 years and has an international reputation in numismatic circles.

He spoke about the importance of the development of coinage and currency in the development of the VDL colony. Initially there were only a few chests of original coinage and currency, creating a desperate situation for commerce in the colony. Many foreign coins circulated and these made up much of the coinage of NSW. In 1800 a General Proclamation legalised various foreign coins and established exchange rates. The earliest universal coin of account was the Spanish dollar with a value of 8 Reales. Silver coins made it possible to cut coins into fractions and these circulated throughout communities. In 1826 sterling was introduced, as the unit of account and an exchange rate with the Spanish dollar was set. The Indian sicca rupee was another imported coin, accounting in 1830 for almost half of the circulating coinage. Tasmania was the only colony to legalise its use. It was imported at 1/9 (one shilling and nine pence) and sold at 2/6. It became disallowed in 1836. At different times Mexican dollars, dollars of other Central American countries and French five franc coins circulated because of their purity of silver. No other colony proclaimed the variety of coins than VDL/Tasmania did.

Copper coins were introduced in the second half of the 1820s and the entire minting of 1827 was for use in VDL. At times of scarcity of coins, merchants struck their own tokens, and while not legal tender, many were accepted by traders. As banks were established (including Bank of VDL, Cornwall Bank) they issued their own notes.

An additional general meeting of the Branch was held at short notice in late May. Visiting family in Hobart from Adelaide, Launceston born Richard Merry spoke on the topic 'An Introduction to DNA in Family History'.

This talk complemented and built on the April presentation of Ros Escott and has prompted the branch committee to contemplate establishing a DNA Interest Group. He pointed out examples of how DNA may be used in family history research: proving people with the same surname are related when there is no written evidence and can provide a timeline of when family connections were established; testing hypotheses in relation to adoptions or unknown parents. His advice—'be prepared for surprising findings'.

The process of engaging in DNA testing and analysis of results was explained and listed the following companies as significant providers: 23 and Me; Family Tree DNA (family research specialists and having the biggest database); and Genographic, an off-shoot of National Geographic, particularly useful for those with an interest in ethnicity and population 'flow'.

Richard also spoke about the Guild of One Name Studies (GOONS) whose members study the genealogy and family history of all persons with the same surnames and their variants. He pointed out the usefulness of surname studies when run alongside DNA studies. Members who register (claim) a surname undertake, on a global basis, to collect, research and organise in a database all information about the chosen surname and respond to enquiries. The current Australian membership of GOONS is 160, six of them Tasmanian. Membership is \$27.

Richard holds positions in both DNA and GOONS study groups. As a result of exposure on ABC Radio the meeting attracted 38 members and visitors.

## Speakers for 2015

At the time of writing speakers have yet to be arranged for forthcoming General Meetings in 2015.

**Howard Reeves** Branch Secretary

## Launceston

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

**President: Helen Stuart (03) 6331 9175**

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

**PO Box 1290 Launceston Tasmania 7250**

**secretary: mandbbissett@gmail.com**



The September workshop is scheduled for Wednesday 16, and will cover Scottish research. Bookings are essential.

Around thirteen Launceston Branch members attended the Society AGM and Conference held at Swansea. Congratulations to the organisers and thanks to the speakers for well researched addresses.

**Vale:** Betty Royal Calverley (24 May 1934–26 May 2015), member 1260, joined the Society at Launceston Branch on 14 March 1986. In 1990 Betty was appointed TAMIOT Coordinator at Launceston Branch, and subsequently the Society Coordinator from 1991–2000. During these years Betty spent many hours in the 'northern field' with other dedicated members and gave regular reports to the Society quarterly meetings.

Betty enlisted the technical help of Anne (the Publications Officer), and the late Henry Bartlett, who were largely responsible for the expertise in bringing the TAMIOT data to its culmination and production of the very successful TAMIOT CD in 2001.

In recognition of Betty's dedication and her enormous contribution, the society

awarded a Certificate of Meritorious Service in 1999.

Short periods were also spent as Minute Secretary and Delegate for the Launceston Branch. Because of ill health, Betty withdrew from active participation at the branch in 2010.

**Library:** Tuesday 20 January, 10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.—phone (03) 6344 4034.

Other days (except Saturday and 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**  
(03) 6428 6328

**Library (03) 6426 2257**

**PO Box 267 Latrobe Tasmania 7307**

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



On the 2 May we held a 'High Tea', for all members, with an emphasis upon giving new members the opportunity to come to

the History Library at 117 Gilbert Street, Latrobe, to chat with our Volunteers and become aware of the vast array of information we have for them to search through. It was truly a great day and was enjoyed by all who made the effort to come.

The Tasmanian Family History Society Inc., Mersey Branch is combining with the Devonport LINC to promote family and local history in our region.

During the month of August, the Latrobe Family History Library located at 117 Gilbert Street, (at the rear of the Post

Office, Museum and Library building in the old Police Station and House) will provide **FREE ACCESS** to any person seeking assistance in researching their family history or wishing to obtain information and guidance as to how to go about researching their family tree, on every **Tuesday and Friday** during the month of **August**.

Depending upon the degree of interest shown it may be necessary to arrange times because of the number of computers that are available.

Our President Ros Coss, and husband Rus, have returned home after extended leave to take care of family matters at her parents' home in the Blue Mountains.

Our condolences to Ros on the passing of her mother.

Indexing of *The Advocate's* Births, Deaths and Marriages for 2013 has been completed and is awaiting approval for printing.

## Huon

**President: Shirley Fletcher (03) 6264 1546**

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

**PO Box 117 Huonville Tasmania 7109**

**email: [vsbtas@bigpond.com](mailto:vsbtas@bigpond.com)**

No report received



# SISTER OLIVE MAY GREER

## A NURSE'S STORY IN THE AUSTRALIAN ARMY NURSING SERVICE (AANS) DURING WWI IN ENGLAND AND FRANCE

Terese Binns (Member No.7233)

**I**N writing Sister Olive GREER's story I hope to offer the reader insight into Olive's nursing-life and include some of the experiences she may have encountered. Details have been difficult to uncover as she did not leave a diary or personal letters. In the main, I have compiled this information from her Army service records and other aspects from the Australian Army Nursing Service (AANS) official history.

Olive May Greer was born in 1878 in Maldon, Victoria; she was her parents' second child.<sup>1</sup> Her older brother, born the year before, had died at only four and a half months of age.<sup>2</sup> Three more children followed,<sup>3</sup> and after Millie's birth in 1881, their mother,

Christina, died.<sup>4</sup> Olive's father, William Lyons Shaw Greer, widowed with four young children aged five and under, married Annie Eliza MARTIN in 1882 in Melbourne.<sup>5</sup> The family came to



Courtesy Franklin House,  
National Trust of Tasmania

Launceston, Tasmania aboard the *Mangana* on 27 November 1883.<sup>6</sup> The following year, Olive's father became resident secretary of the Mutual Life Assurance of Victoria offices in Launceston.

After two more children William decided to settle in the Launceston area. He bought a large two-storey Georgian house with ample stables and servants quarters at Franklin Village. He called the property 'The Hollies' due to

the large holly trees among the extensive gardens. The Greer family became heavily involved in their community with William treasurer and lay reader for St James' Church opposite his home.

---

<sup>1</sup> *Victorian Pioneers Index*, (VPI) B: 1878 (7174)

<sup>2</sup> VPI, birth: 1877 (10007); death: 19 weeks (8561)

<sup>3</sup> VPI, Clara Victoria: birth: 1879 Maldon, VIC (17539); Harold William: birth: 1880 Maldon, VIC (17070). Edith Mildred (Millie): birth: c.1881. No record on either the Victorian or Tasmanian registry

---

<sup>4</sup> No record on the Victorian registry

<sup>5</sup> VPI, marriage: 1882, (3562)

<sup>6</sup> *Examiner*, 28 November 1883; *Argus*, 27 November 1883

Another two children were added to his household.<sup>7</sup> He became superintendent of the children's Sunday school.<sup>8</sup>

A year after the birth of William and Annie's youngest daughter, Gertrude, Annie died on 9 December 1894 aged 41.<sup>9</sup> By this time William was 51. Perhaps losing both her mother and her step-mother and being the eldest daughter, Olive developed into an independent young lady who assumed the role of organising the household and caring for her younger siblings, whether they had injury, illness or needed help with their school work.

On 22 August 1908, at the age of 65, William regrettably passed away. He was buried alongside his wife in the St James' churchyard.<sup>10</sup> At this time William's older children had become independent adults with several employed in Melbourne. Olive first appeared on the Australian Electoral Roll for Victoria in 1905, her occupation listed as nurse at the Melbourne Hospital. By 1909 she was living at 340 Albert Street, East Melbourne.<sup>11</sup> The old family home in Tasmania was sold about 1910 for £500.

The Melbourne Hospital, originally located on the corner of Swanston and

Lonsdale Streets, offered a three-year, on-the-job nurse training course. This would have included ward procedures in hygiene and sterilising instruments; invalid cookery and lectures on a wide range of health topics.<sup>12</sup> After 1935, it was renamed the Royal Melbourne Hospital and was moved to Parkville in 1944.<sup>13</sup>

In 1914, Olive, a fully trained nurse, gained more experience at the Homeopathic Hospital in St Kilda Road.<sup>14</sup> In late March 1915, the hospital became the Army's major centre known as No. 5 Australian General Hospital (AGH) offering 40 beds, eight nurses and one medical officer. By the end of the war, the staff included seventeen full-time officers and 63 nurses serving 620 beds.<sup>15</sup> In 1934, it became known as Prince Henry's Hospital, which has since been demolished.<sup>16</sup>

The war in Europe had been raging for twelve months when, on 4 August 1915 in Melbourne, Olive signed the enlistment form for 'service abroad' with

---

<sup>7</sup> Tasmanian Archive Heritage Office, (TAHO), Arthur Edmund: birth: 29 March 1884, Launceston TAS (RGD 33/1/63 no. 242); Kate (Kathleen) birth: 2 September 1885, Launceston, TAS (RGD 33/1/64 no. 544); William Martin (Will): birth: 8 November 1889, Evandale, TAS (RGD 33/1/68 no 1434); Gertrude (Gert) birth: 11 June 1893 Evandale, TAS (RGD 33/1/75 no. 709)

<sup>8</sup> *Examiner*, 24 August 1908, obituary

<sup>9</sup> TAHO, death: 9 December 1894, Franklin Village, 41 years, (RGD 35/1/63 no. 217)

<sup>10</sup> *Examiner*, 24 August 1908, death notice and obituary

<sup>11</sup> Australian Electoral Rolls 1903–1980.

---

<sup>12</sup> Harris, Kirsty, *More than Bombs and Bandages: Australian Army nurses at work in World War I*, Big Sky Publishing, 2011, p. 251. Training hospitals of AANS nursing members.

<sup>13</sup> [http://www.mh.org.au/royal\\_melbourne\\_hospital/history-of-rmh/w1/i1001564/](http://www.mh.org.au/royal_melbourne_hospital/history-of-rmh/w1/i1001564/)

<sup>14</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St\\_Kilda\\_Road,\\_Melbourne](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St_Kilda_Road,_Melbourne) 'The Prince Henry's Hospital (originally called the Melbourne Homoeopathic Hospital) was opened in St Kilda Road in 1885 and operated until 1991.'

<sup>15</sup> <http://www.aif.adfa.edu.au:8888/Medical.html>

<sup>16</sup> <http://www.emelbourne.net.au/biogs/EM01188b.htm> 'Its 1934 renaming as Prince Henry's, in honour of the royal visit of the Duke of Gloucester.'

the Australian Imperial Force (AIF).<sup>17</sup> By this time she may have felt it was time to 'do her bit' for her country and Empire. Or, she could have been excited by the opportunity that the war presented—travel, adventures and perhaps even romance.

### AANS Pledge of Service

I pledge myself loyally to serve my King and Country and to maintain the honour and efficiency of the Australian Army Nursing Service. I will do all in my power to alleviate the suffering of the sick and wounded, sparing no effort to bring them comfort of body and peace of mind. I will work in unity and comradeship with my fellow nurses. I will be ready to give assistance to those in need of my help, and will abstain from any action which may bring sorrow and suffering to others. At all times I will endeavour to uphold the highest traditions of Womanhood and of the Profession of which I am Part.<sup>18</sup>

The Australian Army Nursing Service was established as the nursing arm of the AIF. To be accepted into the service, nurses were required to have three years training and been suitably examined and gained proper qualifications. Additional requirements for women were to be single or widowed and between the ages of 20 and 45. Resignation was mandatory if a nurse married while in service. Nurses, before embarking for overseas duties, were required to volunteer for the Home Service, as part of the AANS force; they were technically already part of the AIF. Volunteering to embark for overseas was a second step, with more

volunteers than those actually accepted. After deployment Australian nurses were part of the Australian Army Medical Corps (AAMC).<sup>19</sup>

Olive's enlistment form reveals her firm hand-writing during the initial recruitment. The later, second step is in fainter ink of being accepted by the AIF on 28 November 1916, includes the name of the ship on which she would embark, the SS *Orsova*.<sup>20</sup> As Staff Nurse No. 1161, her next of kin was her sister, Mrs T H BRYAN, at the Lottah State School in Tasmania. Her Australian address was care of Mr A E Greer, Manager of the National Bank at Fitzroy, Victoria. Her description on enlistment states she was 32 years 10 months; five foot seven inches in height; weighing nine stone nine pounds; with a fair complexion, blue eyes, mid-brown hair and her religious denomination was Church of England. She had been with the AIF for fifteen months on Home Service working at Sandringham House, Melbourne and Osborne House, Geelong. By 1919 Osborne House had become Victoria's first Red Cross Rest Home for war-worn nurses.<sup>21</sup>

<sup>17</sup> <http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/Search/Retrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=4710034> NAA series B2455 Greer, OM'

<sup>18</sup> <http://trove.nla.gov.au/people/597790?c=people>

<sup>19</sup> <https://sites.google.com/site/archo-evidence/home/ww1australianwomen/aans-uniform>

<sup>20</sup> The *Orsova* was a 12,036 ton, 18 knot, two-funnelled passenger liner built in 1909 for the Orient Steam Navigation Company. In May 1915, she became a troop transport but made two commercial voyages to Australia in 1916. In 1919, she resumed the London – Sydney – Brisbane service and in 1933 was converted to a 'one class' vessel. She was broken up in 1936. <http://www.theshiplist.com/>

<sup>21</sup> <http://www.geelongadvertiser.com.au/news/geelong/anzac-nurses-recognised-at-osborne-house-exhibition/story-fnjuhovy-1227356408459>

A Sister's rate of pay was nine shillings and six pence (9/6) per day with abroad allowances added for mess and lodgings if required. The enamel 1916 Australian Imperial Force AANS badge was issued to a qualified Sister of their nursing staff. Olive would have been given a list describing articles of uniform she would need as part of the AANS force and an allowance of £21 was granted to cover these necessities. A cloth AANS badge was to be sewn on the right-hand sleeve of the uniform just above the elbow. She would have either made her own uniform or engaged a dressmaker. The nurses' silver 'Commonwealth' rising sun badge was worn at the centre of the uniform's collar.<sup>22</sup> Upon her cabin trunk she stencilled her identifying details finished with a red cross. The two-compartment trunk is on display in the front hall of Franklin House.

Perhaps some of Olive's friends and family gathered on the Melbourne wharf to wish her well as the ship slipped away on 6 December 1916. She was part of a group of 51 nursing staff who were to operate the ship's hospital headed by Matron-in-Chief Miss RICHARDSON. After cabins were allocated, all staff were called into the ship's lounge for a dress parade where Miss Richardson gave a close inspection of everyone's uniform and criticised the wrong coloured hat pins they wore, the angle of their hats and various other trifles.<sup>23</sup> Olive was appointed Temporary Sister-in-Charge for the

voyage.<sup>24</sup> The nurses themselves would have experienced the inevitable sea sickness and treated other minor ailments of passengers and crew during the journey. Their passage called into Fremantle, Western Australia before crossing the Indian Ocean to Durban on the South African east coast. Durban, a city with African, Indian and colonial influences was known as the Garden City. It had clean wide streets lined with avenues of colourful trees in full bloom. The nurses were granted leave to eagerly explore and experience this exotic city. Just after Christmas they arrived in Cape Town's harbour where the impressive Table Mountain came into view, towering over the city nestled at its foot. After two weeks of sightseeing expeditions, they continued north to Freetown in Sierra Leone on Africa's west coast, to take on much needed coal for the ship's engines. As with many voyages from Australia there were rumours of enemy submarines as they neared the English coast.<sup>25</sup>

The nursing girls disembarked onto lighters at Plymouth harbour, England, on 17 February 1917. Their late evening 10:30 train journey of 200 miles finally ended early the following morning at Paddington Station, London, at 3:45am. Unfortunately no-one was there to meet them and the waiting room was closed until 6:30. They had all been looking forward to comfortable lodgings in a real bed, but instead they had a freezing time on the platform sitting on their kit bags. An officer travelling with them phoned several hotels to find they were all full. The only accommodation available was at

---

<sup>22</sup> Australian War Memorial File No. 27  
373-44 pdf

<sup>23</sup> Gillings, J M and Richards, J (eds), *In all those lines: the diary of Sister Elsie Tranter 1916-1919*. Launceston, 2008, p. 2

---

<sup>24</sup> NAA series B2455 Greer, OM. Several letters requesting confirmation of this appointment

<sup>25</sup> Germany declared unrestricted submarine warfare in February 1917

the Salvation Army Home for Fallen Women. Eventually, all the *Orsova* girls were moved to the Portland Hotel, in Great Portland Street, where they were all able to have a good sound sleep. Their next mission was to make their way to the Australian Military Headquarters in Horseferry Road to draw pay and collect letters from home.<sup>26</sup>

During their London leave the nurses may have visited many of London's tourist sights before all too soon their movement orders came. On 1 March 1917, Olive was posted to No.13 Stationary Hospital at Boulogne, France. The British-run hospital was housed in sugar sheds on the quay beside La Liane harbour. The war casualties were brought in convoys from the battle front for treatment. These would have included physical injuries, diseases and shell shock.<sup>27</sup> In June that year, instructions were given that Australian nurses now working in Imperial units should be grouped into three hospitals to work under Matrons of their own service.<sup>28</sup>

Redeployed to follow these changes, Olive reported for duty at No. 25 British General Hospital at Hardelot-Plage south of Boulogne, which was housed in requisitioned hotels with a major portion under canvas. A staff of 100 made up of Australian nurses and English medical officers serviced approximately 2 400 beds with Matron A M KELLETT of the AANS force overseeing the running of

the hospital from 10 July that year.<sup>29</sup> As a Staff Nurse, Olive's work-load on the wards would have been very trying, especially on night shift watching for haemorrhages during air-raids when all lights were extinguished. She would have had to show much initiative dealing with many situations not experienced in civilian hospitals. In a shift she might have stood for long hours continuously changing dressings from theatre cases; prepared meals on the ward spirit stove; fed patients who were unable to help themselves and be able to give relief and reassurance to patients in pain; and then deal with her own feelings of being in contact with many horrific injuries and illnesses. By the end of July she transferred back to Australian Headquarters in London where she took two weeks' leave.

On 22 September Olive was posted to Australia's No. 1 General Hospital (1 AGH) which had been established on the Rouen racecourse. The hospital's most difficult time was in the winter, as the site was very exposed. It was surprising how well most of the medical cases fared, being nursed in tents. This was due to the devotion of the nursing staff, many of whom suffered from minor degrees of frost-bite. The cold interfered with the water supply and the use of fuel was restricted, owing to the shortage of coal. The hospital admitted on average nearly 3,000 casualties per month. The Matron-in-Charge was Miss M M FINLAY of the AANS force.<sup>30</sup>

Unfortunately, Olive missed Queen Mary's visit to the hospital in July. Her Majesty was accompanied through a

---

<sup>26</sup> Gillings and Richards, pp. 4–30, 35–37

<sup>27</sup> <http://greatwarnurses.blogspot.com.au/2009/05/13-stationary-hospital-boulogne.html>

<sup>28</sup> <http://www.scarletfinders.co.uk/67.html>  
16–30 June 1917; The National Archives of Australia, WO 95/3989

---

<sup>29</sup> <http://throughtheselines.com.au/research/hardelot-plage>

<sup>30</sup> <http://throughtheselines.com.au/research/1-AGH>

guard of honour of AANS nurses by the commanding officer, Col. Trent Champign de CRESPIGNY DSO.<sup>31</sup>

All Commonwealth soldiers and nurses received a Red Cross comfort package at Christmas. Early in 1918, Olive transferred to England for duties at No. 2 Australian Auxiliary Hospital (2 AAH) at Southall in Middlesex, which specialised in the fitting of artificial limbs. The hospital had been the Marylebone School in South Road before being taken over by the AIF in 1916. The hospital employed Australian soldier-mechanics in the attached workshop to make artificial limbs for the use of patients. Much work was done to help rehabilitate wounded men who were given training in various skills to assist them to gain employment once they returned home. They learnt telegraphy, electrical mechanics, how to weave, repair boots or do carpentry. The occupational therapy patients also made rehabilitation embroideries, the 'Rising Sun tunic' being a key example.<sup>32</sup>

Mrs RATTIGAN was presented with this patriotic outfit to express appreciation by three double amputee soldiers while they recovered at the hospital. Mrs Rattigan was one of

the co-founders of the Anzac Buffet Club in Victoria Street, London, that provided free meals and entertainment to many Australian soldiers on leave. The staff generally fed and entertained 1 000 Australian servicemen a day, seven days a week. In addition to serving meals, the club had billiard, reading and music rooms. Mrs Rattigan helped establish a branch of the Anzac Buffet Club at the Southall Hospital, where her efforts were greatly valued by Australian patients. She was born near Tocumwal, New South Wales. The tunic is now on display at the Centenary Exhibition at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.<sup>33</sup>

On 29 December 1918, Olive was promoted to Sister and transferred to No. 3 Australian Auxiliary Hospital (3 AAH) located in Dartford. The hospital had grown to 1 400 beds and was for the treatment of war-related nerves and neuroses. Many nurses chose to carry out extra duties that included the organisation of concert events to entertain their patients during convalescence.<sup>34</sup> Auxiliary hospitals were for treatment and ongoing recuperation



Mrs Rattigan wearing  
The Rising Sun Tunic  
Australian War Memorial Collection PO1441001

<sup>31</sup> <http://ayfamilyhistory.blogspot.com.au/2015/04/r-is-for-no-1-australian-general.html>

<sup>32</sup> <http://ezitis.myzen.co.uk/2aaah.html>

<sup>33</sup> <http://www.awm.gov.au/blog/2008/12/30/mrs-rattigan--and-the-anzac-buffet-london>

<sup>34</sup> <https://sites.google.com/site/archoevidence/home/ww1australianwomen/aans/aans---hospitals-units#TOC-3rd-Australian-Auxiliary-Hospital-3-AAH->

of patients. Base or stationary hospitals were established for immediate treatment of the wounded.<sup>35</sup>

From 26 February to 31 July 1919, Olive was granted leave for Non Military Employment (NME). She attended lectures at the Royal Sanitary Institute. On 31 July she was awarded the 'Certificate for Women's Health, Visitors and School Nurses', in preparation for repatriation and demobilisation from the AIF. The institute is now the Royal Institute of Public Health and Her Majesty the Queen is the institute's Patron. After this period Olive re-transferred to AANS and collected her next posting from the Deputy Assistant Adjutant General (DAAG), a British administration office, back to No. 3 AAH at Dartford.<sup>36</sup>

On 3 September 1919, Olive embarked on the *Euripides* for her return to Australia via Bombay, India.<sup>37</sup> She was part of ten nursing staff on duty for the voyage. Olive disembarked on 20 October at Melbourne. She resumed employment at Osborne House, Geelong, while living at 14 Douglas Street, Toorak.<sup>38</sup> Olive's service was terminated with AANS on 4 January 1920. While she had signed up as being 32 years old, her actual age on enlistment was 37. At the conclusion of her service she was aged 42.

According to the 1924 Australian Electoral Roll, Olive had taken up nursing at

the old Homeopathic Hospital in St Kilda Road; and was living at 118 Lonsdale Street, East Melbourne. She moved to 45 Fitzgerald Street, South Yarra, in the early 1930s, eventually shifting to 114 Orrong Road, Elsternwick, in the late 1930s until 1954.

Olive died at the Launceston General Hospital on 23 January 1956 aged 78. She was cremated at Carr Villa and her plaque is within the Western Wall.<sup>39</sup> Her sisters Clara and Kate and brother Will were living in Launceston, and Gertrude was in Devonport. Olive's Will, dated 2 December 1954, reveals she was living in Orrong Road. Her assets were valued at just over £12,000 at probate. Her cousin; Gordon Osborne Shaw Greer was one of the trustees who divided her estate between members of her family, following her wishes.<sup>40</sup>

Nearly 3 000 Australian women served as nursing sisters during the First World War. Most served in the AANS force. ◀

#### Editor's note:

Studio portrait of Mrs Minnie Augusta Rattigan and a soldier on previous page, believed to be 2176 Private Frederick TRICE 4th Pioneer Battalion. This outfit was made by three double amputees, 4439 Private Malcolm BROWN 47th Battalion, 22 Private Joseph Allen BAILLIE 35th Battalion and Private Trice while at No. 2 Australian Auxiliary Hospital (2 AAH).

**<https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/P01441.001>**

---

<sup>35</sup> <http://www.anzacday.org.au/digging/hospitals.html>

<sup>36</sup> NAA series B2455 Greer OM pp. 13, 14, 22

<sup>37</sup> The 15,000 ton *Euripides* average cruise speed was 15 knots using approximately 1,600 tons of coal for a trip from England to Australia. [http://alh-research.tripod.com/ships\\_lh.htm](http://alh-research.tripod.com/ships_lh.htm)

<sup>38</sup> Australian Electoral Rolls 1903–1980

---

<sup>39</sup> [http://www.launceston.tas.gov.au/lcc/index.php?c=30&burial\\_record=26330](http://www.launceston.tas.gov.au/lcc/index.php?c=30&burial_record=26330)

<sup>40</sup> Olive M Greer: Will VPRS 7591, P0003, unit 118, 500/202; Olive M Greer: probate file. VPRS 28, P0004, unit 1124, 500/202.

# THE *MERMAID* (1) 1828 AN UNINTENDED ARRIVAL

Anne McMahon (Member No.6463)

THE *Mermaid*, a ship of 472 tons, built at Calcutta in 1817, was chartered to convey 99 female prisoners, tried in England, together with seventeen children, to Sydney during 1828 on her first voyage as a convict transport. Her master was William HENNIKEN and the surgeon superintendent was James GILCHRIST, RN.<sup>1</sup>

James Gilchrist was a naval surgeon with substantial experience. He had been recruited by the British navy as a surgeon's mate in 1813, undertook duty in the King's ships during the Napoleonic wars and was engaged first by the convict service for the voyage of the *Mermaid* (1).

Eighty of the prisoners were English, mainly from London, while fourteen Irish women living in England, embarked as part of the total. One of the prisoners had been born at sea, another had moved to London from Cuba and the final two women gave their native place as Scotland and Wales. The twenty life sentences imposed on the English and Irish were for similar crimes, namely larceny from the person, traitorously coining and highway robbery.<sup>2</sup>

The *Mermaid* (1) sailed from Woolwich on 17 February 1828. Being a late winter departure she encountered adverse winds in the Channel accompanied by frost and snow storms. She made slow progress

and was unable to clear Lands End before 29 February.

Soon after embarkation many of the women complained of catarrh, tonsillitis and rheumatic pains. Seasickness afflicted most of the prisoners which in some was experienced as protracted and severe. Purgatives were administered to correct the torpor of the bowels but had little effect which prompted the surgeon to consider the use of croton oil; the most drastic purgative of the times.

Hysteria, known as the female condition during the nineteenth century, was commonly attributed by surgeons to irregularities of the uterine function. Five women showed the characteristic convulsions and fits of this complaint. One prisoner who had been put into solitary confinement for misconduct responded by violent paroxysm accompanied with delirium. Surgeon Gilchrist relied on purgatives and aperients for her treatment. Dysentery prostrated seven women but all survived under the administration of ricin and opiates. He attributed this highly infectious disease to excessive perspiration but its true cause was unknown at the time. During the latter part of the voyage two prisoners suffered the early stages of scurvy but it was brought under control by the use of additional lemon juice and preserved meats.<sup>3</sup>

The hospital in the *Mermaid* was situated at the bow of the ship where its motion was greater than at any other part. It was also subject to more leaks so that the bedding was frequently damp. Ventilation

---

<sup>1</sup> Charles Bateson, *The Convict Ships 1787–1868*, Sydney, 1988, Library of Australian History, p. 360

<sup>2</sup> Phillip Tardif, *Notorious Strumpets and Dangerous Girls*. Sydney, Angus & Robertson, 1990, pp. 1221–1365

---

<sup>3</sup> AJCP PRO 3204, *Mermaid* (1) 1828



was inadequate which meant airing stoves had to be constantly kept alight. It was a distressing place for patients who were already fearful of their fate at sea.

As the voyage progressed the *Mermaid* (1) crossed the equator on 1 April. She sailed as far southward as the 39° 40" parallel before turning eastwards when she was driven by westerly winds with high seas.

All eighteen children survived the journey even though some were as young as eighteen months. There were two births; the first being a stillborn male. The second was a drawn out first pregnancy where the infant's mouth was infected with aptha (thrush) so he had difficulty feeding before his mother's milk dried up. He was given sago and arrowroot but became progressively emaciated before being sent to the Colonial Hospital on arrival with his mother where he died at six weeks of age. The women were described by surgeon Gilchrist, for the most part, as a very abandoned set. The most violent and ungovernable prisoner had behaved in a threatening and insolent way so Gilchrist decided to make an example of her by confining her in the coal hold. As mates and crew attempted to remove her from the deck this strong, stout woman broke free. She fell down the hatchway, was stunned and hospitalised but no bones were broken. The accident appeared to dampen her aggression as she became more tractable under treatment.

Surgeon Gilchrist included comments about each prisoner on his record. Sixteen were described as orderly and proper but the remaining eighty-three were noted as insolent, troublesome, disobedient, disorderly and filthy.

Henniken's instructions on departure from Woolwich had been to proceed to Port Jackson, land the prisoners and

subsequently sail to Van Diemen's Land with the stores. However after encountering rough weather during the latter part of the voyage he decided to head for port as he feared the stores may have become damaged. The *Mermaid* (1) anchored at Hobart Town on 26 June 1828. Initially Lieut-Governor ARTHUR was doubtful of the reasons given for Henniken's action however on examination of the stores his judgement was accepted.

In his despatch of 1 July 1828 to the colonial secretary Lieut-Governor Arthur criticised the policy of sending stores to one colony and prisoners to the other on the same vessel. He feared the unloading would involve interaction with the prisoners which he felt should be avoided; particularly for female convicts.<sup>4</sup>

While the prisoners remained on board the removal of the stores had made the *Mermaid* exceedingly light so additional ballast was needed. Arthur knew at least half of the women could be assigned at distant settlements in Van Diemen's Land. While this was under consideration a colonial vessel arrived with information from Governor DARLING that there had been crop failures in New South Wales resulting in a severe shortage of corn.

Arthur decided to retain the prisoners in Van Diemen's Land and wrote to Colonial Secretary, William HUSKISSON:

In place of a Cargo of dissolute women, Governor Darling will be agreeably surprized with a Transport conveying him 10,000 Bushels of Wheat ...

Governor Darling approved of Arthur's decision. He wrote that two transports had recently arrived at New South Wales and a third influx of prisoners would have been extremely inconvenient when there was already such a scarcity of grain.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>4</sup> *Historical Records of Aus., III, IV, p. 375*

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*

One of the prisoners on the *Mermaid* (1), accompanied by four of her children, was Ann Solomon, transported for 14 years for receiving stolen goods. She was the wife of Isaac (Ikey) Solomon the notorious criminal reputed to be the model for Dickens' 'Fagin' in *Oliver Twist*. Ann and her husband had controlled a chain of London brothels and clearing houses for stolen property. Ann's conduct at Middlesex gaol had been 'orderly' while her behaviour on the voyage was described as 'very correct'. Apparently she was accustomed to have people do her bidding. In assignment to the NEWMAN family at Hobart Town there was a role reversal. According to another servant she was not required to work as Mrs Newman did 'all the Drudgery of the house'.<sup>6</sup>

During one of his later arrests Ikey Solomon escaped from the custody of a turnkey from Newgate in 1827. He fled to America but was later arrested at Rio de Janeiro.

Hearing that Ann was in Van Diemen's Land he was shipped there during 1828. Ikey however arrived without the papers that could have enabled him to be taken into custody. Arthur asked for the relevant information to be forwarded but when it arrived was found to be invalid. Alarmed at Ikey's presence as a free man Arthur took the unusual step of assigning his wife to him on a £1000 bond as surety that she would not escape. Eventually Arthur, frustrated by the delay, arrested Isaac (Ikey) Solomon on his executive warrant and had him sent to London for trial on 25 January 1830.<sup>7</sup>

Ikey was convicted and returned to Van Diemen's Land as a convict on a 14- year

sentence of transportation in November 1831.

In 1832–33 Ann Solomon was assigned to one of her two older sons who had come as settlers. Family members quarrelled bitterly for years with Ann and the children opposing Ikey. She was free by servitude in 1841 when living with a wealthy ticket-of-leave man George MADDEN. Ikey's approaches were resented and their family was never reconciled. Isaac (Ikey) Solomon died in Hobart Town during 1850.

Nine of the prisoners from the 1828 voyage of the *Mermaid* (1) lived relatively short lives. One of the women died during 1828 followed by five between the years 1830–31. One woman took her own life by hanging in 1833 while the ninth death occurred in 1836. By this year some of the prisoners had been dispersed among the settlements at Launceston and George Town.<sup>8</sup>

Following her departure on 8 April 1829 from Van Diemen's Land, laden with the cargo of wheat, the *Mermaid* sailed for England on her return voyage. She was carrying military invalids for Chatham barracks under the care of surgeon William SECCOMBE who had taken leave of absence for a visit to England. ◀

With regard to the link drawn between Isaac Solomon and 'Fagin' in *Oliver Twist*, I spoke with Miriam Margolyes after her show in Canberra as she is an expert on Dickens' characters. Miriam said she understands there was no link as the model for Fagin was an old clothes dealer in London.

Anne McMahon

---

<sup>6</sup> Tardif, *op. cit.* p. 1352.

<sup>7</sup> HRA III, VIII, p. 839; P. Tardif, *op. cit.* p. 1762

---

<sup>8</sup> P Tardif, *op. cit.*

# EDUCATING THE CHILDREN OF HOP-PICKERS

Betty Jones (Member No.6032)



**A** LONG the river flats of the picturesque Derwent Valley, where the soil is rich and deep, hops have been grown since the 1800s, their flowers being used predominantly to provide beer with its special flavour. English varieties introduced to the banks of the River Derwent and Lachlan Creek area by Mr William Stanley SHARLAND of New Norfolk about 1834 soon became thoroughly acclimatised, but it was following the arrival of Mr Ebenezer SHOBRIDGE to the Valley in 1849 that the hop industry took flight for his family and generations that followed. The Shoobridge plantations at Bushy Park from the 1860s embody a history worthy of a separate special study.

This article, however, aims to highlight the impact of the early hop industry in the Lachlan Creek area on the education of hop-pickers' children.

## **Background on hop-picking**

Before the introduction of mechanisation, about 3,600 hop sets per acre were planted and harvested annually. The vines were allowed to twine on strings which

were attached to wires supported on a wooden frame almost 14 feet high. In mid-October when the tying was done by groups of casual workers, the plants were hardly above the ground and vast networks of yellow binder twine stood exposed. But when the vines had all reached the top of their tall supports, a different shade of yellow-green could be seen as new bands of hop-pickers—men, women and children of all ages, shapes and sizes—descended on the area to harvest the lucrative flowers. The season at each large property would last for about a month, most commonly between late February and March. The smaller fields could be completed in a week.

The larger hop growers provided basic accommodation in huts near the fields for the itinerant workers, many of whom came from Hobart and the surrounding areas by river steamer each year before the introduction of the train service. The living conditions reportedly left much to be desired, particularly in matters relating to sanitation and ventilation, but the pickers seemed to try to make the most of their lot, some even bringing items of

furniture with them to add to their areas as clean and comfortable as possible for the duration of their stay. Privacy was a conspicuous want. Single men batched alone, as did single women. On some of the fields the shanties were only one-roomed affairs, but on others long huts, divided into two or three rooms, were built. The latter were reserved for families, but it was not uncommon in the early years to see three families, a family to every room, having to share facilities.<sup>1</sup> On the smaller fields the pickers usually came from the surrounding areas and went home for the night.

The pickers' day officially lasted from 7:00 in the morning until 6:00 in the evening on the larger fields, but the smaller growers would allow those who wanted to, to start at daylight and work until light failed. Morning tea, afternoon tea and picnic meals were made in the field. Rations were supplied on the bigger fields, so pickers were able to live cheaply during the season.

It was an unwritten law that workers had to sign up at the beginning of the season and stay until the field was picked. With fine, settled weather and good hops, the work, albeit energy intensive, did not tax a picker's strength. Being outdoors, the lifestyle was healthy and often viewed as a holiday for a whole family or just a mother and her children. Children not yet in their teens could pick hop flowers as well as an adult, and the combined effort

of family members resulted in a better pay packet when pay-day came than that collected by the stalwart individual. Each picker was allocated a row and provided with a bin. For every four or five pickers there was a pole stripper who kept them supplied with vines which were laid across the bin. When a vine was finished the call of 'Polo' resulted in the supply of a new one. About twice a day someone came around with a bushel measure which resembled a large waste paper basket, and the contents were measured and noted. Payment was made for every bushel picked. The work tended to be competitive.

It is easy to imagine that a party of friends or relatives could gain much enjoyment from two or three weeks of that kind of life in addition to earning some very useful pocket money.<sup>2</sup>

### The problem for schools

Laws concerning children's compulsory attendance at school were gradually introduced from 1868, each change successively tightening the original regulations. In 1885 the Education Act stated that it was compulsory for children between the ages of 7 and 13 to attend at least three days each school week and by 1912 the leaving age was raised to 14. Full-time presence was necessary unless it could be shown that a child had to support his or her parents, in which case three days' attendance per week was compulsory. Local Councils were



<sup>1</sup> *Daily Post*, 8 March 1910

<sup>2</sup> *The Mercury*, 21 March 1923

responsible for ensuring standards were met and schools were required to regularly supply them with lists of names and details of non-attenders.<sup>3</sup> It is interesting to reflect that the attendance regulations were not always strictly observed.

The fact that children were allowed to help on the picking fields resulted in widespread attendance problems in a number of schools, particularly those in the Derwent Valley where the small fruit picking season for raspberries and blackcurrants preceded hop-picking. Lachlan State School, dating from 1867, was one of the schools worst affected. On 1 March 1871, the newly appointed Head Teacher of the school, Miss Sarah Ann WRIGHT, was instructed by the Board of Education to take up her position from 1 April 'by which time it is expected that the children will be released from hop picking'.<sup>4</sup> The non-attendance return for the school for the week ending 26 January 1907 named 55 children. That must have constituted the entire enrolment at that time. The list included:

Sylvester ASKEY, Clarence BLAKE, Stella BRIERS, Bryan CASHION, Kenneth CLARK, William CLARK, Clare GAUL, Kathleen GAUL, Leo GAUL, Richard GEARD, Ronald GEARD, Madeline GOBBEY, Eugenie GRAHAM, Ileen GRAHAM, Marie GRAHAM, Sidney GRAHAM, Stephen GRAHAM, Ursula GRAHAM, Dorothy HARRIS, Norman HARRIS, Archie LAWLER, Bertie LAWLER, Foncey LIMBRICK, Ellis MAPLEY, Gwendoline MAPLEY, Doris

McCONNELL, John McCONNELL, Doris McWILLIAMS, Bertie MENZIE, Ida MENZIE, Rufus MENZIE, John MORGAN, Percy MORGAN, Frederick OAKLEY, Victor OAKLEY, Leslie ROGERS, Beatrice STOCK, Vincent STOCK, Eric TIMBS, Evelyn TIMBS, Herbert TIMBS, Keith TIMBS, Lily TIMBS, Horace TOWNSHEND, Arthur WAKEFIELD, Bernard WAKEFIELD, Bertie WAKEFIELD, Clare WAKEFIELD, Dorothy WAKEFIELD, Florence WAKEFIELD, Leonard WAKEFIELD, Lyell WAKEFIELD, John WARD, May WARD, Percy WARD.<sup>5</sup>

Local Boards of Advice were given the power to grant exemptions from school for one month to children who were needed for work, the leave able to be taken as a month continuously or in two portions.<sup>6</sup> Teachers constantly passed their concerns on to the Department about the consequent interruptions to children's learning. Disdain was expressed at their state conference in 1919 about child labour on the hop fields.<sup>7</sup>

Various compensatory strategies were trialled over the years including a variance in school holiday dates in hop-picking areas. The December 1919 edition of *The Educational Record* advised that teachers in such districts were allowed to close their schools from 22 December to 7 January 1920, both days inclusive, and for three weeks at a later date to be decided in co-operation with farmers.<sup>8</sup> However, no amount of legislation and regulation seemed to counteract the problems and the annual exodus from the city to the picking fields continued. By 1940 it was reported that

---

<sup>3</sup> Phillips, D, *Making More Adequate Provision*, Education Department of Tasmania, 1985, Appendix V1

<sup>4</sup> Tasmanian Archives and Heritage Office (TAHO): ED13/1/10

---

<sup>5</sup> TAHO: ED9/1/233; 68/1907

<sup>6</sup> TAHO: ED9/1/212; 876/1906

<sup>7</sup> *The Mercury*, 8 July 1919

<sup>8</sup> *The Mercury*, 29 December 1919

Elizabeth Street State School in Hobart had as many as 50 to 60 children absent during the picking period.<sup>9</sup> In 1945, teachers in the Derwent Valley protested once more against the closure of schools during the season. Head Teacher at Lachlan, Mr Bob ANDERSON, complained that his latest return of irregular attendance contained the names of 29 children who had missed between four and eighteen days during the eighteen day since the commencement of the school year. Ninety applications had been received by the Council Clerk at New Norfolk from parents seeking exemption from school for picking during that same period.<sup>10</sup>

There were two sides to the problem. In many cases families took their children to do seasonal work in an attempt to supplement their normally meagre and irregular incomes. Property owners wanted to keep their costs down too, and by employing casual pickers for the harvest period they did not have to negotiate with unions. The whole process became a deeply rooted tradition in areas where an unskilled labour force was required for part of the year.

Close perusal of the Admission Registers for Lachlan State School suggests that inroads were finally made by the late 1940s when a number of itinerant scholars were enrolled at the school for a month or so during the picking or hoptying seasons.<sup>11</sup> Although it was encouraging that children were actually at school and continuing their learning, the extra number of pupils in that little school would have placed more pressure on the teacher over those periods. From the 1950s to the 1960s it is evident that a

separate class in March for up to 20 children of hop-pickers at a time was annually set up in the school. The pupils predominantly came from the suburbs of Hobart and New Norfolk, some families returning year after year. The children were often enrolled with their mother identified as the guardian.<sup>12</sup>

Much progress has been made in the hop industry since the days described in this article, and hops continue to be an important part of the economy of the Derwent Valley. Casual seasonal workers are still employed, but the absence of children as part of the annual entourage is arguably one of the most successful advances made. ◀

A REMARKABLE instance of mortality in a single family, has taken place lately near Binghampton, New York. On Sunday, December 28 last, Mr. And Mrs. Holiday celebrated their sixty-fifth anniversary of their wedding at Downs ville, Delaware county. At the time 16 children of the family, of which Mr. Holiday was the eldest, were all living, and 14 brothers and sisters of Mrs. Holiday were also in good health and present at the anniversary. Before the end of January the entire number—30—all, in fact, excepting Mr. And Mrs. Holiday, died.

*The Argus*, (Melbourne, Vic.)  
18 May 1874, page 5

Submitted by Pat Harris

<sup>9</sup> *The Advocate*, 23 October 1940

<sup>10</sup> *The Mercury*, 9 March 1945

<sup>11</sup> TAHO: AF480/1/1

<sup>12</sup> TAHO: AF480/1/3

# VOICES FROM THE ORPHAN SCHOOLS

## THE FIRST CHILDREN

Dianne Snowden (Member No.910)

**I**N 1853, the *Courier* looked back at the early history of the Orphan Schools:

The first female school was established in Davey-street, Hobart Town, in the year 1828. The first male school was established also in 1828, but was situated on the New Town Rivulet. In December 1833 the female establishment was moved to the north wing of the present building and consisted of about 45 girls; six months subsequently they were removed to the south wing, and the boys took possession of the north wing of the building (then complete except the Church), vacated by the girls. The number of the boys consisted of about an equal number as the girls.<sup>1</sup>

By February 1828, the Orphan School was almost ready for the reception of pupils.<sup>2</sup> In July that year, the *Hobart Town Courier* reported that sixteen orphans had been admitted into the King's Schools:

they attend regularly in St. David's church, and their neat and orderly appearance excites in the minds of the spectators an agreeable recollection of home and past times.<sup>3</sup>

Not all early admissions were the children of convicts. In March 1828, the *Hobart Town Courier* advertised the rigorous selection criteria and admission process for the Orphan Schools

**GOVERNMENT NOTICE.** No. 69.

Colonial Secretary's Office;  
March 27, 1828.

**T**HE ESTABLISHMENTS for the KING'S SCHOOLS at Hobart-town, having been reported to The Lieutenant Governor, to be ready for the reception of Male and Female Children, applications for admission will now be received.

Children will be admitted into the King's Schools, according to the following classifications

1. Those who are entirely destitute.
2. Those who have one Parent living.
3. Those who have both Parents living, but whose Parents are totally incompetent to afford them means of Education.

4. Children whose Parents may be enabled to contribute the moderate sum which will be required for the care, maintenance, clothing and education of children in the King's Schools, viz: £12 per annum.

Application for the admission of the first three classes, must be made after the annexed form; and for the admission of the 4th class, by letter addressed to the Colonial Secretary, as the future disposal of such children will be left to the discretion of their Parents.

By Command of

His Excellency,  
J. BURNETT.<sup>4</sup>

It was a slow start for the fifty-one-year history of the institution.

From 1828, the Admission Register for the King's Orphan School meticulously listed the names of the children, their age,

---

<sup>1</sup> *Courier* (Hobart) 31 January 1853 p. 3

<sup>2</sup> *Hobart Town Courier* 16 February 1828 p. 3

<sup>3</sup> *Hobart Town Courier* 19 July 1828 p. 2

---

<sup>4</sup> *Hobart Town Courier* 29 March 1828 p. 3

the date they were admitted, their parents' names, the ship to the colony, their date of removal and any relevant remarks.

The first names in the Boys Admission Register were Thomas DAVIES or ROBINSON, aged 4, Joseph HACK aged 5, and William PLATT, aged 4½. They were all admitted on 19 May 1828. Thomas Davies or Robinson was the son of Mary Robinson, possibly the convict woman of that name who arrived on the *Mary Ann* in 1822. She was tried in York and sentenced to transportation for life. Constantly in trouble, she was sent to the Hobart Town Female Factory in 1827 being 'totally unfit for a house servant & having a young child'.<sup>5</sup> Joseph Hack was the son of Jane Hack; she has not been traced in the records. William Platt was the son of Mary Platt, who arrived on the *Providence* in 1821. She died in September 1829.<sup>6</sup> All three boys spent considerable time in the Orphan School. Thomas was in the institution for seven years before he was discharged to his mother in March 1835 at the age of 11. Joseph, who was in the Orphan School for 11 years, was discharged to Richard LEWIS on 3 October 1839 when he was about 16. After 12 years, William was discharged to William CARTER; he was 16.<sup>7</sup>

The first names in the Girls Admission Register, were Catherine WILLIAMS, aged 4½, and Caroline PARSONS, aged 3. Both were admitted on 21 May 1828. Catherine's parents were not recorded and the only personal information provided for her was that she was Protestant. In July 1846, 'being of age'; she was discharged from the

Orphan School on 18 July 1846 at her own request. She spent 18 years in the Orphan School.<sup>8</sup>

Caroline Parsons was the daughter of Caroline Parsons. After 8 years in the Orphan School Caroline was discharged to her mother in February 1836.<sup>9</sup>

Tracing the children once they left the Orphan Schools can be difficult. It is not known what became of Thomas Davies or Robinson or William Platt. Joseph Hack may have married in the Parish Church at Macquarie Plains in 1886.<sup>10</sup> Similarly, the post-Orphan School lives of Catherine Williams and Caroline Parsons are not known. The paucity of information in the early years of Orphan School admissions highlights the difficulty of tracing the children and their parentage. There are considerable gaps in detail, and the Friends of the Orphan Schools are fortunate to have benefited from the generosity of indexer Joyce PURTSCHER in compiling a database of all those admitted between 1828–1879. ◀

**Friends of the Orphan Schools,  
St John's Park Precinct:  
[www.orphan.school.org.au](http://www.orphan.school.org.au)**

Apologies to Julie Vaszocz and Dianne Snowden for my errors which appeared in the article on *Robert Harris, Tasmanian Ancestry*, June 2015, page 10—Editor.

**Corrections**

Page 1, col, 2, *colonial offices* should read *colonial offences*

Ref. No. 2: *Julie* should be *Lloyd*

Page 12, last para, should read regional *daily* newspapers.

---

<sup>5</sup> TAHO, CON40/1/7 No. 28 Mary Robinson *Mary Ann* 1821

<sup>6</sup> TAHO, CON40/1/7 No. 13 Mary Ann Platt *Providence* 1821

<sup>7</sup> TAHO, SWD28/1/1 p. 1

---

<sup>8</sup> TAHO, SWD28/1/1 p. 1

<sup>9</sup> TAHO, SWD28/1/1 p. 1

<sup>10</sup> TAHO, RGD37/1/45 Hamilton 1886/185 Louisa Sarah Stock and Joseph Hack.

Joseph Hack was 'of full age'. One of the witnesses was William Hack.



# NEW MEMBERS' INTERESTS

NAME	PLACE/AREA	TIME	M'SHIP NO.
ATKINS Samuel	NFK ENG/Horton TAS AUS	1808-1884	7668
AUSTIN Harriet	Blackwood Creek TAS AUS	Any	7686
BALDOCKS	Any	1700-1900	7675
BANKS	Any	1700-1800	7675
BEEDHAM George	Kimbolton CAM ENG/Hobart TAS AUS	c.1802-1883	7699
BOSWORTH George	ENG/Cressy TAS AUS	1832-1921	7668
BRADSHAW Joseph	Launceston TAS AUS	1844-1881	7677
BROMLEY Elizabeth	Hamilton TAS AUS	1820-1900	7707
CAMPBELL Andrew	SCT/George Town TAS AUS	1850+	7682
CARTER Thomas	Richmond TAS AUS	1800-1850	7689
CONNOLLY Thomas	Esperance & New Town TAS AUS	1840-1880	7689
COOK Arthur	Hobart TAS AUS	Any	7694
CULLEN Mark	Latrobe TAS AUS	Any	7691
DALLY John	Helston CON ENG	1845-1870	7707
DAVIES	NZ & WLS	Any	7670
DONNELLY Anne	Dublin IRL/Con. Longford TAS AUS	c.1822-1897	7699
ELEY William	SFK ENG/Con. Longford TAS AUS	c.1818-1853	7699
ELLIS Charles	Richmond TAS AUS	c.1800+	7697
ELLIS Charles	Richmond Hobart TAS AUS	1854+	7697
ELLIS/LESTER Benjamin	Sydney NSW AUS/Hobart TAS AUS	1879+	7697
ESSEN	TAS AUS	pre1840	7679
FREESTONE John	TAS AUS	Any	7694
GARDAM	Any	1700-1900	7675
GAUL Thomas William	New Norfolk TAS AUS	1893-1957	7700
GILLARD Mary	Dittisham DEV ENG	1700-1860	7707
GRACE	TAS AUS	pre1840	7679
HANSFORD	NZ/Portland UK	Any	7670
HARRIS Charles Francis	KEN ENG/Hobart TAS AUS	1840s	7682
HEAP	NSW AUS/UK	Any	7670
HODGETTS Mary Maria	Blackwood Creek TAS AUS	Any	7686
HOGAN	TAS AUS	Pre 1840	7679
HORTIN Jane	Esperance TAS AUS	1840-1880	7689
HOWARD	TAS AUS	1800	7673
HUXTABLE George	Hobart TAS AUS	1840-1870	7689
HUXTABLE William	DEV ENG	1700-1900	7689
IRWEN/IRWIN Amelia/Emily	New Norfolk TAS AUS	c.1834/5-1925	7700
JAGO	Any	1700-1900	7675
JORDAN Thomas	LEI ENG/Liffey TAS AUS	1800-1887	7668
KERR John James	Keady Armagh IRL	1800	7701
KERR William Alexander	Armagh IRL	1854	7701
KIMBERLEY Edward	Clarence Plains TAS AUS	c.1788	7674
KNEE James	WIL ENG/Con. Longford TAS AUS	c.1820-1900	7699
KREFPP James Andrew	Hobart, Port Sorell & Forth TAS AUS	1826-1870	7672
LAPHAM/LATHAM	TAS AUS	pre1840	7679
MAPLEY Sarah Jane	New Norfolk TAS AUS	c.1867-1924	7700
McENNULTY John	TAS AUS	Any	7694

# NEW MEMBERS' INTERESTS

NAME	PLACE/AREA	TIME	M'SHIP NO.
McGRAIL	Any	1850-1950	7675
McGUIRE William	Melbourne VIC AUS/Beaconsfield TAS AUS	1870s	7682
McNULTY John	TAS AUS	Any	7694
McSORLEY John	TAS AUS	Any	7694
MEDCRAFT	TAS AUS	1800	7673
NEAL John	Longford TAS AUS	1834-1881	7677
NEAL (NEIL) Mary Ann	Launceston TAS AUS	1834-1897	7677
NEWMAN Henry Barker	Westbury WIL ENG/Hobart TAS AUS	1850s	7682
OLDFIELD Mary Ann	TAS AUS	Any	7694
OWEN George	DBY ENG	1800-1850	7707
PACKHAM Geoffrey Brutus	Any	Any	7687
PERKINS John Thomas	Horton and Longford TAS AUS	1850-1930	7668
ROACH John Philip	ENG. Liffey TAS AUS	1811-1890	7668
ROGERS Benjamin	YKS ENG/TAS AUS	c.1820	7676
RUDKIN Henry	Stainsby ENG/Gloucester NSW AUS	1812+	7697
RUMNEY William	Acton TAS AUS	1830	7674
SAUL Charles James	Carlisle ENG/Launceston TAS AUS	5Mar1848-6Feb1912	7699
SHREEVE	UK	Any	7670
SMITH Charles	Blackwood Creek TAS AUS	Any	7686
SMITH Joan	George Town TAS AUS	1808	7674
SPENCER William	Swinford LEI ENG/Longford TAS AUS	1800-1876	7668
STANFIELD Daniel	Clarence Plains TAS AUS	c.1788	7674
STEEL(E) George	Hamilton TAS AUS	1820-1840	7707
STEPHENS Ruth	IRL/father Con. Longford TAS AUS	c.1853-1907	7699
TIMBS/TIMS Richard Edwin	New Norfolk TAS AUS	c.1860-1863	7700
TOWNSEND William	b.Bremhill WIL ENG	1855-1890	7703
TUCKER Richard	Dittisham DEV ENG	1700-1860	7707
WALBOURN Matilda	Arr. Launceston TAS AUS 1844	1827-1894	7677
WALBOURN(E) James	Launceston TAS AUS/d.London ENG	1837-1870	7677
WALSH	TAS AUS	pre1840	7679
WESCOMBE	TAS AUS	1800	7673
WHARF	NSW AUS/UK	Any	7670
WOODWARD Cornelius	Emu Bay TAS AUS	1825+	7674

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

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

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

## Privacy Statement

Unless specifically denied by members when joining the Society, or upon renewing their membership, contact details and member's interests may be published in *Tasmanian Ancestry* and other publications of the Society.

A copy of the 'Privacy Policy' of the Society is available on request at Branch Libraries  
or from State or Branch Secretaries.

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

# NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome is extended to the following new members

7667	DOBSON Mr Arthur	PO Box 36 arthur_dobson@bigpond.com	MOWBRAY	TAS	7248
7668	SCOTT Miss Katie	20 Legana Street kmscott55@gmail.com	SOUTH LAUNCESTON	TAS	7249
7669	HAYWOOD Ms Helen	Not for publication			
7670	HEAP Mrs Elizabeth	18 Cleburne Street greg.heap@bigpond.com	KINGSTON	TAS	7050
7671	HEAP Mr Greg	18 Cleburne Street greg.heap@bigpond.com	KINGSTON	TAS	7050
7672	HERBERT Mrs Mary	16 Hamilton Court ronandhele@bigpond.com	BARANDUDA	VIC	3691
7673	RILEY Mrs Lindy	PO Box 3014	BURNIE	TAS	7320
7674	SMITH Mrs Julie	25 Marana Drive cips9@bigpond.com	BAKERS BEACH	TAS	7306
7675	MOORE Mrs Teena	5 Cliffden Court ketem2@bigpond.com	EAST DEVONPORT	TAS	7310
7676	McDONALD Ms Katrina	PO Box 380 katrina.mcdonald3@bigpond.com	LENAH VALLEY	TAS	7008
7677	BRINSON Mrs Alison	25 White Street alisonbrinson1@gmail.com	SILVAN	VIC	3795
7679	WALSH Dr Robert	5 Nirranda Court rwalsh@australianwaterlife.com.au	OAKDOWNS	TAS	7019
7680	VAN LIEROP Mrs Sandra	Not for publication			
7681	McGINNISS Mrs Ann	Not for publication			
7682	WALLBANK Mrs Sue	PO Box 342 swall@aapt.net.au	SOUTH HOBART	TAS	7004
7683	TURNER Mr Graham	Not for publication			
7684	TURNER Mrs Karen	U13/3 Balamara Street	BELLERIVE	TAS	7018
7685	WALLER Mr Maxwell	Not for publication			
7686	SMITH Mrs Louise	1067 Bishopsbourne Road louise_m_smith@hotmail.com	BISHOPSBOURNE	TAS	7301
7687	PACKHAM Mr John	5/41 Avon Street jwpack@bigpond.com	PARKLANDS	TAS	7320
7688	PACKHAM Mrs Betty	5/41 Avon Street jwpack@bigpond.com	PARKLANDS	TAS	7320
7689	HUXTABLE Mr Kevin	14/86 Mannata Street kevin.huxtable@rochesbeach.net.au	LAUDERDALE	TAS	7021
7690	READER Mr Paul	5 Greenlane Avenue intuitas90@gmail.com	CLARENDON VALE	TAS	7019
7691	ABEL Ms Janet	65 Nicholson Street	MITCHELTON BRISBANE	QLD	4053
7692	AMOS Mr Gregory	1 Flinders Street	BEAUTY POINT	TAS	7270
7693	AMOS Mrs Susanne	1 Flinders Street	BEAUTY POINT	TAS	7270
7694	COOK Mrs Ann	19 Nelson Drive	DILSTON	TAS	7252
7695	WILSON Mr Robert	PO Box 183	SOMERSET	TAS	7322
7696	BURR Ms Elizabeth	PO Box 183	SOMERSET	TAS	7322
7697	ELLIS Ms Debra	47 Roxburgh Street ellisdh59@bigpond.com	STOCKTON	NSW	2255
7698	ELLIS Mrs Helen	47 Roxburgh Street	STOCKTON	NSW	2255
7699	HOWARTH Ms Helen	17 Montagu Street	NEW TOWN	TAS	7008

# NEW MEMBERS

## A warm welcome is extended to the following new members

7700	HOWARTH Mr Michael	17 Montagu Street	NEW TOWN	TAS	7008
7701	GOODLUCK Mrs Antoinette	78 Louisa Street	BRACKNELL	TAS	7302
7702	TAY Mrs SHARON	Not for publication			
7703	TOWNSEND Mr Nigel	1 Cherry Court puckamajor@gmail.com	FORCETT	TAS	7173
7704	BLACKWELL Mrs Donna	Not for publication			
7705	HARPER Mr Noel	4 Starlight Drive	CAMBRIDGE	TAS	7170
7706	HARPER Mrs Jeanette	4 Starlight Drive	CAMBRIDGE	TAS	7170
7707	CARTER Mrs Judith	61 Mt Stuart Drive joadja32@hotmail.com	NEWNHAM	TAS	7248
7708	DURDIN Mrs Fabienne	Not for publication			
7709	COLLINSON Mr Michael	31 Bell Street training@bigpond.net.au	NEW TOWN	TAS	7008

### **CORRECTION** from June 2015 lists

7367 BARHAM Mr Brian                      Bbarhamfamily@aol.com      not BbarhamFamily@gol.com

# HELP WANTED

## **DUNGAN, James Christopher**

Looking for any information on James Christopher DUNGAN who managed shoe and boot stores in Launceston and Hobart around 1905 to 1920. Born 1881 in Melbourne to J C Dungan Snr and Elizabeth Dungan née HUNTER.

J C Dungan Jnr married (in Melbourne 1904) Ivy May COCK born 1883. They had five children: Roy Leslie Gibbs born 1909 died 1910, Leighton Aora born 1912 died 1912, Loys Mary Hunter born 1906 died 1975, Bona Patricia Amy born 1910 died 1966 and Western James Arthur born 1915 died 1924.

Two of J C Dungan's sisters were also in Tasmania, Lillian May Dungan 1879–1954 and Amy Elizabeth Dungan 1873–1927. I believe Amy was a kindergarten teacher in Tasmania between 1907 and 1920, and Lillian was in Hobart and Ranelagh about the same time.

Contact me with even the smallest bit of information would be appreciated. email [jokinconvict@y7mail.com](mailto:jokinconvict@y7mail.com)

## **HUTCHINSON, Henry Frederick**

I am researching my great grandfather Henry Frederick HUTCHINSON born about 1855 (don't know whether in Tasmania or not) and died 1925 in Hobart. Married Catherine/Katherine Mary LEPPARD in Hobart in 1877.

My search is in early days yet but it may ring a bell with someone.

Contact Christine Leppard-Quinn, email [christine.leppard@utas.edu.au](mailto:christine.leppard@utas.edu.au)

## **GIVE AWAY COPIES—*Tasmanian Ancestry***

I have a large number of copies of the TFHS Inc. journal, *Tasmanian Ancestry*, dating from 1990 to present day. If anyone is interested in this collection, or individual journals, I would be pleased to send them for the cost of postage.

Jan Brown  
396 Agar Road, Coronet Bay 3984 VIC  
email [janny\\_liz@bigpond.com](mailto:janny_liz@bigpond.com)

I will retain them until the end of the year and then dispose of them. ◀

# COMING HOME

CECIL EDGAR AUGUSTUS (GUS) WILLIAMS

Jennifer Jacobs (Member No.1826)

**A**S I greeted my 90 year-old grandfather, Andrew QUIRK, in his Burnie garden, he reached into his pocket to retrieve a battered old medal he dug up that morning. Carefully I carried it home, washed it and filed it away. Now, nearly fifty years later, my curiosity led me to find a little more about WW1 soldier C E WILLIAMS, 4th field ambulance, whose name was engraved on the rim.

Cecil Edgar (Augustus) Williams, informally known as Gus, first appeared in *The Mercury* in 1913 as a player for Corinthians Soccer Club in Hobart.

He enlisted in August 1916 (having previously been rejected), giving his birth place and date as London, 5 June 1892.<sup>1</sup> His age, given as 36 years, does not tally with this date. Perhaps he tried to match his age with that of his wife Emily ARNOTT previously MOORE (née MYERS), a widow he had married in 1915 and who was 22 years older than Cecil (Gus).<sup>2</sup> A daughter, Florrie who married Lesley COMMANE in 1918 was most likely Emily's daughter.<sup>3</sup>



Andrew Quirk in his garden

Early in 1917, Gus was aboard the troop ship *Ballarat*, steaming for England, when an incident with broken steering gear, almost led to a collision with one of the other eight ships in the convoy.<sup>4</sup>

Worse was to follow. On 25 April, just after 2 p.m. the men, who were busy cleaning their kits preparing for an Anzac Day dinner and concert, were expecting to reach port at 6:30, when the cry of "The B----- has got us!" was heard. A torpedo had hit near the stern and the *Ballarat* was sinking. Planning for such an eventuality kept the men calm. They shook hands before heading for the lifeboats, expecting to be dumped into the freezing water. Four accompanying destroyers had left the convoy the previous day so there was a wait for rescue craft to

arrive. Fortunately the ship stayed afloat for several hours and attempts were made to tow her to England. Pet puppies and dogs, parrots and a squirrel on board, were rescued, though there were reports of cats and puppies swimming around the tug. Although there were injuries, every man was rescued, one of the last being acting Corporal Gus Williams who had worked as a voluntary Army Medical and

<sup>1</sup> NAA:B2455, Williams C E 16816

<sup>2</sup> *Tasmanian Federation Index (TFI)*  
p. 0765

<sup>3</sup> *TFI* p. 0537

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.australiansatwar.gov.au/stories/stories\\_warW1\\_id=103.html](http://www.australiansatwar.gov.au/stories/stories_warW1_id=103.html)

had helped evacuate three very ill patients from the sick bay.<sup>5</sup> On arrival in England, Gus was reclassified as a Private and went into training at Southampton.

By late June he was on the 'front' at Rouelles in France and in July, was attached to the 4th Field Ambulance. His war was to be a short one compared with many. On 19 August he was in hospital with rheumatism and trench fever, an illness spread by the lice which plagued soldiers in the trenches. It caused skin rashes, fever, headaches and leg pains. Gus was returned to England and then to Australia aboard the hospital ship HMAT A34 *Persic*. He moved back with his wife at 253 Macquarie Street and quickly managed to find employment as head groom at Foster's butchering establishment at 155 Liverpool Street, Hobart. For Gus, a new war was about to erupt.

On 14 October 1918 he was at work and had attended to the horses, then loaded the cart with meat which he delivered to customers.<sup>6</sup> A second delivery was loaded and Gus went back to the stables behind the establishment to collect some tools. Half conscious, vomiting and covered in blood, he was found there over an hour later, by a local hairdresser who stopped to investigate groans he heard when passing by. Gus spent several days in hospital being treated for a scalp injury which had exposed the bone. Butcher Joshua PATMORE was charged with assaulting Gus with an iron bar.

It seems Gus had become very friendly with the Patmore family, particularly the wife Lily Patmore, often calling in for meals and to play cards. When Lily escaped to Sydney to avoid Gus's advances, he wrote her letters and continued to do so

when she returned home. Joshua Patmore was not at all happy with the situation and the friendship was shattered. He informed Gus's wife, Emily that her husband was a philanderer and should stay away from his wife. An undercurrent of friction and discontent had led to the final assault. The jury was not impressed with Gus's behavior and Patmore was found 'not guilty'.

Gus found new employment at the Government Railways, settled back into playing and refereeing soccer and became secretary of the Hobart Athletic Cricket Club.<sup>7</sup> His wife forgave his indiscretions and all seemed well until Emily passed away on 2 August 1932. His 'dearly beloved wife' however, left a will in which she only left him £5 and all remaining assets to her daughter, Florrie Commene.<sup>8</sup> Emily had advertised rooms to let at Fern Tree before her marriage to Gus and may have had an independent income. Flo, her husband and children had been living with Gus and Emily in rooms at 253 Macquarie Street but the family now split up. Florrie and family moved to 91 Cascade Road and Gus moved to live in a five room cottage at 9 Central Street (now Watchorn Street).

On 26 May 1934, a son was born to Gus and a new very much younger wife, Eileen Joan (née ROBERTS). A daughter followed the following year. He again applied for Maternity Allowance from his employer in 1936, 1938 and 1939. His growing family and low income were mentioned in a letter he sent to his employers in October 1937.<sup>9</sup> Gus had left a wheelbarrow he was using in the goods shed for a few minutes, while he attended

---

<sup>5</sup> *The Mercury*, 30 June 1917, p. 3

<sup>6</sup> *The Mercury*, 12 December 1918, p. 3

---

<sup>7</sup> Tasmanian Archives and Heritage Office (TAHO) TC10/1/5202 36/662

<sup>8</sup> TAHO: AD960/1/56 Will no. 19060

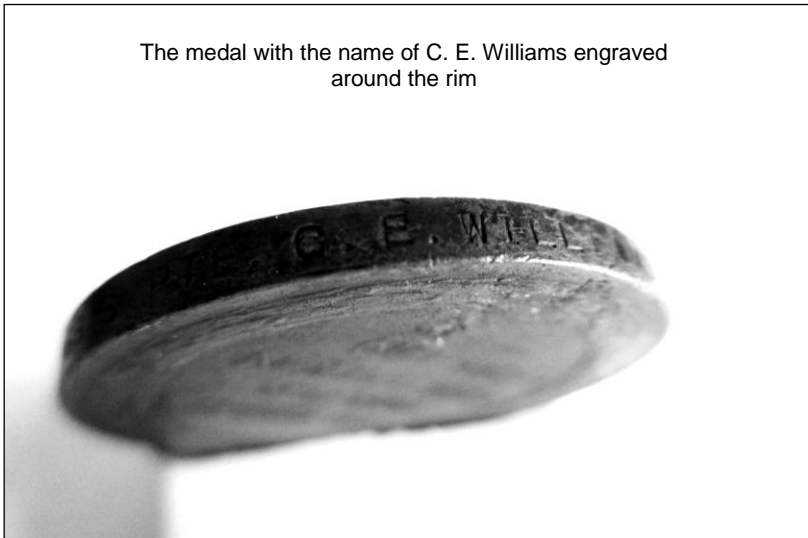
<sup>9</sup> TC10/1/5202 36/662

to a call for assistance from a customer. He particularly stated it was still required. However, when he went to retrieve it, it had been taken by porter CATO. Words were exchanged and Cato called Gus, "A b----- big bastard." Gus retaliated with a punch to the face. Following a sizeable inquiry, he was suspended without pay for eight days. Cato was fined and dismissed (later retracted). Gus stated in a letter he had only defended his name, and his parents' honour, that he should have been commended, not condemned. The cost to him (loss of £4.18.0) was great as he had four young children and his wife was unwell. The Railway Department relented and the loss of pay was halved.

Other letters in Gus's file reflect his desperate situation. In April 1941, he was reprimanded for informing the Department in the afternoon, rather than in the morning, when he was unable to attend work. Three of his children had whooping cough and the other two were sickening. He again appealed in 1943 for time to be taken from his annual leave when he developed arthritis in his shoulder.

The file of C E (Gus) Williams was closed at the Railway in 1944, when he was dismissed from his job. Following a tip off, authorities checked his locker and found two packets of jelly crystals, one packet of custard powder, two bottles of coffee essence, three toy rattles, three toy eye viewers, one balaclava and one pair of child's shoes, and in a bench under his hat, a box containing 12 lbs of fruit jelly lollies. The value of the articles was put at £3 which demonstrates the low buying power of his wage of just over £4 per week. Gus admitted the theft, saying the articles had not been properly secured in parcels. He wrote an articulate letter, begging to keep his job. He was deeply ashamed, his wife was quite upset and he did not want to bring shame upon his children. He felt his position keenly as he had five children and a sixth was expected shortly. Four of his children were ill and had been ordered to hospital. His wife had run up an account at the chemist and he had insurances and lodge to pay. He was at a loss to understand himself, why he had taken the articles,

The medal with the name of C. E. Williams engraved around the rim



and would do anything to make amends. He was a returned soldier but was now too old to join the army again. All was in vain, and Gus found his employment terminated. However, in appreciation of his difficult position and the fact that he had given information regarding other thefts at the yards, it was decided that no legal prosecution would go ahead. In January 1959, Gus wrote to the Veterans Affairs Department asking new copies of his army service records, stating he had previously written in 1945 when he had accidentally burnt the originals during a general clean up but his query had not been attended to. He did not mention a missing medal. The reply came too late. At 7 a.m. on the 5 March, the body of 67 year-old Cecil Edgar Augustus Williams, was found in a carriage of the train when it arrived at the Hobart Railway Station.<sup>10</sup> Gus was most likely on his way home from Derwent Park where was employed as a night watchman.

In a private funeral at Cornelian Bay, he was interred with his first wife Emily Maria.<sup>11</sup> It seems that for Gus the homecoming was as desperate as the war.

How his medal came to be lost in my grandfather's garden in Burnie, is a mystery. ◀

---

<sup>10</sup> *The Mercury*, 6 March 1959 p. 6

<sup>11</sup> TFHS Inc., Clarke Brothers Funeral Records



## **NORTH OF IRELAND FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY**

Founded in 1979, the Society covers the 9 counties of Ulster. Half of its 1,200 or so Members belong to the 12 Branches there and the other half are Associate Members scattered around the world.

There is an excellent Research Centre at Newtownabbey, with a large collection of Irish interest transcriptions, books, journals, directories and maps, with free look ups available for Associate Members.

The journal *North Irish Roots* is published twice a year and there is an E-Newsletter twice a year. The website [www.nifhs.org](http://www.nifhs.org) is being replaced in mid-2015, with an increasing number of records going online.

Associate Members may join or renew online, using PayPal or credit or debit card to pay the annual subscription – £16 for 2015, rising to £18 for 2016.



# THE HAWTHORN FAMILY IN VAN DIEMEN'S LAND SEEKING A NEW START IN A NEW LAND

Judith Carter and Don Bradmore (Member No. 6756)

WHEN 22-year-old Jane CRAMER, the second of three children of wealthy Marmaduke and Sarah (née GUMBLETON) CRAMER, announced in 1811 that she intended to marry Dublin clerk George HAWTHORN, a man without money, position or prospects, her father was furious. Possibly compounding his anger was the fact that Hawthorn was a Catholic. Venting his rage, Marmaduke Cramer cut his daughter off with only a shilling.<sup>1</sup>

The Cramer family had owned land and money in Ireland for over 200 years. The first of the clan had come from Germany in the time of CROMWELL and had been granted land in return for their military service and support. One of the early Cramers had been Sheriff of Dublin. Down through the ages, many of them had taken degrees at Trinity College and, afterwards, had served in the Irish parliament. They were part of the aristocracy.<sup>2</sup>

Life would have been difficult for Jane and George Hawthorn. Shortly after their marriage, the first of their children was born and others followed in quick succession. The register of the Catholic parish of St Paul at Arran Quay, Dublin, seems to indicate there were seven children in all, only four of whom survived infancy: John (born c. 1811), Frances (c. 1813), Sarah (c. 1817) and George Jnr (c. 1824).

When her husband died in 1825, Jane Hawthorn was in dire straits.<sup>3</sup> But, ironically, it was that tragic event which motivated her to seek a new start and better opportunities for her children, in a new land.

She must have been aware that, in February 1824, Jocelyn THOMAS, a relative by marriage, had emigrated with his wife and seven children to distant Van Diemen's Land and was prospering there. Upon arrival he had been granted 1,000 acres (405 ha.) of land and had since added to it considerably by purchase. An astute man, he had quickly won the respect of Lieutenant Governor George

---

<sup>1</sup> See 'Jane CRAMER of Tipperary' at <http://www.thekingscandlesticks.com/w ebs/pedigrees/1626.html>. Marmaduke and Sarah (GUMBLETON) CRAMER had three children: John Thomas (born c.1790), Jane (c.1792) and Frances (c.1794).

<sup>2</sup> The long history of the Cramer family in Ireland has been well recorded. Note that there are several other variants of the name, including KRAMER, KRAEMER, KREMER, CREAMER, CREMER and

---

others. See [http://gen.julianlyon.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/010930\\_transcript\\_WindlePaper.pdf](http://gen.julianlyon.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/010930_transcript_WindlePaper.pdf) and <http://www.thekingscandlesticks.com/w ebs/pedigrees/1626.html>. Trinity College, Dublin, was founded in 1592.

<sup>3</sup> Death of George HAWTHORN, Snr: <http://www.thekingscandlesticks.com/w ebs/pedigrees/1626.html>. Date calculated from date of birth of youngest child.

ARTHUR who had appointed him Acting Treasurer after only eight months in the colony. In July 1825, he had been confirmed in the position. It was probably the knowledge he was so well established that gave Jane the confidence to think she and her children could also succeed there.<sup>4</sup>

Thus, in early 1827, she sent her two elder children, John, then 16, and Frances, 14, out to the care of Thomas in Van Diemen's Land. It is probable she told them that she would follow with the two younger children if, and when, circumstances permitted it.



With their fares paid by their mother's brother, John Thomas Cramer, and each with £100 which he had also given them, John and Frances Hawthorn arrived at Hobart Town aboard *Lucy Anne* on 23 May.<sup>5</sup>

It is likely that Thomas helped to procure positions for the new arrivals. Before long, John was employed as a clerk in Hobart Town where he rented a house in Liverpool Street from a wealthy landowner named Michael STEEL.<sup>6</sup>

Frances Hawthorn was appointed as a governess on a property at Hamilton about fifty miles from Hobart Town. She was a young girl and it must have been quite daunting for her to be in a frontier town that was being raided on occasions

by violent bushrangers and armed convict absconders. But Frances was a pretty girl with a pleasant personality and had soon caught the eye of Lieutenant Henry Boden TORLESSE, RN, a recent settler. They married on 28 June 1829. Frances' brother, John, was a witness to the marriage.<sup>7</sup>

Torlesse had served in the Royal Navy during the Napoleonic wars but afterwards found promotion very slow and had resigned to migrate to Van Diemen's Land. He arrived on the *Wanstead* in 1828.<sup>8</sup> At first he acted as overseer on a property but soon applied for his own land grant. He was from a family who had become wealthy with investments in the East India Company and had been able to arrive with enough money to guarantee the granting of land. On his 2,650-acre property, he built a substantial home which he called 'Rathmore' after the property in Ireland which his wife's ancestors had owned for some generations.<sup>9</sup>

The writer Henry SAVERY, who visited the Torlesses at 'Rathmore' shortly after their marriage, was one of several observers who noted how happy Frances and Henry seemed to be together, despite Henry being considerably older.<sup>10</sup> Obviously as testimony to the couple's sense of humour, Savery later wrote:

I saw a pretty, recently finished picture, hanging over the chimney-place [at

---

<sup>4</sup> *Australian Dictionary of Biography* at <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/thomas-jocelyn-henry-connor-2726>. Jocelyn Thomas was the brother of the wife of John Thomas Cramer, Jane's older brother.

<sup>5</sup> Fares paid by John Thomas Cramer: see <http://www.thekingscandlesticks.com/webs/pedigrees/1626.html>

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*

---

<sup>7</sup> *Tasmanian Pioneer Index* (TPI): marriage, Torlesse-Hawthorn: 1362/1829/36, Hamilton

<sup>8</sup> Torlesse, arrival; *Hobart Town Courier*, 24 May 1828, p. 2

<sup>9</sup> Torlesse family, 'Rathmore': <http://www.thekingscandlesticks.com/webs/pedigrees/1626.html>

<sup>10</sup> Frances was about 16 when she married Torlesse; he was about 36

‘Rathmore’], the subject taken from ‘The Merry Wives of Windsor’, portraying the humourous Knight making love, and under it was written:

It is better to be an old man's darling,  
Than with a young man, to be ever  
snarling.<sup>11</sup>

The Torlesse’s first child, a son, was born in May 1830 but sadly died at eleven months. Their next child a girl, Frances Jane, was born in November 1831.<sup>12</sup>

A very capable man, Torlesse served as a police magistrate at Hamilton and his opinions were well regarded and respected. But, a number of observers, including Savery, have made mention of the fact that, although Henry and Frances were a most hospitable couple who loved to entertain, they probably did so beyond their means. Hence, by 1837, Torlesse was forced to mortgage ‘Rathmore’ and soon afterwards to sell it. Nevertheless, he continued to contribute to the community.

By 1841, the Torlesses had moved to Campbell Town where Henry was appointed a justice of the peace and, again, a police magistrate.<sup>13</sup> By early 1843, however, both Henry and Frances had developed serious illnesses for which they were forced to seek medical treatment closer to Hobart Town.<sup>14</sup>

Fortunately, by that time Frances’s mother and younger siblings, Sarah and George, had also migrated to Van Diemen’s Land from Ireland. Not long afterwards, Sarah married a highly respected doctor, and it was to their home at Brown’s River (now Kingston) that the Torlesses went.

There, Henry learnt he was suffering from an internal cancer and that the prognosis was not good. Frances was so affected by this depressing news that her own illness—consumption—rapidly worsened and she succumbed to it in August that year. Three months later, Henry also passed away.<sup>15</sup>



Twelve years before Frances Torlesse’s death, her mother, Jane (Cramer) Hawthorn, had arrived in Van Diemen’s Land. Accompanied by her younger children, Sarah, now 15, and George Jnr, 7, she had arrived at Hobart Town on the brig *Yare* on 13 October 1831. Again, Jane’s brother in Ireland, John Thomas Cramer, had helped financially.<sup>16</sup>

Reaching Hobart just a month before the birth of Frances’s daughter, the new arrivals went straight to ‘Rathmore’ where they stayed with the Torlesses for most of the following year.

There, the young and romantic Sarah met Samuel Pullen WELLS, son of Thomas Wells, a former colonial secretary, whose property, ‘Allanvale’, was adjacent to ‘Rathmore’. Although both families were opposed to the match, Sarah and Samuel

---

<sup>11</sup> Hadgraft, C and Roe, M (eds.) (1964), *Henry Savery: the Hermit in Van Diemen’s Land*. St Lucia: University of Queensland Press

<sup>12</sup> Torlesse’s son, Henry John, was baptised on 22 May 1830 (Reg: 3722/1830/32, New Norfolk) and buried 25 April 1833 (Reg: 2681/1831/36, New Norfolk.) His daughter, Frances Jane, was baptised 12 November 1831 (Reg: 4112/1831/32, New Norfolk).

<sup>13</sup> <http://www.thekingscandlesticks.com/webs/pedigrees/1626.html>

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid.*

---

<sup>15</sup> Frances (Hawthorn) Torlesse, death: 20 August 1843: Reg: 1744/1843/35, Hobart; Henry Boden Torlesse, death: *The Courier*, 27 October 1843, p. 2; his death may not have been registered officially

<sup>16</sup> Arrival of Jane Hawthorn and the younger children on *Yare*, *Colonial Times*, 19 October 1831, p. 2

wanted to marry as soon as possible. Eventually, they were persuaded to wait for three years, during which time they would undertake to not see each other. After that, if they still desired a marriage, both families would give their consent.<sup>17</sup>

To make the situation easier for Sarah to bear, Jane Hawthorn took her and young George to live with John at the Liverpool Street premises owned by Michael STEEL—an arrangement that was to have a very unfortunate consequence.<sup>18</sup>

Steel was a wealthy, older man who owned property in the country. For the greater part of every week he was away on his land but usually returned to his Hobart Town home at weekends. Before long, he had met the inexperienced and perhaps somewhat flighty Sarah and was sending her letters and talking of marriage. At this point, the close

bonds of the family were shown when her elder brother, John, acting as head of the family, confronted Steel who freely admitted he had never had any intention of marrying Sarah, and that he simply ‘thought it was a lark’ to pretend affection for her.

Greatly upset, Jane Hawthorn supported Sarah in bringing the first ‘breach of promise’ case in the colony. In May 1833,

---

<sup>17</sup> Report of breach of promise case, ‘HAWTHORN v. STEEL, *Colonial Times*, 14 May 1833, p. 3.

<sup>18</sup> *Ibid.*

Sarah was awarded £200 in compensation, an amount somewhat less than the £1,000 which her solicitors had claimed.<sup>19</sup> Is it possible the assessors had felt the inexperienced Sarah, unofficially engaged to Samuel Wells, had brought some of the trouble upon herself?

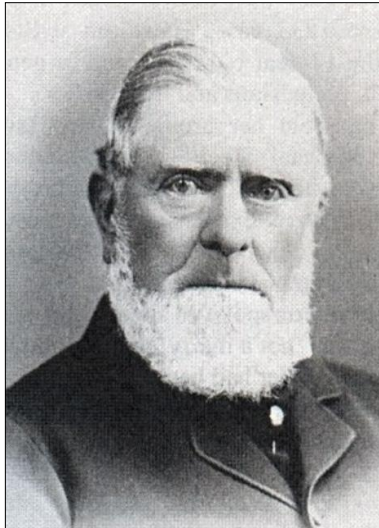
Not surprisingly, the matter put an end to the ‘contract’ that had existed between Sarah and Samuel Pullen Wells—an

arrangement that, in any case, would have come to an even more distressing end if it had continued. In December 1834, in the Supreme Court of Van Diemen’s Land, Wells and another young Hamilton man, George Mealing STEELE, were found guilty of ‘cattle stealing’ and given lengthy prison sentences.<sup>20</sup>

Happily, Sarah did not have long to wait for another proposal. On 14 April 1835, she married Dr George Francis HUSTON in

New Norfolk.<sup>21</sup> Again, John Hawthorn was a witness—but sadly he passed away shortly after. The newspapers announced his death on 17 July 1835:

Died at Hobart Town on Saturday, the 11<sup>th</sup> instant after a short illness, which he



Dr George Francis Huston

---

<sup>19</sup> As for note 17, above

<sup>20</sup> [http://www.law.mq.edu.au/research/colonial\\_case\\_law/tas/cases/case\\_index/1834/r\\_v\\_steel\\_and\\_wells/](http://www.law.mq.edu.au/research/colonial_case_law/tas/cases/case_index/1834/r_v_steel_and_wells/)

<sup>21</sup> Sarah Hawthorn and George F Huston, marriage: Reg: 3003/1835/36, New Norfolk

bore with Christian fortitude, Mr John Hawthorn, aged 23 years.<sup>22</sup>

The marriage of Sarah and George Huston was a long and successful one. They and their six children made a significant mark on the community. Huston held many public offices; he was appointed a justice of the peace; served on the Municipal Council for New Norfolk, was superintendent surgeon of the Hospital for the Insane at New Norfolk from 1855 until he retired in 1880, and a member of the Tasmanian House of Assembly from 1886 to 1890.<sup>23</sup> He died at 78 in 1890; Sarah died at 82 in 1898.<sup>24</sup>



George Hawthorn, Jane (Cramer) Hawthorn's fourth and youngest child, was seven years old when he arrived at Hobart Town with his mother and his sister, Sarah, in 1831.<sup>25</sup>



George Hawthorn

In the early 1840s, he started work as a clerk in the public service and served as

bench clerk to the police magistrate, John PRICE, known to many as the 'man of iron' because of his unbending firmness and severity.<sup>26</sup> Hawthorn's contact with Price, who had been a farmer in the Huon District, led to an interest in the timber industry and especially to a passion for Huon pine, a native timber highly suitable for shipbuilding. But he had many other interests as well. In 1851, he was secretary of the Mechanics School of Art, a fine amateur artist himself, an organised an exhibition of colonial manufactured items and works of art.<sup>27</sup>

On 19 October 1853, he married Isabella Marie Louisa Steele at St Peter's Church, Hamilton.<sup>28</sup> Ironically, Isabella was the daughter of George

Steele, the associate of Samuel Pullen Wells who had been convicted in December 1834 of stealing and killing a

<sup>22</sup> John Hawthorn, death: *The Hobart Town Courier*, 17 July 1835, p. 2

<sup>23</sup> Huston, obituary: *Launceston Examiner*, 19 December 1890, p. 3)

<sup>24</sup> Huston, death: 18 December 1890: Reg: 1029/1890/35, New Norfolk; Sarah death, 13 February 1898: Reg: 652/1898/35, New Norfolk

<sup>25</sup> See note 16, above

<sup>26</sup> <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/price-john-giles-2563>

<sup>27</sup> George Hawthorn, obituary: *The Mercury* (Hobart), 7 November 1907, p. 5

<sup>28</sup> Hawthorn-Steele, marriage: Reg. 971/1853/36, Hamilton

cow and who, for a brief time, had been unofficially engaged to his sister, Sarah.

As was customary at that time, a considerable effort was made to conceal the matter of Isabella's convict connections. The marriage certificate stated her father was 'the *late* George Steele' [emphasis added]—which was incorrect; having served his time as a convict on Norfolk Island, George Steele was very much alive and living in Sydney where, in 1849, he had remarried.<sup>29</sup> Elsewhere, she was described as 'Isabella Steele of Ipswich' (rather than Hamilton) and that was not correct either! Nevertheless, the marriage was a good one, and Isabella's secret—if others ever knew it—seems not to have been any impediment to George's career.<sup>30</sup>

In 1856, George was appointed shipping master for Hobart, a position which he held 'with all-sufficient capability' for almost 50 years. His experience saw him widely regarded as one of the highest authorities on shipping matters in Australia. A long and enthusiastic advocate for the development of a deep-sea fishing industry out of Hobart, he retired on 31 December 1905. When he

died at his home at Lindisfarne, Hobart, on 5 November 1907, flags at the port were flown at half-mast. His obituary mentioned his disposition had attracted a wide circle of friends who held him in high esteem.<sup>31</sup>



On 28 October 1863, Jane (Cramer) Hawthorn, the matriarch of the family, passed away at the home of her daughter, Sarah Huston. She was 76 years of age.<sup>32</sup>

To what extent might she have thought that her objective in urging her children to seek a fresh start in a new land had been achieved? Would she have thought they had had better opportunities in Van Diemen's Land than they would have had in Ireland?

She would have known, of course, that it was unrealistic to think that, in her lifetime, she and her children would be able to recapture the prestigious position in society that the Cramers occupied in Ireland; their history had been over two centuries in the making. But there is little doubt, had she lived a little longer, she would have been delighted with the way the Hawthorn clan had prospered in Van Diemen's Land.

Of course, she would have been disappointed her eldest child, John, died before he reached his full potential, but the other three children lived interesting and fruitful lives.

Although Frances, the second child, also died at a relatively young age, her

---

<sup>29</sup> See George Mealing Steele's conduct record: TAHO CON31-1-40, Image 98. His second wife was Mary Ann Hanslow. Steele-Hanslow marriage: *Australia Marriage Index, 1788–1950* via Ancestry.com

<sup>30</sup> George Hawthorn, marriage announcement: *Launceston Examiner*, 1 November 1853, p. 2; reference to Miss Steele being from Ipswich: see <http://www.thekingscandlesticks.com/webs/pedigrees/1626.html> Eliza Henrietta (Bromley) Steele, wife of George Steele who was convicted of 'cattle-stealing' in 1834, died at the home of George and Isabella Hawthorn on 13 December 1874. She was 69 years old.

---

<sup>31</sup> As for note 27, above. On 3 June 1925, Isabella Marie Louise (Steele) Hawthorn, 91, passed away at the home of her daughter, Emmaline Eliza Hawthorn, at Moonah, Tasmania.

<sup>32</sup> Jane (Cramer) Hawthorn, death: Reg: 366/1865/35, New Norfolk

marriage to Henry Boden Torlesse had been a happy one. It had given Jane her first grandchild, Frances Jane Torlesse, known to family and friends as 'Tassie'. It is interesting to note, however, that when her parents died within months of each other in 1843, 'Tassie', just twelve years old, was taken to England by Lieutenant Governor Sir John FRANKLIN and his wife Lady Jane, who were returning home at that time. There, her welfare was overseen by her uncle, the Rev. C M Torlesse (her father's brother). 'Tassie' shared a governess with Eleanor FRANKLIN, the daughter of Sir John by an earlier marriage, and received an excellent education. On 29 August 1854, at Stoke-by-Nayland, Suffolk, she married Edward LIVING, MD, of Caius College, Cambridge. The marriage produced five children, one of whom became a high-ranking clergyman, and another a university professor. She died in London at the age of 53. It is believed that she never returned to Van Diemen's Land.<sup>33</sup>

Jane would also have been delighted that her younger daughter, Sarah, had done so well after her uncertain start in her new land. Her marriage to Dr George Francis Huston was happy and successful. Amelia Jane Huston, the eldest of her daughters, married Lieutenant Francis

Seymour GAYNOR (later Captain) of the 99<sup>th</sup> Regiment.<sup>34</sup> Another daughter, Sarah Frances Huston, married Walter Angus Bethune JAMIESON, the long-serving warden and coroner of New Norfolk.<sup>35</sup> A third daughter, Mary Louise Huston, married James Mallard CLARKE, secretary to the Salmon Commissioners of Tasmania.<sup>36</sup> Her fourth daughter, Kate Huston, married Robert Patten ADAMS, a member of the House of Assembly and, later, a judge of the Supreme Court of Tasmania.<sup>37</sup>

And, of course, Jane (Cramer) Hawthorn would have been pleased with the success her younger son, George Jnr, made of his life but, sadly, only two of his five children reached adulthood. His eldest son, Henry Cramer Hawthorn, left Tasmania early and settled at Barcardine

in northern Queensland, where he became an inspector of stock. When he died in 1928, he was described in a newspaper obituary as 'one who had earned wide respect from all sections of the community.'<sup>38</sup> Another son, Arthur



Frances Jane Torlesse 'Tassie'

<sup>33</sup> As for note 13, above.

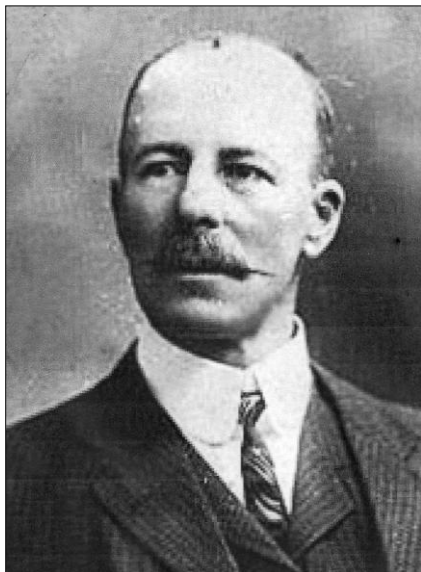
<sup>34</sup> *The Courier*, 2 December 1854, p. 2

<sup>35</sup> Jamieson, obituary: *Launceston Examiner*, 30 December 1881, p. 2

<sup>36</sup> *The Mercury*, 15 June 1869, p. 2

<sup>37</sup> <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/adams-robert-patten-2868>

<sup>38</sup> *The Longreach Leader*, 24 December 1926, p. 18; Obituary: *The Brisbane Courier*, 31 December 1928, p. 8



Arthur George Clarence Hawthorn

George Clarence Hawthorn, was admitted as a solicitor in Hobart in 1884 but persuaded immediately to move to Queensland where he established his own successful law firm. In 1899 he was elected to the Ithaca Shire Council and in 1902 he won the Legislative Assembly seat of Ennogerger and served in the state parliament for the next 20 years.<sup>39</sup>

In summary, Jane Cramer Hawthorn would have been well satisfied with the contribution the Hawthorn family made to the development not only of the colony of Van Diemen's Land and, later, the state of Tasmania, but also to Australia as a nation. In no small measure, her immediate descendants had made a bright fresh start in their new land. ◀

---

<sup>39</sup> <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/hawthorn-arthur-george-clarence-6608>

## New Release ALONG THE TERRACE

The Owners and Occupiers of Stanley  
1843–1922

Compiled by Betty Jones  
Supported by the Stanley Discovery Museum



The book provides a detailed allotment-by-allotment history of Stanley's early buildings, its pioneers, settlers, transients and services. Research stems from the first street map of the town, published in 1843 for the Van Diemen's Land Company, which showed 113 quarter-acre lots.

Much additional information about the town's evolution, supported by photographs dating from the mid-nineteenth century is documented, along with family details for about one thousand of the people identified.

The individual stories of how Stanley's owners and occupiers attempted to survive and prosper in a geographically isolated setting are highlighted throughout the volume. Featured are master mariners, sealers, ex-convicts, storekeepers, tradespeople, labourers, service providers, professionals and others of high rank.

Comprising 296 A4 pages, the book has over 800 photographs and is enhanced with maps and a comprehensive user-friendly index.

*Costs: Soft Cover \$40 + \$15 (p&p)  
Hard Cover (limited supply) \$65 + \$15 (p&p)  
(Up to two copies included in p&p price)*

Cheques made out to Stanley Discovery Museum or Money Orders would be appreciated with mail orders.

Available from Betty Jones  
PO Box 820, Burnie, Tasmania 7320  
email: [colinandbetty@keypoint.com.au](mailto:colinandbetty@keypoint.com.au)  
Phone (03) 6433 0460  
and from Stanley Discovery Museum  
37 Church Street, Stanley, Tasmania 7331  
Phone (03) 6458 2091



# HISTORY OF THE CRONLY FAMILY

Br James Cronly OFM Cap (Member No. 7565)

**T**HE Gaelic form of the name CRONLY is O’Cronghaile, with the ‘gh’ being the English transliteration of a special letter which can probably be best expressed by a soft ‘g’. Being a Gaelic name, there are many varied spellings with or without the prefix ‘O’—Cronley, or Cranley; O’Cronowly or O’Cronully; O’Cronelly or Crannelly. Cronly seems to be the spelling adopted by this branch of the family and still used in Tullamore, Ireland.

History records the reasons for the loss of the prefix ‘O’ as having been either treason, as it was a sign of nobility or option on migration. The form with the prefix is found until the time of the persecutions of Cromwell. During these times families lost wealth and prestige by remaining faithful to the Catholic Church. However there is no proof of this in the Cronly case. Parish registers in Tullamore show the name used without the prefix.<sup>1</sup>

The meaning or translation of the name is Cron, which means ‘brown’ or ‘dark’ (probably referring to hair colouring) and Ghail, which was a common personal name meaning Valour.

The Cronly family, an old Galway family were coarbs<sup>2</sup> or comarba of St Grellan.

They were a section of the Ui Maine (pronounced High Mainée), the O’Kelly Kings of Galway. By the sixteenth century a large number of the family had crossed the River Shannon into Offaly and Ormond.

## SAINT GRELLAN

Saint Greallan is the first historical figure associated with the Parish of Kilklooney. He established Christianity in the area and later became the Patron of the Parish and of the Ui Maine of Connaught. His place in the Irish Martyrologies is among the ‘first order of the saints’—those who lived during Saint Patrick’s lifetime. According to accounts, he was preserved, personally educated, ordained and raised to the Episcopate by Saint Patrick himself.

St Grellan was born in the time of Patrick and during the reign of Lugaidh mac Laoighaire mic Meill. Legends abound.<sup>3</sup> They were written for the edification of those who could neither read nor write. They were of a set style, and part of the understanding of the people in those days.

Grellan’s birth was heralded by a violent thunderstorm heard by all persons in Ireland. Patrick, on being asked the meaning of this, said it was to mark the birth of a child, who had but six months in his mother’s womb. Patrick prophesied this child would grow up to be a pillar of the Church, a defender of the poor and oppressed, a peacemaker, and an enemy

---

<sup>1</sup> References to the Cronly name can be found in the following publications—Woulfe, *Irish Names and Surnames* and MacLysaught, *Irish Surnames; More Irish Surnames and Supplement to More Irish Surnames*.

<sup>2</sup> Coarbs were hereditary keepers of the crozier, or Bishop’s Staff of St Grellan. It was a type of ecclesiastical office. It was the Battle sign for the Ui Maine (O’Kelly). Recently, I found that it was usual for the

---

coarb to be blood related to the original holder of the office. So somehow the Cronly clan is related to St Grellan.

<sup>3</sup> From the Latin ‘legenda’, that is something that must be read

of evil doers. Grellan's father was Cuillin mac Cairbre Cluaisdergh of the Lagen; his mother's name was Eithne. From his parents Grellan received a worthy education during his early years, at the command of Patrick. When he was old enough to leave his native place, Patrick proposed he take Grellan with him. They travelled to Claith Duibh Linne (Dublin) after which Patrick superintended young Grellan's education.

The Saint's wooden staff or crosier, the Bachall Ghreallain, was preserved over the centuries as a treasured relic of the Ui Maine, and in particular the O'Cronghaile. Legend has it the Ui Maine would never be subdued as long as they carried this Bachall into battle as their Standard. It was encased in bronze and passed through the hands of a long line of hereditary custodians (coarbs), down to the middle of the nineteenth century.

In 1837, John O'Donovan wrote:

The Crosier of Saint Grellan is still preserved in the little town of Ahascra, lying between this and Castlekelly. It is in the possession of a Sean or John Cranelly, the present hereditary mayor or keeper of the relic of Saint Grellan. The Crosier was described to me today by an old man who often saw it; it was made of brass crooked at the head and nearly the length of my umbrella. It is encased in silk and used in the country to be sworn upon when people wish to clear themselves of theft, on which occasion, if the deponent takes a false oath, the violated bachall turns blue and green and the deponent's mouth turns to his ear, or his neck turns his face to look backwards (siar!). Sean Cranelly, the present owner of the heirloom, never lends it out for any deposit, but visits the parties himself and officially hands the sacred relic of the truth-loving Saint Grellan to the deponent,

for which he receives the sum of 2s.6d.<sup>4</sup>

The Bachall is now lost. A Priest, taking a very dim view of a Layman doing such a thing in his Parish, ordered the relic to be thrown into the river.

Thus a treasured relic from the dawn of Christianity in Ireland, though handed down with loving care through thirteen centuries, was in the end put to base use, before finally disappearing from sight, perhaps for ever.<sup>5</sup>

Father Egan relates another legend how the Bachall was shortened. One of the keepers, another Cranelly, had part cut off, and the part thus cut off flew up and and struck him, giving him a severe beating. He and his descendants were lame from then on.

The Feast day of Saint Grellan is either 17 September or 11 November. The earliest accounts at Kilclooney give the former date as his feastday.<sup>6</sup>

## THE CRONLEY FAMILY MIGRATES TO TASMANIA

PATRICK CRONLEY was born in Tullamore, Ireland about 1804, and was likely the son of Peter Chronly and Mary MOOR. Parish records give the date of the marriage as the 5 October 1803.

We can surmise he had some brothers and sisters, for Parish records are incomplete for that period. The likely siblings are Edward who married Bridget FLYNN on 22 August 1836; they had three children, Ellicia (Alicia) born 19 May 1837, and who came to Tasmania with the other Cronley family; Mary, born 16 June 1839

<sup>4</sup> Quoted by Father Egan in *The Parish of Balinasloe*, Dublin, 1960. Out of print.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> In January 1996, I made my Solemn Profession as a Capuchin Franciscan Friar, and I included St Grellan in the Litany of Saints, as he is undoubtedly the Cronley Patron Saint.

and Patrick born 21 November 1841.

Patrick and Edward were taught the stone cutter's trade. There is a ledger with the following written therein:

I, Pat Coffey, do hereby declare, in the presence of witnesses whose names are undersigned that I shall from the date hereof and forever discontinue to be a member of a Society, namely for the combination amongst my fellow stone cutters which I now perceive to be unjust in principle, opposed to our religion, and destructive of that order and harmony so essential to the peace and happiness of Society. And I moreover declare that, I shall use my best endeavours and any influence I may possess over my fellow tradesmen to influence them to follow my example.

Dated this 4th of Feb. 1837  
(sgd) Patt Coffey  
Daniel Coffey  
his  
Witness Wm X Doyle  
Mark

I hereby undersign to the above declaration  
(sgd) Patt Keegan  
Pat Horan  
John Keegan  
William Coffey  
John Horan  
Patt Cronly  
Mathias Horan  
Jim Nagle  
Edw Cronly  
Peter Horan  
William Lyster  
Thomas Boland  
Patt Farrelley



Patrick Cronly senior

It is very interesting to try and work out which 'society' is referred to. Others are of the opinion it would be Freemasonry, however, from my background in Industrial Relations, my thoughts went to trade unionism. In 1834, there had been a clamp down on Trade Unions (consider the Tolpuddle Martyrs) and their national bodies broken up. The only surviving one was the National Society of Stonemasons!

Patrick married Honoria CLEARLY about 1830, but records do not exist. Honoria (Norah, Honora are the varied spellings) was the daughter of John Cleary and Anne ENGLISH.

All their children were born in Tullamore, Ireland: Joseph 1832, Mary 1834, Honoria 1836, Bridget 1840, Catherine 1843, Patrick 1846, and John 1849.

### THEIR LIFE IN HOBART

Sometime in 1850s the family decided to migrate to Tasmania, where a friend, Bernard MOLLOY was already settled. Conditions in Ireland had been bad, not only had there been a cholera epidemic,<sup>7</sup> and potato crop fail, but the government in London passed the Corn Laws in 1815 which forbade the importation of corn until the price had reached 80s a quarter. This was passed by the people who represented the agricultural interests, but com-

<sup>7</sup> Edward Cronly's family all perished save Alicia who came to Tasmania with her cousins

pletely overlooked the need of the industrial towns and the poor people without food. People were dispossessed in Ireland, with the harrowing sight of women and children thrown out of their cottages in the rain or snow and the roof removed to stop them squatting. The poor were not even considered, protection of property was paramount. It must have been decided to send Honoria, their eldest girl, out with her cousin, Alicia. Mr Bernard MULROY [Mulloy?] sponsored their passage. They left Southampton on the *Kingston* on 26 May 1854, and arrived in Hobart Town on the 26 August—a voyage of three months. The vessel *Kingston* was 843 tons, and the Master, Captain R L WEEKS.

Alicia's age was given as 23 and she was listed as a general servant. Honora's age was given as 17 and she was listed as a nursery maid.

On 1 July 1857, Joseph Cronly arrived in Hobart on the *Prompt*. He was described as being 'stout, brown hair, reddish whiskers, broad nose'. His age was given as 22 and he was listed as a stone cutter.<sup>8</sup>

Finally, Patrick and Honoria with the rest of the children left Liverpool on the *David G Flemming* on 22 July 1859 and arrived in Melbourne on 5 November 1859. At Melbourne they transferred to the *City of Hobart*, with the Master, Captain BENTLEY. They arrived in Hobart on 18 November 1859.

The Immigrant Lists of the *David G Fleming* show:

1377 Patrick Cronnelley, aged 49, labourer  
Honora Cronnelley, aged 45, wife  
Catherine Cronnelley, aged 11, child

Patrick Cronnelley, aged 9, child

John Cronnelley, aged 7, child

1378 Mary Cronnelley, aged 21, spinster

Bridget Cronnelley, aged 19, spinster

But in the lists for the *City of Hobart* the occupations are Patrick, stone mason, his wife, a farm servant, Mary, a dress maker and Bridget, a house maid.<sup>9</sup>

It would have been a fairly simple matter to obtain employment as a tradesman stone cutter/mason. The Hobart Town Hall was being built. The family settled in Lord Street, Sandy Bay, which at that time was on the fringes of the town. Patrick went into partnership with Bernard Mulloy and Joseph was also in the trade. Undoubtedly, young Patrick would also be learning the trade. There are still headstones around (Cornelian Bay and Back River Cemetery, Magra) with Cronly Hobart chiselled in the side. They also worked in partnership with John GILLON.

The major work, still existent, undertaken by Cronly and Mulloy was the Church of St Augustine at Longford, Tasmania.

The building is from designs prepared by Mr Henry HUNTER of Hobart Town, whose talents in his profession are best exhibited from the really beautiful structures that adorn our fine land. The contract of stone work was executed by Messrs Cronly and Mulloy of Hobart Town ...

The plan comprises a nave 60 x 22 feet, having an apsidal terminal at the east end. The west end of the nave has a triplet lancet window with cusped heads. The side windows are simple lancets with cusped heads. The oblique sides of the apse are filled with two light windows, the heads being filled with geometric tracery: the extreme end is blank, and

---

<sup>8</sup> *The Hobart Town Mercury*, Monday, 30 August 1854, Shipping Notices. Also the Official Immigrant Lists CB 7/12/2 Book 19 Tasmanian Archives Office, Hobart.

---

<sup>9</sup> *The Hobart Town Advertiser*, Saturday Morning, 19 November 1859, and TAHO: official Immigration Lists CB 7/12/9 p. 64

affords space over the altar for a fine painting or altar piece. The roofs are open to the ridge.<sup>10</sup>

At this stage Patrick junior would have been 17 years of age. He later went into business on his own.

### **ALICIA (née Cronly) ANDERSON**

Alicia was the daughter of Edward and Bridget (née Flynn) Cronly. Her name was spelt Ellicia in the baptismal register.<sup>11</sup>

She was born on 19 May 1837. She had a sister, Mary, born on 16 June 1839 and a brother, Patrick born on 21 November 1841. This leads us to make some probable solutions, based on the following facts. Firstly there is no further mention of any of this family in the Parish registers after 1841. Alicia and her cousin, Honora, born 1836, came to Tasmania in 1854 together, sponsored by a Mr Bernard Molloy. There were little employment prospects in Ireland and there was great famine. So I surmise Edward, Bridget, Mary and Patrick died somewhere between 1842 and 1852 which could possibly mean they were victims of the epidemic. Patrick and Nora accepted her as one of the family, and so when the old family friend, Bernard Molloy offered to sponsor them, the two cousins came to Tasmania.

Alicia married John ANDERSON, a widower, from North Shields.<sup>12</sup> They had one daughter, Alice who was the first born in the colony and the delight of the

rest of the family.

Alice, daughter of John and Alicia (née Cronly) Anderson, born 9 August 1862, in Hobart, baptised 7 September 1862 by Rev. Father George HUNTER, sponsors Bernard Malloy and Alice ALLEN, at St Josephs Church, Hobart.

Alice married William FRENEY and had a very disappointing marriage. She married him on 1 December 1883 and applied for a Judicial Separation on 6 December 1886. Two months later she died of congestion on the brain. According to oral history, the uncles and men folk of the family were so incensed with Freney they took loaded revolvers to the funeral in case the blackguard turned up. ◀

To be continued ...

## **HELP WANTED**

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

Special Interest Groups are subject to advertising rates.

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

Queries should be limited to 100 words and forwarded to  
**editors@tasfhs.org**  
or post to

The Editor  
*Tasmanian Ancestry*,  
PO Box 326 ROSNY PARK  
Tasmania 7018

<sup>10</sup> *Tasmania Catholic Standard*, November 1867 and *Cornwall Chronicle* 23 November 1867

<sup>11</sup> Tullamore Parish records

<sup>12</sup> St Josephs Church, Hobart Town, 11 August 1860 John Anderson, aged 35, painter, to Alicia Cronly, aged 27, servant, by Rev. Father Charles Woods; witnesses B Malloy and Alicia Allen

**NEW PUBLICATION  
UNDERTAKERS  
OF HOBART  
Vol. IV**



**Index to  
H C Millington Pty Ltd  
Funeral Records  
Part 6  
November 1960 – May 1964  
\$25.00 + \$4.80 p&p**

This new index continues the  
Millington series

Part 1 Apr 1925 – May 1937

\$22.00 + \$4.80 p&p

Part 2 May 1937 – Mar 1944

\$22.00 + \$4.80 p&p

Part 3 Mar 1944 – Mar 1950

\$15.00 + \$4.80 p&p

Part 4 Mar 1950 – Nov 1955

\$25.00 + \$4.80 p&p

Part 5 Nov 1955 – Nov 1960

\$25.00 + \$4.80 p&p

All members are entitled  
to 10% discount.

Write to Resource Manager

TFHS Inc. Hobart Branch

PO Box 326 ROSNY PARK

TASMANIA 7018

or

email [library@hobart.tasfhs.org](mailto:library@hobart.tasfhs.org)

*Tasmanian Ancestry*  
**ADVERTISING  
RATES**

effective  
from 1 June 2015

All prices quoted for advertising in  
*Tasmanian Ancestry* do not include  
GST.

Advertisements may be either in  
portrait or landscape layout.

The following rates apply.

**FULL PAGE**

11.75cm x 17.75cm

\$100.00 one issue

\$180.00 two issues

\$250.00 three issues

\$300.00 four issues

**HALF PAGE**

5.50cm x 17.75cm

or

11.75cm x 8.25cm

\$55.00 one issue

\$100.00 two issues

\$135.00 three issues

\$165.00 four issues

**QUARTER PAGE**

5.50cm x 8.25cm

or

11.75cm x 4.25cm

\$30.00 one issue

\$55.00 two issues

\$75.00 three issues

\$90.00 four issues

# TRANSPORTATION TO VAN DIEMEN'S LAND

Leonie Mickleborough (Member No. 20)

**T**RANSPORTATION as a form of punishment was not new when the first ships of convicts left England in 1787 bound for Australia. A type of transportation was sanctioned by an Act of Parliament in the reign of Elizabeth I (1558–1603), and formed part of the basis of the Poor Law. In the early seventeenth century, undesirables were sent as oarsmen to the galleys—ships mainly propelled by oarsmen—but with the progress to galleons and ships, which had no need for oarsmen, such transportation ceased. However, the twin objects of punishment and service were achieved during and after the American War of Independence (1775–83) by housing criminals in hulks anchored in ports of the United Kingdom.

Transportation proper was established by an Act of Parliament in 1717 (4 George 1, c.2), which noted the great need of servants in America, and provided for transportation there of those convicted of certain felonies. In the course of the eighteenth century a number of Acts made transportation to America common under the provisions of the 1717 legislation. According to Lloyd Robson, it seems certain that 30,000 prisoners were conveyed from Britain during the eighteenth century.<sup>1</sup>

Transportation ceased when the American War of Independence started, and though the Home Government endeavoured to resume transportation after hostilities, only one shipload of prisoners was landed in the United States.

An Act of 1776 (16 George 111, c.43) provided that men sentenced to transportation should be kept on hulks in the River Thames pending despatch to America. The second important Act of Parliament concerning transportation was that of 1779 (19 George c.74) by which the courts were empowered to order transportation to any place beyond the seas. Five years later it was enacted (24 George 111, c.56) that the Crown could appoint places to which felons might be sent. It was under the provisions of these Acts that convicts were first transported to Australia.<sup>2</sup>

Convict labour was 'of great utility' in the English dockyards, but the available number of men was constantly decreasing because of the large number of convicts who were selected from the hulks for the army and navy. However, in 1805 the hulks were 'more than sufficient' for those sent from the gaols and in 1810 the hulks were 'considerably deficient in their proper complement'.<sup>3</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> L L Robson, *The Convict Settlers of Australia* (Melbourne, 1973), p. 5 citing A E Smith, 'Colonists in Bondage: White Servitude and Convict Labour in America 1607–1776' (Chapel Hill, Va., 1947) chapter 5

---

<sup>2</sup> *The Convict Settlers of Australia*, p. 6

<sup>3</sup> Entry Book, Home Office to Admiralty, 17 April and 11 July 1804, 15 February and 20 October 1805, 7 June 1808, HO 29/6 cited in A G L Shaw, *Convicts & the Colonies* (London, 1966), p. 127

In England each year until 1808 fewer than 2,000 male and 800 females were convicted, of whom only about 300 males and 40 females were sentenced to death, while about 600 males and 150 females were transported either directly, or as a condition of their reprieve from execution. As they could be kept in hulks instead, few were sent to Australia, and on average, less than 350 were transported between 1802 and 1809, while none were transported in 1804.<sup>4</sup>

In Britain after 1810 the crime rate seemed to rise, and convictions steadily increased. This posed a problem for British ministers, and many varied reforms were claimed to be a panacea for society's ills. Democrats wanted a more popular government and an end to the exploitation which they claimed was a powerful cause of crime, while political economists wanted less government spending and freer trade. Some people put their faith in better education, while evangelicals wanted a sterner moral code. The abolitionist and philanthropist William WILBERFORCE (1759–1833) thought that 'great crimes' could be prevented 'by endeavouring to repress that general spirit of licentiousness, which is the parent of every species of vice'.<sup>5</sup>

Humanitarians and utilitarians were combining to reform the prisons and wanted punishments made less severe. Some reformers had great faith in imprisonment with hard labour as a punishment, if only a sojourn in prison was made thoroughly unpleasant, possibly with a treadmill. Yet, it should not be made harmful to health, or be the

subject of extortion or ill-treatment as it had so often been in the past.<sup>6</sup>

English parliamentary opinion, particularly of the members of the House of Lords, was that they were very reluctant to reduce the number of capital offences. According to Lord Chief Justice Lord ELLENBOROUGH in 1810, he and his colleagues were unanimous that there should be no revision of capital punishment as the penalty for privately stealing goods to the value of 5s 0d in shops. After all, transportation was 'a summer's excursion, an easy migration to a happier and better climate'.<sup>7</sup> In 1819 Home Secretary Lord SIDMOUTH agreed with Ellenborough that the lessening of the criminal law would lead to an increase in crime, even though the death penalty was rarely enforced.<sup>8</sup>

In 1811 the *Select Committee on Penitentiary Houses* had praised the new prison in Gloucester as it was 'not confined to the safe custody of the person' but extended to the reform and improvement of the mind and operated by seclusion, employment, and religious instruction. Select committee members recognised how expensive penitentiaries were, and concluded that the extent of any widespread plan for the imprisonment of transportable convicts in Penitentiary Houses must be compared to the practice of confining offenders on board the hulks or of sending them to Botany Bay. The committee members did, however, recommend building a

---

<sup>6</sup> *Convicts & the Colonies*, p. 128

<sup>7</sup> *Historical Records of Australia* Series 1, vol x, pp. 807–08; Ellenborough, Eldon and Sidmouth, P.Debs, 1811, xix, app., n.s.l, v, 1233 cited in *Convicts & the Colonies*, pp. 130–31, and see p. 131 for further references

<sup>8</sup> *Convicts & the Colonies*, p. 130

---

<sup>4</sup> Criminal Returns, 1805–08, PP 1810 (47 and 55) p. xiv cited in *Convicts & the Colonies*, p. 128.

<sup>5</sup> *Convicts & the Colonies*, p. 128.



male and also a female penitentiary for those sentenced in London and Middlesex to seven years' transportation.<sup>9</sup> As many of the older prisons were still overcrowded, ill-regulated and defective, the reformers, led by others as well as 'that stately, fascinating and emotional moral genius' Elizabeth FRY, had plenty to agitate about. After 1816, the *Society for the Improvement of Prison Discipline*, a product of humanitarian philanthropy, continued with their unceasing missionary work, and ladies' prison committees in many rural towns paid particular attention to the welfare of female prisoners.<sup>10</sup>

If penitentiaries were certainly expensive and doubtfully reformatory, the alternatives to building them or to the overcrowding of the existing unsatisfactory gaols were for either more hulks or for increased transportation. The prisons, as well as the hulks moored in the River Thames were a source of considerable complaint. Originally 'temporary', the hulks had become a regular part of the penal system, because they were intended for prisoners awaiting transportation and for those unfit to be sent. However, many of those sentenced to transportation were not sent abroad. Having had partial control of the hulks since 1802, by 1815 government officers had taken over complete control from contractors. In 1812 a *Select Committee* reported that although the arrangements under which offenders were confined could not reasonably be objected to 'as

either insufficient for the safe custody of the prisoner or unfavourable to his health', they were by no means satisfactory with regards to his 'moral amendment'.<sup>11</sup>

Further reforms followed the *Amending Act of 1815* (55 George 111, c.156), and also a Home Office official, John Henry CAPPER was appointed Superintendent. Among the new reforms which related to conditions, overseers were to reside on each ship and were to keep a 'character book'. Chaplains regularly reported 'contrition', even if the sincerity of the penitents may well have been doubted. Schools for reading and writing proved very popular, and Capper prided himself on encouraging the learning of trades to provide a livelihood for prisoners after discharge. In 1819 he reported that although the number of prisoners 'exceeded all former times, there had been a great improvement in the previous two years, leading to 'the greatest order and decorum'.<sup>12</sup>

Transportation to New South Wales commenced when Home Office officials selected a retired naval officer, 48 year-old Captain Arthur Phillip as Captain-General and Governor-in-Chief. The *First Fleet* arrived at Botany Bay in January 1788 with up to 780 convicts.<sup>13</sup> The *Lady Juliana* arrived on 3 June 1790 with between 221 and 245 female convicts and later in the month the *Second Fleet*

---

<sup>9</sup> For extensive references to reports see *Convicts and the Colonies*, p. 133 f/n 1

<sup>10</sup> Millbank Act, 52 Geo. 111 c.44, Millbank Report, PP 1823 (533), S&B Webb, 'English Prisons under Local Government' (1922) chapters 5, 8 & pp. 71-5, Goals Report 1819 cited in *Convicts & the Colonies*, p. 133.

---

<sup>11</sup> 'Penitentiary Houses Report 1812', pp. 135-47 cited in *Convicts & the Colonies* pp. 135-36

<sup>12</sup> For extensive references see *Convicts & the Colonies*, f/notes 1, 2, p.137.

<sup>13</sup> C M H Clark, *A History of Australia Vol 1*, (Carlton, 1981) p. 73, 780 convicts; Charles Bateson, *The Convict Ships 1787-1868* (Sydney, 1988), p. 100 has 568 males and 191 female convicts

arrived with another 692 male and 67 female convicts and approximately 2,000 arrived during 1791 with 733 in 1792.<sup>14</sup>

Convicts under sentence of transportation were among the colonisers of Van Diemen's Land. John BOWEN's party at Risdon in 1803 had 24, there were 294 with Colonel David COLLINS at Sullivan's Cove in 1804 and Colonel William PATERSON at Port Dalrymple in November 1804 was supplied with twenty.<sup>15</sup> One hundred and ninety-one men arrived in Van Diemen's Land in 1812 direct from England, but otherwise the only additions to the convict population until 1818, were small and irregular shipments mainly of secondarily convicted men from Sydney.<sup>16</sup>

Between 1803 and the last shipment of convicts to Van Diemen's Land on the *St Vincent* in May 1853, approximately 67,000 were shipped from British and Irish ports. This represents about 45 per cent of all convicts landed in Australia and 15–20 per cent of all those transported within the British Empire in the period 1615–1920.<sup>17</sup>

Nearly 12,500 of these convicts were women who were transported mostly for petty theft. This was roughly the same number as were sent to New South Wales. Two-thirds of those transported to Van Diemen's Land arrived after 1840, when transportation to New South Wales ended.<sup>18</sup>

Whether or not it was 'a summer's excursion' for the transported convict varied. It might have been for those who did not re-offend after arrival, while the punishment for convicts who were found in breach of regulations may have meant a reprimand, hard labour, solitary confinement and/or time on a treadwheel.

Many convicts formed successful and happy families in their new land 12,500 miles from their land of birth. It is from these convicts sent from the United Kingdom that many of Tasmania's present population have descended.

The interest in and seeking of knowledge by descendants about their ancestors who were transported to Van Diemen's Land between 1803 and 1853 was probably unforeseen by the convict when sentenced to transportation. ◀

---

<sup>14</sup> *The Convict Ships*, pp.00, 121, 127; *A History of Australia Vol 1*, pp. 3, 90

<sup>15</sup> P Eldershaw, 'The Convict Department', *THRA P&P* 15, 3 p. 130; according to Clark, *A History of Australia Vol 1*, p. 195, there were 74 convicts with Paterson.

<sup>16</sup> Eldershaw, 'The Convict Department', p. 130; *Historical Records of Australia* III, i p. 529 GO 1805

<sup>17</sup> Hamish Maxwell-Stewart, 'Convicts', in *Companion to Tasmanian History* A Alexander (ed.), (Hobart, 2005), pp. 415–19 and [http://www.utas.edu.au/library/companion\\_to\\_tasmanian\\_history/C/Convicts.htm](http://www.utas.edu.au/library/companion_to_tasmanian_history/C/Convicts.htm) for a list of references on which Hamish based his estimate

---

<sup>18</sup> Dianne Snowden, 'Female Convicts', in *Companion to Tasmanian History*, p. 131 or [http://www.utas.edu.au/library/companion\\_to\\_tasmanian\\_history/C/Convicts.htm](http://www.utas.edu.au/library/companion_to_tasmanian_history/C/Convicts.htm); see also Female Convict Research Centre <http://www.femaleconvicts.org.au/>

# LINKS WITH LINDISFARNE: A MEMOIR

Marion Dowsett (Member No. 2962)

**M**Y grandparents, Edward and Ida COX moved to Lindisfarne in 1906. The new home was 'Braeside', a sandstone house still standing in 2014, located at the corner of Lincoln Street and Malunna Road. It was a rented house, in an elevated position in the village, and known to be a refreshing and healthy area.

Edward's notes state that the move was 'for Nellies' sake' on Dr BENJAFIELD'S advice. Nellie, my mother, was born on 27 December 1905 in Macquarie Street Hobart, while the family 'lived in Church Street, Hobart, next to the school hall.'

Other children, Eddie (1907) and twins Marion and George (1909) were born at Lindisfarne, before a move to Cross Street, New Town, possibly the home of Aunt Anna.

By November 1910, because Marion (Girlie) 'needed her native air' the family returned to 'Braeside'.

Bill, (1911) and Basil (1913) were born at this time, but when 'Braeside' was sold, the growing family removed to West Hobart, where Fred (1914) and Dick (1918) were born. Alas, in 1920 the West Hobart house was sold, and so Edward was able to purchase and move to 'Weston', a weather board house in Moiruna Road, Lindisfarne. He was assisted by his brother, a doctor in New South Wales and by his employer, the legal firm of Butler, McIntyre and Butler.



With the further arrival of Mavis in 1923, the family was complete and fortunate enough to be able to remain at 'Weston' until the 1960s. By that time world events

had included the Great Depression in the 1930s and World War II (1939–1945).

Ted, Bill, Basil and Dick all served in the armed forces, and all returned safely, except Bill lost his left arm in an aircraft mishap while serving with the RAAF. George was working for the Hydro-Electric Commission at Tarraleah and Butlers Gorge, married to Win and with five children. Marion married David RAE, also a returned serviceman, had three children and lived in Launceston.

Nellie and Jack, a pharmacist, lived in Hobart with four children. Fred always lived on a country property, in the Huon and on Bruni Island, with his wife Nell and two daughters. Ted spent some time in the New Hebrides on the Mission field, then lived in Hobart, with Eileen, his wife, and five children. Dick worked in a bank and later as a child welfare officer at Deloraine and Launceston with his wife Valerie, and three children. Mavis married and lived in Hydro villages at Butlers Gorge and Wayatinah, before moving to Hobart with their three children.

Christmas Day at 'Weston' during the 1940s proved to be a celebration of grandchildren and their parents, a fine tree and gifts on the verandah in the sunshine and much fun and laughter.

Basil and Mavis returned to Lindisfarne and have lived there for many more years.

## PROGRESS

Much has been written about the development on the Eastern Shore including the Hobart and Tasman Bridge, transport improvements, water, sewerage and garbage collections in the 1950s. Road

building proceeded at a great rate and housing estates grew up in Geilston Bay, Rose Bay, Montagu Bay and Lindisfarne. The local butcher, baker, grocer, milkman and newspaper shop were replaced over the years by grand supermarket plazas in several areas. Primary and High Schools were built for the many children growing up, while transport to the city facilitated school, university, employment and leisure activities across a wide area.



Many years after I had spent some months at the state school, with frequent pleasant visits to grandparents in their comfortable home, I moved back the village in 1954 with John and baby Mark. The house in East Risdon Road, now Gordon's Hill Road, was on a gravel road, town water laid on, a septic tank system, later replaced, and the nearest shops and schools were in Lindisfarne. This was our home until 1960, and we found a very congenial neighbourhood, with most of the residents of our own age. Our children grew up together.



In 1995, after our four children had moved away and married, John and I returned to the best little village in the state. Our home was in Oliver Avenue and the very best features of 'old Lindisfarne' still held good. Great fresh air and fine views, good transport, roads and services, friendly and helpful neighbours and Basil and Mavis were still living in the area.



The link continues ...



Written April 2014  
Marion's original Membership No. 43

## SO YOU THOUGHT THESE WERE A MODERN THING?

### IRON BUILDINGS.

*Ex "Elizabeth Radcliffe."*  
IRON HOUSES, SHOPS AND STORES.

**O**N SALE  
Two-roomed Corrugated Galvanised Iron Houses

Three-roomed ditto ditto  
Rows of two-roomed ditto ditto  
Shops of various dimensions ditto  
(These have a two-roomed house attached.)

The whole of these buildings are of a very superior description, and are complete in every respect. They are lined, floored, and ceiled throughout, have guttering, spouting, &c. They are of facile erection, and with each building is a case containing the requisite nails, screws, bolts, &c, and tools for the purpose.

ALSO FOR SALE—

Stores 101 x 31  
63½ x 31

Of most solid and durable construction. Plans can be seen, and further particulars be obtained, at the office of the undersigned, in Brisbane-street. HOBKIRK & SON.  
June 28.

*Cornwall Chronicle*, 3 February 1855, p.7 col. 2

Submitted by Angela Prosser-Green



Here lies the body of our Anna,  
Done to death by a banana.  
It wasn't the fruit that laid her low,  
But the skin of the thing that made her go.  
A Hopewell's grave in Enosburg Falls, USA

Under the sod and under the trees,  
Lies the body of Jonathan Pease.  
He is not here, there's only the pod,  
Pease shelled out and went to God.  
A grave from the 1880s in Nantucket, USA

# MAKING THE MOST OF TROVE

## MEET THE TILDE ‘~’

Catriona Bryce



**H**OPEFULLY by now you're familiar with the wonders of Trove for family and local history research. History comes alive through more than one million family notices, articles and advertisements. Are you making the most of Trove? Do you want to search for a common name but getting too many results? Here's a tip which will help.

The tilde is a symbol on your keyboard which you can get to by holding down the shift key and pressing the grave accent (to the left of the number 1). This is how to tell Trove how close together the words you're searching for should be. Say you have a common surname like White, Black or County? Try this search: add a title, Mr or Mrs, and the surname in inverted commas and then add the tilde and a number immediately after that. See below how it would look in Trove:

This tells Trove to look for the words 'mr' and 'white' within three words of one another. This will increase your chances of finding your ancestors. Experiment with this search and see what you find.

You can find more search tips like this in Trove's Help Centre: <http://help.nla.gov.au/trove/using-trove/finding-things/power-searching>

This is the first of six short 'blogs' from Catriona Bryce of Trove Support, Collaborative Services Branch, National Library of Australia.

The topics are:

- Making the most of Trove: meet the tilde, '~'
- Making the most of Trove: using tags to work together
- Making the most of Trove: using a group profile to work together
- Making the most of Trove: listing your way to success
- Making the most of Trove: printing from Trove's digitised newspapers
- Making the most of Trove: how to cite newspaper articles

Catriona asks:

If you feel they are useful, and there are other topics you'd like covered, please let me know and I'll look at doing another series later in the year.

Thank you again for your support and happy troving! ◀

**Catriona Bryce**

Trove Support | Collaborative Services Branch  
National Library of Australia, Parkes Place,  
Canberra ACT 2600 | ph: 02 6262 1033 |  
email: [cbryce@nla.gov.au](mailto:cbryce@nla.gov.au)

"mr white"~3

Search

Available online

Australian content

In my libraries

Advanced

# Index to **The Examiner**

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

*Now available—*

Volume 1, 1900–1910	\$27.00
Volume 2, 1911–1920	\$33.00
Volume 3, 1921–1925	\$24.00
Volume 4, 1926–1930	\$27.00
Volume 5, 1931–1935	\$27.00
Volume 6, 1936–1940	\$35.00
Vol 7, 1941–1950 - Births	\$30.00
Vol 8, 1941–1950 - Deaths	\$30.00
Vol 9, 1941–1950 - Marriages	\$30.00
Vol 10, 1951–1955 - Births	\$28.00
Vol 11, 1956–1960 - Births	\$30.00
Vol 12, 1951–1955 - Deaths	\$30.00
Vol 13, 1956–1960 - Deaths	\$30.00
Vol 14, 1951–1960 - Marriages	\$30.00
Vol 15, 1961–1965 - Births	\$30.00
Vol 17, 1961–1965 - Deaths	\$30.00

## Index to *The Examiner* Obituaries & Funerals:

1941–1950	\$25.00
1951–1960	\$25.00

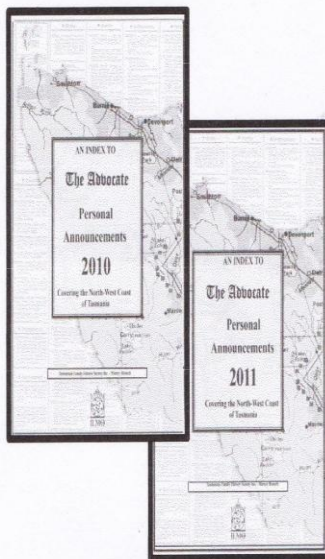
Available from  
TFHS Inc. Launceston Branch  
PO Box 1290  
Launceston  
TAS 7250

Plus \$13.50 pack 1–4  
TFHS Inc. Members  
less 10% discount,  
plus \$13.50 p&p

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



## *The Advocate – Personal Announcements* 2010 and 2011



\$20- per copy plus postage

# GENES ON SCREEN

Vee Maddock (Member No. 1875)

**D**ON'T ask me how I know you should start entering sources against your data the moment you start researching, just believe me when I say it is possible to catch up later, but the sooner you start the better.

I think the general reluctance to record sources from the beginning stems from a disbelief that it will never get so big that you won't remember where you found stuff. Of course without documentation a tree is essentially just a list of random names. Eventually someone will ask how you know his birth date when no record has ever been found? If your immediate response is to take offence at your research being questioned, please leave the internet immediately. If however your next move is to rummage back through endless piles of old notebooks and letters, then you need to start recording your sources with your data.

There are of course correct ways to cite sources. I remember at Uni losing massive points on an essay for listing the date of a book before the title instead of after (one was a science source format, the other a humanities), and I was so scarred by the experience that I've never been able to remember a correct format since. Let's be honest here, how many of us really are going to publish a work that will compete in the realms of academia?

So your choice of a style guide is your own, and if you don't follow one at all, does it really matter as long as you provide enough information to find the information again? Certainly a quick Google search will provide a range of styles for source citations—pick one and be consistent for a professional look.

In my own research I find the most valuable sources to record are the non-official ones—the letter from Aunt Grace, the bible belonging to great great grandma, the comment by a cousin at a get-together. These sources need to be noted with the information so anyone reading it can assess the reliability. Many people enter their info into family tree programs without anything to distinguish between the official registrations and a story handed down for generations which tells they came from the mountains. Many programs now have the ability to rate a source by how reliable you consider the data.

Family tree programs make it easy to attach sources to your data. They also manage to make it look like an overwhelming task with boxes to fill in for every tiny detail until you start to wonder if there is a box for what colour shoes you were wearing when you accessed the data. The secret of course is to be selective. Provided you have the publication details of the book, you can probably avoid entering the street address of the library.

Legacy has a great system that unfortunately tends to scare people off—Legacy sources are in two parts—a master source and a detail source. Your master source is anything you are likely to enter one or more pieces of information from—whether it be *The Mercury* newspaper, the Registrar General's Department or Auntie Rosie (Smith, Rosetta Maria). Then each reference is entered under the master as a detail source, whether that is the date and page of the news article, the registration

year and number of a certificate or the date of the specific letters from the aunt.

Just as an aside, I have found it easier to group my contacts in the master source list by family. So instead of having to remember what Aunt Rose's married name was and scroll down to that, I would enter her as MADDOCK—Smith, Rosetta Maria as her letters are mostly concerning the Maddock family. This groups correspondents into the main family groups. I also put the state (or country) first before the titles of censuses, newspapers and BDM registrars making them easier to find in the list. Entering the RGD three times—e.g. TAS—RGD Birth, TAS—RGD Marriage and TAS—RGD Death eliminates the need to enter birth, death etc. in the detail information, saving time and typing.

Following from that it is easy to attach a scan or photograph of the data source to the reference or type in a full transcription of the relevant document. Just a click and you can copy the source and paste it onto all relevant parts (e.g. a death certificate may provide information for a death and birth date, a confirmation of name, a location and names and dates for spouses and children.

When your source is online make it a practice to not only record the URL, but also screen print (snip) the relevant details in case the records vanish in time.

When viewing a record on Ancestry press 'S' and a box will pop up with the source information already formatted for you. You can screen clip this, or copy straight to the clipboard for pasting elsewhere. This doesn't just give Ancestry's details but the original source as well and a description of the source collection.

Don't wait until you're writing the book, attach your sources to your tree now.

A useful collection of post 1899 Tasmanian civil births registration has been released by Family Search. To find the images (which are not indexed and do not have the same numbers as are shown in the Tasmanian Pioneers Index) go to <https://familysearch.org/search/collection/2400177>, select a location and then a date range. ◀

# Descendants of Convicts' Group Inc.

**1788–1868**

Any person who has convict ancestors, or who has an interest in convict life during the early history of European settlement in Australia, is welcome to join the above group. Those interested may find out more about the group and receive an application form by writing to:

The Secretary  
The Descendants of Convicts'  
Group Inc.  
PO Box 229 Coldstream,  
Victoria 3770  
Ph. Sec. (03) 9739 1427

email [docs.vic@gmail.com](mailto:docs.vic@gmail.com)  
<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~dcginc/>



# LIBRARY ACQUISITIONS

## Launceston Branch

### ACCESSIONS—Books

- \*Anzac Commemorating 100 Years – Liverpool City Council; *Our Liverpool Boys*
- \*Boxhall, Geraldine; *Dodger's Diary – The Life of Frederick Isaac (Dodger) Phillips – as told to Diane Cornish*
- \*Bradmore, D J; *Dr Edward Foord Bromley RN (1776–1836) – Surgeon, Civil Servant and Magistrate Van Diemen's Land*
- \*Carins, Allison; *Tasmanian Ancestry Articles Published in the TFHS Journal – Local & Family History*
- Cassidy, Dianne J E; *Charles Street Cemetery 1841–1925*
- \*Dobson, Arthur L; *The Dobson Family of Glenore*
- \*Dobson, Arthur L; *The Woodberry Family of "Cullenswood" Falmouth and Deloraine*
- \*Dyer, Alan F; *Grains, Groceries & Gourmet Meals – The History of Sheffield's Oldest Shop*
- \*Hyland, Raymond; *Gunns Plains Honour Roll – World War I Centenary 1914–2014*
- \*National Trust Tasmania; *Home from the War – Launceston's War Service Homes*
- National Trust Tasmania; *The Honour Board of World War I Soldiers – St James Church, Franklin Village*
- TFHS Inc. Hobart Branch; *Undertakers of Hobart Vol IV – Index to H C Millington Pty Ltd Funeral Records Part 6, November 1960–May 1964*
- TFHS Inc. Mersey Branch; *Index to The Advocate Personal Announcements 2010*
- TFHS Inc. Mersey Branch; *Index to The Advocate Personal Announcements 2011*

### ACCESSIONS—Computer Disks

- \*TFHS Inc.; *Members' Interests 1998–2015*

\* Denotes complimentary or donated item

## Mersey Branch

### ACCESSIONS—Books

- TFHS Inc. Hobart Branch; *Undertakers of Hobart Vol IV Index to H C Millington Pty Ltd Funeral Records Part 6, November 1960–May 1964*

# SOCIETY SALES

Tasmanian Family History Society Inc. Publications  
*Payment by Visa or Master Card now available (mail order only)*

Mail orders (including postage) should be forwarded to:

Society Sales Officer, TFHS Inc.,

**PO Box 326 Rosny Park Tasmania 7018**

## Books

<i>Van Diemens Land Heritage Index</i> , Vol. 3 (p&p \$4.80) .....	\$10.00
<i>Van Diemens Land Heritage Index</i> , Vol. 4 (p&p \$4.80) .....	\$10.00
<i>Van Diemens Land Heritage Index</i> , Vol. 5 (p&p \$4.80) .....	\$10.00
<i>Tasmanian Ancestry Index Volumes 1–20</i> (p&p \$8.35)** .....	\$22.50
<i>Tasmanian Ancestry Index Volumes 21–25</i> (p&p \$4.80)** .....	\$15.00
<i>Tasmanian Ancestry Index Volumes 26–30</i> (p&p \$4.80)** .....	\$25.00
(p&p \$13.50 for 3 books or more)	

## CD-Rom

<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
-------------------------------------	---------

\*\* members discount applies

Australia's largest online  
family history resource\*

Research and build your  
family tree online



 **ancestry.com.au**

\*comScore, 2011

# **BRANCH LIBRARY ADDRESSES, TIMES AND MEETING DETAILS**

**BURNIE** Phone: Branch Librarian (03) 6435 4103  
Library 58 Bass Highway Cooee  
Tuesday 11:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.  
Saturday 1:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m.  
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

---

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

---

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

---

**LAUNCESTON** Phone: Branch Secretary (03) 6344 4034  
Library 45–55 Tamar Street Launceston (next door to Albert Hall)  
Tuesday 10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.  
Monday to Friday by appointment only (03) 6344 4034  
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.

**Dues are payable annually by 1 April.** Membership Subscriptions for 2015–16:-

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

**Overseas:** Individual member: A\$45.00; Joint members: A\$50.00 (inc. airmail postage)

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

## Membership Entitlements:

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

## Application for Membership:

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

## Donations:

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

## Research Queries:

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

## Reciprocal Rights:

TFHS Inc. policy is that our branches offer reciprocal rights to any interstate or overseas visitor who is a member of another Family History Society and produce their membership card.

## Advertising:

Advertising for *Tasmanian Ancestry* is accepted with pre-payment of \$30.00 per quarter page in one issue or \$90.00 for four issues. Further information can be obtained by writing to the journal editor at PO Box 326 Rosny Park Tasmania 7018.

ISSN—0159 0677

Printed by *Mark Media*—Moonah Tasmania