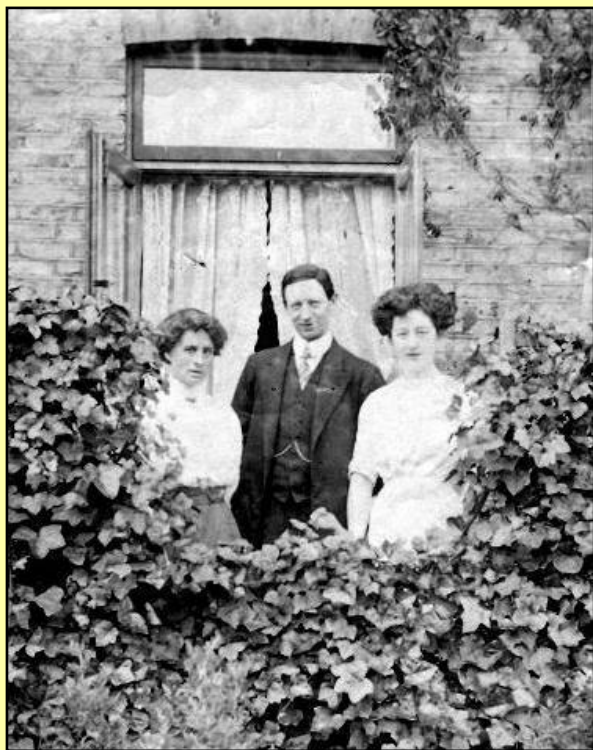


# Tasmanian Ancestry



**TASMANIAN FAMILY HISTORY  
SOCIETY INC.**

Volume 38 Number 1—June 2017

# TASMANIAN FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.

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# Tasmanian Ancestry

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

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## From the Editor

It's the beginning of another year for the journal and new committees for the branches. Good to see some branches have new names in their committees while others have a few familiar names missing—notably Muriel and Betty Bissett, long-serving members of the Launceston Branch as well as holding positions on our State Executive.

Congratulations go to Dr Dianne Snowden who was recently entered on the Tasmanian Honour Roll of Women—see page 8.

I would like to welcome and thank Betty Pilgrim, a new member last year, for her submission on the fascinating life of Evangelina Jane Singleton—a Tasmanian born woman who lead an extraordinary life—see page 19.

Diane Gourley and Suzanne Collins joined forces in an endeavour to discover the parents of Britton Jones—page 43.

Keith Wools-Cobb has transcribed two letters written by Herbert George Greenhill in the late 1880s to his family in England. These give an interesting account of his life in Hobart and Port Sorell at that time—see page 47.

There are articles from most of our usual contributors which add to the wide variety of research and information to be found within the covers of *Tasmanian Ancestry*.

Looking forward to the next collection of submissions!

Rosemary Davidson

## Journal address

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

### Deadline dates are:

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

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

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

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**Cover:** Herbert (Bert) George Greenhill in England with two of his sisters. See article by Keith Wools-Cobb, *An English Emigrant's View of Tasmania, 1899*, page 47.

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

WHILST working on old journals preparing them for inclusion on the society's web site, I came across a short piece I had submitted to the editor for Volume 27, Number 2, September 2006. It reads as follows:

Recently I have come across a number of references to the *Tasmanian Pioneer Index* cited merely by number—for example, a date for a birth with the source shown as TPI 633/1893. Apparently some researchers do not realise these reference numbers are not unique. For example, next time you are in your library, or if you have your own copy of *TPI*, enter 633/1893 into the Registration Number space on the search page and hit Enter. You will find this will produce the result “Total Matching Records: 7”! Even adding the Register Number (RGD) doesn't make it unique. In the above example, three of the seven are from RGD33! It is only when you add the registration district that it becomes unique. I have adopted the standard of citing exactly as it appears in the Digger version of the *TPI*. For example, ‘Launceston 633/1893 RGD33’.

I haven't changed my view on this matter in the ten or so years that have elapsed since then. Of course this is not the only place you need to cite your source. Not long ago I was given a long list for a branch of a tree I was working on. Unfortunately it had no sources cited at all! I am still working my way through checking all the material and adding primary sources.

I have seen the following sort of reference.

John Smith married Mary Jones on 25<sup>th</sup> February 1902. (Trove)

*Trove* even gives you the proper reference to the article. Once you have found your article, look on the left hand side and you will find an ‘I’ at the top of the side bar. Click on it and you will find that it gives you a number of ways of citing. I use the ‘Harvard/Australian’ citation because it is the form recommended by the *Australian Style Manual*, and by most Australian universities. Here is an example.

1915 ‘WITH THE AUSTRALIAN NAVY.’, *The North Western Advocate and the Emu Bay Times* (Tas. : 1899 - 1919), 11 November, p. 2., viewed 08 Mar 2017, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article64624873>

This is a citation for an electronic source, but the style is very similar for print and other media. The *Style Manual* gives guidance for all different sources.

Anyone faced with the task of preparing material for publication needs guidance. ... (T)he *Style Manual* provides guidance and detailed advice on publishing in both print and electronic formats. ... The new *Style Manual* continues to provide detailed information and recommendations on the best practices in design, editing, production and writing. (The current) edition builds on the *Style Manual's* reputation as an outstanding Australian reference standard for all those who understand the value of effective communication.

[<http://www.australia.gov.au/about-government/publications/style-manual>. Accessed 8 Mar 2017]

I strongly recommend the *Australian Style Manual* to guide you in citing sources whether you are ‘writing up’ your family history as a book, or just keeping the results of your research in writing or on a computer. ◀

**Robert Tanner**

# 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**

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The year has started on a relatively quiet note at the library. Some of our regulars have returned and it is pleasing to see a few new faces. Unfortunately two regular faces have been absent this year. We wish Geoff a speedy recovery and trust he will be well enough to go on his trip later in the year.

With our working bees this year we have been concentrating on cleaning up some of our storage areas. In our building there is a mezzanine area that up until now was not been available. We now have access to this area so it has been a good place to store archive material and spare fiche readers. In another room (the old Vault) it has been an area to store old computers/monitors/printers etc. that have become redundant. These have been all loaded up onto a trailer ready for taking to an eWaste centre.

The branch now has a complete collection of *The Advocate* newspapers on microfilm up to 2016. They have been placed into the microfilm cabinet that was donated to our branch. These are all available for viewing on the Hutch viewer we have. It is hoped that one day we will be able to get a ViewScan reader or similar. Trove only has *The Advocate* filmed up until December 1954, we now

have January 1955 onwards as well as the reels that are available on Trove.

Preparations for the AGM are well in hand and we look forward to meeting up with everyone on Saturday 17 June.

Peter Cocker **Branch President**

## Hobart

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The new year began with a flourish, firstly with a small enthusiastic group conducting a stocktake of the library books. This is a really positive undertaking to locate books misplaced and to set them in order once again.

In early February we conducted another fund-raising sausage sizzle at Bunnings in Glenorchy, with the funds raised a worthwhile boost to the branch coffers.

The branch has just released another publication in the Cemetery series, *Kingston Regional Cemetery 1983–2013*.

Members and visitors will be interested to know that all the indexes and images of the Hobart Undertakers records have now been installed on the computers, and the basic name search provides ease of access. Our premises have been groaning at the sides for quite some time and the future plan is to continue installing the records held in folders onto the

computers, and back up the data, in order to create more space on the shelves.

Our monthly meetings began again in February, already with an interesting range of topics of which there is a resume below.

Roger McNeice was the guest speaker at the February meeting. His latest book, *Flames of Fear*, has recently been launched. The story outlines the history of bushfires in Tasmania from the early days of European settlement to the present day, but the main focus was on the 1967 bushfires, which many of us have memories of the devastation it caused. Roger explained that Tasmania is a fire prone area, because of many conditions, including low humidity, high fuel loads, volatility of eucalyptus trees, the spread of human settlement and the topography. Major bushfires have occurred approximately every forty years. Featured in Roger's book are stories of the amazing courage and acts of bravery from members of the public and those who were involved in emergency services, who rescued others, and saved properties, while putting their own lives at risk. There were others who organized relief operations when the emergency had passed, and who volunteered many hours over the coming days and months, until some form of order prevailed.

Brian Rieusset, our guest speaker at the March meeting presented his topic, *Treasure Trove in 28 Boxes*. Brian has done much research over many years at TAHO, and only recently discovered this find of 28 Boxes, deposited in 1954, but not examined. These are Supreme Court records of the Curator of Intestate Estates, dated 1827–1948. What a find!

On examination, Brian discovered many original items of interest, including Tickets of Leave, Free pardons, letters of

all description, including some from England and Ireland claiming to be a relative of the deceased, Marriage certificates, simple family trees, mining shares certificates, stamps, coins, a locket of hair, creditors invoices, undertakers accounts, maps, all of which have probably never been seen before. Of interest were some files of people who died beyond Tasmanian shores, especially that of Lieut-Governor George Arthur who still held property in Tasmania when he died in England.

The index to names for these records can be found on the TAHO website, the reference being SC389. These documents can be viewed on request in the History Room.

### **Speakers for 2017**

The following speakers have been arranged for forthcoming General Meetings in 2017 which will commence at 7:30 p.m. at the Old Sunday School in St Johns Park Precinct, New Town.

**June 18:** DNA Group members—‘Sharing some experiences and discoveries using DNA for FH research’

**July 16:** Alison Alexander—‘The Cascade Brewery and its founding de Graves family’

**August 20:** TBA

Louise Rainbow **Branch President**

## **Huon**

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No report received

## Launceston

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**March Workshop:** held on Monday 9 March, with Ros Escott speaking about 'Using DNA for Family History'. There was

great interest shown by those who attended and it was decided to have a follow-up 'Discussion Circle' on Wednesday 21 June—this is already booked out.

**The Branch AGM:** was held on Thursday 27 April, at the Harry Abbott Scout Hall. Prior to the guest speaker, the election of the new committee was held, and it was good to see some new faces. Muriel and Betty Bissett relinquished their long held positions of Secretary and Treasurer, as well as Alternate Delegate and a Delegate to the Society meetings. We welcome the new President Helen Stuart, Vice-President Lucille Gee and the new Secretary, Marette Lawson; Minute Secretary, Robyn Gibson; Treasurer Barrie Robinson and Assistant to the Treasurer, John Reimers. Fran Keegan and Leanne Bishop are new committee members and we thank Russell Watson for his time given to the committee over some years.

**Library hours:** Tuesdays 10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.—phone 0427 847 000.

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

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

## Mersey

<http://www.tfhsdev.com>

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In February we held our Annual Barbeque which was well attended on a beautiful summer evening. Our guest speaker was Simon Cubits of the Mountain Hut Preservation Society. A very interesting talk on how they are preserving the huts. Also stories about the trappers.

By the time you receive this Journal there would be some new committee members and probably some who have just changed hats.

On Anzac Day Mersey Branch will lay a wreath at the Latrobe Cenotaph. Following the Service the branch will have an Anzac Day display in our Library.

On 27 May we will hold a soup and sandwich lunch with a Scrap Booking Display together with a digital version. Two very different ways to tell family stories and preserve those treasured photographs. A follow up from this is to be a hands-on Scrapbooking Workshop to be held on 24 June from 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. Need to book early as there are limited numbers. BYO Lunch and a fee to cover the cost of materials.

We are still active with U3A teaching members how to go about tracing their family tree. Our Library is open Tuesdays and Fridays 11:00 till 3:00. Check our website for more details on publications or any other information. ◀



# VALE JIM WALL

**F**OUNDING member, James Richard Wall (1929–2017), known to all as ‘Jim’, passed away on 24 January 2017. Jim was very active within the society during its early years, and, in fact, had been helping record Tasmania’s all-important headstone transcriptions long before the society was formed in 1980.

As the society’s inaugural Coordinator of the Cemeteries Committee, in June 1980 Jim published an article entitled, *The “TAMIOT” Project*, in the very first issue of *Tasmanian Ancestry* (Vol. 1, No. 1, p. 19) outlining how

...the idea began in the 1950s ... [when] a few individuals and groups of people, myself included, used to visit the cemeteries and graveyards near Hobart and other places to do what we called ‘grave-scratching’. That is, to collect inscriptions...

Many of the headstones transcribed during those early years are no longer legible and this early work still proves a great asset to all family historians interested in Tasmanian heritage.

Jim was appointed as Director of the LDS Family History Centre in Derwent Park, Hobart in the mid-1980s where he was ably assisted by his wife, Betty, both offering valued guidance to all visitors to their library.

During the 1990s Jim served as our society’s official Public Officer. He also served on the Hobart Branch Committee and was elected Branch President in 1992 and again in 1993.

Jim maintained his membership for the rest of his life and always took an active interest in the society. He embraced

modern technology and was a frequent participant of the Hobart Branch Computer Users Group monthly meetings.

Jim will long be remembered with respect and affection by his colleagues at the Hobart Branch. ◀

## NOTICE OF MEETING

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

### 37th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

of the

Tasmanian Family History Society Inc.

**is to be held at 2:00 p.m.**

**on Saturday 17 June 2017**

**at the Penguin Surf Club,  
Preservation Bay**

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

### AGENDA

1. Welcome by the President
2. Apologies
3. Presentation of the ‘Lilian Watson Family History Award’
4. Presentation of TFHS Inc. Awards
5. Confirmation of Minutes of the 2016 AGM as circulated at the meeting
6. Business Arising from the Minutes
7. President’s Annual Report
8. Treasurer’s Annual Report as circulated at the meeting
9. Business arising from Treasurer’s Report
10. Election of Office Bearers
11. General Business
12. Closure.

Colleen Read, Society Secretary

# TASMANIA'S HONOUR ROLL OF WOMEN

## Dr Dianne Snowden

Awarded for service to education and  
training

Born 1957 Cooma, New South Wales

Entered on roll: 2017

*Understanding and protecting heritage  
for the future*

Historian Dr Dianne Snowden has contributed to Tasmanian history and heritage through the protection and management of cultural heritage, and by ensuring significant records are preserved for future research.

Dianne started researching her family's history when she was 15 by interviewing her grandmother. Interviewing family members is encouraged by Dianne who is a genealogical researcher and Unit Coordinator and Lecturer in Researching Family History at the University of Tasmania (UTAS) and a member of Tasmanian Library Advisory Board and the Female Convict Research Committee. She taught family history from 1980 at Adult Education and at UTAS from 2009 until 2016.

The early interest in genealogy turned into a career with Dianne majoring in history at the Australian National University and gaining a PhD from UTAS. In 1989, Dianne was the first Tasmanian to be granted a Diploma in Family Historical Studies from the Society of Australian Genealogists.

Dianne's experience as a genealogical researcher has included researching and co-writing many works. *Patchwork*



*Prisoners, The Rajah Quilt and the women who made it*, co-written by Dianne in 2013, was shortlisted for the Australian Historical Association Kay Daniels Award.

Women and children have been the focus of much of Dianne's historical work. This is reflected in publications and her work with the Friends of the Orphan School, which has included recognising the genealogy of the orphans. Through research Dianne discovered she had a Tasmanian ancestor, a convict woman who arrived in 1845 with two children who were placed in the Orphan School at New Town in Hobart.

Dianne was the first woman to be appointed Chair of the Tasmanian Heritage Council (2012–2014), a role she [had previously] held for an interim period from October 2005 to February 2006.

Dianne has served as Chair of the Female Factory Historic Site and the Tasmanian Honour Roll of Women 2008–2009, and was a member of the National Trust Board and the National Archives of Australia Advisory Committee. ◀

Special thanks to Women Tasmania and the *Honour Roll of Women* for permission to reprint.

# VOICES FROM THE ORPHAN SCHOOL

## THE STOKES CHILDREN

Dianne Snowden (Member No. 910)

**I**N 1873, the Warden of Fingal, John STANFIELD, wrote from Campbell Town:

there are a number of children named STOKES residing within six or seven miles of the Township of Fingal ... they are at present without a mother's charge (the mother left them five or six months back). I may add that they are almost without a father's for when I saw them last, about a week since, the father though living with them, was in indigent circumstances, had lately been 'in trouble' and seemed very feeble. His condition he then informed me was nearly desperate. He had nothing to do for his children and knew not what to do with himself.<sup>1</sup>

Stanfield continued: 'None of the children, who are completely helpless, are living with him'.<sup>2</sup> He didn't say where the children were or who was caring for them.

The need to act was urgent, Stanfield stressed:

Altogether this was about the worse case I had met with in the Fingal district. It is certainly one in which the State should act towards the children in 'Loco Parentis'. If she (the State) does not take charge of, and number these children with the orphans now, she will be compelled to number them with her criminals ere long. The former would be a much wiser and more economical course to pursue than the latter. The Guardians of the Orphan School have apprenticed ... a number of orphan children to persons in

this and the Fingal District whose applications I recommended so that now being relieved of so many they ought to be able to admit a few more ...<sup>3</sup>

The children's mother was Bridget ROARKE (alias Catherine CAVENY), who arrived on the *John William Dare* in 1852. Tried in Roscommon in January 1851, she was transported for seven years for stealing wearing apparel. She was 22, single, Roman Catholic, illiterate and originally from County Galway. One month after she arrived in Van Diemen's Land, she was punished for 'abstracting' four pairs of stockings from her bag in the stores at Brickfields. Initially, Bridget had an unsettled life in the colony: in 1853, she absconded twice and was found to be absent twice. Her punishment was one month's imprisonment with hard labour and then another six months in March 1853. In July 1853, at the Ross Female Factory, she gave birth to an illegitimate child. Nothing further is known about this child. Bridget was afterwards assigned in the Ross district and in September 1854 to H GREY at Avoca.<sup>4</sup> She abandoned her family in August 1872 and this was the catalyst for the request to admit several of her children to the Orphan School. The circumstances of her desertion are not known.

The children's father was John Stokes, who arrived on the *Marquis of Hastings* in 1842. Originally from Bradford, he was tried in Wiltshire in 1842 and was sent-

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<sup>1</sup> TAHO, SWD26/1/13 Stokes.

<sup>2</sup> TAHO, SWD26/1/13 Stokes.

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<sup>3</sup> TAHO, SWD26/1/13 Stokes.

<sup>4</sup> TAHO, CON41/1/33 No. 599 Bridget Roarke *John William Dare* 1852.

enced to transportation for felony (house-breaking and stealing a watch). By 1851, he was assigned to ALFORD in the Fingal district.<sup>5</sup> By 1873, he was a labourer, free by servitude, living at New Prospect near Fingal.<sup>6</sup>

Bridget and John, both servants, married in Fingal in March 1855.<sup>7</sup> Their first child, Hester, was born in November 1855.<sup>8</sup> In all, Bridget and John had twelve children, all born in the Fingal district between 1855 and 1869, at New Prospect near Fingal and later at Ormley, where John was a shepherd.

In 1873, the family was described as 'very poor and miserable'. John was out of work and had no means to support his family. According to Stanfield, the family was isolated

in very lonesome neighbourhood, the children are living in the bush and are almost in a state of nudity.<sup>9</sup>

Application was made for the admission of seven children to the Orphan School: Margaret, aged 9; Amelia, aged 8; John and Francis, aged 6; George, aged 5; James, aged 3 years 6 months; and Frederick, aged 2 years 6 months. James and Frederick do not appear in the admission records; however, James Stokes was mentioned in newspaper reports of Orphan School prize giving.

The initial admission application was for seven children: Margaret, Amelia, John, Francis, George, James and Frederick. The other children were Esther or Hester (b. 1855), Eliza (b. 1856), Catherine (b.

1858); Mary Ann (b. 1859) and Sarah (b. 1860).<sup>10</sup> Only Catherine (aged 12) and Sarah (aged 11) were mentioned as being dependent on their father for support.<sup>11</sup>

In February 1873, arrangements were made for seven children to be forwarded by coach from Fingal to New Town. Warden Stansfield queried whether the coach would accommodate all of the children and asked whether the government would pay £6 costs for alternative transport. Their father volunteered to take them to Hobart by cart if the government paid and this was approved.<sup>12</sup>

Five of the Stokes children were admitted to the Orphan School on 14 March 1873. Some of the children were still at the Orphan School in 1879, the year that it closed.<sup>13</sup> All received prizes in the annual examinations.

In 1874, in the girls division, Margaret Stokes received the First Class prize for reading and third prize overall for First Class.<sup>14</sup> In the Christmas examinations in 1875, in the boys division, James was awarded the first prize in Class 1, Division 2, for reading. In Class 2, Division 1, John received the prize for 'Best Examination'. He also gained 72 marks out of a possibly 96 in Arithmetic and Tables but was disqualified 'because he wilfully and in the face of [an] express warning, held his slate so another could read his

<sup>5</sup> TAHO, CON33/1/29 No. 7033 John Stokes *Marquis of Hasting* 1842

<sup>6</sup> TAHO, SWD26/1/13 Stokes

<sup>7</sup> TAHO, RGD37/1/14 Fingal 1855/95 Bridget 'Roarker' and John Stokes

<sup>8</sup> TAHO, RGD33/1/33 Fingal 1855/302 Hester Stokes

<sup>9</sup> TAHO, SWD26/1/13 Stokes

<sup>10</sup> TAHO, RGD33/1/33 Fingal 1855/302 Hester Stokes; RGD33/1/34 Fingal 1856/335 Eliza Stokes; RGD33/1/34 Fingal 1858/409 Catherine Stokes; RGD33/1/37 Fingal 1859/377 Mary Ann Stokes; and RGD33/1/38 Fingal 1860/1016 Sarah Stokes

<sup>11</sup> TAHO, SWD26/1/13 Stokes

<sup>12</sup> TAHO, SWD26/1/13 Stokes

<sup>13</sup> TAHO, SWD26/1/13 Stokes

<sup>14</sup> *The Mercury* (Hobart) 9 January 1874 p. 2

answer.<sup>15</sup> Frank was third-placed in this category, with 42 marks. Margaret Stokes was awarded a prize for religious education.<sup>16</sup> In the Christmas Examinations in 1876, in the boys division for 'Best Examination', John received second prize, Third Class, First Division; Frank (Francis), first prize, Second Class, Second Division; and James, first prize, Second Class, First Division. As well, Margaret, Amelia, John, Francis and George were recognised for good religious education results among the Roman Catholic children.<sup>17</sup>

Not all of the children have been traced after they left the Orphan School system and it is not clear whether they were reunited with their family.

Margaret, admitted at the age of 9, was apprenticed to Ann HORAN of New Town and then again to Charles STEVENS. Margaret then disappears from the records.

Amelia, admitted when she was 7, was apprenticed in September 1877 to Richard SHIRLEY, Macquarie Street, and later to James HUGHES, Oatlands. Her apprenticeship expired in May 1881.<sup>18</sup> Amelia had a child, Arthur Leslie Stokes, in Goulburn Street, Hobart, in October 1881.<sup>19</sup> In May 1888, she married Neils SORENSEN, a shoemaker:

## MARRIAGE

SORENSEN-STOKES.—On the 28th May, at the Church of the Apostles,, by the Rev. Dean Beechnor, Neil J. E. Sorensen, youngest son of Wm. Sorensen, of Denmark, to Amelia Merica, youngest daughter of Mr. J. H. Stokes, of Launceston.<sup>20</sup>

Witnesses to the marriage were Mary Stokes and Frederick SMITH, husband of Eliza Stokes.<sup>21</sup>

John, admitted to the Orphan School at the age of 8, was apprenticed in June 1879 to Michael RABBITS at Port Cygnet. John's apprenticeship expired in August 1883.<sup>22</sup>

Francis, admitted at the age of 8, was apprenticed in March 1879 to John DILLON, Port Cygnet. He absconded from his master in November 1881. He was described as 13, fair complexion and fair hair, stout build. He was dressed in a dark coat, printed moleskin trousers and a black billy-cock hat. He reportedly had friends at Franklin and Hobart Town. His apprenticeship expired in August 1883.<sup>23</sup>

George, admitted when he was 5, was apprenticed in March 1879 to John BELL at Port Cygnet. In March 1880, George

<sup>15</sup> *Tasmanian Tribune* (Hobart) 6 January 1876 p. 2

<sup>16</sup> *Tasmanian Tribune* (Hobart) 6 January 1876 p. 2

<sup>17</sup> *The Mercury* (Hobart) 29 December 1876 p. 2

<sup>18</sup> Joyce Purtscher (Compiler), *Apprentices and Absconders from the Queen's Orphanage Hobart Town 1860-1883* (New Town, 1994)

<sup>19</sup> TAHO, RGD33/1/12 Hobart 1881/2960 Arthur Leslie Stokes

<sup>20</sup> TAHO, RGD37/1/47 Launceston 1888/718 Amelia Mary Stokes and Neils Sorensen; *Daily Telegraph (Launceston)* 26 June 1888 p. 2; TAHO, RGD37/1/42 Ringarooma 1883/1033 Eliza Stokes and Frederick Smith

<sup>21</sup> TAHO, RGD37/1/47 Launceston 1888/718 Amelia Mary Stokes and Neils Sorensen

<sup>22</sup> Joyce Purtscher (Compiler), *Apprentices and Absconders from the Queen's Orphanage Hobart Town 1860-1883* (New Town, 1994)

<sup>23</sup> Joyce Purtscher (Compiler), *Apprentices and Absconders from the Queen's Orphanage Hobart Town 1860-1883* (New Town, 1994)

absconded from his master. He was described as being of stout build with a fair complexion and sandy hair. His apprenticeship expired in January 1885.

At some stage, John and Bridget appear to have reunited—both died at the residence of their son-in-law, John CONSTANTINE, in Bathurst Street, Launceston. John Stokes, aged 84, died in September 1899 and Bridget, also 84, died in 1910.<sup>24</sup>

Like many of the stories of the Orphan School children, there are more questions than there are answers. But it seems the semi-naked children living in the bush near Fingal made a new start through the Orphan School. ◀

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

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<sup>24</sup> TAHO, RGD35/1/68 Launceston 1899/285 John Stokes; *Launceston Examiner* 27 September 1899 p. 1; *Launceston Examiner* 28 June 1910 p. 1. John Constantini married Mary Stokes; Esther Pettifer (née Stokes) was a witness: TAHO, RGD37/1/51 Launceston 1892/516 Mary Stokes and John Constantini.

## NEW PUBLICATION

# CEMETERIES OF SOUTHERN TASMANIA

Vol XI

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# A PATHWAY TO TEACHING GRANTS IN AID OF MAINTENANCE RECIPIENTS, 1917

Betty Jones (Member No. 6032)



**T**HE automatic provision by government of a high school education for the majority of students is an expectation of our current society. Efforts to make children's transition from primary school to high school as smooth as possible have been taken seriously by educators for many decades and, by and large, considered successful. Strategies for encouraging more Tasmanian students to remain in the system beyond Year 10 are reviewed frequently by government, as are students' opportunities to access a range of tertiary education courses, including teacher training.

It is easy to take all this for granted now and forget just how far the Tasmanian education system has come and how social attitudes towards schooling have evolved over the last one hundred years. This article endeavours to show how the educational opportunities available to

young people considering a career in teaching were quite different in 1917 from those of today.

## **Background on high school education in Tasmania**

By 1912, most children were provided with compulsory formal education from the ages of 7–13 in what we would now classify as primary schools, the age for leaving being raised to 14 that year. Children over the age of 12 who were in employment could seek full-time exemption from school, while those who could show their labour was needed to support their families could be exempted for two days a week.

State high schools came into operation in Tasmania in 1913 at Hobart and Launceston, followed by intermediate high schools (with more restricted course offerings) at Burnie and Devonport by 1916, Huonville by 1922 and Scottsdale

by 1924. Others followed across the state over time.

From 1912, all children wishing to enter state high schools the following year had to sit for the Qualifying Certificate (later known as the 'Scholarship Examination'), success at that externally-set test being essential for admission. Equal access to, and full participation in, education were obviously not considered to be the right (or choice) of all in those times. Indeed, judged by modern standards, inequities were considerable. For example, *The Educational Record* of January 1914 stated that 1024 candidates had sat for the Qualifying Examination in November 1913, with 441 passes being awarded (43 per cent). By January 1923, the results for the previous year indicated that 52 per cent of entrants had been successful. Thus, up to 1922, as well as sometimes up to half of the Tasmanian children who sat for the examinations being denied a high school education because they did not pass the Qualifying Certificate, closer perusal of the published names of those successful against surviving high school admission registers, indicates that not all of those who did pass actually went on to, or completed, secondary school.

Junior technical schools were introduced for boys in Hobart and Launceston, and for boys and girls in Zeehan and Queenstown in 1919, the Qualifying Certificate being the prerequisite for entry, the same as for high school. Courses at those schools extended over two to three years and, whilst not pretending to teach a trade, had more of a leaning towards imparting the special technical knowledge that provided the basis for trades and professions in industry at the time. It was possible for students to pass subjects for the Junior Technical Certificate or the Intermediate

Certificate, the first successful pupils being noted by the end of 1920.

### **Grants in Aid of Maintenance**

Not all families could afford, or wanted, to send their children 'on'. Cost was often a deciding factor, so additional help was sought and welcomed by many. However, only a relatively limited number of government bursaries and grants were available then to the most able students, the recipients being ranked competitively on examination results. For pupils considering becoming teachers, the government offered Grants in Aid of Maintenance.

From 1913, the regulations of the Education Department provided that those grants were available to applicants between the ages of 13 and 16 (by 1922, 12 to 15) who wished to qualify as a teacher in the schools under the Department. They were tenable for two years at a state high school and initially were valued at £20 per annum. By 1917 the amount had increased to £22 per year.<sup>1</sup>

The 20 grants for 1917 were announced in January 1918,<sup>2</sup> and awarded to the following applicants, who were required to provide proof of age. They are listed in order of merit, their school at the time noted in brackets:

1. Winifred NIBBS (Northdown)
2. Ida BENNETT (Geeveston)
3. Mary LAWSON (Queenstown)
4. Ruby LINCOLN (Geeveston)
5. Rita M HALL (Waratah)
6. Martha McKINNELL (Epping)
7. Edward ARCHER (Waratah)
8. Christine BURBURY (Dover)
9. Charles GRIGGS (Franklin)
10. Fred TOWNSEND (Moina)

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<sup>1</sup> *Daily Telegraph*, 12 January 1918

<sup>2</sup> *The Examiner*, 12 January 1918

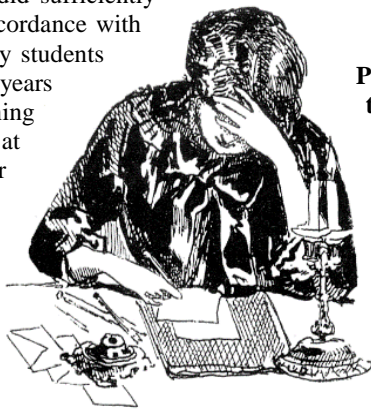


11. Eileen HUTT (Bagdad)
12. Florence FREEMAN (Franklin)
13. Florrie BENNETT (Geeveston)
14. Bertha GOOLD (Devonport Intermediate High)
15. William THORNTON (Tullah)
16. Olive SCOTT (Geeveston)
17. Tasman CARROLL (Burnie Intermediate High)
18. Fred BUSHMAN (Deloraine)
19. Russell LEWIS (Scottsdale)
20. Nellie SHACKCLOTH (Longford)

### **The high school route to becoming a teacher**

On entering a state high school, students indicated their intention to become a teacher. After two or three years' study, they sat for the University intermediate examination and, if they did sufficiently well, were admitted in accordance with regulations as probationary students to continue another two years of study towards obtaining the leaving certificate at Hobart, Launceston or Devonport High. From then on, they entered upon training as teachers. The entire process involved the following course of training in the respective years:

- Years 1 and 2 – Studied for the University leaving certificate and also attended classes for music and theory of education; attended demonstration classes and gave criticism classes at the practicing school. At the end of two years, the students became Junior Teachers.
- Year 3 – Entered an approved school for practical work in teaching, with a pay rate of £70 per annum. They had to take charge of a class and perform the work incidental to such responsibility.



In some instances, students were required to take charge of small rural schools. Criticism lessons had to be given before the Head Teacher. Students attended classes for music and theory of education in their own time.

- Year 4 – Entered Teachers' College in Hobart; attended University lectures and demonstration lessons; gave criticism lessons before the master of method at the practicing school. They also attended classes for music and theory of education.
- Years 5, 6, 7 – Acted as assistants in a large school or were placed in charge of small country schools; officially classified as 'Ex-students'. Their salary ranged from £180 to £200 during those three years. Only after the completion of the seven years of training were the teachers issued with a certificate.<sup>3</sup>

### **Pathways followed by the recipients**

A closer look at what each of the identified awardees did after receiving one of the Grants in Aid of Maintenance provides readers with further insight into how teaching career paths could

develop during that era.

Fifteen of the twenty nominees became teachers with the Education Department, the exceptions being Charles Griggs, Eileen Hutt, Olive Scott, Fred Bushman and Russell Lewis. Fourteen followed the predictable steps set out by the Department. One, Nellie Shackcloth, did not go to high school, but still became a

<sup>3</sup> Prepared by the Tasmanian State School Teachers' Union in *The Examiner*, 22 June 1923

teacher. More individual details from a sample of the pupils follow.

**Winifred Myrtle Nibbs** (1902–1996) was born at Sheffield, daughter of Job Lynton Nibbs and his wife Mary Elizabeth (née COX). She was a pupil at Northdown State before attending Devonport High from 1918 to 1921. Her junior teacher year was served at West Meander and Miss Nibbs then entered the Training College in 1923. Between 1924 and 1938, Miss Nibbs had appointments to Elizabeth Street, Charles Street, Ulverstone, Burnie and Moonah schools. In 1938 she married Hamlet Edward ROBERTS.

**Ida Susan Bennett** (1904–1972) was born at Geeveston, daughter of George Dunn Bennett and his wife Alice (née EVANS). She was educated in her home town before entering high school. After being a probationary student for her last two years at Hobart High, Miss Bennett became a junior teacher at Goulburn Street Infant School in 1922 prior to attending the Teacher Training College the next year. Her three-year period as an Ex-student included, and was followed, by appointments to Macquarie Street, Zeehan and Oatlands. Miss Bennett completed her career at Ulverstone when, in 1929 at Geeveston, she married head teacher, Leonard Oswald STUBS. Mrs Stubs died at Parks, Victoria.

**Mary Ruth Lawson** (1903–1959) was born and educated at Queenstown, eldest daughter of sanitary inspector, William Lawson and his wife Caroline Isabel (née SLY). She passed the Qualifying Certificate three years in a row before entering Hobart High in 1918, and progressed to becoming a probationary student during 1920 and 1921. After a year at Queenstown Infant as a junior teacher, followed by a year at the Training College, Miss

Lawson, returned to Queenstown from 1924 to 1928. The last three years of her career were spent at the Wellington Street Practicing and Invermay schools. In 1931 at Launceston, she married Kingsland Yates HARRIS.

**Ruby Alice Lincoln** (1903–1964), daughter of orchardist, Rouse Lincoln and his wife Mary Ann Eliza (née MOORE), was a pupil at Geeveston before attending Hobart High. Her junior teacher year was spent at both Dover and Woodstock schools during 1922 and, after 12 months at the Training College the following year, Miss Lincoln had appointments to Cranbrook, New Town, Sheffield and Geeveston. Her career concluded in 1930 when she married Harold Leslie DANN.

**Rita Mirian Margaret Hall** (1902–1989) was born at Pine Road (near Penguin), daughter of Samuel Hall and his wife Jessie Laura (née ROBOTTOM). She was a pupil at Waratah before enrolling at Launceston High in 1918. Her junior teacher year was undertaken at Riana in 1922, prior to a year at the Training College. In 1924 at Nabageena, the Inspector described Miss Hall as a smart and attractive young Ex-student in earnest with her work and exercising a good influence with her activities in and out of the school.<sup>4</sup> Appointments to Rocky Cape and Rubicon Bridge followed up to 1928, when Miss Hall left the Department, consistent in timing with the completion of the Ex-student phase of her career.

**Martha Margaret McKinnell** (1902–1941) was born at Launceston, only daughter of Charles McKinnell and his wife Margaret (née MUIRHEAD). She

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<sup>4</sup> Tasmanian Archive and Heritage Office (TAHO): ED31/1/28

was a pupil at Epping State School in 1917 and attended Launceston High from 1918. In 1922, Miss McKinnell undertook a year as junior teacher at Cressy before attending the Training College in 1923. Her subsequent appointments were to St Marys and Charles Street schools. Miss McKinnell resigned from the Department to take up a position at Broadland House School from 1930. She died at Launceston late in 1941, an inquest finding that her death was caused by her own act by taking poison.<sup>5</sup>

**Christine Dora Burbury** (1904–?), also known as ‘Christina’, was born at Hospital Bay, daughter of carpenter, Francis Joseph Burbury and his wife Lucy Mabel (née WOOD). She was a pupil at Dover before attending Hobart High in 1918, possessing both a Grant in Maintenance and a Junior Country Bursary. Miss Burbury had an operation for goitre in 1920. Her high school report in November that year noted, ‘A good worker and with improved health this student should do well.’<sup>6</sup> Before attending the Training College in 1923, Miss Burbury completed a year at Moonah Infant as a junior teacher. Between 1924 and 1929, she had appointments to Cygnet, Geeveston, Charles Street and Moonah schools. Miss Burbury married James Strickland DANCE at Hobart at the end of 1929. She returned to teaching in 1937, first at Goulburn Street, next at Hobart Hospital Classes and then at Lenah Valley.

**Edward James Archer** (1904–1985) was born at Waratah, son of John James Archer and his wife Janet Craigie Hunter (née ABLITT). He was educated in his birth town before attending Launceston High in 1918. He also was the recipient of a Junior Country Bursary at the same

time. Mr Archer returned to Waratah to undertake his junior teacher year for the first two terms of 1922, and then was transferred to be in charge of the small school at Quamby Brook for the last three months. Following a year at the Training College in 1923, his appointments included Magnet, Pyengana, Invermay and Gladstone. A nine-year break with the Department ensued and, upon his return in 1939, Mr Archer had a number of placements, including Glengarry, Bream Creek, Preston, Barrington, Forth and Upper Castra.

**Tasman Stanley Carroll** (1902–1992) was born at Stanley, son of James Kenny Carroll and his wife Charlotte Jane (née CORCORAN). He was educated at Irish Town State School and Burnie Intermediate before attending Devonport High as a probationary student. His junior teacher year was served at Rosebery in 1922. In 1924 at Mengha, the Inspector spoke in positive terms of the work being done by Mr Carroll, particularly in the progress he was making towards building a good working relationship with what had previously been considered a difficult community.<sup>7</sup> He resigned from the Department at the end of 1927 after two years at Goulburn Street. Mr Carroll married Lillis Alma May BESTON in 1928 at Hobart and moved to New South Wales.

**Nellie Nicholls Shackcloth** (1902–2000) was born at Longford, daughter of William Shackcloth and his wife Annie Eliza (née NICHOLLS). Miss Shackcloth was educated in her town of birth and, after passing the Qualifying Certificate in 1916 and again in 1917, received a Grant in Maintenance from the Education Department. It appears that she did not take it up, opting instead to become a

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<sup>5</sup> *The Examiner*, 12 November 1941

<sup>6</sup> TAHO: ED10/08/1920

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<sup>7</sup> TAHO: ED31/1/28

monitor at Longford from late 1918 to 1920. After spending the first half of 1921 in charge of the small school at Erriba, Miss Shackcloth undertook a course at the Training College for the remainder of that year. Between 1922 and 1925, she was placed in charge of schools at Old Beach, Elphinstone, Garden Island Creek and Glen Fern. In 1925 at Hobart, Miss Shackcloth married Frank Bryant GILBERT and after raising a family of three sons, returned to teaching in the Derwent Valley in 1942 at a time when there was a teacher shortage caused by World War II. Some of the schools in which she taught over the following 20 years included Rockwood, Glen Fern, Glen Valley, Brookside and Mt Lloyd. Mrs Gilbert completed her career with the closure of Mt Lloyd State School at the end of 1962.

### **End of Grants**

The Grants in Aid of Maintenance scheme was abolished in 1931 as part of a desperate drive to find savings in Departmental expenditure.<sup>8</sup> During its 17-year life, the program provided important financial assistance to many young teacher aspirants at a time when a high school education was recognised as a key to a brighter future, but not an expected right of all. ◀

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<sup>8</sup> *The Mercury*, 1 July 1932



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

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# EVANGELA JANE SINGLETON FROM TASMANIA TO THE WORLD

Betty Pilgrim (Member No. 7744)



**W**HO would have believed when Eva CLEMENTS was acclaimed in the world famous British newspaper, *The Era* as being the ‘Nellie Farren of Australia’ that her humble beginnings began in Oatlands, Tasmania?<sup>1</sup> Eva’s birth was registered in the District of Oatlands on 11 July 1868 as Evangela Jane SINGLETON.<sup>2</sup> Her father was the notorious convict, Henry Singleton, aka Richard PINCHES and ‘Harry the Tinker’.<sup>3</sup> Her mother was Hannah Maria (Anna) GIBBONS, said to be a daughter of a farmer. Henry and Hannah married in Hobart on 1 February 1864.<sup>4</sup> Three children were born to this union, with Eva the only one surviving infancy.

Shortly after their marriage Henry was charged with bigamy as his first wife, Anne DAVIS, was still alive, having married in Oatlands on 28 October 1858. In the initial court hearing in Hobart on Wednesday 3 August 1864, (H)Anna Gibbons deposed she had been living with her parents at Port Arthur when first meeting Henry, where she ‘thought’ he was a watchman. Hannah Gibbons and Henry Singleton resided at Oatlands after marrying on 1 February 1864, and on 3 August, she was still living with him as his wife.

Hannah told the court.

He never said anything about any previous marriage. I always took him to be a single man. I never saw the woman Davis in my life before to-day.

In the Supreme Court Criminal Sessions hearing before His Honor, Sir Valentine FLEMING, on Tuesday, 30 August 1864, there was an interesting twist. Mr MORIARTY, defending Singleton, provided evidence from a clerk at the Comptroller’s Office proving his first wife, Anne Davis, had committed bigamy as she was still married to a person who was presumably still living in England. Davis’ convict records revealed she was married at the time of transportation and she admitted this to be the case. The jury returned a verdict of ‘not guilty’ as they had ‘great doubt as to the validity of the

<sup>1</sup> The British newspaper, *The Era*, claimed it was the largest newspaper in the world, described by many as the ‘Actor’s Bible’, devoted more space than any other to theatrical coverage; Nellie Farren (1848–1904) was an English actress and singer best known for her roles as ‘principal boy’ in musical burlesques at the Gaiety Theatre

<sup>2</sup> LINC Tasmania: Tasmanian births 1868/1155. Known afterwards as Evangeline Jane or Eva.

<sup>3</sup> See second article, *Harry the Tinker*, for more information of Eva’s natural father

<sup>4</sup> LINC Tasmania: Tasmanian marriages 1864/211

first marriage'.<sup>5</sup> The marriage of Eva's parents appeared to be legal as the marriage of her father to Ann Davis was now considered void.

This marriage did not survive. Soon after Eva's birth her mother was in Hobart where at the age of 29 she (re)married, on 15 March 1873, as Hannah GIBBENS, to a 58-year old cooper, Robert McCLEMENTS, declaring on the marriage registration she was the spinster daughter of a farmer. There is no evidence that Henry and Hannah were divorced. Perhaps Hannah, believing her marriage to Henry was void, married Robert which as it turned out, was in effect, a bigamous marriage. After Robert's death Hannah married at least two others: firstly, to George SMITH, a musician; followed by Israel Troop WADE, a farmer.

Eva was aged five when her mother married Robert McClements who had worked for many years in the Hobart Bonded Stores. It is possible Hannah worked for Robert after his first wife died in 1868. Whether Eva knew of her real father's identity is not known, however, it is evident she considered her father to be McClements. Her stage name was either 'McClement(s)' or 'Clement' and the name of her father given on her marriage registration was Robert McClement.

Eva was first heard of on the stage, at about the age of 13, when she became one of the early members of the Pollard Lilliputian Opera Company, formed in Launceston in 1881. Her involvement with the Pollard Company probably eventuated from her mother's marriage to

George Smith in July 1880. George was a professional musician (cornet player) and was believed to be one of the Pollard's orchestra members. Children were initially recruited temporarily by the Pollards to sing in the choruses but if any showed ability their services were retained. All that was required was 'to be able to mimic and to have an ear for music'.<sup>6</sup> Eva obviously showed talent as she remained with the Pollards.

Soon after joining the troupe Eva accompanied the company on its first tour of New Zealand and then performed in Hobart and Launceston as well as country areas, before travelling to Victoria, NSW and Queensland. The Lilliputians received rave reports wherever they performed. Sydney audiences, for example, declared their performances at the Sydney Opera House in Planquette's *Les Cloches de Corneville*, to be

equal to nearly any opera company that has appeared here, and in energy and

**ACADEMY OF MUSIC,**  
 Lessee and Manager — Mr. F. H. Pollock.  
**POSITIVELY THE LAST NIGHT BUT TWO**  
 of  
**POLLARD'S LILLIPUTIAN OPERA BOUFFE**  
**COMPANY.**  
**THIS EVENING (THURSDAY), SEPTEMBER 12,**  
 For this night only, will be given Leococq's Grand  
 Opera Comique  
**LA FILLE DE MADAME ANGOT.**  
**LA FILLE DE MADAME ANGOT.**  
**LA FILLE DE MADAME ANGOT.**

Ange Pitou .. .. .	—	Miss Flo De Lorme
Lauvandiere .. .. .	—	Master F. Ferguson
Pomponnet .. .. .	—	Miss Bella Stewart
Loucard .. .. .	—	Miss L. Donselly
Trinitz .. .. .	—	Miss A. Brooks
Officer .. .. .	—	Master C. Sorrell
Mdlle. Lange .. .. .	—	Miss Maud Pollard
Clarette .. .. .	—	Miss May Pollard
Amarante .. .. .	—	Miss Marion Norman
Gavotte .. .. .	—	Miss Lucy Cobb
Heralie .. .. .	—	Miss Eva McClements

Conspirators, Market-women, &c.  
 Act 1.—Street in Paris.  
 Act 2.—Drawing-room in Mdlle. Lange's Mansion.  
 Act 3.—Garden at Calypso. Grand Ballet.

**TO-MORROW (FRIDAY), SEPTEMBER 12.**  
 The Company will appear for positively the last  
 time in their great success,  
**LES CLOCHES DE CORNEVILLE.**

**SATURDAY EVENING, SEPTEMBER 13.**  
**GRAND EXTRA NIGHT.**  
**FOR THE BENEFIT**  
 of  
**LITTLE MARION NORMAN,**  
 Tendered to her by the Management.  
**SWEETHEARTS.**  
**SWEETHEARTS.**  
**SWEETHEARTS.**  
**AND A GRAND CONCERT,**  
 In which all the principal members of the Company  
 will appear.  
 Full particulars in Saturday's Papers.

<sup>5</sup> *The Mercury*, Wednesday, 31 August 1864

<sup>6</sup> *South Australian Register*, 4 August 1884

diligent representation of character few companies could excel them.<sup>7</sup>

Eva also travelled with the Pollards to Batavia (Indonesia), Singapore, the North West Provinces (including Allahabad), Burmah, the Malay Settlements and Calcutta where performances were always a grand affair, the children receiving 'many marks of favour from the nobility and gentry of Calcutta.'<sup>8</sup>

Eva continued to tour with the Pollards, both within Australia and internationally, remaining with them until at least May 1886. She then performed with various companies: the Holloway Dramatic Company, The Alexandra Opera Company and the Grand New Comic Opera Company. In July 1888 Eva performed with D'Arcy Stanfield in a melodrama, 'Run to Earth' at the Royal Standard Theatre in Sydney. Later in the year she performed

in Stanfield's Burlesque Company at the Gaiety Theatre in Brisbane. During 1889 Eva continued to tour with D'Arcy Stanfield's Burlesque Company, to West Maitland, Brisbane and Adelaide.

*The Sydney Morning Herald* in November 1889 reported on the divorce of Alfred D'Arcy (D'Arcy) STANFIELD and Emma Louisa Stanfield, formerly Fisher (sic).<sup>9</sup> Emma petitioned for divorce from D'Arcy on the grounds of him committing adultery with Eva. D'Arcy and Eva married in Townsville, Queensland on 7 June 1890. D'Arcy came from a famed English family. His great-grandfather, James Field Stanfield (1749–1824), who was born in Ireland and later moved to England, was both an actor and an author. He was highly regarded for his essay on the study and composition of biography (1813).<sup>10</sup>



*The Battle of Trafalgar*, Clarkson Stanfield

Retrieved from:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clarkson\\_Frederick\\_Stamfield#/media/File:The\\_Battle\\_of\\_Trafalgar\\_by\\_William\\_Clarkson\\_Stamfield.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clarkson_Frederick_Stamfield#/media/File:The_Battle_of_Trafalgar_by_William_Clarkson_Stamfield.jpg)

<sup>7</sup> *Sydney Morning Herald*, 10 April 1882

<sup>8</sup> *South Australian Register*, 4 August 1884

<sup>9</sup> Emma Louisa Fischer

<sup>10</sup> Retrieved from: [https://books.google.com.au/books?id=R6\\_7TII0M0C&printsec=frontcover&dq=subject:%22Biography+as+a+literary+form%22+James+Field+Stanfield&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjlu\\_i3rtfOAhUMn5QKH2KCL0Q6AEIGzAA#v=onepage&q=subject%3A%22Biography%20as%20a%20literary%20form%22%20James%20Field%20Stanfield&f=false](https://books.google.com.au/books?id=R6_7TII0M0C&printsec=frontcover&dq=subject:%22Biography+as+a+literary+form%22+James+Field+Stanfield&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjlu_i3rtfOAhUMn5QKH2KCL0Q6AEIGzAA#v=onepage&q=subject%3A%22Biography%20as%20a%20literary%20form%22%20James%20Field%20Stanfield&f=false)

Grandfather Clarkson Stanfield (1793–1867), named Clarkson after Thomas Clarkson—the anti-slavery agitator and marine and landscape painter.

D’Arcy’s father was George Clarkson Stanfield (1828–1878) and was a pupil of his father and painted the same class of subjects. He attended the Royal Academy Schools, but was not formally enrolled. Stanfield exhibited, starting at age sixteen, at the Royal Academy—a total of 49 works—and at the British Institution—a total of 73 works.

D’Arcy and Eva toured throughout Australia and for a few years settled at both Grafton in NSW and Zeehan on the west coast of Tasmania. Here they were involved with amateur theatre. After an interstate engagement with the Melbourne Tivoli in early 1896 they returned with some other members of the Pollard Company and performed once again on the west coast of Tasmania. A son, D’Arcy Clarence Clarkson Stanfield was born in 1891 at Grafton. Another son, Ernest Alfred Field Stanfield, was born at Strahan in 1894.

The Stanfield team did not settle for long and in 1898 they were travelling in South Africa with a variety company. Ernest’s grand-daughter said that her grandfather accompanied his parents on this tour.<sup>11</sup> Soon after the South African tour D’Arcy and Eva were engaged in Dublin and Belfast before opening at the Palace Theatre in London. There followed a short engagement at the Empire in Liverpool, returning to the Alhambra Theatre in London for an eight-week engagement. On 26 June 1900, they participated in an Australian Benefit Matinee held at the Alhambra, London, in

aid of the widows and families of Australians, New Zealanders and Tasmanians who had fallen in South Africa fighting for Queen and Empire.<sup>12</sup>

*The Era* reported in November 1900:

Miss Eva Clements and Mr. D’Arcy Stanfield, who came over from Australia just twelve months ago, have undoubtedly caught on in this country. Miss Clements, is a Tasmanian by birth, though Mr Stanfield we remember some years ago as a promising comedian with Mr. J. L. Toole and other London managers, but after being with Messrs Williamson, Garner, and Musgrove, became associated with Australia in management, and is looked upon as one of themselves by Antipodeans. These popular comedy artists opened first at the Palace, London, and have played two engagements there with marked success. They have toured under the banner of the Moss Empires Company, and hold return contracts for two years. Most of the London halls have welcomed these successful artists, and wherever they have appeared they are re-engaged. To-day they leave for America, where they have obtained a very fine star engagement, and after touring the land of Stars and Stripes for 12 weeks they return to London in December, and open at the Alhambra for a season of two months; after which they are booked for London and the provinces until well into 1902. So it seems that this versatile couple have come to stay with us.

The tour of the States proved to be very successful. In the 1901 England Census Eva and D’Arcy were living at Bradford, Yorkshire. The children were not with their parents and were shown in the census as being with John H STAWEN-GHI, Agent for South Africa, and Agnes Mundy in North East Fulham, London.

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<sup>11</sup> Email communication Peters to Pilgrim, 16 June 2013

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<sup>12</sup> Tasmania was listed separately from Australia



Both children were recorded incorrectly as being born in Austria. While fulfilling an engagement with his wife at the London Oxford, D'Arcy caught a chill from which he did not recover. He died on 10 August 1902 at Friedenheim Hospital, London, at the age of 41. It was reported in the Australian papers that Eva was left with two young children, but she intended to resume work, using in future the name of Myra Stanfield.<sup>13</sup>

It is untold why Eva did not continue caring for her children after her husband's death. The grand-daughter of the youngest son, Ernest Alfred Field Stanfield, was of the view that the children believed they were orphans as both parents supposedly had died at the same time. They were placed in the care of their great-aunt Harriet (Aunt Hattie), a sister to D'Arcy's father, George. Hattie was married to William Henry Gunning BAG SHAWs, a county court judge from a prominent Catholic family. The two boys were placed in a boarding school with Aunt Hattie paying the fees, the elder of the two died there in 1906; the cause of death was because of 'very laboured breathing'.<sup>14</sup> It is a possibility that after D'Arcy's death the Stanfield family did not want Eva in their lives anymore and took control of D'Arcy's children. Whether this was an agreement as being in their best interest—being brought up in a good stable home—or whether there was some monetary settlement can only be speculated.

The following year, after D'Arcy's death, Eva remarried Fred Hill STANS-

FIELD (born c. 1882), aged 31, a widowed musician from London. Her marriage registration entered her name as Evangeline Jane Stanfield, aged 33, a widowed actress. Eva declared her father was Robert William Clements, a Government Officer from Tasmania. The marriage was solemnized at St Andrews Church of England at Fulham, London, witnessed by Esther and Alfred Bruce. Both Fred and Eva were living at 7 Charleville Road, London, at the time of their marriage. Although the last names of both husbands were very similar they were not related. At least three children were born to Eva and Fred: Charles Barrington Stansfield, born 28 December 1905 (London); Doris Lilian born 27 June 1904 (Wandsworth); and Gwendoline May born 28 May 1907 (Hull).<sup>15</sup>

A Scottish newspaper reported in May 1908 under the heading 'Music Hall



*Eva and D'Arcy Stanfield*

<sup>13</sup> No record has been found of Eva working under this name

<sup>14</sup> D'Arcy Clarence Clarkson Stanfield (1891–1906). Possibly an upper respiratory tract infection or asthma.

<sup>15</sup> Baptised 2 July 1907, Pateley Bridge, Yorkshire; may have married Frederick G Bowld. This family was living at 41 Gasmere Gardens, Orpington UD, Kent in 1939 with one child Trevor J Bowld, born on 7 February 1934.

Artiste and his wife' Eva accused Fred of drunken behaviour and of assaulting her.<sup>16</sup> She was awarded £2 a week plus ten shillings for each child. Eva claimed she had three children of the marriage and further she was supporting Ernest from her first marriage although it is very doubtful this was the case considering Aunt Hattie's involvement. Fred and Eva must have settled their differences as in the 1911 English census Fred Hill Stansfield, aged 38, variety artist and Evangeline Jane Stansfield, aged 39 and two children Doris Lilian Stansfield, aged 6 and Gwendoline May, aged 3 were living at Islington, London. Charles Barrington Stansfield, aged 5, was a visitor at the home of Wright and Ruth WATSON, a farmer from Yorkshire. Charles died at Lofthouse, Fountains Earth, Yorkshire on 29 January 1921, aged 15. The children of Eva's first marriage to D'Arcy didn't know their mother was still alive, let alone that they had three half siblings.

Little was heard of Eva after this time. There is a shipping record of Mrs E J Stansfield (aged 58) accompanied by Miss D Stansfield as passengers departing Southampton for South Africa in 1928.<sup>17</sup> Maybe Eva returned to where she had happier memories. It is almost certain the Evangeline Stansfield who died in 1938 aged 69 in Surrey, England, was Evangeline Jane Singleton, world renowned singer and actress, daughter of a convict, born in Oatlands, Tasmania.<sup>18</sup> ◀

*Oh! What a tangled web we weave when  
first we practice to deceive.*

Sir Walter Scott

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<sup>16</sup> *Dundee Courier*, Angus, Scotland, dated 25 May 1908

<sup>17</sup> Ancestry.com. UK, *Outward Passenger Lists, 1890–1960* [database on-line]

<sup>18</sup> England & Wales, Death Index, Q1, 1938.

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# HARRY THE TINKER

Betty Pilgrim (Member No. 7744)

**H**ENRY SINGLETON<sup>1</sup> (aka 'Harry the Tinker', Richard PINCHES and Henry SALTER-TON) was a hardened criminal and described in prison records as being of 'bad character'.<sup>2</sup> He first came to the attention of the Oatlands Police Office in 1860. Along with Joseph Nelson BARNES,<sup>3</sup> Henry was found guilty of stealing five pigs belonging to farmers, James LORD of York Plains and Patrick CROSSIN from Oatlands. Barnes and Singleton resided at the Blue Hills and carried on a business together as timber cutters. Witnesses testified to seeing Barnes and Singleton driving the pigs towards Blue

Hills.<sup>4</sup> The Chief Constable found a quantity of newly cured pig meat and buried, near the their hut, an iron pot containing a number of pigs' feet and portions of the back bones of pigs.<sup>5</sup>

In September Singleton and Barnes were sentenced 'to be kept in penal servitude for four years'.<sup>6</sup> The following month five prisoners, including Henry Singleton, attempted to escape from the Oatlands Gaol where they were awaiting transportation to Port Arthur. Heavily ironed Singleton, along with John SMITH, Edward MOONEY, John McKAY and Frederick ELEY were then escorted to the Campbell-street Gaol before being taken to Port Arthur.<sup>7</sup> Port Arthur was not a new experience for Singleton, having served much of his initial convict imprisonment there.<sup>8</sup>

During the four years he was at Port Arthur Henry had enough freedom to get to know Hannah GIBBENS, who he married on 1 February 1864 after his term finished. Hannah was living with her parents at Port Arthur and had believed Henry was a watchman. Three daughters were born in Oatlands the following years with the first two only living a few

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<sup>1</sup> Richard Pinches departed Portsmouth on 5 February 1851 per *Lady Kennaway* (2). He was reconvicted as Henry Singleton. Richard Pinches was tried Oxford GS 4 July 1844 and was sentenced to 14 years' transportation. He arrived 28 May 1857. He stated he was Roman Catholic, single, and could read and write. He had 4 former convictions. Hulk report records he had threatening and insubordination conduct and had been cautioned as to his conduct. Surgeon's report—very bad. Sent to Norfolk Island and on 29 September 1852 to Port Arthur. (LINC Tasmania: Convict Description List CON 18/1/52; Indent CON 14/1/42).

<sup>2</sup> LINC Tasmania: Conduct Records: CON33/1/102; CON37/1 p. 5138

<sup>3</sup> LINC Tasmania: Convict departed Portsmouth per *Stakesby* on 22 May 1833. Sentenced for 14 years' transportation at Dorset on 9 March 1833 for stealing leather. His gaol report recorded he was of 'bad character'. Joseph was married to Mary with two children at time of sentence.

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<sup>4</sup> The area known as Blue Hills where Singleton resided was about twelve miles from the Post Office in the township of Oatlands; *Mercury*, 8 September 1860, p. 2. Not the Blue Hills in the north-west of Tasmania on the edge of the Tarkine Wilderness.

<sup>5</sup> *Mercury*, 8 September 1860, p. 2

<sup>6</sup> *Examiner*, 2 October 1860, p. 2

<sup>7</sup> *Mercury*, Tuesday, 30 October 1860, p. 2

<sup>8</sup> Port Arthur Historic Sites Fact Sheet: *Meet Henry Singleton*

hours—the causes of death being stated on death certificates as ‘convulsions.’ The only surviving child of the marriage, Evangela Jane Singleton (aka CLEM-ENTS/McCLEMENTS) became an internationally renowned actress/singer and is the subject of another article.

Henry kept his nose relatively clean until 1869 when a warrant was issued for his arrest. Together with Robert BEW,<sup>9</sup> Singleton was charged with having feloniously stolen 40 lbs weight of flour, property of Mr William HARRISON.<sup>10</sup> Singleton was described as

35 years old, appears younger, 5 feet 6 inches high, brown hair and whiskers, the latter worn under chin, a tin-plate worker; dressed in pilot cloth jacket and trousers, and black billy-cock hat.<sup>11</sup>

He was arrested by the Oatlands Municipal Police soon after when an additional charge was made for stealing carpenter’s tools from the premises of Mrs Jane Evans TEUSH.<sup>12</sup> After a good deal of evidence had been heard a verdict of guilty was returned and they were sentenced to five years’ imprisonment.<sup>13</sup> An additional three years’ imprisonment was given as a result of Henry being caught with a crowbar trying to break out. Three months later Henry successfully absconded. A reward of £2

and the vigilance of the authorities have been alike ineffectual in securing apprehension.<sup>14</sup>

The Port Arthur Historical Site Fact Sheet ‘Meet Henry Singleton’ records Henry had obtained a set of keys drunken warders had given him so he could let them back into the Prison when they were incapable.<sup>15</sup> This seems quite incredible—and perhaps unbelievable!

Henry remained at large for approximately two years living the life of a bushranger, using the bush around Oatlands as a refuge to hide from the authorities. He was not known to rob ‘under arms’ as most bushrangers. In May 1873, Sub-Inspector HODGES and Constable TWEEDIE, of the Oatlands police, left Oatlands early one morning and arrived at a cave near Oatlands which was believed to be the resort of some thieves believed to be guilty for ‘the many depredations that have for some time been going on’ including the extensive loss of sheep in the district.<sup>16</sup> There they surprised Henry Singleton who was standing outside on the banks of the Jordan. After a scuffle he was arrested before he could reach his loaded gun. In the cave a woman, Elizabeth WILDER, was found, a quantity of baggage, two sheep dogs and several pups. The Launceston *Examiner* reported the Oatlands police deserved credit for their tact and promptitude in capturing Singleton, as he was well known in the district as a desperate and determined character.<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> LINC Tasmania: Convict—initially went to Norfolk Island per *Pestonjee Bomanjee* in May 1847. Robert was transported for 15 years for robbery with violence.

<sup>10</sup> *Tasmania Reports of Crime*, 1969, p. 186

<sup>11</sup> *ibid.*, p. 206

<sup>12</sup> Wife of F E Teush who was a surgeon and JP at Oatlands.

<sup>13</sup> *The Cornwall Chronicle*, Saturday, 5 March 1870, p. 11

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<sup>14</sup> *Mercury*, Tuesday, 14 March 1871, p. 2

<sup>15</sup> Retrieved from

[http://portarthur.org.au/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2015/08/Henry\\_Singleton\\_factsheet1.pdf](http://portarthur.org.au/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2015/08/Henry_Singleton_factsheet1.pdf)

<sup>16</sup> *Examiner*, Saturday, 31 May 1873, p. 5

<sup>17</sup> *ibid.*

The *Tasmania Reports of Crime* detailed the articles found in a cave, recently occupied by Henry Singleton, alias Harry the Tinker, and a woman named Elizabeth Wilder, recently arrested by the Oatlands Municipal Police.<sup>18</sup>

7 vols. Sir Walter Scott's novels, paper covers; 1 vol. East Lynne; 1 small vice and other small tools (carpenter's), since identified by Mr John Page, of Lemon Springs; 1 book on Electricity; 1 ditto Philosophy of Common Things; 1 vol. Popular Educator; 1 Church Lesson Book, bound in green velvet, brass edges, "Ohio Brown" written in the cover; 1 single barrelled gun, a crack in the stock where screw fastens lock; 1 small telescope, red barrel; 1 tomahawk; 3 small hammers; several files; 1 rasp; 2 dark lanterns; 8 dies; 2 tin billies; a quantity of note paper and envelopes; a revolver case; 1 bullet-mould; 1 nipple-screw; a quantity of bullets; 1 blowpipe; a quantity of flour; 23 door and drawer keys on steel ring; 14 small keys on a string; 15 ditto; 30 skeleton keys and door keys, some of them broken; 1 frying-pan; 1 pack of cards; 1 black wide-awake hat; 1 new Scotch twill shirt; 1 old dark moleskin trousers; 1 pair woman's stays, new; sugar, tea, caraway seeds, &c., &c. The above articles, with the exception of those claimed by Mr. Page, are at Police Office, Oatlands, awaiting identification.

This report was repeated in the Hobart *Mercury* under the heading 'Contents of a Freebooter's Cave'. The *Mercury* added that several articles of bedding, recently stolen from Mrs ISON were found in the possession of Singleton.<sup>19</sup> The *Cornwall*

*Chronicle* said it was evident Singleton was a man of literary tastes,<sup>20</sup>

and judging from the presence of his female associate he was determined not to be deprived of the enjoyment of social life.

Elizabeth Wilder only remained in gaol for a short period as she was discharged during the week ending 30 August 1873.<sup>21</sup> Elizabeth was described on discharge as being an ex-convict who had arrived on the ship *Cadet*.<sup>22</sup> Her native place was London, aged 42 and she was 4 feet 6 inches in height. Elizabeth had been tried at Oatlands on 6 June 1873 as a suspected person and sentenced to 3 months' imprisonment.

Although sentenced to ten years, Singleton was discharged with a Ticket of Leave from Port Arthur, two years later, on 21 July 1875.<sup>23</sup> Henry seemed to stay out of trouble for several years but was again arrested in 1883 in Ross, along with Mrs Singleton (or POOLE), John DUFFY, Joseph BERRY and James BERRY, said to be connected with the burglary at Mr Joseph McMahon's premises at Longford on 10 September.<sup>24</sup> Henry was alleged to be the 'principal in

<sup>20</sup> *Cornwall Chronicle*, 6 June 1873, p. 2

<sup>21</sup> *Tasmania Reports of Crime*, 1873, p. 148

<sup>22</sup> A search of the *Cadet* records does not show a convict by the name of Elizabeth Wilder. The closest name was that of Elizabeth Wicker who died on board ship on the voyage to VDL. Thomas Nevin (<https://thomasnevin.com/2009/01/19/singleton-henry-or-richard-pinches/>) shows her as being aka Mrs Poole or Singleton and aka Elizabeth Singleton.

<sup>23</sup> Prisoners discharged week ending 21 July 1875—Office of the Inspector of Police, Hobart Town, 23 July 1875

<sup>24</sup> McMahon owned a large store in Longford from where the goods were stolen; *Tasmanian Reports of Crime*, 1883, p. 184

<sup>18</sup> 1873, p. 94—vide Crime Report, 1871, p. 41

<sup>19</sup> *Mercury*, 5 June 1873, p. 2; Mrs Ison was most likely the wife of the Rev. J L Ison, the clergyman of the parish

the affair'.<sup>25</sup> While in custody awaiting trial Henry, described by many as a 'clever fellow', gave an example of his ingenuity by trying to pick the lock of his cell with a piece of wire taken from the rim of a tin plate on which he had his dinner; it was thought he used his iron spoon to assist the removal of the rim. Henry was detected by Special Constable WADDINGTON and his escape was prevented. Since then he was guarded both night and day.<sup>26</sup> Henry was sentenced to 14 years' imprisonment. Upon being removed he addressed the judge saying: "There's one thing I'll be able to say: I'll be able to see you afterwards at any rate."<sup>27</sup> Singleton's companions were charged with a lesser charge of 'feloniously receiving the stolen goods' and a case was not filed against Elizabeth Singleton<sup>28</sup>.

It is not certain what happened to Henry after his release from gaol but it is supposed the Henry Singleton who died of senility at the Benevolent Asylum in Launceston on 14 December 1898, aged 87 years was the same Henry. His occupation, shown as a coppersmith on his death registration, accords with a number of official records such as his marriage registration to Hannah Gibbens. In addition, the age shown at death also fits with the same Henry Singleton aka 'Harry the Tinker'. ◀

*A convict past is now a badge of honour, and, if you don't have a convict branch in your family tree, you quickly graft one on.*

Kathy Lette

<sup>25</sup> *Examiner*, 23 October 1883, p. 3

<sup>26</sup> *The Tasmanian*, 3 November 1883, p. 1290

<sup>27</sup> *Mercury*, 9 November 1883, p. 3

<sup>28</sup> *Daily Telegraph*, 17 November 1883, p. 2; *Examiner*, 6 November 1883, p. 2.

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BUGG	Tasmania AUS		7847
BYE William	Perth/Longford TAS AUS	1857–1928	7843
CADWALLADER Maurice	Mainstone SAL ENG	c. 1837	7838
CROCKER Samson Davis	Tasmania AUS		7847
CROMPTON Samuel	Bolton ENG	1753–1827	7844
CURTIS	Tasmania AUS		7847
DAVIS (CLARKE) Naomi Amelia	Hobart TAS AUS	1857–1930	7837
ELLIS James	Tasmania AUS	c. 1800	7848
FULTON Arthur	Hobart TAS AUS	1896–1967	7848
GRIFFITHS Henry	New Town TAS AUS	c. 1830	7845
GRIFFITHS Margaret	Hobart TAS AUS	c. 1854	7845
HARRIS Henry	Longford TAS AUS	c. 1860	7843
HILL Alfred	Longford TAS AUS	c. 1871–1944	7842
HOPE Susannah	Manchester LAN ENG	1798–c. 1850	7839
JOHNSTON Andrew	Outram NZ	1883–?	7849
JOHNSTON Andrew	Hobart TAS AUS	1883–1959	7849
JOHNSTON Thomas	West Taiera Otago NZ	c. 1875	7849
JOHNSTON Thomas	Hobart TAS AUS	1838–?	7849
JOHNSTON Thomas [Tiger]	Fife SCT	1790–1832	7849
JOHNSTON Thomas [Tiger]	Hobart TAS AUS	1832–1874	7849
JUDD Bridget	Tasmania AUS		7840
KING James	Hobart TAS AUS	c. 1851	7845
LEARY Daniel	Tasmania AUS		7840
LEWIS Arthur	Kirkham LAN ENG	c. 1891	7838
MALLIN Ann	Leitrim IRE	1840–1877	7845
McMILLAN Henry	Hobart TAS AUS	1865–1948	7848
McQUEENEY Jane Angelina	Longley/Huonville (Victoria) TAS AUS	1872–1931	7845
McQUEENEY Michael	Kiltubrid Leirim IRE	1820–1883	7845
MOODY Charlotte	Tasmania AUS		7840
MOODY John	Tasmania AUS		7840
MULLIGAN Patrick	Westbury TAS AUS	c. 1849–1913	7842
MUNFORD Mary Minnie Susana	Essex ENG	c. 1840	7847
NUTTLE Thomas	Mathinna TAS AUS	c. 1880	7842
O'LEARY Edward	Launceston TAS AUS	c. 1870	7842
POTTER James	Longford TAS AUS	1855–1922	7843
READY Samuel	Essex ENG	c. 1840	7847
SMITH Henry	Port Sorell/Sheffield TAS AUS	1855–1914	7843
SMITH John	Tasmania AUS	c. 1800	7848
STEBBINGS James Best	Longford TAS AUS	c. 1880	7842
TERRY George	Hobart/Launceston/Deloraine TAS AUS	1832–1875	7843
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TURLEY Richard	Sedgley STS ENG	1852–1794	7839
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7838	CLARKE Ms Megan	PO Box 34E scotty1317@gmail.com	EAST DEVONPORT	TAS	7310
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7843	MULLIGAN Mrs Sallie	Not for publication			
7844	JONES Ms Susan	455 Dorans Road susanjgw@gmail.com	SANDFORD	TAS	7020
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7847	FRENCH Mrs Jenny	51 Malonga Drive	BURNIE	TAS	7320
7848	McMILLAN Mr Andrew	2 Lake Vue Parade mcmillanandrew57@gmail.c	MIDWAY POINT	TAS	7171
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# HELP WANTED

## **AINSWORTH and GRAFTON**

I live in England and for many years have been a member of the Lancashire Family History Society. Recently I've been researching two families that were connected by marriage, and a number of these families emigrated from England to the Launceston area at different times during the period 1922 to 1934.

The two family names are AINSWORTH and GRAFTON. They are all born in Lancashire and I have traced their lines back as far as I can. I've also obtained where possible some certificates and census statistics of the names here.

I have also examined some of the Electoral Rolls in the Launceston area where they were living in the years of the Rolls. I learned when they emigrated, their relationships to each other, and when they were born. I can share all that I have on these if you think it would help, by sending it snail-mail.

Ainsworths: these were basically one family of children and siblings. Names include Maria and her children Maria (weaver), Thomas (dental mechanic) and Richard (former mariner).

Graftons: This was largely another Preston family, but was an Army family through the generations. Philip (b. 1894) was in France all through the First World War, then in the 1920s was in China and India where his children were born. He married Mary Ainsworth, sister of the mariner above. He sailed with his family to Launceston in 1934 where he was to contact Mrs Ainsworth, York Street, Launceston. Philip and Mary retired to Freemasons Homes, Lindisfarne, Hobart

and were still living in 1975. His children (above, born overseas) are also both mentioned in the Rolls of 1954 and 1968 I've traced this family of about 14 names as far as I can.

James Drew [james@drogo.plus.com](mailto:james@drogo.plus.com)

## **CONNOR, Catherine**

Catherine CONNOR, convict per *Waverley* in 1842 to VDL was born in Dublin c. 1821, Catherine's son John Connor was born at the Cascades House of Correction in December 1847. On John's baptismal certificate his father was named as George CONNELLY, and at just three months old, in March 1848 John died from pneumonia at the Convict Nursery, Brickfields.

In May 1846 an application for Catherine and William BOOTH to marry was approved, but no record of any marriage has been located, while an application in June 1850 for Catherine to marry William ROSER convict per *Blundell* was refused. In 1855 a Catherine Connor (born c. 1825) and a George CONNETT (born c. 1823) married at St Georges Church of England. Was this Catherine and George Connelly, baby John's father?

Catherine's sister Bridget born c. 1811, who married John LYNN in Ireland, was transported to VDL per *Greenlaw* in 1844. Her 3 year-old son Matthew travelled with her, and was admitted to the Orphan School where he remained until 1849 when he was discharged to his mother.

I would greatly appreciate any information regarding Catherine's movements

after 1850: her marriage, children, departure from the colony or death.

Leonie Mickleborough, (03) 6223 7948,  
6 Wentworth Street, South Hobart 7004,  
[lemick@internode.on.net](mailto:lemick@internode.on.net)

### GOSLIN/VAUGHAN

I am seeking any information on Louisa GOSLIN (alias VAUGHAN) convict per *Mary* (3) who arrived in VDL in 1831. I'm particularly after any details following her TOL in August 1836: marriage, birth of children, departure from VDL or contact with her husband Thomas, convict per *Argyle* who also arrived in VDL in 1831.

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### WELLS

Can anybody help with a list of people who passed away in the Latrobe sanatorium. My grandfather Arthur James WELLS born 17 August 1882 Brighton Tasmania to Henry 1854–1929 and Isabella Wells 1856–1912. Arthur married M E KING in Queenstown Tasmania in 1908 and they had two boys and one girl. Arthur died 31 January 1925 at Latrobe Hospital.

Is this the same as the sanatorium? I can remember one of his sons having TB during WWII but he was cured.

In the article of *Tasmanian Ancestry* of December 2016 p. 184 'Latrobe Flower Shows' Messrs W L Wells are mentioned. Does anybody know if they are related to A J Wells above?

Any help in solving these queries will be very appreciated. Member 7093 ◀

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Tasmania 7018

# FOUR GENERATIONS OF THE REMARKABLE HAMILTON FAMILY OF HOBART

Judith Carter (Member No. 7077)  
and Don Bradmore (Member No. 6756)

**M**OST of the articles we have written in the past have been inspired by people—some heroic, others less so—who have contributed in ways great and small to the intriguing story of Tasmania's past. The inspiration for this story, however, is an inanimate object—a Cutler-type roll-top desk (pictured at right) which for many years belonged to a remarkable family, the HAMILTONs, whose roots were planted in Van Diemen's Land in 1832.

For almost twenty-five years, the desk was used by the eminent ophthalmologist, Dr J Bruce HAMILTON (1901–1968), at his professional rooms at 174 Macquarie Street, Hobart. However, when he relocated to 105 Davey Street, in 1954, the old desk, a fine piece of furniture but big and heavy, had to be left behind. For the next decade and a half, it remained at Macquarie Street but, in 1968, it was acquired by the CARTER family of Launceston and it now occupies a place of pride in their private suburban residence.<sup>1</sup>

Shortly after acquiring this prestigious piece of furniture, the Carter family became aware that Dr Bruce Hamilton's great-grandfather, William Hamilton



(c. 1796–1885), had been a furniture-maker *par excellence*. Shortly after his arrival in 1832, William had established a cabinet-making and upholstery business in Hobart and is regarded today as one of the foremost manufacturers of quality Australian colonial furniture. Examples of his highly desirable work are on display at the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery and his best pieces sell in the leading auction houses of the world for many thousands of dollars.<sup>2</sup>

The Carters soon learned, too, that Dr Hamilton's grandfather, John Hamilton (1834–1924), had made a major contribution to the development of

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<sup>1</sup> Personal communication with Carter family members, April 2016

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<sup>2</sup> Hawkins, J, 'The Creation and Furnishing of Government House, Hobart', at <http://www.jbhawkinsantiques.com/updates/articles/GovtHousePart3.pdf>, accessed August 2016

Tasmania as a successful merchant and long-serving member of the Tasmanian House of Assembly, and that his father, Clyde Hamilton (1864–1935), had distinguished himself not only in his own business but also as a director of other leading companies and member of the Board of some of the state’s most important utilities.<sup>3</sup>

For a short time, the Carters hoped the fine old desk had been made by William Hamilton but, alas, it was soon discovered this was not the case. In fact, the desk dates only from about the 1910s to 1920s when desks of this style—some made locally from Tasmanian oak (*Eucalyptus regnans*, *E. delegatensis* I or *E. obliqua*) and others imported—became the most prominent feature of the office of many a professional person.<sup>4</sup>

Nevertheless, the desk had aroused the interest of the Carters in a remarkable Tasmanian family. This is its story ...

#### **William Hamilton (c. 1796–1885)**

On 23 June 1832, *The Lindsays*, a vessel owned and fitted out for the long voyage by Thomas Martin FENTON, a recently-retired British Army officer who had served with distinction in India, arrived in Van Diemen’s Land from Sligo, Ireland.<sup>5</sup> On board with Fenton, his wife, Leonora (née ANDERSON), and their nine children, were eighteen families—comprising 76 men, women and children

altogether—as well as another twenty or so single men and women, all of whom had decided to immigrate to the colony in search of better opportunities.<sup>6</sup>

Among those who made the journey was a group of highly-skilled artisans, most of whom were carpenters or cabinet-makers. As well as William Hamilton, the group included James WHITESIDES (1803–1890) and John McLOUGHLIN (c. 1800–1886), both of whom were also to distinguish themselves as furniture-makers in Hobart. Accompanying William to Hobart were his wife, Mary Anne (WILSON née BEAUREGARDE) (1804–1887), and their daughter, Annie Jane Hamilton (1832–1914), who was born at sea a month before their arrival.<sup>7</sup>

In 1836, Hamilton, Whitesides and McLoughlin entered into a partnership arrangement of some kind and worked together from premises at No. 8 Argyle Street, Hobart.<sup>8</sup> From the outset, the business was successful and, by 1837, they were advertising themselves as ‘Messrs. Hamilton and Co., Cabinet Makers, Upholsterers, and Undertakers in General.’ By January 1840, the word ‘Builders’ had also been added to the description of the business in advertisements.<sup>9</sup> It seems likely the word ‘Importers’ could have been added, too, because, in addition to the dining-room, bedroom, library and office furniture, couches, secretaires, card tables and so on

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<sup>3</sup> ‘John Hamilton’ in *Australian Dictionary of Biography (ABD)*, online at <http://adb.anu.edu.au/>, accessed September 2016; Clyde Hamilton’s obituary, *The Mercury* (Hobart), 30 July 1935, p. 6

<sup>4</sup> Professional assessment and valuation obtained by Carter family, Hobart, April 2016

<sup>5</sup> *Hobart Town Courier*, 29 June 1832, p. 3

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<sup>6</sup> Passenger list via LINC (TAHO)

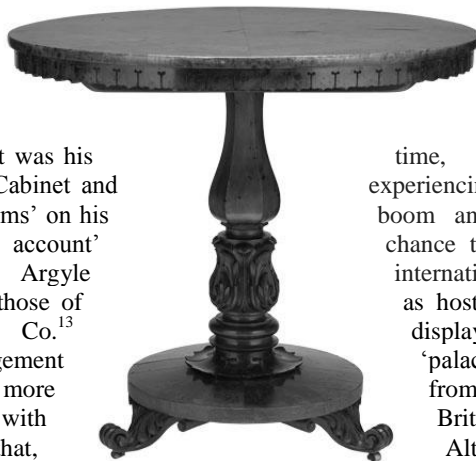
<sup>7</sup> Bradmore and Carter, ‘The People of *The Lindsays* Revisited’ in *Clann* magazine, Issue 6, May 2015, p. 29; online at <https://flipflashpages.uniflip.com/2/71043/351046/pub/html/29.html>

<sup>8</sup> Hawkins, *ibid.*, p. 29

<sup>9</sup> *The True Colonist Van Diemen’s Land Political Despatch*, 17 November 1837, p. 774

which they were manufacturing, they were also offering for sale ‘a great variety of American painted furniture’ and ‘all descriptions of hardware’ from ‘brass and iron pots’ to ‘bed screws’ and ‘bell pulls’.<sup>10</sup> Obviously, it required a sizeable workforce to sustain the business through its rapid growth and Hamilton & Co. advertised frequently for men with woodworking skills. The advertisements usually stated that ‘none need apply but the very best workmen to whom the highest wages and constant employment will be given.’<sup>11</sup> For general labouring work, the company relied on convicts to a large extent. The name ‘Hamilton & Co.’ appeared regularly in lists of firms and individuals who made application to have convicts assigned to them.<sup>12</sup>

By 1839, however, ‘Hamilton & Co’ seems to have become too small for all of its three capable and ambitious partners. On 15 October of that year, James Whitesides informed the public he had ‘withdrawn’ from the firm and it was his intention to open ‘Cabinet and Upholstery Warerooms’ on his ‘own individual account’ from premises in Argyle Street, adjacent to those of Hamilton and Co.<sup>13</sup> Although that arrangement seems strange, it is more readily understood with the knowledge that,



since their arrival in Hobart, William Hamilton and James Whitesides had become brothers-in-law. In 1835, Whitesides had married Alicia Jane BEAUREGARDE, the sister of Hamilton’s wife, Mary Ann.<sup>14</sup>

For twelve months after Whitesides left the firm, Hamilton and McLoughlin carried on in partnership in Hamilton & Co. but on 11 September 1840, McLoughlin announced that he, too, was setting up on his own account but he would be staying on at the premises at 8 Argyle Street, Hobart, formerly occupied by Hamilton & Co. William Hamilton, now on his own, was intending to move his business to No. 2 Elizabeth Street.<sup>15</sup>

In 1851, Hamilton’s work was displayed at the Great Exhibition, housed within London’s magnificent new Crystal Palace. The brain-child of Prince Albert, Queen Victoria’s husband, the Great Exhibition was intended to bring together ‘the Works of Industry of all Nations’. At that time, England was experiencing a manufacturing boom and it was a great chance to show off on the international stage. Britain, as host, occupied half the display space inside the ‘palace’, with exhibits from all parts of the British Empire. Although there were some 100,000 objects, displayed along more than 10 miles, by

<sup>10</sup> *The True Colonist Van Diemen’s Land Political Despatch*, 24 November 1837, p. 3

<sup>11</sup> See, for instance, *Colonial Times*, 12 March 1839, p. 4

<sup>12</sup> *Hobart Town Courier*, 9 February 1838, p. 4

<sup>13</sup> *Colonial Times*, 15 October 1839, p. 8

<sup>14</sup> Whitesides-Beauregarde marriage: 2882/1835/36, Hobart

<sup>15</sup> *Hobart Town Courier and Van Diemen’s Land Gazette*, 11 September 1840, p. 1

over 15,000 contributors, William must have felt proud to have been invited to send pieces for inclusion.<sup>16</sup>

Around 1857, William retired from the firm and made a brief trip back to Ireland. In Hobart the following year, he re-established his business with his sons, John (born 1834), Thomas (1838) and Joshua (1843), and continued to manage it until he retired in 1878.<sup>17</sup> When he passed away at the age of 89 in 1885 the business was discontinued.<sup>18</sup>

Although the work of Hamilton, Whitesides and McLoughlin is much admired, Hamilton is commonly regarded



as the foremost among them. His exhibition pieces have been termed ‘magnificent’ and are said to set a standard rarely if ever excelled by other Australian cabinet-makers working before 1840.<sup>19</sup> His work was again chosen for inclusion at the Inter-Colonial Exhibition of Australasia in Melbourne in 1866–67, an event intended to demonstrate the achievements of Australian colonial manufacture and production. As well as furniture, a wide variety of items—ranging from minerals, cereals, tobaccos, soaps and salts to photolithography, ferns, mosses, wines, flowers, plants, and envelope-making machines—were featured in the Great Hall of the exhibition.<sup>20</sup>

According to one modern-day expert, William Hamilton’s forte was veneered work in Huon pine, musk and blackwood.<sup>21</sup> One of his first major commissions was by Government House, Hobart, where Treasury records of the 1840s show him as its principal supplier of furniture.<sup>22</sup>

The centre or occasional table (pictured previous page) and chiffonier (pictured left) are considered to be excellent examples of his work. Both pieces are now in the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery. The table, with brass and steel fittings, was made in the 1840s of Huon pine and King Billy pine. It is about 72 centimetres tall and 80

<sup>16</sup> See L Picard, ‘The Great Exhibition’ in ‘Victorian Britain’ at

<https://www.bl.uk/victorian-britain/articles/the-great-exhibition>

<sup>17</sup> Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery (TMAG), ‘Tasmanian Colonial Decorative Arts, 1803–1930’ at <http://static.tmag.tas.gov.au/decorativeart/objects/furniture/P1994.49/index.html>, accessed 1 September 2016

<sup>18</sup> Wm Hamilton—death: 2518/1885/35, Hobart

<sup>19</sup> TMAG, *loc. cit.*

<sup>20</sup> Ferguson Urie and Co: ‘Guide to the Intercolonial Exhibition of 1866, Melbourne, Victoria’ at <https://fergusonandurie.wordpress.com/2012/11/07/24-10-1866-guide-to-the-intercolonial-exhibition-of-1866-melbourne-victoria/>, accessed September 2016

<sup>21</sup> Hawkins, *op. cit.*, p.28.

<sup>22</sup> *ibid.*

centimetres in diameter. It was purchased at auction in 2012 for A\$105,000. The chiffonier, also with brass and steel fittings, was made in the 1830s of red cedar and Kauri pine. It is 128 centimetres high, 109 centimetres wide and 39 centimetres deep.<sup>23</sup>

### **John Hamilton (1834–1924)**

John Hamilton, William's eldest son, was born at Hobart on 11 October 1834. Educated at Hobart Grammar School and later at the Hutchins School where he excelled academically, he worked first for Askin MORRISON (1800–1876), a wealthy merchant and shipowner. When Morrison died, John stayed with the new owner, James MCFARLANE (1844–1914), for some time before leaving to set up his own merchandising, shipping and insurance business—John Hamilton and Co.—in the Elizabeth Street premises which his father's firm had occupied previously.<sup>24</sup>

In 1913, John (pictured next page, top left) moved his business to 76 Collins Street.<sup>25</sup> Extraordinarily energetic, and seemingly successful in everything he did, he was elected as the representative for Glenorchy in the Tasmanian House of Assembly in 1887 and held the seat until he relinquished it in 1903. In 1885, he was appointed a Justice of the Peace and, in 1992, president of the Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce. From 1888 to

1892 he was manager of the Cascade Brewery and a director of both the Hobart Gas Company and the Tasmanian Steam Navigation Company. He was a leading member and Grand Secretary for many years of the Masonic Order in Tasmania. He was a leading member of the Church of England and largely responsible for the building of a residence for the dean on land adjacent to St David's, Hobart.<sup>26</sup>

In 1861, John married Ellen MORGAN (1836–1892). The marriage produced eight children.<sup>27</sup> John died, at 90, in Hobart on 17 August 1924.<sup>28</sup>

### **Clyde Hamilton (1864–1935)**

Clyde Hamilton (pictured next page top right), the second child and eldest son of John and Ellen (Morgan) Hamilton, was born at Hobart on 13 October 1864.<sup>29</sup> In 1899, he married Beatrice Lilian PAXTON (1868–1942). Their son, John Bruce Hamilton, was born in 1901 and their daughter, Mary Paxton HAMILTON, in 1910.<sup>30</sup>

After his education at Hobart High School, Clyde joined his father in the firm of John Hamilton & Co., general merchants, and became head of the firm when his father died in 1924. (Did he inherit the fine old desk as well as the directorship of the business at that time?

There is no evidence for this but we like to think it might have happened.)

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<sup>23</sup> <http://static.tmag.tas.gov.au/decorativeart/objects/furniture/P2009.64/index.html> and

<http://static.tmag.tas.gov.au/decorativeart/objects/furniture/P1994.49/index.html>

<sup>24</sup> 'John Hamilton' in *ABD*, at <http://adb.anu.edu.au/>, accessed September 2016

<sup>25</sup> *Daily Post*, Hobart, 8 November 1913, p. 2

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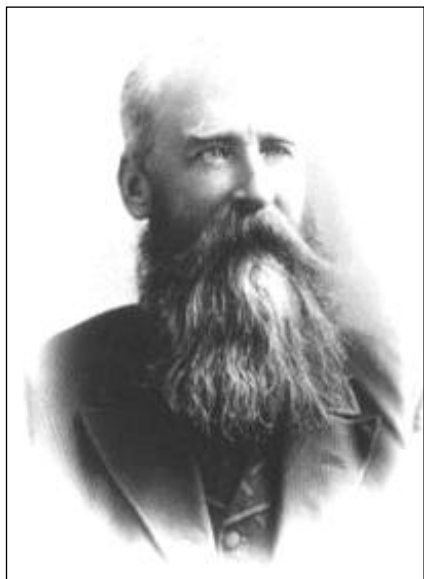
<sup>26</sup> 'John Hamilton' in *ABD*, at <http://adb.anu.edu.au/>, accessed September 2016

<sup>27</sup> Hamilton-Morgan, 313/1861/37, Hobart; children via 'Ancestry.com', accessed April 2016

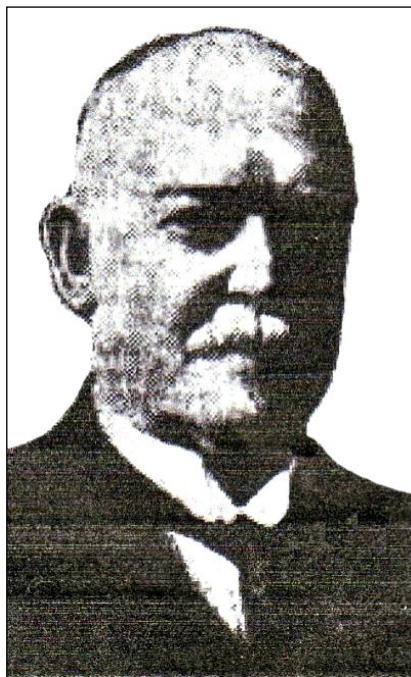
<sup>28</sup> Death - *The Mercury*, 18 August 1924, p. 1

<sup>29</sup> 7249/1864/33, Hobart

<sup>30</sup> Marriage: 240/1899/37, Hobart; births: John Bruce - 40/1901, Hobart; Mary - 3092/1904, Hobart



John Hamilton 1834–1924




Clyde Hamilton 1864–1935



Dr (John) Bruce Hamilton 1901–1968

**Vote No. 1**  
**Hamilton, John Bruce**  
 ENDORSED U.A.P. CANDIDATE  
**REMEMBER ON ELECTION DAY:**



1. Everyone in Tasmania can vote for HAMILTON.
2. You must vote for all eleven candidates on the Senate paper, or your vote is wasted.
3. The U.A.P. Senate candidates are on the right-hand side of the ballot-paper under Group "B".
4. HAMILTON is first in Group "B" - NOTE THAT!
5. HAMILTON is the only Senate candidate who is a returned soldier of this and the last war. He will continue to look after the men and women of the services and their families.
6. Vote No. 1 for HAMILTON, and then the other U.A.P. candidates in order of your preference in Group "B".
7. 8. 9. 10. If before Group "A" otherwise your paper is informal and your vote wasted.

**ELECTION DAY -- AUGUST 21**  
**HAMILTON FOR VICTORY AND**  
**PEACE WITH FREEDOM !**



Vitally interested in community affairs, he served as a member of the Hobart Fire Brigade Board continuously from 1894 to 1935, first as secretary and then as chairman. He was also a director of the Hobart Gas Company for many years.<sup>31</sup> A Justice of the Peace, he served frequently on the bench in the Police Court in Hobart.<sup>32</sup>

Also keenly interested in politics, and a prominent member of the Tasmanian National Federation, a fore-runner of the Liberal Party, he stood for the Legislative Council seat of Denison in 1925 but was unsuccessful. Later, he served as chairman of the party's Campaign Committee.<sup>33</sup> Like his father, he was a highly involved with Freemasonry in Tasmania, and, in 1898, when his father who was then Masonic Grand Secretary was ill, he acted with distinction in his place.<sup>34</sup>

Intimately associated with the Church of England, he was chairman of Anglican Church Property, and influential in the conduct of its business affairs, for many years. He was a long-serving member of Synod of the parish of Campbell Town and in 1934 was Tasmanian representative on the General Synod of Australia.<sup>35</sup> On 9 July 1935, at 70, he passed away at his residence at New Town, Hobart.<sup>36</sup>

#### **Dr (John) Bruce Hamilton (1901–1968)**

John, or Bruce as he was always known (pictured at left), the only son of Clyde and Beatrice Hamilton, was born at Hobart on 2 April 1901.<sup>37</sup> After his secondary education at Clemes College,

Hobart, he attended the University of Sydney where he graduated as a doctor of medicine in 1924. In 1927, he left for England where he completed a diploma in ophthalmic medicine and surgery at University of London in 1928 and was appointed assistant surgeon, Royal Moorfields Hospital, the leading ophthalmology hospital in the United Kingdom. In 1929, he completed his doctorate in ophthalmology at Oxford University.<sup>38</sup>

Back at Hobart in 1930, Bruce established his practice at 174 Macquarie Street. (Did his father, now 66, pass the old desk on to him? Possibly, but, again, there is no evidence for this. Nevertheless, it is a romantic idea to think it might have happened.)

From 1930 to 1953, Bruce was Honorary Consulting Ophthalmic Surgeon at the Royal Hobart Hospital and, from 1933 to the time of his death, Honorary Consulting Ophthalmic Surgeon to the Queen Alexandra Hospital for Women. In 1931, he was made a Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons and, later, served as State chairman of that body. In 1936, his research on hereditary eye disease and proposals for alleviating blindness, undertaken with his colleague Dr W D COUNSELL, was awarded the prestigious Gifford Edmunds Memorial Prize of the Royal London Ophthalmic Hospital. For many years, his book, *A Guide to Ophthalmic Operations*, published in London in 1940, was con-

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<sup>31</sup> See obituary, *The Mercury* (Hobart), 30 July 1935, p. 6

<sup>32</sup> *World* (Hobart), 9 February 1923, p. 7

<sup>33</sup> *The Mercury* (Hobart), 2 May 1925, p. 10

<sup>34</sup> *The Mercury* (Hobart), 30 July 1935, p. 6

<sup>35</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>36</sup> *The Mercury* (Hobart), 30 July 1935, p. 1

<sup>37</sup> Birth – 40/1901, Hobart

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<sup>38</sup> *The Mercury* (Hobart), 3 April 1924, p. 6; *Examiner* (Launceston), 24 July 1928, p. 6; 'John Bruce Hamilton' in *ABD* at <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/hamilton-john-bruce-10403>, accessed 17 August 2016

sidered an essential reference for eye surgeons throughout the world.<sup>39</sup>

From 1931 he was Honorary Consulting Ophthalmic Surgeon to The Royal Tasmanian Society for the Blind and Deaf (later the Tasmanian Institute for the Blind, Deaf and Dumb) and served on its Board of Management for many years, including twelve as Vice-President and two as President. Of particular importance to this work, was Bruce's founding, in 1940, of the 'Sight Saving School', which evolved out of an existing school for blind children at the Blind, Deaf and Dumb Institution. The purpose of the new school was to prevent children with partial sight from losing it completely and to teach them Braille. Government-run, it was situated in the grounds of an existing Practising School in Elizabeth Street, Hobart. Children who attended it continued to be boarded at the Blind, Deaf and Dumb Institute. In about 1960, the school was renamed 'The Bruce Hamilton Sight Saving School'. Later again, it became 'The Bruce Hamilton School'. It closed in 1980 when education authorities concluded there were significant benefits in 'inclusive education' for children with physical and intellectual disabilities, especially in relation to social outcomes.<sup>40</sup>

In 1941, Bruce enlisted in the Second Australian Imperial Force (AIF) with the rank of major and saw war service with the 2/7 Australian General Hospital in the Middle East.<sup>41</sup> Shortly after returning to Australia he announced his engagement

to Dora Jessie GRANT (1905–1991) and the couple married in Hobart on 21 April 1943.<sup>42</sup>

In 1943, just months after his return from military service, Bruce published *A New Conception of Kerato-Conjunctivitis Sicca* (Sydney, 1943), a translation from German to English with his own Foreword and Appendix, of the 1933 dissertation of the esteemed Swedish ophthalmologist, Henrik SJÖGREN (1899–1986), 'Zur Kenntnis der Kerato-Conjunctivitis', or 'On Knowledge of Kerato-Conjunctivitis'. This work became the basis of the understanding of Sjögren's Syndrome, a relatively common auto-immune disease which affects the mucous membranes and moisture-secreting glands of the eyes and mouth. Bruce's translation not only proved invaluable to rheumatologists and immunologists but established his reputation on the international stage, a reputation further enhanced when Sjögren accepted Bruce's invitation to lecture in Australia.<sup>43</sup>

Civic minded and interested in politics like his father and grandfather before him, Bruce stood as a United Australia Party (UAP) candidate for a Senate seat at the Federal election of August 1943 but was not successful. In 1946, he stood for election again, this time as the Liberal Party candidate for the seat of Denison in The House of Representatives, but was again unsuccessful.<sup>44</sup>

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<sup>39</sup> *Advocate* (Burnie), 26 August 1930, p. 2; *Mercury* (Hobart), 11 October 1930, p. 8 *ADB, loc. cit.*

<sup>40</sup> 'Sight Saving School' at <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/ref/tas/biogs/TE00569b.htm>

<sup>41</sup> *ABD, loc. cit.*

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<sup>42</sup> *Mercury* (Hobart), 3 April 1943, p. 8; *Examiner* (Launceston), 22 April 1943, p. 6

<sup>43</sup> <http://sjogrens.ca/en/the-history-of-henrick-sjogren/>; and [http://www.worldoptic.com/education/pioneers/sjogren.html#.V9eI\\_f197Z4](http://www.worldoptic.com/education/pioneers/sjogren.html#.V9eI_f197Z4)

<sup>44</sup> *Examiner* (Launceston), 3 July 1943, p. 3; *Mercury* (Hobart), 9 September 1946, p. 14

In 1953, Bruce moved out of his professional rooms at 174 Macquarie Street and relocated to 105 Davey Street, Hobart, and the old roll-top desk was left behind. Bruce must have been sorry to see this solid, impressive and prestigious piece of furniture go, not only because it had been part of his life for such a long time but also because it had been modified specially for him by the electrification of a small compartment in which certain eye-drops could be kept warm. But it was a very large and difficult-to-move desk. Perhaps it would not even fit in his new rooms! However, it seems just as likely that, by this time, the old desk had outlived its usefulness. Many professional men were finding then that the rapidly increasing volume of paperwork was making desks of that type impractical.

It is not entirely clear into whose hands the desk fell immediately afterwards but, by 1968 when it was acquired by the Carter family, it was in the possession of Dr Gordon WISE who occupied Bruce's former rooms at that time and from whom the Carter family bought it.<sup>45</sup>

In the years that followed his move to Davey Street, Bruce's reputation continued to grow—and the list of his successes, accomplishments and appointments during his distinguished career is quite astonishing. At various times, he was President or Vice-President of the Ophthalmological Society of The United Kingdom and Australia; State Chairman of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons; a Fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine, London; Vice-President of the International Society for the Prevention of Blindness (Paris); a member of the Postgraduate Committee

in Medicine in Tasmania; President of the Royal Commonwealth Society (a network of individuals and organisations committed to improving the lives and prospects of Commonwealth citizens across the world through youth empowerment, education and advocacy); President of Hobart Legacy; Vice-President of the Orpheus Club (a renowned choral society); Vice-Patron of the Art Society of Tasmania; President of the Musical Association of Tasmania; a member of the Fellowship of Australian Writers; a member of the Australian Medical Publishing Company Ltd; and much more as well. He was a frequent speaker at major international Ophthalmological Conferences including Hawaii in 1959, Manila in 1960, Vancouver in 1965, Birmingham (Alabama) in 1965 and Munich in 1966. He was the author of three influential books and over fifty articles published in scholarly journals.<sup>46</sup>

Outside the practice of his profession, Bruce had an abiding interest in the Bligh Museum of Exploration, of which he and his wife, Dora, were co-founders. This graceful, Gothic-style museum was built at Adventure Bay on South Bruny Island, Tasmania in 1954. More than 26,000 hand-made bricks, which the Hamiltons had conveyed from the convict kiln at Variety Bay on North Bruny Island, were used in its construction. A replica of the first church on the island, erected in 1842, the museum houses a specialised collection of maps, documents, paintings, photographs, artefacts relating to visits to the region by explorers including FURNEAUX, COOK, D'ENTRECAST-

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<sup>45</sup> Personal communication with members of the Carter family, July-September 2016

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<sup>46</sup> Bond, J and Panton, J (eds.) (1968). *Papers on the Life and Work of Dr J. Bruce Hamilton*. Hobart: Royal Australian College of Ophthalmologists, Tasmanian Branch

EAUX, BLIGH, BAUDIN and others. The foundation stone of the museum was laid by Dora on 9 September 1954, the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of William Bligh's birth.<sup>47</sup>

Dr J Bruce Hamilton passed away at his Sandy Bay residence, Hobart, on 11 April 1968. He was survived by his wife, a son and a daughter. Not surprisingly, hundreds paid tribute to the contribution he had made to society. According to one biographer, a few people had found him 'arrogant' and 'curmudgeonly' but most were of the opinion that, because he demanded so much of himself, he naturally expected it of others. Those who knew him very well said was that he was meticulous in his work, generous and encouraging towards his patients, progressive in his outlook, and a warm-hearted friend who entertained lavishly, laughed often and loved life.<sup>48</sup>

As for the fine old desk, it has now been in the possession of its present owners for close to fifty years. Acquired by the Carters in 1968—which, coincidentally, was the year in which Dr Bruce Hamilton passed away, a fact which gives its ownership a special poignancy—the desk has always been regarded by them as a symbol of the solidarity, strength and permanence of the reputation of a remarkable family through four generations. ◀

<sup>47</sup> Bond, J and Panton, J (eds.), *op. cit.*  
<sup>48</sup> *ibid.*

## UNDERTAKERS OF HOBART: Vol. IV



### Index to H C Millington Pty Ltd Funeral Records

- Part 1 Apr 1925 – May 1937  
\$22.00 + \$6.30 p&p
- Part 2 May 1937 – Mar 1944  
\$22.00 + \$6.30 p&p
- Part 3 Mar 1944 – Mar 1950  
\$15.00 + \$6.30 p&p
- Part 4 Mar 1950 – Nov 1955  
\$25.00 + \$6.30 p&p
- Part 5 Nov 1955 – Nov 1960  
\$25.00 + \$6.30 p&p
- Part 6 Nov 1960 – May 1964  
\$25.00 + \$6.30 p&p
- Part 7 May 1964 – Apr 1967  
\$25.00 + \$6.30 p&p
- Part 8 Apr 1967 – Jun 1970  
\$25.00 + \$6.30 p&p

These records usually give name of spouse and/or parents, death place, abode, cause of death, cemetery where buried or if cremated. Often newspaper Death and/or Funeral Notices are attached which detail other family members. Copies are available for a small fee on request.

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# WHO WERE THE PARENTS OF BRITTON JONES?

Diana Gourley (Member No. 4266) with Suzanne Collins

QUITE a few families with links to early white settlement in northern Tasmania, particularly in and around Launceston, are descendants of the convict Britton JONES, also known as Britton WEBB JONES (who I will abbreviate to BWJ).

There are many verifiable facts in Britton Jones' personal history including his conviction for larceny in the Bristol Quarter Session on 14 July 1817,<sup>1</sup> two years in the hulks aboard the 'Laurel',<sup>2</sup> and transportation to Hobart Town in Van Diemen's Land on the *Dromedary*,<sup>3</sup> arriving on 10 January 1820. This is followed by his marriage to Sophia KIRK on 2 December 1822 in Launceston and the birth of eight children. There is also much evidence about his association with the settlement that came to be known as Franklin Village with the acquisition of land and the building of Franklin House and Greycliffes further south. He was a licensed victualler, brewer, hotelier and property developer and numerous auc-

tions were held in the sale yards of the nearby 'Sir William Wallace Inn' of which he was the licensee for some years. He was also attracted to the Californian gold fields travelling there in 1849. There he operated a hotel in San Francisco

before returning to Van Diemen's Land. He died from burns, perhaps in Greycliffes on 9 December 1856 at the age of 56.

The family was always told that Britton was born on 18 May 1800 in Bristol to Britton Jones senior and Mary WEBB. Descendant June GEE included quite a few details about this couple in the family history she wrote, 'Keeping Up With The Joneses'. On the cover was a photo of a portrait of said Mary Jones (née Webb) allegedly painted by



Portrait of Britton Webb Jones' mother

her portrait-painter husband: that is Britton Jones' father. The main problem with this couple is that many researchers have been unable to verify them as the parents of BWJ. They are recorded as his parents on the *FamilySearch* website but this is not a reliable historic record: rather it has been contributed by a researcher in an ancestral file.

<sup>1</sup> Tasmanian Archives and Heritage Office (TAHO), CON 13/1/2 p. 5

<sup>2</sup> AJCP HO9/9, p. 45, PRO Reel 4881

<sup>3</sup> TAHO: CON 31/23

I also searched the British Newspaper Archive for a portrait painter in and around Bristol in the period 1810–1830).<sup>4</sup> While there were many advertisements for the talents of a Mr HOBBDAY (presumably William Armfield Hobday) from 1808–1818 and others for a Mrs STEWART, there were none with the surname Jones. The portrait has recently been donated to the National Trust of Tasmania and is now on display at Franklin House. However it is unsigned so the artist of this fine portrait remains a mystery.

There was one record I was drawn to: a baptismal record for a Britton Webb Jones on 1 September 1800 in Atworth, Wiltshire.<sup>5</sup> The year 1800 tallied with his age as recorded at his trial, as a convict and at his death. And while BWJ lived in Bristol, Atworth was only 40 kms away. The parents for this child, however, were William and Elizabeth Jones. There was a strong possibility they were his parents but more evidence was needed.

And then, as so often happens in family history, two researchers, Suzanne Collins and Andrew Cocker, contacted me saying they didn't believe that BWJ was the son of Britton Jones Snr and Mary Webb. They believed his parents to be William Jones and Elizabeth Webb. Some serious investigation was required. With many in the family believing in the Britton/Mary parents for over forty years, maybe even longer, further proof was needed to make the major shift to the William/Elizabeth parentage.

The first item of interest was the baptismal record mentioned above with the very same parents.

First name(s)	BRITTON WEBB
Last name	JONES
Birth year	1800
Birth date	? ? 1800
Baptism year	1800
Baptism date	01 Sep 1800
Place	ATWORTH
Father's first names(s)	Elizah [sic]
Mother's first name(s)	Willm [sic]
County	Wiltshire
Country	England
Record set	Wiltshire Baptisms 1530–1886
Category	Life Events (BDMs)
Sub category	Births & baptisms
Collections from	United Kingdom <sup>6</sup>

Next, Suzanne and Andrew drew my attention to a certain Frederick Jones who probably arrived in the Launceston area in 1838–1839. It is he who is pivotal in determining BWJ's parentage. When Frederick arrived in Launceston, he worked as a wheelwright. This could be a minor indicator of a link with BWJ, his wife Sophia and their children who all lived in and around Launceston. Sophia's half-brother Charles Edwards was well established as a wheelwright and it is possible Frederick worked for him when he arrived from Bristol.

Frederick married Amelia Matilda FOOTE in the Manse, Evandale in 1841 and they had 12 children. At the registration of their births, Frederick's occupation is given. To begin with he was described as a wheelwright. However, as he established himself in the colony he became a hotelier as were a number of BWJ's sons. A particularly important reference however, appeared in a Launceston newspaper in 1854.<sup>7</sup>

The transfer of the license for the Ferry House, near the Bridge, was granted from

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/>

<sup>5</sup> <http://search.findmypast.com.au/record?id=gbrs%2fb%2f2043880%2f1>

<sup>6</sup> Extract from Wiltshire Baptisms, 1530–1886 Transcription, Wiltshire Family History Society

<sup>7</sup> *Cornwall Chronicle*, 9 August 1854

Robert Jones [son of BWJ] to Frederick Jones, his uncle. [my underlining].

Here is a definite link between BWJ and Frederick. It would appear they were brothers. Frederick was uncle to Britton's son Robert. But is there any record of Frederick's parents?

The following death notice made mention of Frederick Jones of Ferry Hotel, a new Launceston Inn in Tamar Street, close to the bridge over the North Esk River:<sup>8</sup>

At her daughter's residence, Hotwell-road, aged 86, Mrs. Elizabeth Jones, youngest daughter of the late Guillam Webb, Esq. Atworth, Wilts. The deceased was mother of Mr. Frederick Jones, of the "Ferry Hotel", Tamar Bridge, Tasmania.

True no mention was made of Elizabeth being BWJ's mother but he had died in 1856 so it is not surprising. However this short announcement tells us that Frederick's mother's name was Elizabeth Jones, her maiden name was Webb and her father's name was Guillam (often spelt Guillian) Webb of Atworth, the village in Wiltshire mentioned in the baptismal record of Britton Webb Jones. Also it should be noted that Hotwell-road mentioned in the announcement is in Bristol from where BWJ and Frederick both came.

There are a few additional details on Elizabeth's death certificate—she died on 10 June 1858 at 17 Hotwell Road in Clifton, described as 85 years old and the cause of death was 'decay of nature'. Her husband William is described as a 'Furniture Broker' which is consistent with his being mentioned as a broker in the 1851 Census. Eliza Harris was the informant and present at the death but there is no evidence she is the daughter

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<sup>8</sup> *Launceston Examiner*, Thursday 5 May 1859

mentioned in the above newspaper announcement of Elizabeth's death.

Further information about the Webb-Jones family can be found in the *Devises and Wiltshire Gazette*.<sup>9</sup>

In the obituary in our last impression we chronicled the death, at the age of 86, of Mrs Elizabeth Jones, youngest daughter of the late Guillam Webb, esq., at Atworth, Wilts. Her father, Mr Webb (says a correspondent), distinguished himself by his patriotism during the French war, and when (in the words of the once popular song) the

Great Bonaparte declared he'd come over

In his flat-bottomed boats from Calais to Dover,

He mounted his five sons at his own expense, and with them joined the Melksham troop, under Captain Long, of Monkton Farley. The deceased, Mrs Jones, then Miss Webb, was considered a fine horsewoman, and in those days was frequently to be seen on Beckhampton Downs, attended by her five noble brothers. She was a wife upwards of 60 years, and has left a numerous family, her husband (an old Bristolian) still surviving her.

According to the Family Search website in the database England Births and Christenings, 1538–1975, Betej Webb, daughter of Gillam and Marey Webb, was christened on 20 Feb 1774 in Atworth, Wiltshire. There is also a marriage for Elizabeth Webb and William Jones in Boyd's Marriage Indexes, 1538–1850.<sup>10</sup> This took place in Bath Abbey in 1798.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> *Devises and Wiltshire Gazette*, Thursday, 24 June 1858

<sup>10</sup> William's family name has been transcribed as James in the indexes.

<sup>11</sup> *Oxford Journal*, Saturday 29 September 1798 confirms the names of Elizabeth Webb and William Jones

Bath may have been a convenient location for the families as it is nearly half way between Bristol and Atworth. Importantly, two years later, there is the afore-mentioned record of baptism of Britton Webb Jones at the St Michael and All Angels Church with William and Elizabeth as parents. It could well be the birth date of 18 May 1800 mentioned earlier for BJW is correct but no independent evidence for this has been found.

William and Elizabeth went on to have quite a few other children though it is difficult to establish all of them as there were many parents in Bristol with the same names. And only three appear to have been baptised in the Webb family's local church in Atworth:

Britton Webb JONES	bap 1 Sept 1800 Atworth Church, Wiltshire
Mary JONES	bap 1 Aug 1802 Atworth Church, Wiltshire
Harriet JONES	bap 26 May 1811 Atworth Church, Wiltshire

It is very likely Frederick was baptised in Bristol with a brother and sister:

Frederick JONES	bap 24 Oct 1819 St James Church, Bristol, Somersetshire
Arthur JONES	bap 24 Oct 1819 St James Church, Bristol, Somersetshire
Maria JONES	bap 24 Oct 1819 St James Church, Bristol, Somersetshire

It is interesting to compare the names of BWJ's parents and siblings with the names of the children born to BWJ and his wife Sophia:

Mary JONES (b. 22 April 1823)	same name as BWJ's sister
William JONES (b. 13 March 1825)	BWJ's father's name
Britton Tasmania JONES (b. 10 Dec 1826)	his own name
Robert Webb JONES (b. 8 Oct 1829)	source unknown
James JONES (born 16 Jan 1831)	Was he named after Sophia's brother?

Eliza JONES (b. 18 Jan 1833) his mother's name;  
also Sophia's mother was sometimes known  
as Eliza

Frederick JONES (b. 24 Dec 1835) his brother's  
name

Harriet JONES (b. 12 Apr 1837) his sister's name

The naming of his children seems to suggest a strong emotional tie with his family. When he was convicted in 1817, he had just turned 17. From that time on, he was separated from his parents and siblings: living on the hulk *Laurel*, months at sea aboard a convict ship and assigned as a convict in Van Diemen's Land. He was fortunate to be able to marry at the end of 1822 and establish his own family. It is not known if it was a happy marriage. It was certainly a marriage of convenience as their first child was born four and a half months later. However, it gave BWJ a sound base on which to establish himself. Though her parents had convict backgrounds, Sophia was born free and she had a supportive older half-brother, Charles Edwards.

Further evidence of the continuing links between BWJ and his family are the fact that his young brother Frederick came to live in northern Van Diemen's Land; and the portrait of his mother that was sent to BWJ around the time of the birth of his and Sophia's first son in 1825. The portrait demonstrates the importance Elizabeth and William Jones placed on keeping in touch with their eldest son and child.

So do we now know who Britton Webb Jones' parents are? Can we be confident that they are William Jones and Elizabeth Webb? No we can't. However we can say there is a strong likelihood that they are Britton and Frederick's parents. And there is no sound evidence that their parents were Britton Jones Snr and Mary Webb. ◀



# AN ENGLISH EMIGRANT'S VIEW OF TASMANIA, 1889

Keith Wools-Cobb (Member No. 4289)

I was weeding a garden bed at the Wesley Vale Church when a couple approached me to ask if I knew where a Herbert Greenhill was buried. As a matter of coincidence I happen to be the cemetery trust co-ordinator for Wesley Vale! The couple, Reg and Susan Harrington, were tourists visiting from England and decided, whilst in the area, to find the grave of Susan's great uncle. They had been to the Launceston Library, where the assistant looked up the name and came up with a photo of the grave.

It just happens I had submitted photos of all the Wesley Vale graves to the Billion Graves website. They said they had looked at all the graves in the churchyard, but could not locate the one they wanted. In consulting my files I found the grave was in fact in the 'new' cemetery, started in 1938, just up the hill from the church.

HERBERT GEORGE GREENHILL was born in Great Chishill, Essex, in 1867, and emigrated to Tasmania about 1886. His trade was a bricklayer, and he also worked as an agricultural labourer. He never married, and died in the Devon Hospital, Latrobe, on 16 November 1950.

In conversing with the Harringtons they produced two letters written by their Herbert Greenhill to his mother in England in 1889 and a copy of his Will. The letters were fascinating, as they told of a Tasmania through the eyes of an English emigrant pre 1900.

With permission of Reg and Susan I reproduce a copy of these letters below:- (The italics are mine. KW-C)

Hobart, August 7 1889

Dear Mother,

I dare say you will be wondering why I did not write, but I have not had the opportunity to write before as circumstances happened which prevented me from writing, so now I thought I would let you know how I was getting on – I don't know whether Harry received the letter that I sent him.

As you will see by this that I am still at Hobart as I told you [letter torn here] to Melbourne of course I have not received your letter if you wrote one. Well I had 7 weeks at O'Brien's bridge helping a blacksmith – since then I have been in Hobart. I started a fortnight ago to work at my trade, the first thing I have done, building a large flour mill. The wages are 10 shillings a day here.

I went and joined the Bricklayers Society a week ago – it's no use trying to get a job here unless you belong to them, as they all belong to Society and they won't work with one that don't belong to it. The trade is not very busy here now as it is winter, although it does [not? letter torn] seem much like it. There are sharp frosts, but it's all gone by 9 in the morning and then the days are nice and warm with plenty of sun – the days are not hot here as they are at home and they are beginning to get longer now. It's not all honey out here I can tell you. I've had a few ups and downs since I left home but I am getting on very fairly now. I am in good health now and hope to continue to be so – I don't know where I shall go to – Melbourne – If there is plenty of work here I dare say I will stop here during the next

summer so please write and let me know how you are getting on, at the G.P.O. Hobart. If I go to Melbourne I can get the letter sent on by one of my mates. They all call me cockney on the job. I don't know why they do as I don't know that I look anything like one. I don't suppose you would know me now as I have let my whiskers grow. I often come across people from round about home – while I was at O'Brien's Bridge I met [letter torn] then I went into the brickfields one day and met a man who said he was an Essex calf [someone from Essex] and had been to Saffron Walden – God help me he made me think of what you said about Mrs. Croft – you can tell all the natives here – I don't mean blacks for there are no blacks, I mean those that are white born here as they are long, lanky, raw boned fellows – there are some very pretty girls here, though I don't have much to say to them as you know how bashful I am. I have found one or two good friends although I keep pretty well to myself. I am sorry to say there are plenty of pubs here though of course I don't patronise them. I can tell you though it take more to be a teetotaler than it does at home – they talk about having trams here but I don't know when they will get them as it appears to me Tasmanian people are more fond of talking than doing. The Kiahoura came once since I left her but I did not go on board. If I am here when she comes again I shall go and see how they are getting on. Things are a bit dearer here [than ? letter torn] at home. As for tools I had to give 4 shillings for a trowel, though you can get clothes as cheap – you can get a tidy suit ready made for 25 shillings, beef is 6 pence, mutton 4 pence ham and bacon 1 shilling a lb. Board and lodging cost 16 shillings a week to £1 though I do it cheaper for I board myself. There is a fine library here where you can spend an evening free. There is a Y.M.C.A. and a

Temperance Society and about 20 different religious denominations not leaving out friends the Salvationists. I went to the Roman Catholic Cathedral the other Sunday. They have a grand service but not much heart in it, although they have as good singers as any in the city. In fact it's the best I've heard in the town. Mr. Glover, the temperance advocate is now here giving lectures. There is also a Dramatic Company performing in the Theatre Royal. They have got the ground marked out for a new theatre. I don't know when they will put it up. There is also a skating rink, so you see there is a pretty good round of amusement in the place. However I don't think I should care to live here always. I shall probably stop here for some time as I don't suppose I shall ever come back here again. They tell me that the spring is the best time of the year here. We only work 8 hours or rather we work eight and a half and leave at 1 on Saturday. Go to work at 7.30, leave a 5 and have an hour for dinner. We have breakfast before we go – that is if we get up soon enough. I have sent you a paper and will often send you one so as to let you know that I am alright. You might send us a crow occasionally. I don't mean to eat, but to read, and if you are alright at home put my Christian name in full. If not only put H so if I don't get your letter I shall know that you are alright. I don't know of anything more I can tell you now so I will ask you to remember me to all kind friends at home, especially Mrs. Webb and family. Remember me to Lill and the rest of them and now hoping you are all quite well.

Believe me to remain

Your loving Son

Herb.



Northdown, Tasmania

December 25<sup>th</sup>, 1889

Dear Mother,

I received your letter on 23<sup>rd</sup> inst. And can assure you I was very pleased to get it for it seemed a long while since I heard. Also very glad to hear that you are all well. You will see by this I have got to the other end of the island now which accounts for me not receiving your letter before. Very sorry to hear that Mrs. Gore and Mrs. Thomas were so ill, hope they will get better, but I was not at all surprised to hear that Ted C. was married, not that he did not ask his sisters to the wedding though I must say that it was very shabby of him. I intend writing him in a few days. I see by Lillie's letter (for which I thank her very much) that the Chishill people do not intend to let the world become depopulated, though I couldn't remember for some time who Mrs. F. Harvey was. You didn't mention how Uncle Henry was getting on. Remember me to him when you see him.

I was also sorry to hear that Chris Webb had been ill again. I think he ought to be out here where I am. That would set him up as I think it is the healthiest place a man can get barring Paradise. I was sorry I didn't get Harry's letter. I dare say he will be swelling it fine if he stops in London long, however I hope he will get on. I suppose you will be having cold weather by the time this reaches you. This will be too late to wish you a Merry Christmas but I hope you will have had one, not withstanding. I must say that Fannie is doing fine. Give my love to her when you write. I suppose you will want to know a little about myself, where I am, what I am doing. Well, I only stop'd at Hobart a month after writing your letter. There was no work to be had there so I thought I had best clear out, so I left Hobart on the 7<sup>th</sup> Sept. and started up country to Launceston. I might have got work on the new railway at Green Ponds 20 miles from

Hobart but as I wanted a tent, & that I hadn't got, so I wouldn't stop but walked on till I got to Ross, 72 miles from Hobart which I reached 2½ days after leaving town, pretty well tired. I got a week's work at there, which rested me a bit & then started off again to Launceston which is 122 miles by road. I did the whole in 4½ days which was not so bad seeing that I had done no walking for some time. Well there was no work there. Well I might have got 2 days work at my trade but I wouldn't take that so after stopping a week in town I started on the track again to go to Formby on the N.W. coast 69 miles away, as I heard it was the best part of the island for work. I started from town on Monday and reached Formby on Thurs. Morning. However there was no work there so I went down the coast as far as the river Severn (*sic.*) [This would have been the Leven River at Ulverstone.] 20 miles & then walked back again as far as the river Mersey. If you have a map of Tasmania kicking about you will see where it is. By this time however I got tired of walking so went & asked the farmers at Torquay, which is on the east side of the river Mersey, for a job. He gave me work for 8 days & then I came here to where I am now which is a place called North-down. I started work here on 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct so I have been here for about 10 weeks. I am at work on a farm & doing very well. If I liked I could stop here regular. We have got 2 horses & 6 bullocks. You just ought to see me driving them in the wagon, you would laugh I know. The wages are pretty good. If I was of a saving mind I could save 12 shillings a week & not hurt myself. I would like to see some of the fellows at home out here as they would do well I know. There's no such temptation here to spend your money as the nearest shop or public house is about 10 miles off. They are all small farms about here with about 200 or 300 acres. Ours is 270, most of it cleared. Working on a

farm here is much different to what it is at home. Here there is no foreman to humbug and bully one about – they treat you like one of themselves & again the master don't get a living out of their men – they have to work themselves – you can often see the boss at work and the man lying down. The men are very independent too – if the boss don't please them they soon pack up their traps & start off. They have a different way of paying out here too – you go for about 5 or 6 months and then they will give you perhaps about 18 or 20 £ as they find you so much food. Where I am now I have my food the same as the boss & they get it ready for one, but on the other farm where I was I had to cook it myself. They give you for each man 12 lbs meat, 12 lbs flour, ¼ lb tea, 2 lbs sugar and as many spuds as you like in a week – you have to find your own bedding, but you don't want much of that. It is no use for a man to come here unless he can wash his own shirt, cook his food & make his bed, oh and mind his clothes as well. You don't find things at your fingers ends here, but a fellow don't take any notice of that out here. The boss I work for is a Cornishman. He came out here about 30 years ago. He is a typical Englishman, a jolly good natured fellow – stands 5 ft 11, weighs 15½ stone – not a small man. The farm is his own – he told me that he dares say he's worth £8,000 all got by hard work. He works hard now too. He only has another man at work for him occasionally besides myself. We are getting the hay in now – it has been rather wet this spring but we are getting better weather now. Today is splendid though warm. We are only about 1½ miles from the beach so we get a splendid sea breeze. The boss and I made fishing net 15 yds long and when we get a warm night we go down fishing. It's generally a catch [of] flounder, mullet and guardfish [sic.] I get a good salt water bath at least once a week which helps keep one nice and fresh – I daresay I'll go this afternoon as

it is a splendid place for bathing. I have made up my mind to stop here till after harvest, which will carry me to the end of March. After that I don't know whether I shall stop here or go into Victoria. If you write me before the end of February you can send the letter here – after that I don't know where I shall be. I just left off to go and have my Xmas dinner. Roast mutton, new potatoes & plum duff. I daresay you will get this by the end of Jan so you will have time to write before the end of Feb. Bye the way, I have not rec.<sup>d</sup> the papers yet – I don't know whether I shall get them or not – I shall post the Melbourne Age when I send this. I don't know whether I shall have any more to tell you just now. Remember me to all the neighbours & friends, particularly Mr & Mrs Webb and family – tell Lill I hope she will write another letter – very good to hear that she was getting on nicely with the violin & her teaching, & now sending kind love to all.

Believe me to remain Your loving Son,

Bert.

Mr. H. Greenhill  
c/o Mr. J. Andrews  
Northdown  
Tasmania.

P.S. Tell us how old Albert Wormbell is getting on. Tell Father if he sees Mrs. Chapman to tell her that I have not seen her sons, but if I go I will try & find them out.

## Epilogue

It seems a coincidence there is a family named Greenhill still farming at Northdown, and as far as they are able they can find no connection to Herbert. Even so, Iris Greenhill gave me several photographs of Herbert which she had procured. From conversations with people who knew Herbert it appears he was well liked and they spoke fondly of a very pleasant gentleman.

KW-C March 2017.



# THE UGLY AND THE BEAUTIFUL

Jennifer Jacobs (Member No. 1826)

**W**E are all familiar with the identikit photo, and now consider it normal to watch fuzzy security camera footage when there has been a crime or someone is missing. In the past, searches came down to colourful descriptions published in newspapers or official publications.

In Tasmania, descriptions were published as 'Reports of Crime' from 1861 to 1883. This was not a list of escaped convicts, though those advertised as having parti-coloured clothing, had had their recent lodgings provided by the state's gaols. Many citizens were sought as they had fallen foul of the 'Master and Servant Act' and had left their employment before completing a contract. Others were suspected perpetrators of crime, missing apprentices or seamen who had deserted their ships. The descriptions are often more interesting than those on convict records as they describe the usual clothing worn and peculiarities of behaviour and appearance.

In the 1860s, the billycock or bowler hat was extremely popular in Tasmania, followed by the wide-awake with its lower crown and wider brim. Glazed hats, oilskin caps and cloth caps with or without a peak were also worn. William WOOLF, a bullock driver described as 'rather flash in his manner' wore a cabbage tree hat, notable for its long ribbons.

Coats too had many variations. Pea jackets, short double-breasted coats of naval design were popular, as were shooting jackets, pilot and loose sacque coats. Trousers were drab, tweed, cord or moleskin. Boots were often described as

blucher until the 1870s when elastic sided boots became very popular.

Medical conditions featured prominently. Apprentice twelve-year-old Charles CRACK, was described as having two large and prominent front teeth, whereas William COX had lost several teeth on the right side of his mouth. Despite the lack of dental facilities, most people must have had a full set of teeth as missing pearly whites were considered a useful identifying feature. Pockpitted skin was commonly mentioned. Acne, chickenpox and smallpox were only a few conditions which could leave the sufferer with less than perfect skin. However, several small pimples were not enough to spoil the appearance of Charles CAPPER wanted for embezzlement in Sydney, and who had travelled to Hobart. He was described as of rather gentlemanly appearance and very good address: places his hands in waistband of trousers and has a gap between vest and trousers.

To hide his identity, John WARD might have wanted to secrete his family; both his wife and children were described as having a remarkable cast in one eye. He was wanted at Deloraine for stealing a stockwhip and a tub. Another man known only as 'Joe' also had a cast in his eye and was also missing part of his right thumb.

Had you lifted the billy cock, worn low over the forehead of Daniel DRISCOLL you would have noticed his very reddened and sore eyes. A rag carried in his hand was used to continually wipe them. Unsafe working conditions and accidents left many with facial scars, burns and missing digits. James PICKET

was probably lucky to have survived the loss of the whole of his arm and James WILLIAMS had lost all the fingers from one hand.

Of course some were born lucky and some not so lucky. John DOYLE, with his dirty moleskin trousers, black hair and whiskers all around the chin, was described as 'of very repulsive appearance'. On the other hand, William RAYNER was rather good looking. Elizabeth SMITH, wanted for disobeying a summons, was 'tall with a good figure'. That description would have a few women's libbers up in arms these days. What did Thomas HILL'S mother think when he was born with a 'small, flat bulldog type of face'? Michael MCLAUGHLIN lived his life with a straight, thin, long nose with a knob at the end. Nature could not be blamed for Thomas VERDUN'S pug nose, however. He was a well-known pugilist, but where did he get his wonderful alias 'Apple Daddy'?

Raspberry SEEKER was missing from his whaleboat crew. Surely that was not his real name! Red whiskered Jem BURNS, also known as 'Piss-ant' could blame his height for his nominer. He hardly reached five feet tall. Believe it or not, PEG-LEG JOE was missing a leg. Lanky Tom, otherwise known as Thomas ECCLES was not particularly tall. His native place, Lancashire had given rise to his pseudonym. His outstanding feature was that his hair was a little frizzled. I am sure it was worse in damp weather.

Then there was 'HOLY JOE', aged 30–35 years old, 5'8" tall, pale complexion inclined to swarthy, blue eyes, nose slightly turned up, high cheek bones, long black hair in ringlets, no whiskers, upper part of face effeminate appearance, flat footed, low ankles, shuffling gait, dressed

in red and brown jumper, worsted trousers, new billycock hat, with a broad brim, wanted for stealing horses. You could certainly have picked him in a crowd. Fortunately the animals were found to have strayed and he was exonerated.

'Ducky', too would have been easy to find. You would have noticed him—5'8" tall with a fresh complexion thin face, small sandy whiskers and usually carries a duck.

Thomas MORGAN was one of those whose tattoos might have attracted attention. Decorated with AMJM star woman mermaid jug 2 glasses 2 pipes fish star anchor wreath on right arm, crucifixion 2 pipes man's head woman A.M. crown star P.M. star dot 20 1839 anchor 2 heads 2 rings on fingers left arm, he must have had little clear skin left.

One of my favourite descriptions, however, is not of a person but of a missing item.

'Stolen from the bedroom of James LORD esq., one enema with silver plaited tube, in purple morocco case with name 'Thompson Calcutta' in gold letters on the case. (sometime in the last fortnight).'

It must have taken real nerve to report that to the police. Did the constables dissolve into giggles as he left the station after lodging the report?

Yes, Tasmania's citizens were an interesting mixture. ◀

Note: 'Reports of Crime' were known as 'Tasmania Police Gazette' after 1883. They can be viewed at TAHO or at the Hobart Branch of TFHS Inc.

# RESEARCHING IMMIGRATION TO TASMANIA FROM GERMANY IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY:

## A PROGRESS REPORT

Michael Watt

**I**N Issue 8 of The Glamorgan Spring Bay Historical Society's newsletter *Former Times*, I published an article with this title. This was distributed at the Tasmanian Family History Society Inc.'s AGM and Conference held at Swansea in June 2015, and so reached a wider audience than usual. An outcome was an invitation to give a presentation to a group at a TFHS Hobart Branch general meeting held 17 November, 2015 in the Sunday School, St Johns Park, New Town. The talk focused mainly on the immigrants, who arrived from Germany on the *Procida* in 1885.

### **Procida Immigrants**

An outcome was the publication of two articles in the TFHS journal, *Tasmanian Ancestry*. The first—'The origins of Tasmanian settlers recruited from Germany: a case study of the *Procida* immigrants of 1885' was published in Vol. 36, No. 4 in March 2016. The second article—'The settlement patterns of immigrants from Germany: a case study of the *Procida* immigrants of 1885' was published in Vol. 37, No. 1 in June 2016.

### **Current Research Project**

Following completion of these articles, the intention is to produce a document examining in greater detail the main clustered settlements that German and Scandinavian immigrants established in Tasmania in the nineteenth century. The components of the draft for the report are outlined below.

#### *Introductory chapters*

1.1 Introduction: This chapter presents a literature review of publications about the immigration of Germans to Australia as a

basis for defining a rationale and research questions for the study.

1.2 Immigration Policies and Practices: This chapter outlines German immigration to South Australia, Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland as a basis for an in-depth examination of immigration policies and practices in Tasmania.

#### *Case studies*

2.1 Lilydale: This chapter presents a case study on German families, who settled at Lilydale, researched with the support from Heritage Lilydale.

2.2 Bruny Island: This chapter presents a case study on German and Scandinavian families, who settled on South Bruny, researched with the support from the Bruny Island Historical Society.

#### *Additional case studies*

There is an intention to develop case studies on German and Scandinavian families, who settled at Collinsvale (known as Bismarck) and St Marys (known as Germantown). Other small clustered settlements established by German and Scandinavian immigrants, such as at Swansea and Pyengana, may also be covered in the document.

### **Call for Support**

I would be interested in obtaining contact details from members, who are willing to offer information about German and Scandinavian families, who settled at Collinsvale and St Marys.

### **Contact details**

Postal address: 316 Churchill Avenue, Sandy Bay, Tasmania 7005, Australia, email: michaelgwatt@internode.on.net or phone: (03) 6225 1335 ◀

# 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 *Tasmanian Ancestry*



# TAHO RECENTLY DIGITISED CONTENT

## JANUARY–MARCH 2107

### **Photographic records – fragile formats**

NS3258 Glass plate negatives, probably taken by photographer, C.P. [Cecil Percy] Ray, 1900–1920

NS3258 Lantern slides taken by members of the Southern Tasmania Camera Club, 1920–1926

### **Photograph albums**

LPIC35 Album of Tasmanian views by photographer, Alfred Winter, 1880–1882

LPIC36 Album of photographs and postcards presented to Mary Lavinia Whitfeld, 1900–1920

LPIC13 Anson Brothers Album – “Just the Thing”, 1880

### **Justice**

LC445-2-1 Richmond Lower Court records, 1841–1846, Estray volume repatriated to TAHO

SC84 Documents in cases of Bankruptcy, 1874–1928

### **Departures**

CUS33-1-3 - A volume of Customs Department records, formerly Crowther Collection, not yet indexed by name, 1817–1823

### **Arrivals**

CS05-1-10 - A volume of Colonial Secretary’s correspondence relating to arrivals of immigrants to the colony, 1837–1841

### **Welfare**

POL302 - Register of paupers sent from Hamilton to the General Hospital and Invalid Depot, 1874–1884

SWD38 - Return of, and applications for, paupers to be admitted to charitable institutions, 1876

House of Assembly Paper, “Charitable Institutions”, Report of Royal Commission, 1871, Nominal rolls included

SWD10 - Register of boarded out children who have been sent to service, 1879–1886. This register was used for multiple purposes. It also contains the following series:

SWD40 - Register of Tasmanian incapacitated persons maintained by institutions in other colonies in Australia, 1873–1897

SWD42 - Register of persons receiving compassionate allowances who have to make repayments, 1879–1886

SWD45 - Register of amounts received by collectors, 1889–1895

SWD39 - Register of admissions to the Lying-In Hospital, Cascades, 1890–1894

SWD44 - Register of applications from individuals to become foster parents, 1881–1894

SWD34 - Register of applications for apprentices, 1881–1895

### **Employment**

CSO80 - Register of applicants for situations in the public service, 1850–1858

### **Land**

LSD405 - volume 2 of the “Sydney Registers” of early land grants in Van Diemen’s Land, 1803–1825

### **Bush fires**

Police files from series AE239 can be read in their entirety – snippets highlighted in the Bush fires feature

**Digitised records supplied by Government Agencies**

SGD11 - Solicitor-General's letter books of opinions on cases referred, 1844–1998 (digitised records available ONLY to 1941)

**Digitised records ONLY available at LINC Tasmania History Room and Launceston LINC site (copyright)**

NS897 - Registers of marriages, baptisms and burials for the Launceston Presbyterian Church, 1833–1867 ◀

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

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TFHS Inc. Branch Libraries or  
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PO Box 326 ROSNY PARK  
TAS 7018

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

## **GO FORTH and MULTIPLY**

Richard B Geeves

The attached is probably of little general interest but there may well be others who could tell a similar, or even a more impressive story.

**I**N the 1840s and 50s two brothers, William (who was a Lay Minister) and John Geeves together with their families, migrated from Cambridgeshire in England to Van Diemen's Land. They took up residence in the Huon Valley and became saw millers and orchardists

One hundred and fifty years later a reunion of their descendants was held in what had now become Geevestown. This involved a lot of research and resulted in the production of a book listing their descendants titled 'They Came to Preach and Prosper'.

In this book there was revealed a number of previously unreported facts. One was that two brothers had one hundred and eight grandchildren between them, and that these grandchildren married into ninety different Tasmanian and Victorian families.

From these marriages there were in excess of 6800 known descendants. All validated by author Ken Read, himself a descendent and a member of the Morman Church.

As stated above the book was entitled 'They Came to Preach and Prosper', to which could now well be added, 'And Boy did they Proliferate!' ◀

# WHAT IS THAT PUBLICATION ABOUT?

Maurice Appleyard (Member No. 4093)

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

## MY STORY, OUR HISTORY

This A4 book of some 180pp., was published in 2016 by Mary Ledwidge.

This work is broadly about the author's Australian families who originally came from England, Ireland, Scotland and Prussia. The text is supported by a wealth of photographs and documents that give a perspective on how they influenced the lives of their descendants.

Strong history threads developed are:

The LEDWIDGE Family History: from Mary WADE to current times.

Hay & Carrothol District and teamers carting freight in the Murrumbidgee areas.

The construction of the Mulwala Canal and Yarrawonga Weir, 1935.

The life of Ethel HILL, destitute and abandoned by her family and placed into the care of The Sisters of the Good Sheppard in Abbotsford, Melbourne.

The ongoing traumatic events in the MARKS family; the goldfields of Castlemaine, 2 year-old Rudolph's death from drinking poison; murder of their beloved daughter Estella and the suicide of their father, Barris Marks.

Discovery of gold at Gympie and the thousands who travelled to the goldfields.

The arrival of the 63<sup>rd</sup> Regiment to VDL in 1829.

Whilst the major portion of the work is related to family members in various Victorian districts, there is also a strong representation of the early HILL family in Tasmania.

## CONVICT PLACES

This quarto size book of some 176pp., was published in 2016 by Michael Nash.

Between 1804 and 1853, the small island of Tasmania received 74,000 convicts from Britain, including 13,000 women.

'Convict Places' looks at how convicts and their labour created the new colony: their legacy included not just gaols and probation stations but also convict-built roads, bridges, wharves, public and private buildings and agricultural estates.

This comprehensive guide will be a valuable resource for all Tasmanians, whether or not they count a convict in their ancestry (many of us do). It will also be useful for visitors providing detailed information about the State's better-known convict places, as well as those off the beaten track.

Amply illustrated with paintings, maps, plans, colonial records and photographs, 'Convict Places' will give you an insight into the system that transported so many thousands of people across the ocean to the other side of the world.

Major sites featured are:

Brickendon–Woolmers Estates  
(1820–1850s)

Macquarie Harbour Penal Settlement  
(1825–1861)  
 Richmond Gaol (1825–1861)  
 Cascades Female Factory (1828–1856)  
 Port Arthur Penal Settlement  
(1830–1877)  
 Eaglehawk Neck Guard Station  
(1831–1873)  
 Coal Mines Penal Settlement  
(1833–1848)  
 Hobart Penitentiary Chapel  
(1833–1883)  
 Point Puer Boys Prison  
(1834–1849)  
 Oatlands Gaol (1937–1936)  
 Darlington Probation Station  
(1842–1850)  
 Ross Female Factory (1848–1853)  
 Port Arthur Separate Prison  
(1852–1877)

Other sites mentioned, to a lesser extent:

Bicheno  
 Browns River  
 Campbell Town  
 Colebrook (Jerusalem)  
 Fingal  
 George Town  
 Granton  
 Highfield  
 Jericho  
 Kerrys Lodge  
 Koonya (Cascades)  
 New Norfolk  
 Norfolk Bay  
 Old Wharf  
 Paradise  
 Perth  
 Pontville  
 Premaydena (Impression Bay)  
 Rocky Hills  
 Saltwater River  
 Somercotes.

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# LIBRARY AQUISITIONS

## Burnie Branch

### ACCESSIONS—Books

Burgess, Julian, *Duck Reach and Launceston's Electric Light*

\*Cobley, John, *The Crimes of the Lady Juliana Convicts - 1790*

Davis, Graeme R, *In Pioneers' Footsteps Exploring Deloraine's History and Built Heritage*

\*Forster, Harley W, *The Dillingham Convict Letters*

Giblin, L A, *Tracing My Giblin Ancestors*

\*Hirst, J B, *Convict society and its enemies*

Hughes, Robert, *The Fatal Shore The epic of Australia's founding*

\*Mackin, Robert, *Dark Paradise Norfolk Island Isolation, Savagery, Mystery and Murder*

McCausland, Prue & Sargent, Marion, *The Tasmanian Exhibition Launceston 1891–92*

Rae, Lou, *The ABT Railway & Railways of the Lyell region*

\*Robson, L L, *The Convict Settlers of Australia*

\*Satchell, Tony, *For Better or Worse Convict Lives Shaped by Transportation*

\*Smith, Babette, *A Cargo of Women Susannah Watson & The Convicts of the Princess Royal*

\*Woolley, Richie N, *The Woolley Family in Australia and New Zealand 1837–1997*

## Hobart Branch

### ACCESSIONS—Books

\*Allan, Norman; *The Celtic Heritage of the County of Banff*. [941.101 ALL]

\*Appleyard, M; *Bothwell Public Cemetery Registers, 18 Dec 1888–11 Nov 1913*. [Q 929.32099463 APP]

\*Ledwidge, Mary; *My Story, Our History* [Q929.2 LED]

\*McNie, Alan (comp); *Your Clan Heritage—Clan ANDERSON* [929.4 MCN]

\*McNie, Alan (comp); *Your Clan Heritage—Clan FORBES* [929.4 MCN]

\*Nash, Michael; *Convict Places—A Guide to Tasmanian Places*. [994.602 NAS]

\*TFHS Inc. Hobart; *Cemeteries of Southern Tasmania Vol. XI—Kingston Regional Cemetery, 1963–2013*. [Q929.32099461 CEM]

TFHS Inc. Mersey; *An Index to 'The Advocate' Personal Announcements–2014*. [Q929.38 IND]

\*Denotes complimentary or donated item.

## Launceston Branch

### ACCESSIONS—Books

\*Fox, Rev. R N; *Parish of Buckland Tasmania – Church of St John the Baptist – History of Church and Window*

\*Keesing, A; *Trevorick House, Penguin, Tasmania 1886–2006*

TFHS Inc. Hobart Branch; *Cemeteries of Southern Tasmania Vol XI – Kingston Regional Cemetery 1983–2013*

TFHS Inc. Mersey Branch; *An Index to The Advocate Personal Announcements 2014*

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\*comScore, 2011

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Library 58 Bass Highway Cooee  
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Night Dinner Meetings are held in winter and end of year, check with Branch Librarian for details

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

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**HUON** Phone: Branch Secretary (03) 6239 6823  
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Other times: Library visits by appointment with Secretary, 48 hours notice required  
Meeting Branch Library, Ranelagh, at 4:00 p.m. on 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month, except January.  
email [vsbtas@bigpond.com](mailto:vsbtas@bigpond.com)

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**LAUNCESTON** Phone: Branch Secretary (03) 6343 3107  
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Tuesday 10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.  
Monday to Friday by appointment only (03) 6344 4034  
Check the Branch News and the website  
<http://www.launceston.tasfhs.org> for locations and times.

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**MERSEY** Phone: Branch Secretary (03) 6428 6328 Library (03) 6426 2257  
Library 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month at Branch Library in Latrobe at 1:30 p.m. or sometimes for lunch at 12:00. Please check the website at [www.tfhsdev.com](http://www.tfhsdev.com) or contact the Secretary for updates.

# MEMBERSHIP OF THE TASMANIAN FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.

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

**Dues are payable annually by 1 April.** Membership Subscriptions for 2017–18:-

Individual member	\$45.00
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## Membership Entitlements:

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

## Application for Membership:

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

## Donations:

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

## Research Queries:

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

## Reciprocal Rights:

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## Advertising:

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

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Supplement to

# Tasmanian Ancestry

Journal of the  
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