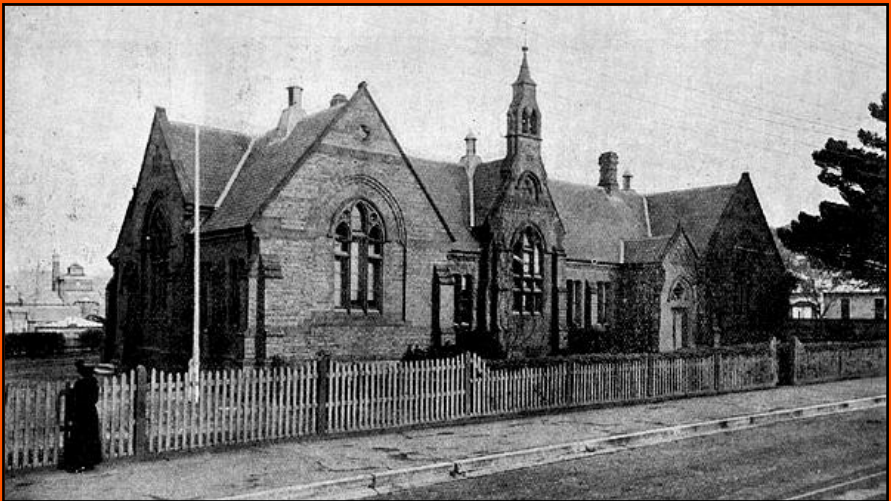


Tasmanian Ancestry



**TASMANIAN FAMILY HISTORY
SOCIETY INC.**

Volume 37 Number 3—December 2016

TASMANIAN FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.

PO Box 326 Rosny Park Tasmania 7018

Society Secretary: secretary@tasfhs.org

Journal Editor: editors@tasfhs.org

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

Patron: Dr Alison Alexander

Fellows: Dr Neil Chick and Mr David Harris

Executive:

President	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:

Muriel Bissett	Gary Bryant	Judith Cocker
Geoffrey Dean	Lucille Gee	John Gillham
Libby Gillham	Sue-Ellen McCregan	Louise Rainbow
	Eddy Steenbergen	

By-laws Coordinator	Robert Tanner	(03) 6231 0794
Web Manager	Robert Tanner	(03) 6231 0794
Journal Editor	Rosemary Davidson	0408 445 532
LWFHA Coordinator	Leonie Mickleborough	(03) 6223 7948
Members' Interests Compiler	John Gillham	(03) 6239 6823
Membership Registrar	Lyndal Ayers	(03) 6243 9190
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

Hobart: PO Box 326 Rosny Park Tasmania 7018

secretary@hobart.tasfhs.org

Huon: PO Box 117 Huonville Tasmania 7109

vsbtas@bigpond.com

Launceston: PO Box 1290 Launceston Tasmania 7250

mandbbissett@gmail.com

Mersey: PO Box 267 Latrobe Tasmania 7307

secretary@tfhsdev.com

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

From the editor

Thank you to all those who sent in their articles following my plea in the previous issue of *Tasmanian Ancestry*. Some ‘missing’ articles have also been discovered hiding amongst my files.

Apologies to those whose submissions do not appear in this issue but be assured it will not be long before they will be used. Despite this, further submissions will be very gratefully received.

Betty’s article on school anniversaries is very timely with my old school, Devonport High, having celebrated their centenary over the past weekend. There were many tired but happy former pupils after all the festivities.

I was excited to find my mother’s exam results for 1929–30, plus those of her brother and a sister, amongst the memorabilia on display.

Malcolm Ward’s article on lesser known Tasmanian convict, court and police records to be found in the Mitchell Library Sydney should prove helpful to many.

Richie Woolley submitted Part 5 of his Thirkell family articles. The earlier parts of which, appeared in Volumes 31 and 32 of *Tasmanian Ancestry*. This one relates to the Cummins family.

It is worth looking at the guest book comments online in the article on page 148. Some very moving entries

And there is much more to enjoy in this issue over the holiday season!

Rosemary Davidson

Journal address

PO Box 326 Rosny Park TAS 7018
email editors@tasfhs.org

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

Deadline dates are:

1 January, 1 April, 1 July and 1 October

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

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

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Cover: Wellington Square State School
Launceston, Tasmania—opened 1901.
See article *Worth Celebrating* by Betty
Jones, page 139
Image: *Weekly Courier*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

ARE you getting the most you can when doing research in your branch library? For example, you might be researching your SMITH ancestors and there is a book on the shelf titled *The Williams Family in New York* which does not have an index and which mentions the fact that your great great grandmother married a Williams from New York. There are probably many other books like this in your library, and even those with an index present some problem in that you would have to start at one end of the library and read the index of every book in turn! How do you find out that a reference like this exists? One way Hobart branch is overcoming this problem is by using the Comprehensive Subject Index (CSI). This database aims to index all the names and subjects contained in the books in our library. It was originally set up by Vee Maddock about fifteen years ago and has proved to be a great asset to the Hobart branch library. Peter Cocker later made a few changes to the format and it is currently being regularly updated by members of Hobart Branch. Currently CSI contains 1.3 million records, and is steadily growing, the majority of them being names. The branch will ever be grateful to Vee for starting this wonderful project!

On a dedicated computer in the Hobart Branch Library members and visitors can search this index for surnames, given names or subjects and view or print a list of relevant entries, including the book title and page numbers. Vee's original concept was that it would be used by all branches and any book would only have to be indexed once, no matter how many branches had a copy. Unfortunately there was not much interest at the time and

only Hobart is currently using it. But it is never too late! If any other branch is interested in using this wonderful asset, there are people who could help you set it up. If you are interested in setting it up, or would just like to know more about it, please contact me or Peter Cocker. Perhaps your branch has other ways of solving this problem. If so, how about sharing it with all of us? After all, we are all anxious to help our members, and indeed members of the public, as best we can. We are not, or should not be, five independent branches jealous of each other, but rather five groups who are anxious to help each other and share as much knowledge as we can. ◀

Robert Tanner

DIXON FAMILY REUNION

**The Descendants of:
Frederick Horatio and Jane (née
Eckford) Dixon
Are holding a family reunion on
25 November 2017 at Maitland NSW**
To celebrate the
200th Anniversary of
Fred arriving in Australia

*Some associated families: Baker, Bell,
Black, Capp, Clift, Coward, Eckford,
Gallen, Hills, Mitchel, Muirhead,
Paterson, Sutters, Tait, Volmer, Walters.*

**For further details: go to
fhdixonreunion.weebly.com
www.facebook.com/groups/FHDIXON
Or contact: Allan Shephard at;
alshep724@gmail.com or phone 0419 601 226**

BRANCH REPORTS

Burnie

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

President: Peter Cocker (03) 6435 4103

Secretary: Ann Bailey (03) 6431 5058

PO Box 748 Burnie Tasmania 7320

email: petjud@bigpond.com



This report is being written whilst sitting in my caravan in a caravan park in Kalgoorlie, living the dream.

After the heavy rains we received over the state in June our Branch Library once again suffered from flooding due to the old roof on our building. Our landlord has now had a new roof fitted—so far there have been no leaks.

We continue to get a steady stream of members and occasionally visitors coming into our library to research their respective families.

It is pleasing to note that the small band of volunteers who have been transcribing personal notices etc. from the *Advocate* continue with their hard work.

Our September meeting covered the latest news on *Family Tree Maker* and MacKiev software, also a tutorial on creating charts in *FTM* 2014.

As the end of 2016 approaches I would like to thank all the volunteers who did so much for the Branch during the year. I trust all members have had a fruitful research year and that you enjoy the Christmas and New Year holiday period.

The Burnie Branch Library will close on 11 December and reopen on 17 January 2017.

Peter Cocker **Branch President**

Hobart

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

President: Louise Rainbow

email: president@hobart.tasfhs.org

Secretary: Colleen Read

PO Box 326 Rosny Park Tasmania 7018

email: secretary@hobart.tasfhs.org

All telephone enquiries to (03) 6244 4527



August was *National Family History Month* and our Winter Workshops, which were a part of our activities,

concluded in early September. We were fortunate to present a varied range of topics this year thanks to the generosity of the presenters.

Our Volunteers Afternoon Tea was a very pleasant occasion, attended by many of those volunteers who give generously of their time. Our volunteers number almost seventy, assisting with a range of activities, including those who are at the front-line during opening hours and assist members and visitors to access our resources. The Monday Group, a very sociable hard working group, type, index and proof-read material for publications produced within the Hobart Branch. Many others work behind the scenes and serve the branch most capably and cheerfully. The Mayor of Clarence City Council, Doug Chipman, was our special guest, and our thanks are also extended to the Clarence Council who have supported us over many years.

The new heating system has come to fruition and is now operating. We acknowledge the generosity of the Tasmanian Community Fund, which made this possible. The Tasmanian Community Fund is

an independent fund that supports and strengthens Tasmanian communities by distributing funds to those communities.

Our *Facebook* page has been quite popular judging by the number of ‘likes’ registered. *Facebook* can be accessed via our website with no need to register.

General Meetings

The guest speaker at the July meeting was Rex Kerrison speaking on the topic *Kerrisons in Tasmania*. In 1985 the family held a celebration of 150 years of Kerrisons in Tasmania. Cornelius Kerrison was four years old when the family arrived in Launceston in November 1835 having sailed from Gravesend on the *Charles Kerr*.

The Kerrison name has a long association with the English county of Norfolk, with the family ancestors living around Wymondham. The name is thought to have evolved from ‘Currison’, with Cornelius being the great grandson of John Currison who was born about 1705.

Cornelius’ parents were Stephen and Mary Kerrison (Goodings). Stephen is a common given name associated with the Kerrison surname. It is likely that all Kerrisons living in Tasmania are able to trace their origins to Cornelius and Mary.

The guest speaker at the August meeting was Scott Clennett speaking on the topic *Gallipoli from Three Perspectives*. Scott Clennett is the son of James Clennett, born in 1894 at Dover, the son of William Clennett and Elizabeth (née Hoskins). James along with brothers Alf and Guy (killed in action at Poziers in 1916) all served in WW1. Scott provided some historical detail about the lead up to the Gallipoli campaign with first hand insights from his father’s diaries.

James served at Gallipoli, then was moved to hospital in Cairo in November 1915.

James was awarded the Military Medal in 1918 for recovering a wounded man from a dugout, a selfless deed that caused James to be seriously wounded himself.

James recorded his war experiences in several books written in pencil, including his involvement in the Gallipoli campaign. He wrote about action, combat, but also the more domestic matters relating to a lengthy presence in the arena of war. These books have been preserved by his family as valuable mementos of significant events in James’ life.

In 2015 Scott Clennett, as a direct descendant of a Gallipoli veteran, and his wife, were among the several thousand people to be at Gallipoli for the centenary of the landing. The occasion was a very moving tribute and an amazing organizational feat. Scott’s talk was supported by a first class PowerPoint presentation.

The guest speaker at the September meeting was cook, author and ABC personality Sally Wise. Sally spoke on the topic of *Colonial Cooking*—how, why and what was cooked in colonial days. Food was an overwhelming obsession for colonials and its production was a challenge from the viewpoint of growing food in unfamiliar soils and an unfamiliar climate. Food preservation—apples, onions, potatoes, eggs, pickles—was important as colonial food production developed. While fish and native wildlife was in abundance colonials particularly in NSW were reluctant to try the new food, although VDL colonials were more adventurous. Colonials wanted salted beef and pork (although sometimes three years old) with which they were familiar. There was little fresh fruit and vegetables and rice was often ‘moving’. There was little or no waste, with soups being made from bones, shanks and vegetable scraps.

Sally spoke about the early cookbook known as Edward Abbott's Book, and how jam recipes have not changed over the years. In fact there is a present-day return to many old recipes for jellies, custards, ice-cream and drinks. Female convicts who were listed as cooks were in great demand in the colonies. Menfolk expected wives to cook English-style foods—three hot meals a day in many cases—even though the ingredients were different and bread was difficult to make. Bakers having ovens were paid to bake the bread made in homes.

Speakers for 2017

The following speakers have been arranged for the forthcoming General Meetings in 2017:

February 21: Roger McNeice OAM 'The 1967 Bushfires – 50 years ago'

March 21: Brian Rieusset 'Treasure Trove in 28 Boxes'

18 April AGM: Lois Green 'Oak Lodge Richmond—the history of the house and garden'

Louise Rainbow **Branch President**

Launceston

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

President: Helen Stuart—(03) 6331 9175

Secretary: Muriel Bissett
(03) 6343 3107

PO Box 1290 Launceston Tasmania 7250
secretary: mandbbissett@gmail.com



The 'Seniors Week' open day held on Thursday 13 October, was again well attended and appreciated. Thanks to those volunteers who

so willingly gave of their time.

The Branch Christmas Luncheon: a good number attended the Luncheon held

on Saturday, 26 November. 'Thank You' to Janis and Barrie for your hospitality and to all of those who contributed to this time of fine food and good fellowship.

Publications: The last edition (Volume 6, 1936–1940), of 'A new combined alphabetical edition of Index to *The Examiner*, Births, Deaths, Marriages' was released in November. Thanks to Muriel and Lucille for the re-typing and alphabetical re-sorting of this series, 1900–1940.

Library break-up for holidays: 3:00 p.m., Tuesday, 6 December.

Cleaning day: Monday, 16 January.

Library re-opens: Tuesday, 17 January 2016, 10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.—phone (03) 6343 3107.

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

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

Mersey

<http://www.tfhsdev.com>

President: Roslyn Coss—(03) 6491 1141

Secretary: Sue-Ellen McGreghan
(03) 6428 6328

email: secretary@tfhsdev.com
PO Box 267 Latrobe Tasmania 7307



At our last committee meeting we set the dates for our forthcoming events. Our Christmas Lunch for members and friends will be held at the Lucas Hotel, Latrobe, on 4 December at 12 noon. The Lucas Hotel has an old world atmosphere where we feel comfortable (food is good too). Our very popular raffle will be drawn at the luncheon. This year, member Garry

Bryant, has made a beautiful stained glass lamp shade as first prize, member Gloria Bowden donates her homemade decorated Christmas cake (always popular) and a donation of two bottles of wine from Sue-Ellen McGreghan rounds off the prizes in our major fund raiser. Mersey Branch Committee are appreciative of the extra effort from members.

Members are again suffering from coimetromania—an abnormal attraction to and desire to visit cemeteries. (I would argue it's quite normal.) Members will be checking details for an update of the Penguin Cemetery.

On October 14, 21 and 28, Mersey Branch will again be part of U3A, holding Friday morning classes for anyone interested in family history research.

Sunday, 16 October has the branch holding a stall at the Centenary Garden Fete at the National Trust's 'Home Hill' in Devonport. We look forward to a day of chatting.

Our regular summer BBQ will be held at the branch Saturday, 4 February. Always a pleasant evening under the trees in the park at the back of the branch library, good company, good food—looking forward to the day. The plan is to have a guest speaker from the Mountain Hut Preservation Society join our evening.

The branch will close over the Christmas break on Friday, 9 December and reopen Tuesday, 17 January.

Huon

President: Shirley Fletcher (03) 6264 1546

Secretary: Libby Gillham (03) 6239 6529

PO Box 117 Huonville Tasmania 7109

email: vsbtas@bigpond.com

No report received

Indexes to

The Examiner

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

New release!

* New combined alphabetical edition of Index to *The Examiner*, Births, Deaths, Marriages, 1936–1940 Volume 6 *

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 ***

Volume 7, 1941–1950—Births—\$30.00

Volume 8, 1941–1950—Deaths—\$30.00

Volume 9, 1941–1950—Marriages—\$30.00

Volume 10, 1951–1955—Births—\$28.00

Volume 11, 1956–1960—Births—\$30.00

Volume 12, 1951–1955—Deaths—\$30.00

Volume 13, 1956–1960—Deaths—\$30.00

Volume 14, 1951–1960—Marriages—\$30.00

Volume 15, 1961–1965—Births—\$30.00

Volume 17, 1961–1965—Deaths—\$30.00

(Volumes. 1–6 revised: New combined alphabetical edition of *The Examiner*)

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 1–3

TFHS Inc. Members less 10% discount,
plus \$13.50 p&p

SOME LESSER KNOWN TASMANIAN CONVICT, COURT AND POLICE RECORDS

AT THE MITCHELL LIBRARY, SYDNEY

Malcolm Ward (Member No. 6224)

THE Mitchell Library in Sydney (part of the State Library of NSW) has a great number of colonial records relating to Van Diemen's Land. Some of the best known are in the collection known as the *Tasmanian Papers*, a diverse collection of records which have been microfilmed and separately partially indexed by the Kiama Family History Society.

There are however many other Van Diemen's Land records at the Mitchell Library which have not been indexed or microfilmed and in some cases are only briefly described or even mis-described in the library catalogue. This brief article will serve to alert readers to some of these collections and also that indexing and database entry of many of the series mentioned is, or will be shortly underway by the Tasmanian Family History Society Inc. (Hobart Branch) and the Female Convict Research Centre, with the permission and encouragement of the Mitchell Library.

The Tasmanian Archive and Heritage Office is also looking at examples of the series, to see how they 'map' into records held within TAHO's collections—that is, to see if the Mitchell records are duplicates (albeit originals) or unique series.

The Mitchell Library's new manuscript etc. catalogue can be found at: <http://archival.sl.nsw.gov.au/home#>
Note that in a number of cases the Mitch-

ell Library's catalogue description of the contents of the series described here is incorrect (for example, wrong date range) or misleading (for example it describes only a fraction of the contents of the series).

DLMSQ 563-565 and DLMSF 33

These are collections of Conditional Pardons. Thirteen from 1855–1855 (DLMSF 33), five from 1840 (DLMSQ 563), about forty-six from 1837–1847 (DLMSQ 564) and about forty-five from the late 1830s to the early 1850s (DLMSQ 565). Within the latter archive box is a list of the names and dates of the pardons for all except the five in DLMSQ 563. I have a copy of this list and would be happy to look up names on enquiry to the e-mail below.

DLSPECER 96

Catalogue description: *Tasmania Supreme Court alphabetical register of people tried, 1821–1823* (inaccurate date range)

This is a bound book, titled 'Supreme Court No. 1' and is divided up into sections alphabetically with a summary of appearances before the court with columns for: Number, Name, Sentence (appears to be a convict's original sentence), Where tried, Date of trial, Offences, Guilty/not guilty, Sentence. Within each letter of the alphabet, the entries are listed by date, starting in 1821

and extending into the early or late 1830s (depending on the letter).

The book has about 120 full pages of listed names and I estimate about 1,900 entries.

Bound into the front of the book is an insert, labelled: 'Index to the headings: Examination Sentence, Crown fines, Solitary, Imprisonment and hard labor, Default of bail, Imprisonment under Insolvent Act, Book, [illeg.] January 1855'. There follows an alphabetical index of names and what appears to be a page number. It does not appear to relate to the rest of the book.

The permanent Supreme Court in Tasmania began activities in May 1824, but the court did sit prior to that via judges visiting from Sydney. The nature and content of the entries do not change pre and post 1824 (the early trials are noted as being either in Hobart Town or Launceston), except in some cases the date is given to the day, rather than just the month early on.

DLSPENCER 138/133-141

Catalogue description: *Assignment lists of male and female convicts transported to Van Diemens Land on various ships, 1843–1847*

This is a bound book containing lists of convicts for the convict transports *Asia* (170 females), *David Malcolm* (220 males), *Elizabeth & Henry* (169 females), *Maitland* (299 males), *Maitland* (199 males for Norfolk Island) *Mayda* (199 males), *Marion* (299 males), *Pestonjee Bomanjee* (200 males), *Thomas Arbuthnot* (289 males). A total of 2,044 convicts.

Within each vessel, the lists are divided by county where the conviction took place and the columns are Name, Where convicted, When, Term of years.

DLSPENCER 164

Catalogue description: *Sundry papers relating to Tasmania, including letters, various legal documents, information about crimes, and transportation orders, etc., 1823–1854*

This is a collection of partially bound note books (lost spine) and loose sheets of over 250 pages in total, mostly written on both sides. It is a very diverse collection, including: prisoner transfer orders and accompanying letters, affidavits (for instance, relating to the loss of a convict's Certificate of Freedom), letters to and from authorities regarding police/convict matters, a collection of travel passes held by Ticket-of-Leave holders, lists of witnesses and the fees they are paid, convictions, monthly return of duties performed by constables (for instance, at Ross), inquest statements and the like.

DLSPENCER 165

Catalogue description: *George Town (Tas.) Police Court record book, 1820–1825* (This is a completely inaccurate description).

There are five different series in this collection.

1 A book titled *Lists of persons committed for trial and on bail for their appearance before the Supreme Court commencing 3rd December 1827*.

Inside is a chronological list of the committals, from December 1827 to October 1831 and with headings Date, Name, Current sentence or free, Description of charge, Witnesses, Witness residence (town), Date of recognisance, Sum, Committing magistrate.

There are about 130 cases listed, some involving multiple accused

2 A book titled *Committals to the Supreme Court and Quarter Sessions*.

Inside the contents are headed *List of Persons committed for trial before the Supreme Court of Criminal Jurisdiction at Launceston with the names of witnesses and the date and amount of their recognisances*.

This is the continuation of the above list, covering November 1831 to May 1834.

There are about 200 cases listed, again some involving multiple accused.

3 A loosely bound book (untitled and without covers) mainly of petitions from convicts from the early to mid 1840s, with comments and responses from the authorities. Possibly several hundred pages.

4 A book titled *Memorandum Book commencing 3rd September 1829 and ending* (no date but it ends December 1829).

This is a book of notes from the Police Office at Launceston noting various duties and goings-on of the office. It includes lists of constables and their appointments etc, lists of payments to overseers, receipt of monies, movements of constables, receipt of convict's records, lists of people employed in the Launceston Police District (e.g. February 1830), lists of run-aways and those entitled to a reward, lists of applicants for Certificates of Freedom and Tickets of Leave. About 40 pages, written on both sides.

5 An untitled book of mixed convict records, including complaints, Ticket-of-Leave travel passes, pardons, and conduct records, ten or more lists of permits issued at Hobart for Richmond 1829–1830. There are also some labour agreements (e.g. for a Chinese worker from 1851). The date range is wide, from the late 1820s to the 1860s.

DLSPENCER 275

Catalogue description: *Records of male convicts transported to Van Diemen's Land, 1820–1844, and female convicts, 1844–1852*

A collection of conduct records, loosely bound into a book. Earliest ones are 1828, many from the mid 1830s, later ones in mid 1840s. No apparent system to which records are here—some 'runs' of convicts from the same vessel, but many individual records. Approximately 70 records.

DLSPENCER 434

Catalogue description: *Chief Police Magistrate, Hobart, records, 9 July 1829–31 March 1830*

This is a bound book concerning persons brought before the Chief Police Magistrate of Hobart. Most records note the person, their status (ship and sentence if convict), the charge, plea, a summary of evidence and defence, verdict and the sentence. Most cases are a couple of paragraphs in all, some go over multiple pages.

There are 60 pages, written on both sides and perhaps 200 cases, many involving more than one person. ◀

wardpropertyhistory@bigpond.com

WORTH CELEBRATING

School Anniversaries

Betty Jones (Member No. 6032)



THE public celebration of a school's significant anniversaries can bring to light useful information about our ancestors. Such occasions provide an opportunity for communities to look back over their past and celebrate the names and details of generations of pupils and teachers who have passed through the doors of their educational institutions. Those nostalgic events are known to be greatly valued by participants, some former pupils travelling great distances to be involved. Previously forgotten photographs stored in private collections sometimes emerge at those special events, along with interesting stories and memorabilia. A number of such reunions have resulted in worthwhile local history publications, many of which are available at public libraries and family history rooms.

This article looks at how some schools celebrated their anniversaries in earlier times, as well as identifying most of the Tasmanian Government schools that have reached at least one hundred years of existence. It also looks at a description of a substantial school building opened in Launceston a century ago, providing an

opportunity for readers to consider how the physical layout of local schools has changed over time.

Early school anniversary celebrations

Tasmanian communities have shown pride in the continuity of their schools since early times, as demonstrated in these examples:

- Forth State School celebrated its jubilee in 1917 when a large gathering of past and present pupils and friends gathered for an evening at the Devonport Town Hall. The Head Teacher, Mr Robert Richard Walton SWAINSTON, occupied the chair and paid tribute to the fine foundations of learning laid by the pioneer teachers. He also noted that 60 past pupils had enlisted and were doing their part for King and country.¹
- In March 1929, Gormanston State School celebrated its 32nd anniversary with a special afternoon tea for the children and a cricket match between ex-pupils and Queenstown Technical High. A social and concert in the Mt Lyell Hall on the Saturday evening

¹ *The Examiner*, 1 September 1917

afforded an opportunity for old scholars and friends to take part in the celebrations.²

- The Albuera Street State School Mothers' Club celebrated its third birthday in 1934 with an afternoon tea to which members of other similar clubs in the city also were invited. Major achievements of the Club up to that time included the distribution of 800 garments during the year, mothers having washed and mended the clothes and fathers having repaired the boots. They also conducted a daily school canteen where 36 children were served a hot meal comprised of meat, three vegetables and pudding.³
- As part of celebrations to mark the jubilee of the school at Sheffield in 1934, a large framed photograph was unveiled of the first teacher, Mr Thomas ALEXANDER, who took over when the building was first opened in 1884. Among the many present were the Directors of Education from all Australian States, who were unstinted in their praise of what they had seen in the agricultural school plots.⁴
- To mark the 75th anniversary of the erection of the then first portion of Franklin State School, a 'Back to Franklin' Ball was held in October 1935.⁵
- A 'Back to Motton' Day was held in 1935 in the old North Motton State School room, built in the early 1880s. About 600 past residents ranging from grey-headed, grey-bearded octogenarians to light-hearted school children assembled to mark the jubilee.⁶
- In August 1937, forty past scholars of Devonport High School, some of them

members of the Old Devonian's Association, accepted an invitation to take part in a 'Back to School' Week to celebrate the school's 21st birthday. Tours of the school's facilities featured.⁷

- Hobart High School marked the silver jubilee of the formation of the school at a special assembly in November 1938. The Headmaster, Mr H Vernard BIGGINS, made glowing reference to the first Headmaster, Mr Percival H MITCHELL, who was present at the assembly. The school song was sung, followed by a reading of the names of original staff members and pioneer pupils. Other activities included the performance of a humorous skit and the viewing of a film showing highlights of the early years.⁸

The changing nature of celebratory activities

It is interesting to note how the type of activities at school celebrations has evolved over time, the foregoing examples depicting evidence of what was socially acceptable on such occasions in Tasmania up to the late 1930s. Some things remain the same today, while others have been subject to a shift in attitude.

By way of modern comparison with the past, the following fairly recent celebratory program is provided. In late 2015, the centenary of Cooe Primary School in the Burnie municipality was celebrated with great success through a variety of school and community activities which included: a special school assembly; an invitation to the public to view the school in its current working form with displays of the past a feature; an evening cocktail party for adult past pupils, teachers, parents and friends; opportunities to purchase a celebration mug; an invitation to past pupils to commission a personal

² *The Advocate*, 12 March 1929

³ *The Mercury*, 12 September 1934

⁴ *The Mercury*, 21 April 1934

⁵ *Huon and Derwent Times*, 19 September 1935

⁶ *The Mercury*, 28 October 1935

⁷ *The Advocate*, 26 August 1937

⁸ *The Mercury*, 25 November 1938

engraved paver to form part of a path in the playground; and the publication of a history booklet.⁹

Perhaps the biggest change lies in public acceptance now of alcohol being available at a school celebration involving adults (Cooee's cocktail party, for example). Such activities would not have been approved by the Board of Education in early times, a reflection of social attitudes then. In the late nineteenth century many teachers were active in the popular Temperance Movement which discouraged the use of alcohol. Even dancing was not allowed in Education Department schoolrooms in the early 1900s as it was considered inconsistent with the proper character of a State School.

Although times have changed, one thing that seems to have remained consistent in celebrations is the sharing of cake.

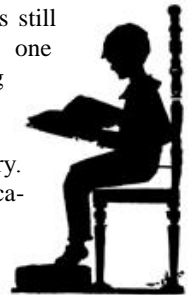
- The 25th anniversary of the formation of Lefroy State School was celebrated in 1902 with a variety of special activities which concluded with an afternoon tea for the children. All good things in the shape of sandwiches, cakes and fruit were handed around by the teachers and visitors.¹⁰
- The diamond jubilee of Red Hills State School was commemorated in 1924, the event attracting more than local interest, and attended by a record crowd. Occupying central position on the afternoon tea table was an especially made and iced two-decker jubilee cake.¹¹
- In 1935, the cake to celebrate the 11th birthday of the Hospital Bay State School was decorated in blue and white,

the school's colours, and featured a kewpie dressed in blue surrounded by 11 lighted candles.¹²

- To mark the 21st birthday of the Domestic Arts School in Murray Street, Hobart in 1949, senior students Gloria BANNISTER, Cecily COLLEGE, Valerie SAWARD, Gladys PARSONS, Judy CAWTHORN and Winsome BARDENHAGEN made and decorated a cake model of the proposed new Domestic Science School.¹³
- Members of the Charles Street State School Mothers' Club celebrated the 12th anniversary of the Club in 1952. Miss A ROW, Infant Mistress, lit the candles on the prettily decorated birthday cake which was cut by the Club's president, Mrs R LAHEY.¹⁴
- In September 2016, Burnie High School centenary cakes, made and decorated by two school staff members, were featured at the Centenary Gala Cocktail Event held at the Burnie Arts and Function Centre.¹⁵

Their first 100

It is always with particular pride that communities announce the centenary celebrations associated with their local schools, the mere fact that their educational institution is still in existence after one hundred years providing a justifiable sense of common achievement in a district's history. 2016, the year of publication of this article, has already been a year of such significance for



⁹ Cooee Primary School Centenary Celebrations, *Facebook*, 21 August 2015

¹⁰ *The Examiner*, 2 April 1902

¹¹ *The Examiner*, 9 September 1924

¹² *Huon and Derwent Times*, 22 August 1935

¹³ *The Mercury*, 24 February 1949

¹⁴ *The Examiner*, 8 March 1952

¹⁵ Burnie High School, *Facebook*, September 2016

festivities at Lansdowne Crescent Primary in West Hobart, Trevallyn Primary in Launceston, Burnie High and Devonport High. In 2017, Redpa Primary and Winnaleah District High are both due to turn 100.

It is interesting to find that, throughout the 200-odd-years of Tasmanian Government school history, starting with the appointment of the first teachers in 1810, a surprising number of schools have reached, and sometimes passed, their century mark of continuous service. The following list shows the individual years of original commencement of many that have done so.¹⁶ Of course, not all are still in operation, and some have undergone name changes, amalgamations and moved to different sites over the years, leaving open a variety of options for celebrations. The list does not include private schools, but in some cases it does take into account the fact that early schools often commenced as church and/or private institutions before being taken over by the Board of Education/Education Department. Please note the listed dates of operation and closure in this article are based on the writer's most recent research knowledge, but may be subject to revision as new records surface.

Albuera Street (Battery Point) 1859–P
Avoca 1851–P
Back River (Magra) 1826–1957
Bagdad 1867–P
Beaconsfield 1881–P
Bellerive (Kangaroo Point) 1840–P
Bishopsbourne 1847–1955
Boat Harbour 1888–P
Bothwell 1833–P
Bracknell 1866–P

Branxholm 1885–2009
Bream Creek 1849–1967
Bridgewater (East Derwent) 1849–2010
Bridport 1915–P
Bruny Island (Alonnah) 1913–P
Burnie 1852–P
Burnie High 1916–P
Cambridge 1840–P
Campania 1886–P
Campbell Town 1832–P
Cape Barren Island 1890–P
Charles Street 1884–1990
Chudleigh 1864–1964
Claremont 1890–2010
Collinsvale (Sorell Creek/Bismarck) 1877–P
Cooee 1915–P
Cressy 1840–P
Deloraine 1847–P
Devonport (Formby) 1886–P
Devonport High 1916–P
Dover (Port Esperance) 1870–P
Dunalley 1885–P
East Devonport (Torquay) 1869–P
East Launceston 1908–P
Ellendale (Monto's Marsh) 1875–1985
Evandale 1834–P
Exeter (West Tamar) 1909–P
Fingal 1856–P
Flinders Island (Whitemark) 1911–P
Forcett 1847–1948
Forest 1864–P
Forth 1867–P
Franklin 1847–P
Geeveston (Honeywood) 1870–P
George Town (Port Dalrymple) 1849–P
Gladstone 1883–1988
Glen Dhu 1895–P
Glenora 1876–P
Glenorchy (O'Briens Bridge) 1823–P
Goulburn Street 1852–P
Gretna (Macquarie Plains) 1856–1968
Hagley 1855–P
Hamilton 1834–1989
Hobart High (Hobart College) 1913–P
Huonville (Victoria/Ranelagh) 1854–P

¹⁶ Personal research data bases of the author

Invermay 1889–P
Kempton (Green Ponds) 1831–P
King Island 1902–P
Kingston (Brown's River) 1847–P
Lansdowne Crescent 1916–P
Latrobe 1870–P
Launceston High (L'ton College) 1913–P
Levendale 1901–P
Lilydale 1875–P
Lindisfarne 1905–P
Longford 1829–P
Margate 1869–P
Mathinna 1872–1989
Meander (West Meander) 1891–2015
Mole Creek 1878–P
Molesworth 1881–P
Natone (Stowport) 1896–P
New Norfolk 1819 – P
New Town 1837– P
Oatlands 1833–P
Orford (Prosser's Bay) 1882–P
Ouse 1843–P
Penguin 1870–P
Perth 1833–P
Pontville 1847–1951
Queenstown (Mountain Heights) 1896–P
Railton 1880–P
Redpa (East Marrawah) 1917–P
Riana 1896–P
Richmond 1832–P
Ridgley 1905–P
Ringarooma 1881–P
Risdon (Vale) 1884–P
Rosebery 1905–P
Ross 1833–1999
Sandy Bay Infant (Lwr Sandy Bay) 1853–P
Scottsdale 1868– P
Sheffield (Kentishbury) 1867–P
Smithton 1880–P
Somerset (Cam River) 1865–P
Sorell 1821–P
South Hobart (Macquarie Street) 1858–P
Sprent (Castra Road) 1871–P
Spreyton 1885–P
Stanley 1854–P

Strahan 1890–P
St Helens 1874–P
St Leonards 1859–P
St Marys 1856–P
Summerdale (Prospect) 1913–P
Swansea 1849–P
Table Cape (Wynyard) 1871–P
Taroona 1915–P
Trevallyn 1916–P
Triabunna (Spring Bay) 1850–P
Tunbridge 1867–1971
Ulverstone 1870– P
Waratah 1883–2009
Wesley Vale 1899–2013
Westbury 1855–P
Wilmot 1904–P
Winnaleah 1917–P
Woodbridge (Peppermint Bay) 1871–P
Yolla (Camp Creek) 1904–P
Young Town 1887–P
Zeehan 1891–P

A new school building a century ago

Wellington Square State School (1901–39) in Launceston, situated at the corner of Patterson and Wellington Streets, was a substantial brick and concrete building of Gothic style originally designed to cater for 350 pupils. By March 1903, the enrolment had swelled to 460, including more than 120 children who had come from surrounding private schools. (TAHO: ED31/1/6) School numbers doubled during the war years, and some classes had to be conducted at Reed's Church during that time. A building was finally extended in 1916 to alleviate conditions for the then 730 pupils.

The original single-storey structure, which had contained two classrooms used for infants, was converted into a handsome brick two-storey facility with cement racings, containing eight large classrooms, each having accommodation for about 60 scholars. A feature of the

new classrooms was the excellent manner in which they were lighted and ventilated. The five large windows occupied about a fifth of the length of the wall, and the ventilation was from inlet vents about 6 feet from the floor and outlet vents in the ceiling.

Each storey contained four classrooms and a vestibule 13 feet wide by about 60 feet long in addition to teachers' offices, cloakrooms, and store rooms. The upper storey was reached by two reinforced concrete stairways 6 feet in width. The vestibules were fitted with large hat and coat racks for the use of children. The ceilings were of the well-known Wunderlich stamped steel.

The classrooms were fitted with double desks of the latest design, supplied by Coogan and Co., and the furniture and wooden fittings were carried out in Tasmanian oak and blackwood. In each teaching area there was a raised dais on which the teacher's desk was placed, and a large oak cupboard was provided. The blackboards were of hypolite, a serviceable and hygienic material. The colour scheme was carried out in pale green and the walls were the same tint as the blinds.

The new building, containing accommodation for about 60 per cent of the entire enrolment at that time, was designed by the Government architect, Mr R Flack RICARDS, and was constructed by contractors Messrs HINMAN, WRIGHT and MANSER.¹⁷

Most readers would be aware of how modern school architecture differs greatly from the 100-year-old building described above. Concepts of the use of space, light, material, colour, landscape, the importance of physical accessibility for

all, and the integration of technology have evolved over time and now are reflected in the design and construction of new school buildings.

Still worth celebrating

Often forgotten as time goes by are the birthdays of schools that did not make an easily identifiable milestone. Communities sometimes need to be reminded of the dates of operation of their now-closed educational institutions which, in their time, were highly important in the development of local districts. Such a subset includes the schools established in 1917: Allen Creek 1917–53; Clover Hills 1917–22; Lapoinya 1917–29; Legana 1917–39; Llandaff 1917–53; Lower Beulah 1917–41; Moorleah 1917–53; Oldina 1917–48; Pashanger 1917–20; Poimena 1917; South Nietta 1917–48; Tayene 1917–50 and Tewkesbury 1917–53.

Tasmanian communities are known to show genuine pride in their local schools and most have fought hard to keep them operating for as long as they remain viable. Since 1810, there have been approximately 1000 different-named schools which have been recognised as part of the Government Board of Education/Education Department's funding system. Some have been relatively short-lived, while others have flourished and served their pupils over long periods. All are worthy of celebration. ◀



¹⁷ *Daily Telegraph*, 20 July 1916.

THE *LORD SIDMOUTH* (3) 1822–23 A VEXING VOYAGE

Anne McMahon (Member No. 6463)

THE *Lord Sidmouth* (3), chartered as a convict transport, was a ship of 411 tons burthen built at Shields during 1817. On her 1822–23 voyage she was engaged to convey 97 English and Scottish female prisoners with their 23 children to Van Diemen's Land and Sydney as well as 21 free women accompanied by 49 children to the same destinations. The latter women had been granted a free passage to join their husbands serving sentences in the colonies as part of the British Government's family reunion scheme commenced during 1817. It aimed to adjust the sexual imbalance in the penal colonies and initiate the transition to stable communities after thirty years of their occupancy as prisons.¹

The master of the ship was James FERRIER while the surgeon appointed was the Irishman Robert ESPIE, an experienced naval officer, but undertaking his first journey with female convicts. He had travelled previously to Van Diemen's Land after transporting Irish male prisoners from Cork to Sydney on board the *Dorothy* in 1820. On sailing to Hobart Town at that time he received a land grant at Constitution Hill.

He was then appointed to succeed Jacob MOUNTGARRETT, surgeon at Port Dalrymple, who was under threat of dismissal by Governor MACQUARIE for corruption. Surgeon Espie held the post

for a short time before resuming his naval career.²

During 1822 Robert Espie's two brothers George and John came to Hobart Town as passengers on board the brig *Minerva* with merchandise arriving on 8 November. Both received land grants at Cross Marsh and Bagdad. Branches of the Espie family were settling in Van Diemen's Land and the *Lord Sidmouth* was Robert Espie's next engagement to visit as a surgeon for the convict service.³

Women held in British gaols in the early 1820s were hostile and unruly prisoners who had lived destitute lives on the streets with their ragged children. Flogging of females had only been abolished during 1820. In the prisons no work was provided nor was there schooling for the children.

In 1821 Elizabeth FRY, a woman of commanding presence, formed the British Society of Ladies for Promoting the Reformation of Female Prisoners. She made regular visits to Newgate where she read chapters of the Bible and arranged work and school in the prison. She also toured the gaols holding women throughout England and Scotland to found ladies visiting associations.

At the time transportation was an alternative to hanging women convicted for crimes such as passing forged banknotes.

¹ *Hobart Town Gazette and Southern Reporter*, quoting the *Sydney Gazette*, 5 April 1817, p. 2

² AJCP PRO 3201, *Lord Sidmouth* (3), 1822–23; ADB, Vol 2, p. 264

³ *Journals of the Land Commissioners for Van Diemen's Land 1826–28*. Ed. Anne McKay. Hobart, University of Tasmania, 1962, pp. 6–8.

As well it was a means of reducing the overcrowding in gaols, particularly by getting rid of violent inmates. Elizabeth Fry then turned her attention to reforming the departure of the prisoners by having women moved in closed coaches instead of open carts although they remained chained together. Those women from Scottish prisons were sent round the coast by sea in irons on the decks of fishing sloops or whatever craft was available. They arrived at the London dockside seasick and utterly exhausted.⁴

Regular visits were organised to the female transports by the Quaker ladies while the ships were loading at Deptford. One such pious and dedicated visitor was Mrs Elizabeth PRYOR who went on board the *Lord Sidmouth* on 24 August 1822 while the prisoners were being received in batches. She distributed useful articles of haberdashery and came again on Monday 27 August at 9:30 a.m. and stayed among the women until 2 p.m. giving them additional articles and aprons. By this stage 31 prisoners had come on board from Newgate in addition to 18 from Liverpool, Bristol and York Castle. On 31 August Elizabeth Pryor returned with another Quaker, Mrs COVENTRY. According to surgeon Espie they distributed additional articles and 'gave the women a great deal of good advice'.

Some prisoners on board were now sick from the brackish water of the Thames used to fill the water casks as raw sewerage was pumped into the river from London city. On the ship it became a scene of bustle as the women stowed their bags and boxes in the hold. One prisoner fell from the deck down the fore hatchway but only received a fright. On 7 September Elizabeth Pryor made her last visit

and gave the women bundles of patchwork. She was accompanied by two men from the Missionary Society who distributed Bibles while Mrs Pryor read an address from the scriptures before taking leave of the prisoners in a kindly manner.

Some prisoners however had remained untouched by the Quakers' spiritual nourishment. On the day of their visit Ann JACKSON, Anne BELL and Anne BOLLAND, for instance were handcuffed for violent and abusive conduct and placed in the coal hole. This last woman was to become one of the chronic offenders throughout the voyage. The sailing orders were received on 11 September 1822 and Rev. Mr Henry WILLIAMS of the Wesleyan Missionary Society boarded the ship with his family bound for service in New Zealand.

Surgeon Espie instituted a system of control by ordering that all complaints were to be represented only to him. He directed the women to wear gaol clothing, stipulated the meal times and allocated the washing days.

After proceeding down the Thames the *Lord Sidmouth* anchored at Gravesend but the women were kept in the prison due to the cold. Sailing through the channel the violent and abusive women were sent to the coal hole while one prisoner had her head shaved for thieving from the clergyman.

Seasickness now afflicted most women and in the relative calm as they were confined to their bunks Surgeon Espie was able to reflect on the advice he had received from other surgeons: that female convicts were ungovernable. He thought their negative reputation was exaggerated as he found them easily managed although requiring constant vigilance. The only complaint he had was about the sailors taking liberties with the women.

⁴ June Rose, *Elizabeth Fry: a biography*. London, Macmillan, 1980, p. 99

During October the prisoners were at their patchwork making quilts. A school had been commenced under Rev. Williams assisted by two free women. Eighteen month old twins died from the wasting disease Tabes, caused by bad nursing and bad food according to the surgeon. June GORDON was confined in the coal hole for creating a disturbance during prayers. Surgeon Espie described her as an abandoned character; he thought the worst on board.

Quarrels and uproar continued in the prison at night with the most disruptive Elizabeth KINSEY and Mary BROWN handcuffed together and confined in the coal hole. Rachel DAVIS and Elizabeth HARTWELL had their heads shaved for boisterous and outrageous conduct which the surgeon found the only punishment to be effective for them.

At the end of November several prisoners complained that they had not received their full allowance of provisions. On investigation the ship's steward was found to be the culprit. As they were at Rio de Janeiro the ship was detained by Robert Espie until master Ferrier was persuaded to dismiss the steward who was sent on shore. While at Rio a prisoner died after a protracted illness. She had become hostile to the surgeon and refused all medicines. Her body was taken on shore for burial.

After sailing from Rio de Janeiro the weather turned cold and as many children were almost naked surgeon Espie had hospital linen made into garments to enable them to survive the remainder of the passage. A ten-year-old boy fell overboard but his loss was not discovered for 20 minutes so no trace was seen or heard.

South West Cape was sighted by 9 February 1823 as the ship altered course to sail along the south coast of Van Diemen's Land and entered d'Entrecasteau Chan-

nel. On arrival four women were sent to the hospital. Forty-six convicts were disembarked with their children. Lieut. Governor SORELL came on board and expressed himself well pleased with the condition of the prisoners. By 15 February all the free women destined for Van Diemen's Land had found their husbands.

Surgeon Espie sailed on to Sydney with the remaining prisoners and children plus the free women and children. The convicts included some of the more incorrigible that Robert Espie had decided to take on to Sydney, an arrangement adopted previously by Sorell due to the absence of a female factory in Hobart Town or a gaol adequate to control the constant offenders. At the end of the voyage as the boats came alongside to carry the prisoners to Parramatta he wrote:

I cannot but express my great joy at having got rid of so troublesome a charge.⁵

The majority, being 33 of the female prisoners landed in Van Diemen's Land, had received seven year sentences. Ten were transported for 14 years and 9 for life. Thirty-eight of their convictions were for larceny including the more serious offences of larceny from the person and from a dwelling place. Four women were sentenced for receiving stolen goods, two for highway robbery and one for arson. Several women died shortly after arrival in the colony. Mary SCOTT was murdered by her husband, Margaret LOY was drowned and Hannah Bell was sentenced to secondary transportation to Macquarie Harbour for theft.⁶ ◀

⁵ Charles Bateson, *The Convict Ships 1787–1868*. Sydney, 1988, p. 78.

⁶ Phillip Tardif, *Notorious Strumpets and Dangerous Girls*. Sydney, Angus & Robertson, 1990, pp. 598–607.

PETERBOROUGH & THE GREAT WAR

Dorothy Harbron

Member of the Peterborough and District Family History Society

DID you have an ancestor who served in the First World War and could have travelled through Peterborough by train in 1916 or 1917? If so he/she may feature in a project taking place at the moment.

Peterborough used to have two railway stations. The present station was known as Peterborough North and there was also a Peterborough East.

An organisation called the Women's United Total Abstinence Council ran a coffee and tea wagon in Peterborough city centre to try and keep men away from the pubs. During WW1 they transferred to the railway station to provide refreshments for servicemen travelling through. Visitors were invited to sign a guest book and two of these books, from 1916 and 1917, survive from the Peterborough East Station.

An award from the Heritage Lottery Fund has enabled these guest books to be digitised, indexed and a website created.

Although mainly soldiers, some entries were from sailors, and a few women also feature. Some just signed the book, others wrote messages or poems and there are also drawings. The people came from all over the country so this is not just a local project.

The main aim is to find out about the servicemen and record anything that might be known about them so bringing to life the person who wrote in the book. It is interesting generally to browse the entries on the website, reading the messages, seeing the different handwriting and the places from where people came.

There is a Project Officer but most of the transcribing and research has been carried out by volunteers. They hope that anyone who recognises a name will be able to provide more information including photographs. They would be delighted to hear from you if one of your ancestors featured in the book.

*Pte Stanley Page
20th Hussars*

*The wild winds wail like some sad soul
Whose days on earth are spent
Hurled forth by the hand of death
Into eternity sent.*

*Yet how I love its plaintive dirge
Tho sad as sad can be
It is the music of my soul
An accompaniment for me.*

*The winds they sang a welcome
When first I saw the light
May they sing my funereal song
When I pass into the night*
S Page

The website www.peterboroughww1.co.uk has images of the pages, an index of names and any information they already have about a serviceman. More up to date information is available on social media. It is a fascinating social document and well worth looking through.

Dorothy Harbron

pgandd_harbron@hotmail.com



CONVICT ELIZABETH JENNINGS

WHEN DID SHE ARRIVE IN VAN DIEMEN'S LAND?

Don Bradmore (Member No. 6756)

ON 11 September 1822, *Lord Sidmouth* sailed from Woolwich with 97 female convicts. It was under the command of Captain James FERRIER whose orders were to disembark fifty of the prisoners at Hobart Town and then sail on to Sydney to deliver the remainder.¹

Accordingly, after off-loading the women destined to serve out their sentences in Van Diemen's Land on 10 February 1823, *Lord Sidmouth* went on to Port Jackson. At Sydney, on 27 February, it disembarked the rest. Actually, there were now only 46; one had died along the way.²

A list of the 97 female convicts aboard the vessel when it sailed from England is easy to find and there is no dispute about it.³ However, identifying the fifty women who were disembarked at Hobart on 10 February 1823 is more difficult because there is conflicting evidence.

About one in particular, Elizabeth JENNINGS, there is very considerable confusion.



¹ Convict Ships to NSW: www.members.iinet.net.au/~perthdps/convicts/shipNSW2.html

² *Ibid.* It is believed that *Lord Sidmouth* was at Hobart Town for eight or nine days before sailing for Sydney.

³ Full list of 97 convicts: <http://www.historyaustralia.org.au/twconvic/Lord+Sidmouth+1823>

Twenty-two years old and single, she had been convicted of larceny at the Old Bailey, London, on 28 June 1820.⁴

A man had accused her of stealing five shillings [about \$1] from him. He testified that she had run 'smack up' against him on a street at Hoxton in inner London at about midnight on 16 June. Putting her arms around him, she had begun to rummage through the pockets of his breeches. He had then seized her hand and, opening it, found four shillings [80 cents] there. He had called the watchman immediately and given her in charge. Later, at the watch-house, another one shilling [20 cents] had dropped from within her clothing.⁵

Sentenced to transportation for life, she had spent almost two years in an English gaol before being put aboard *Lord Sidmouth* in late 1822.⁶

But was she disembarked at Hobart Town on 10 February 1823 or at Sydney on 27 February?

Those who believe she was disembarked at Hobart Town rely on two main arguments: first, that her name is on a list, held by the Tasmanian Archives and Heritage Office (TAHO), of those who were put ashore there; and second, that this is supported by correspondence in the files of the Colonial Secretary's Office (CSO) in New South Wales.

⁴ Elizabeth Jennings, Old Bailey trial: www.oldbaileyonline.org—reference: t18200628-128

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ *Ibid.*

Now, taking these arguments in turn:

The List: Those who believe Elizabeth Jennings was not disembarked until *Lord Sidmouth* reached Sydney claim the accuracy of the TAHO list can be disputed. To begin with, it contains 58 names rather than 50, and that in itself casts doubt on its reliability. Moreover, it is not an original, hand-written document compiled in England prior to *Lord Sidmouth's* departure or at the time of disembarkation at Hobart Town. Rather, it appears to be a list that has been compiled from other records at some later time.⁷

The CSO Correspondence: On 15 July 1823, more than five months after *Lord Sidmouth* had unloaded the remainder of its cargo of convicts at Sydney and set sail again for England, Dr Donald MACLEOD, the Police Magistrate at Parramatta (Sydney), wrote to Frederick GOULBURN, the Colonial Secretary for New South Wales:⁸

Sir, Miss BROMLEY, having made application to me for Elizabeth Jennings, a female convict per Ship 'Lord Sidmouth', at present at the Factory to proceed with her to Van Diemen's Land, I have the honour to request you will be pleased to acquiesce with the same. I have the Honor to be, Sir, your most humble servant, Donald MacLeod.⁹

The Miss Bromley to whom MacLeod was referring was a daughter of Dr Edward Foord Bromley, then a high-ranking and well-respected government official at Hobart. Formerly a Royal Navy

surgeon, he had been appointed to the position of 'Naval Officer, Hobart Town', in early 1820. As such, he was responsible for the collection of all harbour and shipping fees and also for the duty payable on the importation of restricted goods such as liquor and tobacco. In that important role he was, in effect, the Colonial Treasurer.¹⁰

Shortly after he had taken up his appointment, his two adult daughters, Julia, 23, and Eliza, 17, both still single, came out from England to join him. They were excited to be in the colony where their father was much-admired. He was a fun-loving, jovial and popular man. He had been given a fine house to live in and enough convict servants to help him feel comfortable in it. He was well-paid and could afford to be indulgent towards his daughters.¹¹

Now, after little more than a year at Hobart Town, Eliza, the younger daughter, was in Sydney, presumably to visit some of the very good friends her much-travelled father had there.¹²



A week after receiving MacLeod's request, Colonial Secretary Goulburn responded by writing to William SORELL who, as lieutenant-governor of Van Diemen's Land, was ultimately responsible for knowing how many convicts

⁷ List available at Tasmanian Archives Search Portal: <http://portal.archives.tas.gov.au/menu.aspx?search=11>

⁸ Correspondence: Colonial Secretary's Papers, 1788–1825, via 'Ancestry.com'; Item 4/3508, p. 671 and Item4/1768, p. 168

⁹ *Ibid.*, Item 4/1768, p. 168

¹⁰ See Dr EF Bromley in *Australian Dictionary of Biography Online* at <http://adb.anu.edu.au/>

¹¹ *Ibid.*

¹² Although there is some doubt whether it was Julia Bromley or her younger sister, Eliza, who was visiting Sydney at this time, the evidence seems to suggest it was the younger. See *The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser*, 3 July 1823, p. 4.

were in that colony and the whereabouts of all of them at any given time.

Goulburn's letter, dated 23 July 1823, reads:

Sir, Elizabeth Jennings who came to Sydney some short time since with Miss Bromley, returns by the same present opportunity to Hobart Town in the service of the same Mistress. I have the Honor to be, &c, &c., F. Goulburn.¹³

On the surface, nothing could be plainer! Here, Goulburn clearly states that convict Elizabeth Jennings, 'who came to Sydney some short time since with her mistress', was now returning with her to Hobart Town.

If what Goulburn told Sorell is accurate, there can be no doubt whatsoever that Elizabeth Jennings had been disembarked at Hobart Town on 10 February.

But was it accurate? Had he, in fact, misunderstood MacLeod? MacLeod had *not* said that Elizabeth Jennings had accompanied Miss Bromley to Sydney, or even that Miss Bromley wanted to take her *back* to Hobart Town. He had only said Miss Bromley wanted to *take* her to Hobart Town.

And, besides, why would Elizabeth Jennings have been at the Female Factory at Parramatta if the mistress with whom she had arrived from Hobart Town only a short time earlier was intending to take her back again? Is it not far more likely Miss Bromley would have kept her servant with her during the visit?



Those who believe Elizabeth Jennings was disembarked at Sydney rather than Hobart Town also point to the fact that, while there are newspaper announce-

ments of Miss Bromley's arrival and departure from New South Wales, only the *departure* notice mentions that she was accompanied by a servant.

On 23 January 1823, *The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser* (p. 2) carried this notice:

On Monday arrived from Hobart Town, the brig 'Deveron', Captain WILSON. She sailed the 13th instant, and brings a cargo of sundries. Passengers, Miss Bromley, Mr. and Mrs. GILWARY, Mr. LIVINGSTONE, Mr. READ, Mr. WILSON, and Mr. FERGUSON; together with several other persons.

There is no mention that Miss Bromley arrived at Sydney with a servant. While it is very possible the servants aboard *Deveron* are included among the 'several other persons', there is no proof of that.

Compare that notice with the one which appeared in the same paper on 3 July 1823 (p. 4) as Miss Bromley prepared to leave Sydney:

Miss E. F. Bromley, leaving the Colony by an early Opportunity, requests Claims to be presented. Also, Elizabeth Jennings, Servant.

Here, there is no doubt. Miss Bromley was leaving Sydney accompanied by a servant, Elizabeth Jennings.

As it happened, the pair arrived back at Hobart Town aboard *Lusitania* on 27 July 1823. That event is noted in Elizabeth Jennings's conduct record.¹⁴

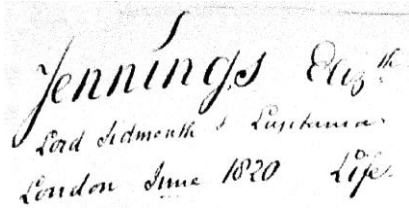
There is one more important last piece of evidence to support the view that Elizabeth Jennings was disembarked at Sydney on 27 February 1823 rather than at Hobart Town on 10 February.

¹⁴ Elizabeth Jennings' conduct record: TAHO CON40/1/5, Image 169

¹³ *Ibid.*, Item 4/3508, p. 671

Her conduct record, part of which is shown here, shows the names of two ships, *Lord Sidmouth* and *Lusitania*. In the convention of the day, this indicates that she arrived originally in one of the Australian colonies (in this case, New South Wales) on the first-named vessel and was later brought to Van Diemen's Land on the latter vessel.¹⁵

Thus, there can be little doubt about the matter. The TAHO list is incorrect. Colonial Secretary Frederick Goulburn was in error. Elizabeth Jennings did not arrive in Van Diemen's Land until 27 July 1823.



Jennings Elizabeth
Lord Sidmouth
London June 1820

And finally, a postscript for the curious.

Why did Miss Bromley choose Elizabeth Jennings as her servant, and what happened to her after her arrival at Hobart Town?

It is tempting to think that, in making preparations to return to Hobart Town, Miss Bromley had searched long and hard for a suitable servant to accompany her. It is tempting to think—albeit very romantically—that she had gone to the Female Factory at Parramatta and found there a sweet and lovely young girl (an orphan maid, perhaps!) who had been treated shamefully by a cruel employer in England, tried for a crime she had not committed, and wrongfully convicted. It is tempting to think that immediately, a bond had been established between them, they arrived at Hobart Town as close as sisters, and they had remained good friends for ever more.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*

But, alas, while Elizabeth Jennings was just seven years older than Eliza Bromley, that was not the case.¹⁶ Very far from it, in fact!

Once the pair had reached Hobart Town, Miss Bromley appears to have had no further use for her servant.

On 11 August 1823, just two weeks after her arrival in Van Diemen's Land on *Lusitania*, Elizabeth Jennings was charged by a Mr EMMETT, the master to whom she was then assigned, with being drunk and disorderly. She escaped with a reprimand.¹⁷

Two years later, on 14 February 1825, she married a free settler, George PIPER, at Hobart Town.¹⁸ On 24 July 1829, a son, George Solomon Piper, was born, but is believed to have died in infancy.¹⁹

Thereafter, her life appears to have been a sad one and she was frequently before the courts for drunkenness. On 20 February 1847, a newspaper report of one of her many appearances before a magistrate for this offence read:

GEORGE TOWN

POLICE OFFICE

Feb. 11.—Elizabeth Piper,—what, here again Mrs. Piper said his Worship, to this very old and frequent visitor? Why unfortunately so your Worship.

¹⁶ Elizabeth Jennings was 22 at the time of her Old Bailey trial in June 1820. See Note 4, above.

¹⁷ As for Note 14, above

¹⁸ Marriage to George Piper: Reg: 790/1825/36

¹⁹ Birth of son, George Solomon Piper: Reg: 4079/1831/32, New Norfolk. His death is not recorded.

Guilty or Not Guilty of Constable Hawke's charge against you of being drunk, enquired the clerk and retail dealer in sky blue? Elizabeth confessed her sin, and produced the 5s required for her free exit.²⁰

On 3 December 1855, her husband, George Piper, passed away at Hobart.²¹ Six months earlier, he had prepared his Last Will and Testament. It reads (in part):

This is the Last Will and Testament of me, George Piper, of Cimitiere Plains near George Town, farmer. I appoint H [...] LAWTON Esquire of George Town and George M. EDDIE of Launceston, Merchant, to be my Executors and my Trustees and I bequeath to them the whole of my estate and assets whatsoever, whether real or personal, in trust, first to pay to my dear wife Elizabeth who is afflicted in her mind the sum of thirty one shillings [about \$3.20] weekly for the rest of her natural life and second to hold my Estate as aforesaid for the benefit of one or more of the children of either of my brothers ...²²

Elizabeth Jennings, 'afflicted in her mind', lived on until 1876. She died, at the age of 81, at the New Norfolk Asylum on 12 June 1876.²³ ◀

The author acknowledges the outstanding contribution of Judith Carter, Launceston, to the research for this article.

²⁰ *The Cornwall Chronicle*, 20 February 1847, p. 144

²¹ George Piper, death: Reg: 1966/1855/35, Launceston

²² George Piper's Will: TAHO AD960/1/4, 1857, Will No. 684, p. 47

²³ Elizabeth Jennings, death: Reg: 448/1876/35, New Norfolk.



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VOICES FROM THE ORPHAN SCHOOLS

MARY ANN BUTLER

Dianne Snowden (Member No.910)

MARY ANN BUTLER was in the Orphan School twice. She was first admitted at the age of two and again at 11½.¹

Mary Ann arrived in the colony of Van Diemen's Land on the convict ship *Tasmania* (2) in 1845. With her were her mother—an Irish convict named Margaret Butler—and her brother, William, aged ten.² Mary Ann and William were just two of thousands of children who came with their convict mothers to the colony: the *Tasmania* (2) alone brought 37 children.

On arrival in the colony, William was admitted to the Male Orphan School in New Town, near Hobart. He remained there for two years.³

For her first five months in the colony, Mary Ann most likely stayed with her mother, probably in the cramped and bleak convict nursery at Dynnryne House or possibly on the *Anson*, moored in the River Derwent.⁴

When she was two, Mary Ann was considered old enough to be removed from her mother. She was admitted to the Female Orphan School on 14 May 1846 and remained there for five years.⁵ At that time, her older brother William was in the

Male Orphan School, on the same site but in a separate building.

Mary Ann's mother Margaret married fellow convict John SHACKLETON in St Joseph's Catholic Church, Hobart, in May 1850.⁶ Twelve months later, on 10 May 1851, Mary Ann was released to her mother, then a ticket-of-leave holder. Her brother, William, had left the Male Orphan School in January 1847, when he was 'apprenticed' (hired) to Rev. Richard WALSH, a Catholic priest, in Port Phillip (now Victoria).⁷ Mary Ann was only about four at this time and it is difficult to know how much contact the siblings had.

After little more than five years of marriage, Margaret Butler died in November 1855, when she was beaten to death by John Shackleton.⁸ He was charged with her death and sentenced to 'life in penal servitude' at Port Arthur.⁹

Mary Ann, 'a girl of 10 years of age', appeared at her mother's inquest on 7 November 1855. She testified:

she was at her mother's house on Sunday week, when she [Margaret] told her that Shackleton had beat her; they appeared

¹ TAHO, SWD28/1/1 p. 27, p. 44

² TAHO, CON41/1/8 No.771 *Tasmania* (2) 1845 Margaret Butler

³ TAHO, SWD 28/1/1 p. 20

⁴ www.femalefactory.com.au/FFRG/pdfs/RebeccaKippen8Aug06.pdf (17 June 2010)

⁵ TAHO, SWD28/1/1 p. 27

⁶ TAHO, RGD37/1/9 Hobart 1850/499 Margaret Butler and John 'Shakelton'; TAHO, CON33/1/29 No.7021 John Shackleton *Marquis of Hastings* (2) 1842

⁷ TAHO, SWD28/1/1 p. 20

⁸ TAHO, RGD35/5/ Hobart 1855/439 Margaret Butler or 'Shakleton'.

⁹ *Colonial Times* 8 November 1855 p. 2; *The Hobart Mercury*, 9 November 1855 p. 2; *Hobart Courier*, 5 December 1855 p. 3; TAHO, CON37/1/ p. 2799 John Shackleton

on good terms on that day; there were other persons in the house, who were drunk, as was deceased; witness saw the deceased on Friday, who told her that Shackleton had beaten her.¹⁰

On 7 December 1855, shortly after her mother's death, Mary Ann was again admitted to the Orphan School.¹¹ Four years later, in January 1859, when she was 17, she was apprenticed to Mrs Mary O'BOYLE of Hobart.

By the time she was 18, Mary Ann was living on the South Coast of NSW, at 'Tantango' (Tantawangalo near Candelo). How she came to be there remains a mystery.

On 24 December 1865, Mary Ann, described as a farmer's daughter, married George Ernest WARD, a twenty-three year-old stockman at Candelo, in the District Registrar's Office, Eden.¹²

According to the marriage certificate, Mary Ann Butler was born in Ireland, the daughter of John Butler, a farmer, and her mother's name was not known.¹³ George was born in England, the son of John Ward, a carpet weaver, and Ann (née BOLLOCK). He had worked on 'Bemboka Station' from 1862, as an overseer for the Tooth family of Kameruka.¹⁴

As a young cabin boy, George was one of the few survivors of the horrific wreck of

the SS *Admella* in 1859 off the coast of South Australia. Mary Ann and George named their second daughter *Admella*.¹⁵

Mary Ann and George went on to have twelve children, most of whom were born at Bemboka where George was a dairy farmer. Their youngest daughter, born in 1888, was named Murial Pansy Ernestine Centennial Ward.¹⁶ One of Mary Ann's sons, William George Ward, was a newsagent; his brother, George, was a hotel manager; and another brother, Ernest George, was a factory manager.¹⁷ Another son, Harry Erasmus Ward was a school teacher.¹⁸ Daughters *Admella*, *Aveline* and *Muriel* married school teachers.¹⁹ Another daughter, *Alice Mary*, married a postmaster; her sister, *Lily May*, married a post and telegraph assistant.²⁰ *Violet* married a farmer.²¹ The

¹⁰ *Colonial Times* 8 November 1855 p. 2

¹¹ TAHO, SWD 28/1/1 p. 44

¹² NSW Marriage Certificate District of Eden 1863/001845 Mary Ann Butler and George Ernest Ward

¹³ Her father's name, John Butler, is confusing. John may be an error for John Shackleton, her step-father. Her brother's father was recorded as William Butler and her mother was a widow when she arrived in Van Diemen's Land.

¹⁴ www.bemboka.net/pioneerswalk.html (17 June 2010)

¹⁵ www.admella.org.au (17 June 2010); NSW Birth Certificate District of Eden 10323/1869 Parnella [*sic*] Ward

¹⁶ NSW Birth Certificate District of Bemboka 1889/020015 Murial Pansy Ernestine Centennial Ward

¹⁷ NSW Death Certificate District of Bowral 1955/025738 William George Ward; NSW Death Certificate District of Goulburn 1925/015344 George Ward; NSW Death Certificate District of Peter-sham 1928/012188 Ernest George Ward

¹⁸ NSW Death Certificate District of Sydney 1960/018608 'Henry' Erasmus Ward

¹⁹ NSW Death Certificate District of Sydney 1955/000211 Warwick McKenzie Clarke; NSW Marriage Certificate Bemboka 1899/000823 Aveline Ward and Oswald Johnson Armstrong; NSW Marriage Certificate Bemboka 1906/009548 Muriel Pansy Ernestine Centennial Ward and David James Heery

²⁰ NSW Marriage Certificate 1893/0022825 Alice Mary Ward and George Day Williams; NSW Marriage Certificate Bemboka 1900/008296 Lily May Ward and Ernest Hill

family was not prominent but managed to lead quiet, respectable lives.

George Ernest Ward, a farmer aged 79, died on 22 December 1919 at Bemboka. He was buried in the Church of England Cemetery at Bemboka. George had lived in South Australia for seven years and 60 years in New South Wales. His death was registered by his son, George Ward, of Young, and witnessed by Harry Ward.²² His death notice read:

WARD.—December 22, at Bemboka, George Ernest, beloved husband of Mary Anne Ward, aged 79 years. Asleep. Survivor SS Admella, Wrecked Portland Bay 1859.²³

George's contribution to the district, as 'the Grand Old Man of Bemboka', is acknowledged on the Bemboka pioneer website.²⁴ He was President of the Jockey

Club, Guardian of Minors, Justice of the Peace, Commissioner for Affidavits and the Chairman of the Recruiting Committee and the Voluntary Aid League.²⁵

Mary Ann died not long after her husband of nearly 55 years: she died on 2 August 1920 at Bathurst Street, Singleton, NSW, at the home of her son, Ernest. According to her death certificate, she was 76 years old (so, born c.1844). A son and daughter predeceased her. Like many of the Orphan School children who have been traced, her death certificate has a bare minimum of information about her background: her father's name was John Butler; her mother's name was not known; she was born in Ireland; and she had lived 17 years in Tasmania and about 58 years in New South Wales.²⁶

A brief death notice was published in the



²¹ NSW Marriage Certificate Bemboka 1903/008070 Violet Gertrude Ward and Thomas Richard Crocker

²² NSW Death Certificate District of Bega 1919/024565 George Ernest Ward
²³ *Sydney Morning Herald* 27 December 1919 p. 8

²⁴ www.bemboka.net/pioneerswalk.html (17 June 2010)

Mary Ann Ward (née Butler) with her husband George Ernest Ward
Courtesy Mary Saunders and Kate Rowe

²⁵ <http://www.admella.org.au/DescendantStories.htm> (17 June 2010).

²⁶ NSW Death Certificate District of Singleton 1920/010752 Mary Ann Ward.

Sydney Morning Herald:

WARD.—August 2, at the residence of Ernest Ward, Singleton (suddenly), Mary Anne, relict of the late George Ward, of Bemboka, aged 75 years.²⁷

Mary Ann was buried in the Church of England cemetery, Rookwood on 4 August 1920, where her sons, Ernest George (d.1928); John (d.1908); and George (d.1925); and daughter Muriel Heery (d.1943) were also buried.²⁸ Her long journey was at an end.

I had been searching for Mary Ann Butler for over 20 years, having lost track of her after she left the Female Orphan School in Hobart in 1859. I found what I thought was a possible marriage but, frustratingly, I was unable to prove it was her. Many years ago, I obtained a copy of her brother's obituary from the 'Perkins Papers', a collection of historical papers relating to southern NSW. This obituary gave many useful family details but was only an abridged version. Sometime later, I had the opportunity to check William Butler's full obituary in the *Manaro Mercury* in the National Library in Canberra (before it was online!)—imagine my delight when I read:

The deceased leaves a wife 67 years of age and the following children:—Mr. Thomas Butler, Moss Vale; Mr. William Butler, South Australia; Mr. Paul Butler, Narrandera; Mrs. Alfred Jones, North

Sydney; Mrs. E. Hildred, Forest Lodge, Sydney; Mrs. John Snowden, Myalla; Mrs D. Lundie, Major's Creek, Braidwood; and Miss Mary Butler, Medlow Baths, Katoomba; a sister, Mrs. George Ward, of Bemboka; and 16 grandchildren.²⁹

For me, genealogically-speaking, this was a constructive lesson to leave no stone unturned—and to always check the original source! So many times I bemoaned the fact that I had not been able to find 'little Mary Ann' and the key to finding her was there all the time!

What was even better than finding this information was my realisation that somehow, against all the odds, William and Mary Ann, separated as young children, had managed to find each other. William may have travelled with Rev. WALSH from Port Phillip to Queanbeyan, in southern NSW. By 1858, when he married, William was living on the Monaro.³⁰ How Mary Ann got to the south coast remains a mystery. She was still a very young child when her brother left the colony and only 11 when her mother died. William and Mary Ann's story is a remarkable one of courage, resilience and survival, and the strength of family ties under difficult and complex circumstances. ◀

**Friends of the Orphan Schools,
St John's Park Precinct:
www.orphan.school.org.au**

For more about the *Tasmania* (2) 1845, see Joan Kavanagh and Dianne Snowden, *Van Diemen's Women: A History of Transportation to Tasmania* (The History Press Ireland, 2015)

²⁷ *Sydney Morning Herald* 6 August 1920 p. 8

²⁸ NSW Death Certificate District of Singleton 1920/010752 Mary Ann Ward; NSW Death Certificate District of Petersham 1928/012188 Ernest George Ward; NSW Death Certificate District of Ryde 1908/003141 John Ward; NSW Death Certificate District of Goulburn 1925/015344 George Ward. NSW Death Certificate District of Parramatta 1943/021966 Muriel Pansy Heery. John died in Rydalmere Hospital for the Insane.

²⁹ *Manaro Mercury*, 16 July 1909 p. 2

³⁰ NSW Marriage Certificate District of Cooma 1858/1639 Margaret McIntyre and William Butler.

NEW MEMBERS' INTERESTS

NAME	PLACE/AREA	TIME	M'SHIP NO.
ALOMES	Copping TAS AUS		7811
ANDERSON James Smith	Dundee SCT/Launceston TAS AUS	1845-1921	7814
ARNETT/ARNOTT	Tasmania AUS	1800-2000	7802
BELL	UK/AUS/USA		7813
BENNETT Charles		c.1888	7821
BUCK Jonathan	Norfolk ENG	1797-1869	7806
BULLER Albert	Hobart TAS AUS	c.1800	7816
BULLER John	Hobart TAS AUS/ENG	c.1800	7816
CAHILL Edmond/Edmund			7815
CLARKE Thomas	Hamilton/Bothwell TAS AUS	Pre 1844	7818
CONNOLLY Martin	Latrobe TAS AUS		7811
COX	VIC AUS	c.1855	7809
DALEY	Ouse, Strickland and New Norfolk TAS AUS		7804
DALY	Ouse, Strickland and New Norfolk TAS AUS		7804
DAVIS	UK/AUS/USA		7813
DORAM George	Kensington ENG/New Town TAS AUS	1857-1942	7806
DORAM William	Somerset ENG/Hobart TAS AUS	1820-1866	7806
FLEET	VIC AUS	c.1855	7809
GIBSON Theresa	Hobart TAS AUS	1861-1884	7806
GRACE	UK/AUS/USA		7813
GREGG			7815
GUNN	VIC AUS	c.1855	7809
HUGHES George		c.1850	7821
JACK Adelaide Maud	Launceston TAS/Sydney NSW AUS	1836-1946	7814
JONES Eliza/Elizabeth	Kildare IRL	1824-1893	7807
LEWIS James Thomas	Latrobe Burnie Launceston TAS AUS/NZ	1874-1953	7806
LEWIS John	Latrobe TAS AUS	1828-1899	7806
Local History	Hamilton, Ouse, Victoria Valley/Osterly TAS AUS	1820 onwards	7805
McKAY William	Ayrshire/Aberdeen SCT	c.1850	7818
McPHERSON Ann	NZ/Hobart TAS AUS	1811-1848	7820
McPHERSON Argus	Hobart TAS AUS	c.1845	7820
McPHERSON John	Hobart TAS AUS	1845-1848	7820
McPHERSON William	Hobart TAS AUS		7820
McPHERSON William	Hobart TAS AUS/NZ	1843-1937	7820
MILLAR	UK/AUS/USA		7813
MITCHELL Mary Ann Shepherd	Dundee SCT/Launceston TAS AUS	1846-1920	7814
MORGAN Charles	Deloraine TAS AUS		7808
MORGAN Lavinia	Deloraine TAS AUS		7808
MUNNINGS Nathaniel			7815
PEARS	Campbell Town TAS AUS		7804
PEARSON	VIC AUS	c.1855	7809
PECK	UK/AUS/USA		7813
RAWLINGS	Natone TAS AUS		7810
SELF Thomas			7815
SEXTON Cornelias			7815
SLADE Elizabeth	Abbotsbury Dorset ENG	1804-1877	7807
SMITH Cyril Leonard	Deloraine TAS AUS		7808

NEW MEMBERS' INTERESTS

NAME	PLACE/AREA	TIME	M'SHIP NO.
SMITH John	Deloraine TAS AUS		7808
SMITH Samuel	Harby Leicester ENG	1820-1899	7807
SYMONDS	UK/AUS/USA		7813
TAYLOR/CLARKE Elizabeth	New Norfolk TAS AUS	Pre 1844	7818
VIMPANY Sarah	Hobart TAS AUS	c.1800	7816
WALLIS Richard	Abbotsbury Dorset ENG	1799-1876	7807
WALTERS Lydia			7815
WATSON	Ross and Campbell Town TAS AUS		7804
WW1 Men	Mathinna TAS AUS	1914-1919	7803

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HELP WANTED

JONES, John of Ouse

I am seeking information on John JONES of Ouse, Tasmania. He was the father of Elizabeth JONES who married William HAGAN in 1875. Each newspaper snippet I have found identifies 'John Jones, Ouse' or 'John Jones of Ouse' and he is described thus on some of the Hagan children's birth notices.

A John Jones leased 6 acres from Henric Nicholas of *Cawood* between 1877 and 1879, and he may be my John Jones! A couple of Ancestry posts suggest John Jones, his wife and children immigrated to Tasmania in 1855 and may have been assisted by a Mr WILLIAMS of *Rotherwood*, Hamilton.

Please contact Allan Dixon, email I_adixon@bigpond.net.au

CORRECTIONS

See Vol 37 No. 2, September 2016

BURK

p. 98 ... Sarah (née CHAMBEY) should be CHAMLEY

Johann Conrad BURK and wife Ernstine Caroline (née SHAFER) who came from Germany on the *Montmorency*

SMITH

p. 98 ... photograph of their son, William Henry James Peter SMITH and his wife Emily Jane SMITH (née KNIGHT) should be William Henry James SMITH

Darrell would like to thank Jenny and Heather for contacting him after the last *Tasmanian Ancestry* and apologises for not being able to reply to Heather.

Darrell Burk PO Box 41 Upper Burnie TAS 7320

CAN YOU IDENTIFY THIS MAN?



On the left is William Peter Smith (died 18 November 1919) but who is the man on the right? Darrell Burk would appreciate anyone being able to supply his full name.

Darrell Burk PO Box 41 Upper Burnie TAS 7320

With all the dahlias in the photograph it was probably taken around March—Ed. See also Darrell's entry *Latrobe Flower Shows* on page 184. ◀

A THIRKELL BY ANOTHER NAME

Part 5: The Cummins Family

Richie Woolley (Member No. 144)

READERS with good memories may recall a series of articles I wrote in 2010–11 about the THIRKELL family.¹ They might also remember that, on the basis of circumstantial evidence which I won't review here, I concluded that my ancestor Robert Thirkell, of 'Darlington Park' and 'Woodstock', who died in 1876 at the stated age of 86,² was the Robert Thirkeld who was baptised at Aycliffe, near Darlington in Durham, in 1792.³

We all know the value of persistence when it comes to research, and I have recently been able to confirm that my previous identification is almost certainly correct. The key discovery—and here I say three cheers for digitised newspapers—was a short obituary relating to a Mrs David THOMAS, who was described as 'the niece of Robert Thirkell senior of Woodstock' when she died in August 1900!⁴ Mrs Thomas proved to be one Mary Ann CUMMINS, who was said to be 28 when she married David Thomas at Perth on 24 March 1851.⁵ A notice published at the time of her wedding listed her pre-marital residence as 'Darlington Park',⁶ which confirms that,

as stated in the newspaper, she was in some way connected to Robert Thirkell.

Also of interest was the fact that one George 'Cumins' was a witness to Mary Ann's marriage. Since it seemed likely that George was related to the bride, I decided to investigate him further. I soon found a George Cumins, aged 28, had married an Emily Jane DAVIS at Perth on 28 August 1858.⁷ Of even more interest was the fact that the venue for his wedding was the 'House of J F Shultz', who was none other than Robert Thirkell's father-in-law, John Frederick SHULTZ (originally Schutte).⁸

I also discovered many more connections between George Cumins and the Thirkell family. George gave his address as 'Lincoln Grange', one of Robert Thirkell's properties,⁹ when he registered the birth of his first child in 1859.¹⁰ The same place was listed as the family residence in 1862,¹¹ but by 1867 the Cumins family had moved to 'Pockthorpe',¹² another Thirkell property,¹³ where George was working as an overseer. A child born in 1871 was registered by Robert's son, James

¹ *Tasmanian Ancestry*, Volume 31, No. 3, December 2010; Volume 31, No. 4, March 2011; Volume 32, No. 2, June 2011; Volume 32, No. 2, September 2011

² *Examiner*, 4 November 1876; Launceston Death No. 3200, 1876

³ Durham Record Office, Aycliffe Baptisms, EP/AY 1/2

⁴ *Examiner*, 20 August 1900

⁵ Tasmanian Marriage No. 639, 1851

⁶ *Examiner*, 29 March 1851

⁷ Tasmanian Marriage No. 789, 1858

⁸ Tasmanian Marriages, No. 3366, 1836; No. 461, 1839; TAHO, CON 52/1, p. 187; International Genealogical Index (extract from actual record)

⁹ TAHO, LSD 1/1/11, p.445, p. 449

¹⁰ Longford District Birth No. 1520, 1859

¹¹ Tasmanian Baptism No. 5755, 1862

¹² Longford District Birth No. 856, 1867

¹³ Valuation Rolls, *Hobart Town Gazette*, 19 March 1867, 28 January 1868

Thirkell,¹⁴ and the name Rochester, which was the married name of one of the Aycliffe Thirkelds,¹⁵ was bestowed on a Cumins son born in 1884.¹⁶

My working hypothesis at this point was that George and Mary Ann were siblings. Their surname was recorded variously as Cumins,¹⁷ Cummins,¹⁸ Cummings¹⁹ and Cumming,²⁰ but neither individual appeared to have been born here. I eventually determined that Mary Ann had arrived in Launceston on the *Henry* in November 1843.²¹ She was described then as an unmarried domestic servant, and her age was stated to be 19.

It seems Mary Ann's presumed brother George had been in the colony for some eighteen months by the time she arrived. He had evidently sailed into the Tamar on the *Corsair* in May 1842,²² at which time he was said to be a 15-year-old farm servant. This indicates that George was born somewhat earlier than suggested by the record of his marriage, but the probable explanation for this discrepancy is he had shaved a few years off his age when he married his much younger wife

in 1858.²³ Indeed, George was said to be 76 when he died at Cluan, near Westbury, on 26 May 1902,²⁴ an age that is consistent with the earlier date of birth.

Also travelling on the *Corsair* was a John Cummins, aged 21 who, like George, was listed as a farm servant.²⁵ Although I could not trace John beyond his arrival here, I immediately suspected he was the elder brother of George and Mary Ann.

Mary Ann was reported to have been in her 79th year when she died,²⁶ which, in combination with the other two references to her age, suggests she was born in the period from 1822 to 1824. John Cummins was a couple of years older and George some three or four years younger. Clearly, if Mary Ann was Robert Thirkell's niece, then her mother must have been Robert's sister and was probably born a Thirkell/Thirkeld (although she could have had a different surname if she and Robert were half-siblings).

At this point I was ready to check English records to see whether or not I could establish that there was indeed a relationship between the three Cumins/Cummins individuals and the Aycliffe Thirkell-/Thirkeld family. The wonderful **durhamrecordsonline.com** website provides access to a near-complete set of church records for the county, and I soon found index entries for a John, Mary Ann and George Cummins, who were all baptised in the Auckland District of Durham, in 1820, 1822 and 1826 respectively.²⁷ Even more excitingly, the same district was the location for an 1819 marriage between a

¹⁴ Longford District, Birth No. 963, 1871

¹⁵ Jane Thirkeld (1794–1869) married John Rochester at Aycliffe on 15 February 1814 [DRO, EP/AY 1/6]. George's use of the Rochester name might indicate that Jane cared for him after his mother's death, an event mentioned elsewhere in this article.

¹⁶ Westbury District Birth No. 3416, 1884

¹⁷ Tasmanian Marriage No. 789, 1858; Campbell Town District Birth No. 654, 1861

¹⁸ Longford District Births, No. 1520, 1859; No. 925, 1870

¹⁹ Longford District Birth No. 856, 1867

²⁰ Longford District Birth No. 995, 1876

²¹ TAHO, CB7/9/1/1, p115; CSO95/1/1, p. 187; *Examiner*, 4 November 1843

²² TAHO, CB7/9/1/1, p. 59

²³ Tasmanian Marriage No. 789, 1858

²⁴ *Examiner*, 27 May 1902

²⁵ TAHO, CB7/9/1/1, p. 59

²⁶ *Examiner*, 20 August 1900

²⁷ **www.durhamrecordsonline.com**, Auckland District, Record Numbers 580358.0, 624249.0, 624457.0

John ‘Cummin’ and a Mary Thirkeld.²⁸ I already knew that the Robert Thirkeld who had been christened at Aycliffe had a sister named Mary, baptised in the same parish in July 1788,²⁹ so it was with some anticipation that I ordered full details for the relevant entries.

To my delight, they confirmed that John, Mary Ann and George Cummins were indeed siblings: all children of John Cummins, a carpenter and joiner, and his wife Mary. The three children had been baptised at Merrington, a parish which shares a boundary with Aycliffe.³⁰ Their parents had been married at Auckland St Andrew, which adjoins both Aycliffe and Merrington,³¹ so all the events relating to the Cummins family had occurred within a proverbial stone’s-throw of the Aycliffe Thirkelds.

John and Mary Cummins were living at Windlestone, a hamlet within the parish of Auckland St Andrew, when Mary Ann and George were baptised. A Mary ‘Cummin’ was also described as a resident of Windlestone when she was buried at Auckland St Andrew in February 1832.³² This woman was almost certainly the mother of the Cummins children. Her age was recorded as 43, which is exactly how old Robert Thirkeld’s sister Mary would have been at that time. All the evidence points to the same conclusion: if Mary Ann Cummins was Robert Thirkell’s niece, then he was the child baptised at Aycliffe in 1792.

Mary’s husband was probably the John Cummins who was buried at Auckland St Andrew in November 1838.³³ If this identification is correct, then his death orphaned the three Cummins children. This may explain, at least in part, why they subsequently left England for Van Diemen’s Land, where their uncle Robert was a prosperous farmer.

As I mentioned in my previous articles, there was another member of the Aycliffe Thirkeld family who migrated to Tasmania: Robert’s brother, Ralph Thirkell (baptised 1797),³⁴ who died on the ‘Hollywood’ property near Cressy in November 1880.³⁵ I previously posed the question how it was that Ralph, an agricultural labourer of limited means with neither wife nor children, came to have a death notice published in a local newspaper? Well, the answer now seems clear, because ‘Hollywood’ was being rented at the relevant time by none other than George Cummins!³⁶ With government pensions for the elderly still no more than a dream, George was almost certainly providing a home for his aged uncle, and was surely the person responsible for inserting the announcement relating to Ralph’s death.



²⁸ www.durhamrecordsonline.com
Auckland District, Record No. 328731.1

²⁹ Durham Record Office, Aycliffe
Baptisms, EP/AY 1/2

³⁰ C.P. Humphrey-Smith; The Phillimore
Atlas and Index of Parish Registers, 1995

³¹ Ibid.

³² www.durhamrecordsonline.com
Auckland District, Record No. 1013625.2

³³ www.durhamrecordsonline.com
Auckland District, Record No. 692537.2.
John’s residence was said to be ‘Rushy
Ford’, another Hamlet near Windlestone,
and the place that was also listed as the
family home when John Cummins junior
was baptised in 1820.

³⁴ Durham Record Office, Aycliffe
Baptisms, EP/AY 1/2

³⁵ *Examiner*, 30 November 1880

³⁶ Valuation Roll, *Hobart Town Gazette*, 21
January 1879; *Examiner*, 16 November
1880, 25 March 1881, 17 August 1881

After completing this research I discovered George Cumins' grave in the Anglican Cemetery at Westbury, marked by a headstone, it states he was born in October 1827 at Bishop Auckland in Durham.

While this confirmed his county of origin, it did cast some doubt on my identification of George as the child baptised at Merrington in 1826. To determine whether or not I had made a mistake, I checked the Durham database for a baptism that might match the details given on the headstone. To my relief, I was unable to find such an entry, and I am confident the information on the headstone is simply a somewhat garbled version of the truth.

George Cummins of Windlestone was baptised on 19 November 1826, which would fit with an October date of birth in 1826, rather than the stated 1827. As

baptismal records of this period almost always record the place where a family was living at that time, rather than the actual birthplace of the child concerned, it is possible George was indeed born at Bishop Auckland rather than at Windlestone, which is some five kilometres to its east. Another possibility is that, having lost his parents while he was still quite young, George didn't know exactly where he was born. Alternatively, Bishop Auckland is the nearest large town to the tiny hamlet of Windlestone, and it is possible George told his Tasmanian family, who would have known little or nothing about Durham, that he had been born near Bishop Auckland, rather than at Windlestone. Whatever the case, much stronger evidence than that provided by the headstone would be needed to sever the link between George Cummins and the Thirkells of Aycliffe and Tasmania. ◀



Headstone of George Cumins, Westbury Anglican Cemetery
Photograph: Richie Woolley

A MOST UNUSUAL CHAP

R A Chapman



'Loughcrew', County Meath, southern Ireland.

Introduction

This account arose following the discovery of a photograph of 'Loughcrew' in Co. Meath where I had been a guest in late 1945 while on leave from the Royal Navy. Another guest was the Australian Robert MATTHEWS who was a bit of a mystery man. Sir Nicholas NUGENT of Ballinlough Castle informed me Matthews had married the heiress of 'Loughcrew' in 1946 but was reluctant to provide further information. Searches of online newspapers on Trove provided many details, some photographs and reported the disappearance of Robert's plane while flying from Northolt to Dublin in 1953.

While visiting an old friend, Allan HUNTER, I mentioned Robert's last flight and he suggested I should contact Ernie CROMIE of Northern Ireland who annually visits the site where Allan's brother had crashed in his bomber during WWII. This contact proved to be a most important one, because Ernie sent my enquiry to Peter AMOS in England who was very knowledgeable about the type of aircraft flown by Robert. Through him, I obtained a 12-page report on the enquiry into the plane's disappearance and had useful contacts with Ronan GREGORY who had obtained the report and had been interested in a theory the plane had been deliberately disposed of and did not crash in the Irish Sea.

Records of Robert's service in the RAAF and the Australian Army were obtained from the National Archives of Australia and a copy of his will came from the National Archives of Ireland. Several Australian genealogists responded to my requests for information about Robert and I am especially grateful to Marg MANSFIELD and Trish SYMONDS for the large number of newspaper references they provided.

Others who provided very helpful assistance include Seamus SMITH of Ballinacree, Andrew DAWRANT of The Royal Aero Club in London and SHELLEY of Air Accidents Investigation Branch (UK) but probably the most interesting contact arose almost by accident. I sent an enquiry to the Oldcastle Police who referred it to the District Superintendent in Kells. In reply to my enquiry I was sent contact details for Richard KILROY of The Moat, Oldcastle. As a boy, Richard saw Robert regularly. His comments have been invaluable and I am most grateful for his interest and information. Comments and discussion following a talk at the Ballinacree Historical Society have also been invaluable.

I am very appreciative of the interest, suggestions and encouragement I have received from my family.

ROBERT RICHARD MATTHEWS was born at Hillside Crescent, Launceston, Tasmania on either 21 October 1918 or 1920. When he enlisted in the RAAF he did not produce a birth certificate but made a statutory declaration that he was born in 1918. Later, when he joined the Australian Army he gave 1920 as his birth year which is more likely because he is listed

as being 33 when he died in 1953. His parents were Robert Richard Alexander Matthews and Jessie Elizabeth Matthews (née FAULKNER).

Their marriage in 1910 was registered at Coonamble in northern NSW. They appear to have had seven children. At some stage, Robert (senior) may have been manager of a cattle station somewhere in Australia but in 1926 he was an insurance agent and appeared before the Launceston Court charged with theft, in that he collected a premium from a client but did not hand it in to the insurance company office. During the hearing, a witness implied Robert was rather too fond of the races and drink. Because his duties were poorly defined, it was ruled there was no charge to answer and he was discharged.

In October 1934, a Robert Richard Matthews was fined for driving a car without a licence. This may have been his father, but in a later court appearance his father denied saying he would accept no responsibility for his son when that person was sent to prison for getting into trouble. When interviewed prior to joining the RAAF, Robert admitted a traffic offence but stated it was for riding a bicycle on a

footpath in 1938. It is possible the denial by his father may not have related to a traffic infringement or to Robert.

Robert's parents had a very troubled marriage. At some time his mother and eldest daughter lived in two rooms in a boarding house and the remaining children were boarded out. At that time, Robert's father was a travelling salesman, rarely came home and failed to provide adequate



Robert Richard Matthews

financial support for his children and his wife who earned money sewing. It was also alleged the husband was associating with other women and in 1936 Jessie applied to the court at Hobart for a divorce. An account of the proceedings shows the marriage had been severely troubled for years. Both parties made conflicting statements, but in the end the case was decided in Jessie's favour. All this may have

affected Robert and account for his unusual behaviour as an adult. Although no details of his being boarded out are known, it could have been an unsettling experience and perhaps he survived by looking after his own interests and only doing what he wanted.

Between 1936 and 1940, Robert was a barman, a drinks waiter at several hotels, a waiter and butler in a private home and an assistant cook. A newspaper said he was a cattleman so it is possible he also worked on a cattle station. At the start of World War II in 1939, all Australian unmarried men aged 21 were required to do three months' military training serving only in Australia and its territories. Conscription was introduced in mid 1942

when all men 18–35, and single men 35–45, were required to join the Citizens Military Force (CMF).

When Robert enlisted in the RAAF on 30 September 1940, he gave 50 Colville Street, Battery Point Hobart as his father's address, with his own address as c/- Post Office Richmond Queensland about 500km west of Townsville where he was living in No. 3 Mobile Unit. Here also, he was interviewed before being accepted by the RAAF. Passed medically fit for service, he was 5ft 8in tall with fair complexion, fair hair, blue eyes and no obvious distinguishing marks. Educationally he qualified and had a merit certificate. He signed the Oath of Allegiance and a form detailing conditions relating to serving in the RAAF. The Recruitment Officer's report stated he was a sober, honest and responsible man and not known to be a member of the Communist party. His trade test as a mess steward stated he had good knowledge of table waiting and as a drinks steward a fair knowledge of valet duties. He was neat, clean, spoke well, was intelligent and alert. The report concluded he was a very good type and suitable to be a mess steward but noted he had not served an apprenticeship.

His service number was 23632, his rank was Aircraftsman Class I (the lowest rank in the RAAF) and his next of kin, his mother. He was posted to Sandgate Station near Brisbane where he became a mess steward. Sandgate was part of the Air Training Plan. It does not appear to have been a flying school. Successful candidates usually went to another station for flying training and then to Canada for advanced training.

Despite favourable reports prior to entering the RAAF, Robert's service was notable for its problems. From 11–29 October 1940 and again from 10 July to 1

August 1941 he was in hospital or on sick leave. Records do not show causes of illness but it may have been an ear problem. At the end of 1940, he was rated as an inferior mess steward with bad conduct.

Disciplinary offences began on 12 February 1941 when he left his duty post and was given 7 days' detention and four days later when he failed to attend the 06:00 parade, a further 7 days' detention. On 10 March 1941, he went on leave to consult an ear specialist and did not return to Sandgate. A warrant for his arrest was issued and sent to all Police Commissioners in the main Australian cities. He was arrested on 22 May 1941 at Ilfracombe near Longreach in central Queensland, about 650km from the eastern coast. An RAAF Medical Officer found Robert to be in a fit state of health to stand trial. He faced a court martial on 13 June 1941 and charged with desertion. The President was a Squadron Leader who was assisted by five RAAF officers. The prosecution called eight witnesses who were cross-examined at length by the prosecutor and defence. Much time was taken up in establishing Robert had not been seen at Sandgate since he went on leave. A thorough search of the station found no trace of him and noted he had taken all his possessions with him. He may also have had some civilian clothes. Robert had been seen on a Brisbane street and said he was going to Tasmania and might return. He also admitted that he had not seen an ear specialist.

A Corporal of the Service Police who escorted the prisoner from Ilfracombe to Brisbane, had been told by Robert that instead of going to Tasmania, he went to Townsville, then Mount Isa and finally to Marchmont Station near Longreach. He had been employed for 10 days at £3 per week burr cutting with a sickle and crutching sheep. He worked 12 hours a

day wearing either shorts or a bathing costume. He claimed he was earning money so he could return to Sandgate, and left because he was fed up and unwell and hoped for a different job in the RAAF.

In Robert's evidence, he said he had £29 when he left camp and also visited Maryborough, Bunderberg, Cairns, Hughenden and Longreach, wore his uniform at all times, had not changed his name and told people he was on holiday.

Robert was cross-examined at length by the prosecutor but his defending officer did not examine him and made no reference to Robert's difficult childhood. In his final address, the prosecutor claimed the evidence showed Robert intended to desert because he had taken all his belongings, that instead of going south he went north and he made no effort to hand himself in to the police. His defending officer emphasized Robert had made no attempt to use a disguise and that he intended to return to camp.

The Judge Advocate noted Robert had been away a very long way from camp for 73 days. This did not in itself prove him guilty of desertion. The court had to decide if he intended to desert and whether they believed Robert's evidence. The court found him guilty and sentenced him to 90 days detention to be followed by discharge from the Australian armed forces. On 20 June, he broke away from his escort on the way to the latrines and attempted to escape but was unsuccessful. Following a 14-day remission, he was discharged from the RAAF on 29 August 1941 and went to live at a house called Binda Gundra in Murray Street Goulburn, NSW. He received no pay for the period he was AWOL and in detention.

The following year, as a result of conscription, Robert was required to enlist in the military services and appeared before an Army Enlistment Officer on 12 June

1942 at Prospect, South Australia. He gave his place of birth as Hobart and not Launceston, his date of birth 11 October 1920 and not 1918. When nominating his father as next of kin, he recorded his father's name as Richard Alexander Matthews, omitting Robert. It seems likely he was deliberately trying to avoid anything to do with his earlier service in the RAAF as he did not include this on his Army enrolment form. Robert claimed he held a certificate that entitled him to entry to a secondary school but no higher qualification. He gave his address as 46 Prospect Road, Adelaide and occupation motor driver but did not specify whether a truck or a car driver. Following a medical examination, because of an old mastoid operation he was graded as Class II, a rating was below Class I. An appendix scar and a stab wound were also noted.

Sometime between September 1941 and June 1942, Robert may have been employed as a station hand at Cockburn, a railway settlement on the border of South Australia and NSW involved with bringing mineral ore from Broken Hill, 281 miles NE of Adelaide. A friend who was a fellow station hand, had nervous breakdown, and appeared in the Supreme Court for stabbing Matthews. The judge noted the injury was serious and might have caused death. Perhaps Matthews left the railway after this and became a motor driver in Adelaide before joining the Army. Robert was not called up for full-time military service until 10 July and was posted to the 25th Labour Company on 21 July—possibly as a driver. His service number was S4879 and his rank Private. On the following day, he was admitted to a military hospital with otis media problem (middle ear infection) and did not return to his unit until 15 August. On 21 August, he was granted sick leave and on 9 September declared medically unfit and

discharged. Other than being in hospital or on sick leave, his Army service totalled just a few days.

An Australian newspaper claimed he served in the Royal Australian Navy. Detailed records held by the Australian Veterans Affairs Department do not list him for the RAN. Another paper stated he was in the Merchant Navy, had been torpedoed twice and ended up recuperating at Dublin. A photograph shows him wearing a flat cap with a badge similar to one worn by some merchant seamen. Another photograph is much clearer and it is almost certain he was wearing a Merchant Service officer's cap.

A Port Company vessel, *Port Auckland*, left Brisbane on its return voyage to Britain in early 1943 and it is possible Robert joined her at Brisbane. On 8 March 1943, she was at Halifax Nova Scotia then took the northern route towards Greenland. A U-boat sank her south of Cape Farewell on 17 March. The survivors were rescued by HMS *Godetia* and landed at Gourock at the entrance to the Clyde. No crew list has been sighted to confirm Robert was aboard this ship. If he was, it is possible he may have had a short shore leave and then joined another Port line ship, the *Port Victor*, departing for Buenos Aires. On 17 April, the ship was at Montevideo and on 1 May it was sunk by a U-boat near the Azores. A Robert Matthews is on the crew list as an apprentice, i.e. an Ordinary Seaman not yet qualified to be an Able Seaman. Because no date of birth is beside his name, there is no definite proof that this was the Australian man. The sloop HMS *Wren* rescued survivors and landed them at Liverpool, which had been the ship's original destination. The ship's captain wrote a letter of commendation for this Robert Matthews and as a result, he was awarded the British Empire Medal for bravery at sea.

A former merchant navy navigator, who had sailed the Scotland to Buenos Aires route, calculated the *Port Victor*, built in 1942, would have been capable of at least 12 knots. She would have had sufficient time to reach Buenos Aires then return to the Azores area where she was torpedoed on 1 May 1943. She was not in a convoy because ships with a good turn of speed were allowed to sail independently. Because there is no definite proof the Australian Robert Matthews was aboard these two ships, the above account must remain not proved but it is most unlikely he would have been an officer in such a short time in the merchant service and entitled to wear an officer's cap.

Another Australian paper said he had been a cattle man, a ship's steward and a film extra. Although the sinkings may account for 1943, there still remains the question about his life in 1944 before he went to 'Loughcrew', a very large estate in Co. Meath in southern Ireland. However, the *Sydney Truth* of 17 November 1946 claimed Robert had been a cattleman and had played the part of a bomber crew in the film 'The Way to the Stars' and was an extra in 'Waltz Time'. He said he met Adela NAPER in London and frequently went to the theatre and social gatherings with her to meet members of the aristocracy. The *Daily Mirror*, 18 November 1946, states he came to 'Loughcrew' under a Services Guest Scheme two years after the death of James Naper in 1942. So, he must have arrived in 1944.

'Loughcrew' came into the possession of the Naper family in 1653 as a result of 'service to the Crown' and later to Oliver Cromwell. It grew in size to 180,000 acres and included farms, villages and towns like Oldcastle and Kells. In the late 1800s and early 1900s, large estates were broken up and some of the Naper estate

was sold off. The 67-room large house was built in 1823, survived a fire in 1888 and was restored. A later owner, James Lennox Naper married Adela TREFUSIS in 1902, served in the Royal Horse Guards in World War 1 and was awarded the Military Cross. He died without issue. In July 1946, Mrs Naper appointed Robert as steward of the estate but the farm workers refused to work for him right in the middle of haymaking and for three weeks they were all on strike. About the same time, Fort Lurgan estate was bought for £3,000 in the name of Mr Matthews. This was before he married Mrs Naper at Marylebone Registry Office in mid November 1946. Adela Naper was the wealthy heiress of Loughcrew. She was 67 and he was only 25. Lady Leicester, who was Adela's sister, had spoken to her just a few days before the wedding and it was not mentioned. She thought there was nothing in the rumour. Following the wedding, he changed his name to Rodney Richard Matthews-Naper by deed-poll. Rodney (Robert) quickly adapted to the role of 'lord of the manor' and appears to have spent estate funds freely. He and Adela were active members of the Ballymacad Hunt. They took part in a hunt shortly after their marriage and Rodney was in full club uniform including a yellow waistcoat and cravat. They then retired to 'Loughcrew House' and declined to see any reporters.

The Mail (Adelaide) of 11 April 1953 stated local gentry had boycotted the marriage, cold-shouldered him when he attended the local hunt and named him 'the flying fool'. They did not appreciate his Australian accent and considered him to be an uncouth nobody.

Adela, granddaughter of the Duke of Buccleugh, died on 11 October 1952 and Rodney inherited the 'Loughcrew House' contents totalling about 800 objects with

an estimated value of £70,000. He may have sold the more expensive items privately in London and the remainder at an auction at 'Loughcrew' that lasted three days. Because there were no children by his marriage, the house itself and the estate, which was now only 2,000 acres, went to a Naper relative and lived in his smaller nearby estate Fort Lurgan at Virginia in Co Cavan.

He learned to fly in Eire in 1948 and was granted an Irish Pilot's A licence on 22 October 1948, which was exchanged for a Private Pilot's Licence on 14 December 1951. Rodney, or more probably his wife, had purchased a two-seater plane in June 1948 but in July he crashed it when trying to land on a farm field near Oldcastle. The plane's tailpiece had caught in a ditch and broke. Amazingly Rodney was thrown clear without any injuries. In January 1949, he again crashed this plane when he attempted to take off at 'Loughcrew'. Frost on the wings appears to have been the problem. One wing was torn off and the other damaged but he escaped with only a minor facial injury.

An Oldcastle man remembers often meeting Rodney when he landed his plane on the family's farmland and Rodney took members of the family for a flight. Rodney also frequently visited the family and took the then boy fishing on Lough Sheelin where he had a powerboat. He also took the boy to Dublin and to his new home Fort Lurgan. Perhaps this paternal interest in the boy and his family was in response to his own unfortunate childhood. The man said Rodney never mentioned his wartime service or experiences.

Contrary to newspaper comments, Rodney was accepted into 'local' society, the locals thinking him a great novelty. However, higher society thought him to be a disaster. It is said the gentry later regret-

ted their harsh comments about Rodney and intended to erect a memorial in the parish church at Oldcastle with the inscription 'To a gallant Australian – much misjudged.' No memorial was erected.

Rodney became closely involved in the local Agricultural Show Committee and the Ballymacad Foxhounds but some members found his impetuosity and quick temper offensive. 'During his year as president of the Agricultural Show Committee he threw himself heart and soul into making the annual show a conspicuous success. He spared neither time nor money in the interests of the show.' He was responsible for an unusual publicity stunt by flying his plane over several local towns and dropping leaflets advertising the 1950 Oldcastle Carnival which raised funds for the Agricultural Show. Following a complaint, he ended up in the Kells District Court along with his wife and William Edward KILROY for dropping leaflets without gaining prior approval. The Judge applied the Probations Act in each case and because they were unlikely to offend, simply gave them warning.

Between 1948 and 1953, Rodney took part in several Irish Aero Club flying competitions and appears to have gained the nickname of 'The Flying Fool' possibly because of his risky style of flying.

Flight magazine records his occupation as farmer and mentions he used his plane for both business and recreation. In June 1951, he went to the Festival of Britain aero races at Hatfield aerodrome in Hertfordshire north of London, but extreme weather prevented any flying. As an enthusiastic flyer, he organised a private air rally in 1952 at Dunmore East. Although having a meticulous eye for detail, he was noted for his particular type of reckless courage.

On 22 February 1950 Adela purchased a Miles Messenger, but on 3 May it suffered damage at Dublin viz leading edge, propeller and undercarriage torn off. Rodney suffered two broken ribs and it cost him £300 to repair the plane now registered in Rodney's name as G-AKBL. When the aircraft was given this UK registration he obtained limited validation of his licence and in January 1953 he became a full member of The Royal Aero Club in London.

In 1953, he planned to fly his Miles Messenger Mark 2a single-engine plane, cream with crimson markings, from Dublin to Australia. In an article about his proposed trip, he mentioned it would cost him about £750 and his reason for the trip was to promote private flying. He went to London in March to finalize details. On his approach to Northolt, the



The Miles Messenger G-AKBL

traffic controller gave him permission to land to pickup two passengers and he was number 2 to land. During his approach, Rodney cut in ahead of the other plane allocated number 1.

He departed from Northolt at 6:40 p.m. on 1 April. His last radio contact was at 10 p.m. and it appears he crashed in the Irish Sea. Aerial and land searches found no trace of his body and in July the High Court in Dublin declared him officially dead. Some doubt remains about his crash. One theory is that he landed the plane in a lake at 'Loughcrew' then disappeared with the money he had raised from selling the art work in London and auctioning the contents of the big house.

The inquest into the crash was unable to reach a definite conclusion about the cause of the crash. However it noted Rodney's licence was not valid for the night flight to Dublin and he did not hold an Instrument Rating or a Night Rating. In addition, he did not hold a Flight Radiotelephony Operator's Licence and he was not qualified or suitably experienced to undertake the flight. It is strange he was given permission to take off at Northolt. The Air Accidents Investigation Authority UK does not know why the report in 1953 was marked confidential and did not become available to the public until 2011. It is also strange that Rodney said he was to pick up two passengers at Northolt but while the plane was being refuelled, only one man appeared and was offered a seat to Dublin. This man, Walter BRADLEY of the British European Airways, is thought to have had a mother and sister living in Dublin and was seen to board the aircraft. Official records are vague about passengers. Some state one passenger and others suggest none. Why was he expecting any passengers? Perhaps the man who board-

ed the plane became the pilot and disposed of the aircraft somewhere while Rodney slipped away unnoticed during the refuelling.

Rodney's will was dated 28 January 1953 and the executors were Trevor George McVEAGH, solicitor of Dublin and Colonel Michael H CRICHTON of London. McVeagh was left £200, a black Labrador dog and a 12-bore double-barrel shot gun. Crichton was left all the stocks, shares and securities being Adela's Wife's Fund under the marriage settlement for her first marriage in 1902. Crichton and Lloyds Bank were trustees for this fund. Col Crichton stated Rodney had £12,926 in the bank, £29,494 in securities, furniture £4,907, paintings £6,011, personal accident insurance £1,000 and £2,500 insurance on his plane. The personal insurance had been taken out on 27 March 1953 only a few days before his final flight. Another newspaper stated Rodney left assets of £61,856 and liabilities £26,872.

He left his house, 'Fort Lurgan' at Virginia, Co. Cavan, and its grounds of 84 acres, to 17-year-old Miss Annabel WILSON from Lenaderg, Banbridge, Co. Down, Northern Ireland, daughter of a friend. A newspaper reported that she said, "We weren't engaged, but I liked him very much. I will sell the property." A diamond buckle brooch that had belonged to Adela, and before her to the Duchess of Buccleugh, was to be given to HRH Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone of Kensington Palace, London. The sum of £250 was left to Miss Marcella QUINN of Rathmeath, Delvin in Co. Westmeath providing she was still in his employment at the time of his death. She was probably his housekeeper. The balance of the estate was left to his mother Mrs Elizabeth Matthews of Poets Road, Hobart. She later

remarried and became Mrs R F MULLINS of Knocklofty Terrace, Hobart.

The Wife's Fund for Adela was derived from her marriage settlement which was an arrangement whereby land or other assets were set up at the time of her first marriage by the parents of the bride and groom. The trustees were the legal owners and the married couple the beneficial owners of the assets. Crichton became a trustee in 1953, probably replacing an earlier trustee. His mother, Katherine Helen Elizabeth Crichton (née TREFUSIS) was Adela's sister. Another sister, Marion Coke Trefusis, became Duchess of Leicester. They were children of Col Hon Walter Rodolph Trefusis and Lady Mary Charlotte Montegu Douglas SCOTT, daughter of 5th Duke of Buccleugh.

Michael Henry Crichton had been a Lieutenant in the Royal Horse Guards as a Reserve Officer but undertook active service during WWII. In 1943 he was second in command of the 'A' group based in Cairo and in March 1943 he was appointed Major, then temporary Lieut Colonel, in charge of a new 'A' group HQ in Algiers. The objective of this group was to feed misinformation through spies to German commanders and also to organise deceptive groups of dummy tanks, artillery and trucks in strategic locations in the Middle East. For his services, he was awarded an OBE in 1944. On 1 February 1958 he relinquished his command having reached retirement age and was granted the rank of Hon. Colonel. In civilian life pre-war, he had been a stock broker and after the war an investment trust adviser and was appointed as High Sheriff of County Fermanagh in Northern Ireland.

Without doubt, Robert (aka Rodney) had an unusual career that included an unexpected 'rags to riches' sequence of events. In between was his brief service

in the RAAF and an even briefer time in the Australian Army. Whether he served in the Merchant Navy in 1943, was torpedoed twice in the Atlantic and recommended for a Bravery at Sea medal remains unproven.

Marrying into a very rich Irish family gave him the opportunity to indulge in flying as an absorbing pastime. *Flight* magazine noted that he used his plane for business as well as for recreation but did not state what type of business. Was he involved in some sort of illegal activity such as drugs, avoiding customs or espionage? It is known he flew to London frequently but not why.

There is great uncertainty about what happened on 1 April 1953. Why did he expect to pick up two passengers at Northolt and why did only one turn up and was seen to get into Rodney's plane? Did the plane crash in the Irish Sea or was it disposed of elsewhere? Did Rodney disappear with the considerable proceeds from the sale of the contents of 'Loughcrew House'? He had changed his name once before and may well have adopted another name, disappeared into a large city, or perhaps left for Europe or South America. He could have lived out the rest of his life in comparatively comfortable affluence. He may have remarried and produced a family or returned to Australia under a new name and settled down to enjoy his proceeds from 'Loughcrew'.

Finally, was he just a con man and a rogue, or was his adult behaviour determined mainly as a result of his unfortunate childhood? It is highly unlikely the full story of his adult life in Ireland or elsewhere will ever be known unless there is yet another unexpected contact. ◀

All images supplied by the author.

R A Chapman, Christchurch, New Zealand.

HER MAJESTY'S CONVICT SHIP *PHOEBE* IRELAND TO VAN DIEMEN'S LAND 7 SEPTEMBER 1844 – 9 JANUARY 1845

Alan Baker (Member No. 4132)

GENERAL REMARKS
On 7 September the *Phoebe* hired Convict Ship sailed from Deptford for Kingstown Island where on the 24th of that month one hundred & twenty eight Female convicts and Twenty eight Children all apparently in good health were received on board; next day on putting to sea one case was placed on the sick list with soreness in the chest attended by cough & [prevalent] expectoration tinged with blood; the patient continued unwell with only occasional relief until Discharged to Hospital on our arrival at Hobart Town.

During the first six weeks of the passage seasickness was the prevailing complaint, accompanied as usual in females with Syncope & Hysteria in various degrees & shapes, many cases being very troublesome tho' not placed on the Sick List.

On approaching the Tropics a few Cases of Dysentery made their appearance, but they were generally tractable & readily gave way to medicine.

One case however terminated unfavourably; it occurred in a young woman, pregnant, but not known to be so, until the disease having resisted the usual remedies for a time. I was called suddenly on the night of the 11th October & found the patient on the chair in great pain as if in Labour. At first she was averse to give information on the subject suspected, but a recurrence of pain induced her to submit to examination & a dead Foetus of about four or five months was

found partially delivered. The delivery was immediately completed: no haemorrhage took place, but the [tenseness] continued unabated in defiance of every means used to check it. Vomiting became [superadded to the purging] & the patient two days afterwards, died exhausted.

Prickly Heat was very prevalent amongst both women & children while in the Tropics & most of the younger children were at the same time afflicted with a peculiar vesicular eruption attended by slight fever: the vesicles were large, containing a thin yellow serum & after increasing in size for several days, these burst or were broken, leaving a dark scab, & occasionally a sore rather tedious in healing. As a result of these eruptions & the previous sea Sickness, vaccination was deferred until a later date: it was then tried at different periods on about twenty cases but none of them exhibited any other effect than a slight reddening of the skin.

One case of Labour described in the Journal occasioned some anxiety: it was an 'Arm presentation' & the child already apparently dead from compression, caused by the fruitless efforts of Nature for its expulsion, had to be perforated in order to save the mother. The other case of Labour did well & a few days afterwards the mother & child were landed in good health.

The case of Nostalgia contains no point of interest fit for detailing: the patient was chiefly remarkable for great irritability of

temper & very filthy habits; at times she refused all proper food & medicine, but at length by a continuation of firmness & temporizing she began to take her food more regularly & with the assistance of Quinine (given in Port Wine) she recovered strength so as to be discharged to duty before leaving the Ship.

With these & a few other exceptions the Prisoners were generally very healthy. Every day weather admitting they were allowed on deck from an early hour until near sunset & the afternoon whenever practicable was occupied in various recreations affording amusement and exercises. The weather throughout was for the most part favourable & only two severe gales of wind were experienced towards the conclusion of the passage.

A F Macleroy

The Surgeon, Alexander Macleroy compiled a list of cases he had to deal with during the journey, and listed eight as noteworthy and of some consequence.

ANN KERR Aged 56. Phthisis 25 September 1844. Depression, sore in the chest, troublesome cough, blisters. Spent entire voyage in doctor's care. Hospitalised upon arrival at Hobart Town

JULIA BOLAND. Aged 25. Ulcers. Dysentery 9 October 1844. Pain in the right breast. Nursing a thin weakly child about 2 months old. Discharged 11 October. Again in need of medical care 28 October, more ulceration spreading. Hospitalised upon arrival at Hobart town.

HONORA REGAN Aged 24. Dysentery. 9 October 1844. Emaciated. Nausea and vomiting. Undetected pregnancy discovered 11 October 1844. Dead foetus

delivered. Died at sea 9.30 a.m. 13 October 1844.

MARGARET FINNEGAN. Aged 26. Ulcers. 28 October 1844. Right leg swollen from knee down. Careless, dirty and disobedient patient. Discharged 23 December, but leg got worse. Hospitalised upon arrival at Hobart Town.

MARY McLEANE Aged 19. Concussion. 13 November 1844. Fell heavily on slippery deck, hit temple. Headaches, nausea and vomiting. 2 operations 16 November. Recovered by mid December, but kept on sick list because of quarrelsome nature. Discharged 2 January 1845 on arrival at Hobart Town.

ALICE McQUADE Aged 40. Parturition. 20 November 1844. Arm presentation pregnancy. Difficult labour, foetus dead. General discomfort and some pain. Discharged to duty 5 December 1844

SARAH WARD Aged 26. Abortio. 12 December 1844. Nausea and pregnancy pains. Tried to hide pregnancy—fell, hurt herself, refused medical examination 13 December, labour pains—dead foetus delivered. 21 December discharged to duty.

CATHERINE HARKIN Aged 20. Tumour. 26 December 1844. Tumour in right side of abdomen. Colic pain and constipation. Hospitalised upon arrival at Hobart town.

On arrival in Hobart Town the women spent the rest of their probation time on the prison hulk *Anson* anchored in the River Derwent, after which, they were available for hiring.

Surgeon Superintendent

SICK LIST OF *PHOEBE*

BETWEEN 7 SEPTEMBER 1844 AND 9 JANUARY 1845

(Mr AF Macleroy, Surgeon—Adm. 101/59/5)

All were convicts unless otherwise noted

NAME	ON SICK LIST	Age	DISEASE OR WOUND	OFF SICK LIST	HOW DISPOSED
Charles ROBERTS, Seaman	16 Sep	22	Wound	23 Sep	To duty
Daniel McNAMARA, Boatswain	21 Sep	37	Wound	30 Sep	To duty
Ann KERR	25 Sep	56	Phthisis	3 Jan '45	Hospital
Mary Ann MAJOR	26 Sep	28	Gonorrhoea	21 Oct	To duty
Julia BOLAND	26 Sep	25	Mamy. Abcess	11 Oct	To duty
John ALLAN, Seaman	28 Sep	21	Hernia Humoralis	11 Oct	To duty
Elizabeth KELLY	30 Sep	52	Mental Aberration	21 Oct	To duty
Ellen REILLY	7 Oct	33	Febricula	23 Oct	To duty
Honora REGAN (Margaret McCARTHY)	9 Oct	24	Dysentery	13 Oct	Dead
Elizabeth LEE	9 Oct	52	Syncope	25 Oct	To duty
Judith BYRNE	9 Oct	24	Dysentery	25 Oct	To duty
Ann HOURIGAN	10 Oct	25	Psora	25 Oct	To duty
Jane CONNOLLY	12 Oct	20	Psora	8 Nov	To duty
Ellen RIORDAN	12 Oct	30	Ophthalmia	17 Oct	To duty
Mary CONNOLLY	12 Oct	19	Psora	18 Oct	To duty
Mary SHERIDAN	14 Oct	32	Menorrhagia	10 Nov	To duty
Margaret BYRNE	15 Oct	22	Febricula	28 Oct	To duty
Margaret COLLINS	16 Oct	30	Febricula	10 Nov	To duty
Catherine QUINN	21 Oct	30	Febricula	23 Oct	To duty
George MONROE, Seaman	21 Oct	20	Dysentery	31 Oct	To duty
Mary TAAFE	22 Oct	20	Dysuria	2 Nov	To duty
Frances McAULEY	23 Oct	40	Dysentery	31 Oct	To duty

NAME	ON SICK LIST	Age	DISEASE OR WOUND	OFF SICK LIST	HOW DISPOSED
Mary BRYAN	23 Oct	40	Syncope	28 Oct	To duty
Mary Ann NORMOYLE	23 Oct	18	Constipation	25 Oct	To duty
Bridget HUGHES	24 Oct	33	Hysteria	15 Nov	To duty
Sarah O'BRIEN	25 Oct	21	Colic	1 Nov	To duty
Julia BOLAND	28 Oct	29	Ulcer	3 Jan '45	Hospital
Margaret FINNEGAN	28 Oct	26	Ulcer	23 Dec	To duty
Bridget JOHNSON	28 Oct	25	Febricula	3 Nov	To duty
Mary BURNS	30 Oct	34	Dysentery	11 Nov	To duty
Margaret LEE	30 Oct	36	Colic	2 Nov	To duty
Mary PARSONS	30 Oct	21	Constipation	2 Nov	To duty
Chas TROTT, Seaman	9 Nov	20	Wound	22 Nov	To duty
Johanna FITZGERALD	9 Nov	26	Epilepsy	14 Nov	To duty
Margaret ROONEY	11 Nov	25	Febricula	22 Nov	To duty
Cath. TIMS	12 Nov	25	Phlegmon	15 Nov	To duty
Julia BYRNE	12 Nov	30	Hysteria	14 Nov	To duty
Mr APPLEGARTH, 3 rd Mate	13 Nov	20	Contusion	16 Nov	To duty
Mary McLANE	13 Nov	19	Concussion	2 Jan '45	To duty
Bridget HYNES	15 Nov	30	Colic	17 Nov	To duty
Elizabeth LEE	15 Nov	52	Syncope	24 Nov	To duty
Charlotte HAUGHRAN	18 Nov	28	Dysentery	13 Dec	To duty
Alice McQUAIDE	20 Nov	36	Parturition	5 Dec	To duty
Margaret STRITCH	21 Nov	22	Syncope	25 Nov	To duty
Ellen DWYER	22 Nov	28	Febricula	26 Nov	To duty
Mary McCARTHY	22 Nov	28	Febricula	27 Nov	To duty
Mr APPLEGARTH, 3 rd Mate	23 Nov	20	Febricula	26 Nov	To duty
Catherine CROME	24 Nov	36	Febricula	28 Nov	To duty
Ann FOOT	25 Nov	43	Febricula	5 Dec	To duty
Mary REILLY	25 Nov	30	Colic	28 Nov	To duty
Bridget HUGHES	26 Nov	33	Hysteria	5 Dec	To duty

NAME	ON SICK LIST	Age	DISEASE OR WOUND	OFF SICK LIST	HOW DISPOSED
Mary Ann NORTH	27 Nov	44	Contusions	15 Dec	To duty
Margaret COLLINS	28 Nov	30	Colic	29 Nov	To duty
Mary RYAN	29 Nov	40	Diarrhoea	3 Dec	To duty
Mary GORMAN	30 Nov	30	Ophthalmia	6 Dec	To duty
Ann NEILL	3 Dec	33	Wound	15 Dec	To duty
Elizabeth HULTON	3 Dec	40	Wound	17 Dec	To duty
Bridget BRADY	3 Dec	22	Contusions	6 Dec	To duty
Edward CAMPBELL, Seaman	10 Dec	24	Diarrhoea	12 Dec	To duty
Lindsay McIntOSH, Seaman	10 Dec	14	Diarrhoea	12 Dec	To duty
Catherine CROMIE	10 Dec	36	Phlegmon	20 Dec	To duty
Sarah WARD	12 Dec	26	Abortion	21 Dec	To duty
Mary GORMAN	13 Dec	30	Ophthalmia	22 Dec	To duty
Frances LANGSTAFF	22 Dec	32	Contusion	24 Dec	To duty
Sarah O'BRIEN	22 Dec	21	Ammorrhoe	23 Dec	To duty
Mr BROMFIELD, 2 nd Mate	23 Dec	22	Contusions	24 Dec	To duty
Philip PAGET, Butcher	23 Dec	22	Rheumatism	29 Dec	To duty
Charlotte HAUGHAN	25 Dec	28	Dysentery	2 Jan '45	To duty
Catherine HARKIN	26 Dec	20	Tumour	3 Jan '45	Hospital
Alley Ann WATSON	29 Dec	27	Parturition	2 Jan '45	To duty
Margaret FINNEGAN	30 Dec	26	Ulcers	3 Jan '45	Hospital
Mary REILLY	1 Jan	30	Catarrh	4 Jan '45	To duty
Frances LANDSTAFF	1 Jan	32	Catarrh	6 Jan '45	To duty



ST GEORGES BURIAL GROUND MEMORIAL WALL BATTERY POINT

Maree Ring (Member No. 552)

FURTHER to the article in the September journal on St Georges Burial Ground by Leonie Mickleborough, I have taken photographs of the Memorial erected by the Hobart City Council and with the help of 'Tasmanian Pioneer Index' and the available burial records, have been able to add information on some of the people and remaining stones.

The first burial recorded in the registers of St Georges is for the widow, Ruth HARRIS in January, 1846.¹ There are no more entries until a new register began 1 March 1858 and continued until 21 October 1872.² The new Cornelian Bay Cemetery had opened in October with the first burial there on the 5th of that month.

Many people of historic or notable interest were buried in St Georges burial ground as recorded in a newspaper article of 1927.³ Sadly by this time headstones of these people were no longer extant.

William BUCKLEY was buried in the early 1850s. This man ventured from Collins' Settlement at Port Phillip in 1804 and lived with the Aborigines for some 25 years practically forgetting his native tongue and almost becoming one of them.

A story of self-sacrifice was conveyed by the inscription on the headstone of James LUCAS, a well-known pilot of former days. He died in August, 1853, in consequence of injuries received while rendering assistance to the Dutch ship *Emilie*,

which had run ashore. He had only recently retired with a pension after 35 years of faithful service to the port of Hobart Town, and a stone had been erected by the merchants and marine community of the city to his intrepidity and selfless devotion. Lucas had also served as a midshipman with Sir John FRANKLIN when both were lads.

A few public men are interred in the cemetery, and include Alexander Gordon WATSON, former inspector of distilleries in Van Diemen's Land, William SECCOMBE, senior Colonial surgeon, and William PROCTER, who for 40 years served in the Customs, both in England and in Hobart. Other stones bore the names of Robert Burnett BURGESS, sergeant in the Royal Artillery, Arthur CORBETT, a lieutenant in the Royal Navy, and A W HORSHAM, quartermaster-sergeant in the 63rd Regiment.

And not least is Anthony Fenn KEMP. Born in London, in 1773, in 1793 he was attached to the New South Wales Corps as ensign, becoming lieutenant 1797, and captain 1801. In 1795 he was stationed at Norfolk Island. After returning to Sydney in 1797, in June, 1804, he was appointed a magistrate for Van Diemen's Land. In November that year with his brother-in-law, Alexander RILEY, they were associated in the establishment of the settlement at Port Dalrymple, in the north of the colony, where Kemp became Acting Lieutenant-Governor from 28 August, 1806, to 3 April 1807, after which he returned to Sydney, where on 26 January, 1808, he arrested Governor BLIGH at the

¹ NS 590/1/1

² NS 590/1/33

³ <http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/29679841>

Sydney Government House. From May to December, 1808, he was Judge Advocate at Sydney. Later that month the NSW corps was disbanded. In 1810 he left Sydney for England, and in 1814 returned to Hobart Town, where he became 'locatee' of lots in Davey, Hunter, Macquarie, Brisbane, Campbell, Collins, Bathurst, and Harrington Streets, and settled down as a merchant in 1829. In later years he built the house known as 'Mount Vernon', in the Green Ponds district, on 800 acres of land granted to him before 1824. This was long occupied by his son, George Anthony, born at York Town, on the Tamar, in September, 1807. Captain Kemp carried on his business until after 1830, and in 1837 was living in Macquarie Street. He spent the last years of his life in Byron Street.

The remains of headstones of at least two families, with two or more children dying at a young age, are memorialised by the council. Although not stated on the headstone, three children of Charles Henry MILLER and Mary Ann CHAPLIN would have most likely been buried together. Eleanor Annie aged 14 months died in May 1861 from measles; her older brother Charles Orlando, aged 4½ years, died two months later. His date of death given when his death was registered was 29 July, but the remaining headstone slab states 30 July. Clearly the stone shows the name of Harriet Sarah Miller and her age of 8 years (at right). She died 7 August and was buried a week after her brother. Both died from diphtheria.

Thomas Francis BARNARD died in 1853; the headstone clearly shows he was the fifth son of James Barnard. Lower on

the stone his sister Eleanor Frances Amy is shown 'sister of the above' died 21 April 1859. Other records show she was aged 2 years and eleven months. Both died from croup. They were the children of James Barnard (government printer) and Charlotte FOX.

Some three decades after the closure of the burial ground, on a ramble through the burial ground, one grave was described as looking

like a baby's cot, with the letters P. R. H. painted on the headpiece. Was it a boy or a girl? What romance what mystery, may be what tragedy, lies concealed behind those three letters?⁴

The initials suggest the rambler found the grave of Percy Reid HUNTER, who can lay claim to the second last entry in the burial register of 1872, buried there after Cornelian Bay opened. He was the second youngest of eight children of George Henry Hunter and his wife Margaret CULLIGHAN and died aged 6 weeks. There does not seem to be any evidence of the remains of this tombstone in the Memorial created by the Hobart City Council.



⁴ <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article9588185> (1902)

HEADSTONES at ST GEORGES BURIAL GROUND MEMORIAL WALL

Surname	Given name	date	age*	reg. no.	burial date	burial no.
ALLEN	Joseph	27.7.1868	64	7411	27/07/1868	726
BARNARD	Eleanor Frances Amy	21. 4. 1859	1	1487	25/04/1859	87
BARNARD	Helen Elizabeth	10.11.1855	41	362	**	
BARNARD	Thomas Francis	6. 8. 1853	1	296	**	
BODEN	Joseph	20.9.1870	48	70	23/09/1870	668
DOWNIE	Ann Maria	18.11.1862	31	3594	21/11/1862	350
EDWARDS	Sarah	20. 2. 1872	79	783	22/02/1872	920
FOUNTAIN	George Hopewell	15.8. 1859	48	1645	17/08/1859	104
FOUNTAIN	Mary Naomi	23.2. 1868	59	7169	26/02/1868	698
HARRISON	Alice	13.11.1862	56	3590	15/11/1862	348
HAYNES	Eliza	22.10.1851	44	997	**	
JACKSON	Jane Levena	15.1.1865	6	4812	18/01/1865	514
KENWORTHY	John Henry	26.9.1859	39	1714	28/09/1859	115
LAUGHTON	Ernest John	23.7.1867	1	6865	25/07/1867	668
LEPPARD	Edward	13.4. 1859	44	1478	15/04/1859	85
MARSHALL	William John	19.1.1849	4	2251	**	
MARSHALL	Harriet Sophia	9.10.1849	2	2648	**	
MILLER	Charles Orlando Chaplin	30.7. 1861	4	2889	2/08/1861	258
MILLER	Harriet Sarah	7.8. 1861	8	2915	09/08/1861	260
MORGAN	William	8.11.1850	54	357	**	
ROSS	Margaret Laurie	9.5. 1867	43	6754	11/05/1867	661
SMALLHORN	Mary	27.1. 1861	56	2570	30/1/1861	220
SOUCH	William	7.3.1858	37	836	12/3/1858	5
TAYLOR	William	10.10.1857	57	468	**	
WHYTE	Augustus Inkerman	22.5. 1856	1	784	**	
WILKINSON	Robert	12.2. 1856	45	619	**	
WILLIAMS	Joseph Albert	5.8. 1862	1	3447	8/08/1862	329

* if not available or legible from stone, age taken from RGD death index

** no burial register extant for that time at St Georges

Where possible, all confirmed with St Georges burial records



LATROBE FLOWER SHOWS

Darrell Burk (Member No. 7776)

A splendid collection of gladioli was seen in the window of Messrs. W. L. Wells and Sons, Ltd., on Saturday. They were grown by Mr. Smith, of Rubicon, a gentleman who is a successful competitor at our flower shows.¹

The annual spring show of the Latrobe Horticultural Society was held yesterday, when there was a very fine display of spring bulbs, and some very beautiful blooms were exhibited. The show was opened by the chairman of the show committee, Mr. J. Chamberlain who referred to the fact that the net profits would be donated to the Consumptive Sanatorium, and he hoped that the result would be that a substantial sum would be realised by the effort. Afternoon tea was available to visitors. Mesdames Wright and Coventry being in charge. There was also a produce stall under the management of Mr. Chamberlain. Both did good business. The general management was, as usual, well carried out by the Hon. Secretary, Mr. K. Clarke. In regards to display of flowers Mr. F. Cook practically swept the boards with his exhibits in the cut-flowers section, and Mrs. J. P. Kenworthy in the pot plants.

[The following are the awards for William Peter SMITH, known as 'Water-Lily Smith']
Cut flowers etc. Collection Daffodils, 20 distinct varieties, 1 bloom of each – W. Smith 2nd prize.

Champion Bloom – Long Trumpet – Incomparables – W. Smith (Barnadine)²

See also 'Help Wanted' this issue page 162.

¹ *North Western Advocate and Emu Bay Times*, Tuesday, 13 February 1917, p. 2

² *North Western Advocate and Emu Bay Times*, Tuesday, 19 September 1917, p. 3

VEITCH — POLLARD

Ailsa Neilson (Member No. 7483)

The marriage of my grandparents Mr Ernest VEITCH and Miss Marion Louisa POLLARD, took place on 12 December 1900 at the Burnie Methodist Church. A reception was held in connection with the ceremony in the afternoon, and a very successful social followed at night. The wedding party posed for a photograph (see next page).

Back Row L to R: Unknown man and lady, then three unknowns, possibly bridesmaids and groomsman; Leslie Pollard groomsman brother of bride, Marion Veitch (née Pollard) bride, and the groom Ernest Andrew Veitch.

Sitting L to R: Mrs Emily Veitch, mother of the groom; Joseph Crawshaw Pollard and Mary Ann Pollard (née Moss) parents of the bride.

Sitting in front: Miss Madge Bell and Master Regie Bell.

According to the *North Western Advocate* of 13 December 1900 the bridesmaids were Misses K Veitch, Miss E BELL and Miss B Bell. The best man was Mr F Abell and groomsman Masters L Pollard and A Bell.

I do not know but the two Bell bridesmaids may be Eveline and Beatrice Bell, nieces of the bride and best man Arthur Bell may be a nephew (family of Frances Elizabeth Bell (née Pollard), sister of the bride

The second picture shows Joseph Crawshaw Pollard, his wife Mary Ann (née MOSS) with another unknown at left.

According to the *North Western Advocate*, 13 December 1900, the parents of the bride gifted them a home and the brother of the bride an allotment of land.

I would be grateful if anybody could identify the buildings and reliably match up the names of the wedding party with those I am unable to identify.

Ernest and Marion, with their first born son, Oswald Ernest Veitch left Burnie in 1902 and emigrated to South Canterbury, New Zealand.

Please contact Ailsa Neilson at
geoffail@ihug.co.nz



Veitch and Pollard wedding group



Mr and Mrs Pollard

***New Indexes* MERSEY BRANCH MICROFILM HOLDINGS**

The project to index the microfilm reels has taken many years of dedication from
members Marilyn Oakley and Glenice Brauman.

The index can be searched when the year and reel number are found.

TASMANIA

LAUNCESTON ADVERTISER

9 February 1829–26 December 1833

2 January 1834–28 December 1837

4 January 1838–17 March 1842

CHURCH RECORDS

	Reel no.
Devonport Baptisms	1912–1938 6
Devonport Marriages	1919–1936 6
East Devonport Marriages	February/March 1927 6
Devonport/Latrobe Baptisms	1858–1915 8
Devonport/Latrobe Marriages	1871–1930 8
Devonport/Latrobe Marriages Affidavits	1884–1895 8
Latrobe Baptisms	1850–1935 1
Latrobe Baptisms	1935–1962 2
Latrobe Confirmations	1884, 1886, 1888, 1890–1892 1
Latrobe Confirmations continued	1911–1913 1
Latrobe Marriages	1850–1895 2
Latrobe Marriages	1896–1929 3
Latrobe Marriages	1929–1970 4
Latrobe Burials	1848–1876 4
Latrobe Burials	1874–1879 6
Launceston Baptisms	1878–1950 6
Scottsdale Baptisms	1884–1900 1
Scottsdale Marriage Declarations	1865–1895 1
Scottsdale Marriages	1903–1915 1
Torquay Baptisms	1886–1912 8
Ulverstone/Forth Marriage Affidavits	1872–1879 8

TASMANIAN ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH RECORDS
have also been indexed
and will be in a future issue of *Tasmanian Ancestry*

WHAT IS THAT PUBLICATION ABOUT?

Maurice Appleyard (Member No. 4093)

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

OF SMOKE AND CHAINS

The story of Joseph Duckworth—Convict, 1824–1887

This massive A4 hard cover book of around 700pp. was published in 2015 by Debra Jane Duckworth.

Born into hardship during the Industrial Revolution, Joseph Duckworth was just a young factory lad from Lancashire, when charged with larceny, for the second time. On the 1st of December, 1842, he was tried, convicted and subsequently sentenced to fifteen years transportation to Van Diemen's Land.

The book has been written in three parts:

The first part features the life and times of Joseph, his parents and siblings, and the Duckworth ancestors. Background chapters on the origin of the Duckworth name, the history of Lancashire and 19th century England are also provided.

The second part features Joseph's time in VDL, his marriage to Ann Keegan and details of the children born to this union. There are also background chapters on the convict system in VDL and the early history of the colony.

The third part features the family migration to, and growth in Victoria; (including Ann, after the death of Joseph).

Every aspect of the book is heavily supported by excellent photographs and images to illustrate the subject matter. A functional alphabetic index is included.

Other researchers, not specifically interested in the Duckworth family, should find the general areas relating to Lancashire, the convict system, colonial life in rural Tasmania and early Collingwood, Victoria of great interest and should also find aspects that apply to their own family research.

A BIOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARY OF JERSEY

This hardcover book of some 715pp., by G R Balleine, the Hon. Librarian of the Société Jersiaise, was published in 1948 by Staples Press, UK.

This book contains biographies of about three hundred men and women from the island of Jersey. They fall into two groups. Some left home and gained distinction in the outside world ... an archbishop like Walden ... a beauty like Lillie Langtry ...

The other group remained at home as leaders of their own people, and their lives combine like a jig-saw puzzle to form a graphic picture of a small self-governing community, cut off by sea and language from much intercourse with England ...

The biographies are arranged in alphabetical order by surname and the book is enhanced by several indexes.

A chronological index indicates that biographies from c.550 to 1945 are included. A classified index is also provided and a search for an explorer, merchant, actress, etc, can easily be made.

Additionally, there are four Appendices: Non-Jersey men who left their mark on Jersey history;

Persons who have been incorrectly claimed as Jersey men;

Some Jersey words and titles;

A brief bibliography of Jersey History.

KENT PARISH REGISTERS VOL 20

This CD-ROM is no. 35 in the popular series produced by the Kent FHS.

Lists of Banns, Christenings, Marriages and Burials for approximately twenty different parishes.

The featured parishes are:

Bapchild—Bns 1754–1848, C 1561–1908, B 1561–1919, M 1562–1844, 1854; **Biddenden**—Bns 1885–1940, M 1861–1932; **Canterbury St Dunstan** Bns 1857–1940, B 1913–1854; **Cheriton All Souls** Bns 1895–1905, C 1892–1915, M 1895–1940; **Cheriton St Martin** Bns 1754–1811, C 1563–1915, B 1563–1966, M 1563–1940; **Dover Apprentice Enrolments**; **Eastling** C 1603–1812, B 1603–1812, M 1603–1813; **Eythorne** C 1559–1899, B 1559–1812, M 1559–1753; **Kiltdown** B 1843–1903, M 1843–1940; **Medway Millitary Baptisms** 1845–1938; **Newington** (Hythe) C 1695–1845, B 1695–1844, M 1754–1837; **Newnham** C 1603–1812, B 1603–1812, M 1603–1812; **Ramsgate St Mary** C 1866–1932; **Saltwood** Bns 1754–1830, 1905–1940, C 1560–1915, B 1562–1934, M 1562–1940, Q.A. Briefs 1707–1774; **Swalecliffe** Bns 1754–1940, C 1850–1915, B 1841–1974, M 1754–1940; **Sutton By Dover** Bns 1755–1814, C 1538–1812, B 1538–1812,

M 1545–1812; **Temple Ewell** Bns 1755–1841, C 1581–1915, Cnf 1837–1922, B 1581–1899, M 1581–1841; **Tenterden** B 1861–1902, M 1597–1940; **Tilmanstone** C 1558–1900, B 1558–1900, M 1559–1900; **Wingham Congregational** C 1819–1837; **Wittersham** Bns 1754–1940, C 1551–1868, B 1550–1906, M 1559–1940.

THE SCOT IN ULSTER—Sketch of the history of the Scottish population of Ulster

This small hardcover book of some 115pp. by John Harrison was published in 1888 by William Blackwood and Sons of Edinburgh.

The author covers the history from the first settlement of 1610 to the ‘present day’ in seven sketches (chapters) titled:

The Scot gains a footing in County Down
The Scot settles North Down and County Antrim

The great plantation in Ulster

The Scot brings with him his Scottish church

The Scots and the Irish rebellion of 1641

Ulster from the restoration to the Union

The Scottish blood in the Ulster men of to-day.

THE BAYLY FAMILY OF RUNNYMEDE DURING WORLD WAR I, 1914–1918—As revealed through the letters of Harriet, James and Henry Bayly.

This A4 book of 74pp. was published in June 2014 by Hildi L Reinhart.

Runnymede, 61 Bay Road, Newtown, Tasmania; passed into the hands of Captain Charles Bayley, a master mariner, in 1864. In 1875, his brother James inherited the property.

James Bayley had only one daughter, Harriet Louisa, who inherited the property in 1894. It was at *Runnymede* that Harriet and her husband, Henry Vincent Bayly (same surname, different spelling, and no relation) raised their family of seven children. The letters and diaries of three of those children provide an insight into the life of the family during the period of the war.

**NARRATIVE OF A VOYAGE
ROUND THE WORLD—an account of
the wreck of the ship *Governor Ready*, in
Torres Straits, a description of the
British Settlements on the Coasts of
New Holland, more particularly Raf-
fles Bay, Melville Island, Swan River,
and King George Sound; also the man-
ners and customs of the Aboriginal
Tribes; with an appendix, containing
remarks on transportation, the treat-
ment of convicts during the voyage,
and advice to persons intending to
emigrate to the Australian Colonies.**

This hardcover book of 350pp. is a facsimile of the original 1835 publication by Thomas Braidwood Wilson, MD, Surgeon RN; a member of the Royal Geographical Society.

The *Governor Ready*, transporting 200 prisoners, arrived at Sydney on 17 January 1829. After a few weeks in New South Wales, the ship delivered several passengers to Hobart Town before proceeding to Batavia; hopefully to obtain a commercial cargo for the return voyage to England.

Unfortunately, the *Governor Ready* was wrecked in the Torres Straits. The remainder of Wilson's 'Narrative' details the journey of the crew in small open boats and their eventual return to Sydney. Thomas Wilson also describes a visit to

Launceston on the return voyage to England.

ERROL: Its Legends, Lands and People.

This hardcover book of 228pp., by Lawrence Melville, was published in 1935.

This is a local history at its most informative. Errol is both a parish and a village in Perthshire, situated east of the town of Perth and southwest of the town of Dundee. As such, it is more or less in the middle of Scotland, and many events marched over it. The Hays of Errol and all of their cadet lines were the principal family, but the Constable and Playfair families, the Russells, the Bells, the Taits, Charteris, and Tweedsdale families all were present in the parish or involved in its history. The author gives an entire chapter to the Hays, and then proceeds to the history of the village, to Port Allen and the economic, social, and cultural history of the parish.

There is a chapter with fifteen individual biographies of other family names; and another on the churches and their ministers.

The last chapter, 'Some other Lands and their Owners' will also be of great interest. These are lands located at Megginch, Inchmartine, Murie, Inchmichael, Gourdiehill, Seaside, Clashennie, Glendoick and Seggieden.

The book has a small alphabetical subject index and an extensive bibliographical index.

Appendices include trees of the Hays of Errol, the Hays of Leys and the Hays of Melginch, Pitfour Seggieden; and a fourth of the Hays of Kinnoull. ◀

LIBRARY AQUISITIONS

Hobart Branch

ACCESSIONS—Books

- *Ballene, G R; *A Biographical Dictionary of Jersey*. [942.34 BAL]
- *Brian Gauci Aus. Souvenirs; *Historic Hahndorf*. [994.23 HIS]
- *Campbell, A; *The Family & Descendants of Donald Downie & his wife, Christina MacColl*. [Q929.2 CAM]
- *Dooley, L; *Building on Firm Foundations—The Cooper family in Tasmania*. [Q 929.2 COO]
- Dunn, C; *Norfolk Island 1788–1814—Resources for Researching your Family History*. [929.39482 DUN]
- *Evandale History Soc. Inc.; *St Andrews Presbyterian Church, Evandale, Cemetery index*.
- *Harrison, J; *The Scott in Ulster*. [929.309416 HAR]
- *Hastings, D H S; *The History of Port Macquarie*. [994.42 UPT]
- *Jenkin, T; *The Cloncurry Shire Centenary Historical Sketch Book*. [994.36 JEN]
- *Melville, Lawrence; *Error: Its Legends, Lands and People*.
- *Reinhart, Hildi L; *The Bayly Family of 'Runnymede' during World War I, 1914–1918*.
- *Riley, C; *Christopher Hall—A colonial career in Ross*. [Q 929.2 HAL]
- *Stanfield, P; *St Luke's Anglican Cemetery, Longley, Tasmania*. [Q 929.31099461 STA]
- *Wilson, T B; *Narrative of a Voyage Round the World*. [910.9 WIL]

ACCESSIONS—Computer Disks

- *Kent FHS; *Kent Parish Registers, Vol. 20*.
- *TFHS Inc; *TFHS Inc. Members' Interests 1988–2016*.
- * Denotes complimentary or donated item.

Launceston Branch

ACCESSIONS—Books

- *Badcock, Josephine – Calligraphy by Richardson, Jan; *From Northdown The Settlement Grew*
- *Badcock, Josephine – Calligraphy by Richardson, Jan; *Sketches around Old Moriarty*
- *Biggs, John; *Tasmania – Over Five Generations – Return to Van Diemen's Land?*
- *Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery; *The Way We Lived – Celebrating 150 Years of The Examiner*
- TFHS Inc. Hobart Branch; *Undertakers of Hobart Vol IV – Index to H C Millington Pty Ltd Funeral Records Part 8, April 1967–June 1970*

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Cubit, Simon & Haygarth, Nic; Mountain Men Stories from the Tasmanian High Country

Nash, Michael; *Convict Places A Guide to Tasmanian Sites*

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Reid, Ralph; *Pioneers and Early Settlers of Australia - A Bibliography of Published Sources*

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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 1st 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 6823
Library Soldiers Memorial Hall Marguerite Street Ranelagh
Saturday 1:30 p.m.–3:30 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.
email vsbtas@bigpond.com

LAUNCESTON Phone: Branch Secretary (03) 6343 3107
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 Monday of the month at Branch Library in Latrobe at 1:30 p.m. Please check the website at www.tfhsdev.com or contact the Secretary for updates.

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

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Australian Joint Concession	\$45.00

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Application for Membership:

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

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