

Tasmanian Ancestry



**TASMANIAN FAMILY HISTORY
SOCIETY INC.**

Volume 38 Number 4—March 2018

TASMANIAN FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.

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Tasmanian Ancestry

Volume 38 Number 4

March 2018

ISSN 0159 0677

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

From the editor

I was lucky to be in Hobart at the beginning of December to attend the launch of *School Days, School Days ... the land of youth and dream*, the book by Betty Jones. It was lovely to see Bev and Beryl after spending most of the year emailing and talking on the phone and to be able to introduce them to Betty. I had only met Betty personally for the first time the previous week when I attended the launch at Burnie Branch.

You can read the paper Alison Alexander presented at the Hobart launch on page 196.

Some students who attended the University of Tasmania Family History Course last year have taken up a suggestion to submit articles they had researched as part of their course to *Tasmanian Ancestry*. These have been gratefully received and I look forward to being able to accept more.

Many readers will be familiar with the name of Faye Gardam a resident in the Devonport district. Her latest book, *Discovering Devonport Tasmania*, was also released recently and having spent most of my schooldays in Devonport I have been browsing my way through its more than 500 pages and looking forward to delving into it more deeply.

Rosemary Davidson

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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: Inside Cooee Observation School, 1915. Courtesy of Jessie Whitsitt in Kerry Pink, *Campsite to City*, Burnie City Council, 2000, p. 235.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

MOST of us now use a computer to record our family history research. How well do you back it up? There is a saying among computer professionals, 'It's not a question of IF your hard drive dies, it is a question of WHEN your hard drive dies, that you need to have a good backup.'

There are many ways to back up your data and the simplest is to always keep a second copy on your computer. Then if you accidentally delete something you can just copy the back up and keep going. But this is not a very good way to do it because you will lose both copies when your hard drive dies, or if the computer is stolen, or if, heaven forbid, you have a fire. So you are better served by storing a copy on a plug in hard drive. You could use a USB thumb drive, but they don't hold as much data as a plug-in hard drive which these days can provide one terabyte of storage for less than \$100. But if you keep it beside your computer you will still lose everything if you are subjected to theft or fire. It is better to have at least two copies so that you can leave one with a friend or relative, then regularly swap them over. These days you can even back up to a cloud system which means your data is stored on a server somewhere else away from your own set-up. You can back up regularly by just copying your data, or there are many programs which can be set to do this for you.

The 'office computer' at the Hobart Branch Library is a good example of backing up. It uses a RAID system which means it has four hard drives and all data is automatically copied to the second one. If either breaks down, the third drive automatically takes over and informs the

user that the first or second drive needs replacing. For the technically minded, this is purposely a rather simplified explanation of RAID (redundant array of independent disks). But of course this would not be much help in the event of theft or fire. So every Tuesday and Thursday the system is backed up to one of two plug-in hard drives which are then kept at the homes of two different committee members. Not everyone will want to go that far, but I cannot state strongly enough how important it is to do a regular back up!

Here is a web site on this subject, which may further convince you of the importance of backing up.

<https://www.backblaze.com/backup-your-computer.html>

Robert Tanner, **President**

REMINDER

Annual membership
subscriptions are due by the
1 April 2018

Tasmanian Ancestry, is part of your subscription, so to ensure your next copy arrives on time see the back cover for a listing of amount due if you haven't already renewed.

Thank you to all who regularly contribute.

New material always welcomed.

BRANCH REPORTS

Burnie

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

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Our last meeting for 2017 was held on Saturday 25 November. The first presentation was by John Graham, the CEO of the Ryerson

Index. This was most informative and many of us were shown functions of the Index we were not aware of.

After John's presentation we had a book launch of Betty Jones' book, *School Days, School Days ... land of youth and dream*. Betty signed copies of the book. Our branch still has some copies of the book for sale if you have not bought your copy yet. Following the launch a soup and sandwich luncheon was provided.

With the festive season over and schools back there is no excuse for all of us not to do some serious research. If you are stuck behind a brick wall and have no more leads why not come into the library, perhaps we may be able to find another direction for you to head.

Due to the increase in popularity of DNA for family historians we intend running some workshops/meetings this year to give members a better understanding of the process. We are also getting some publications about DNA testing for our library. We will also be running some more workshops during the year. One request is a workshop on how to create an Index in Microsoft Word. If you have any

topics that you would like to see covered please let either Peter or Judy know.

It is pleasing to advise we have had four microfilm readers donated to the branch. They are only small manual machines but are perfectly OK for reading the newspaper reels.

Peter Cocker, **Branch President**

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It is hard to believe we are at the start of another year, with the holiday season behind us, and the branch again in full swing. We are always looking for ways to attract new membership and maintain our current members.

The branch has purchased and received donations of many new books in the past year, including journals from other societies both international and local.

The *Annual Seafarers Festival* was held on Sunday 29 October on the boardwalk immediately opposite the Library. Hobart Branch participated by holding an Open Day. We had two bookstalls in operation, one outside the premises and the other in the foyer. As usual the weather lived up to its reputation on this particular day with a strong wind blowing right into Kangaroo Bay and we had fun trying to

hold our books and signs in place. The event turned out to be a worthwhile undertaking as we sold some books and made contact with people who did not know of our existence, and were pleased to be shown around the library and to see what resources we hold.

Our patron Alison Alexander launched Betty Jones' book *Schooldays, Schooldays, land of youth and dream*. The Hobart launch was held at the Sunday School Hall, St Johns Park New Town on 3 December. Once again the weather was indifferent, and may have deterred a few members. Alison delivered a humorous and interesting précis of the book and Betty spoke of her experience as a teacher with the Education Department and her interest in the role of education in Tasmania from the rudimentary beginnings in 1838 which she has documented in her articles in *Tasmanian Ancestry* and has formed the basis of the book.

Our monthly General Meetings are still held on the third Tuesday evening of the month, and below is a summary of our latest meetings and speakers scheduled for 2018.

The speaker at the October meeting was Andrea Gerrard speaking on the topic the *Tasmanian Headstone Project*. This project, unique to Tasmania, involves identifying the unmarked graves of returned WWI soldiers and placing a simple headstone that identifies them and recognises their service to the country. To date 190 headstones have been erected; there have been a further 26 successful applications acknowledged by the Commonwealth War Grave Commission and at least another 100 headstones are to be installed at Cornelian Bay Cemetery. The goal is to complete the Cornelian Bay part of the project by November 2018 and extend the project to country cemeteries. The Tasmanian Government, some

southern councils and other sources including some from the business sector, have provided some funds. Relationships are being formed with RSL Sub-branches, military organisations, schools and sporting associations.

At the November meeting, the final meeting for 2017, the topic was the *Ryerson Index* and the presenter was John Graham. He described the foundation of the organisation and displayed PowerPoint slides of the website www.ryersonindex.org/index.htm and the search capabilities.

The Ryerson Index was founded in 1998 and is a free index to death notices appearing in Australian newspapers. The date range covered extends from the *Sydney Gazette* of 1803 up to newspapers published within the last week or so. The Index also includes many funeral notices, and some probate notices and obituaries.

Because the index was originally created by the Sydney Dead Persons Society, its strength lies in notices from NSW papers—including in excess of two million notices from the *Sydney Morning Herald*. The representation from papers from other states continues to grow, with additional papers being regularly added, so that the index can now truly be considered an Australian index.

Indexing is being continuously carried out by a team of volunteers. Site updates generally occur weekly. Presently the site contains almost 6.5 million entries from more than 300 newspapers.

The index itself cannot by definition be considered a primary source of data, but is purely a research aid to direct the researcher to the original source of a notice.

Speakers for 2018

February 20: Mary Bent, TLAB Chair and Liz Jack, LINC Tasmanian Director—*The future of LINC Tasmania*

March 20: David Boon, Department of Education Curriculum Officer—*Connecting family histories to the Australian Curriculum*

April 17: Andrea Gerrard, (Historian)—*Aboriginal Soldiers from Tasmania who served in the First World War*

May 15: Tony Marshall (Historian)—*The short and interesting life of Frances Edward Douglas Browne (convict and journalist)*

June 19: Ann Owen, Justice Department—*What the BDM unit does and why?*

Louise Rainbow, **Branch President**

Launceston

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During Seniors Week in October, the Launceston Branch held an Open Day involving hourly one-on-one appointments for *Getting Started*

Researching your Family History. Thank you to our volunteers who so willingly gave of their time to make this possible once again. The day was well attended, and we welcome our new members who joined during this time.

In November we held a successful workshop on *Using Electronic Resources for your Family History*, with John Graham of the Ryerson Index in attendance as one of the presenters. During this, members were invited to provide ideas for future workshop topics and as a result, our **March Workshop** will focus on using the Family Search website (www.family

[search.org](http://www.familysearch.org)). This is a timely topic given the recent changes to the site, and the workshop will be held at the LINC library on Wednesday 21 March 2018 from 2:00 p.m. Please register by coming into the Branch Library or contacting us by email.

Our **DNA Discussion Circles** are continuing, with our third group meeting held in February at the Branch Library. If any members are interested in attending an ongoing group would they please register their interest by coming into the Branch Library or contacting us by email. With enough interest we may investigate alternative location options to allow increased attendance.

As usual, the library will be closed on Easter Tuesday 3 April 2018.

The **Branch AGM** will be held at the Harry Abbott Scout Hall, 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday 17 April. Our guest speaker will be John Dent, and we look forward to hearing about the 'Kings Meadows Convict Road Station'.

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

Mersey

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Our raffle at Christmas was successful, many thanks to those who purchased tickets and to those members who helped sell. It was lovely to be with mem-

bers for a very nice lunch at the Lucas Hotel prior to Christmas.

Mersey Branch's summer BBQ, under the trees at the back of our library always has good food and good company. Our guests Judy and Peter Cocker from Burnie Branch shared their plans on indexing the *Advocate* newspaper photographs which Burnie Branch have been given. We look forward to learning how they will go about making these available.

With 2017 behind us, the branch is ready to continue indexing BDMs from the *Advocate* newspaper and to start projects for 2018.

The main focus in 2018 is to edit and check our library catalogue, so that it can be put on our website. We are aiming to have the catalogue user friendly. The intention is, where possible, to list books under the areas they cover.

The branch is able to release, for members use, another section of births, deaths and marriages from the Devonport area. Details available from the branch.

All the best for this New Year.

Huon

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No report received

ORAL HISTORY WORKSHOP

SATURDAY 26 MAY 2018

10:00 a.m. – 4:45 p.m.
at St Johns Parish Centre
Launceston

conducted by
Jill Cassidy
President of Oral History Tasmania

Learn how to interview
your relatives, and how to ensure
your descendants
can hear their voices.
There will be a demonstration of a
digital recorder.

Cost (includes lunch):
\$50 non-members,
\$40 members Oral History
Tasmania,
\$30 students.

Prior registration is essential.

Contact Jill Cassidy
on 0418 178 098 or
president@oralhistorytas.org.au



LAUNCHING BETTY'S BOOK

Patron, Alison Alexander



Rosemary Davidson, Betty Jones, Beryl Dix, Beverley Richardson and Alison Alexander

FOR the last decade, when our copies of *Tasmanian Ancestry* arrive in the letter box, we've all looked forward to a new article by Betty Jones. Her interesting, informative and well-written articles are not only a pleasure to read but tell us, each time, a little more about the Tasmanian school system.

Betty Jones was born and brought up in Burnie where she went through the state education system then trained at the Launceston Teachers' College as a teacher for grades 3 to 6. Her first teaching job was at East Wynyard in 1971, a brand new school with carpets, a great luxury, a small staff of four, and a small class of 17. A wonderful introduction to teaching. In a couple of years Betty went to New Norfolk, a much bigger school in the older style.

Still in her twenties Betty became senior teacher in 1976—obviously a good teacher—and was moved to Abbotsfield.

In 1977 she married Colin, the principal at Ouse District High. This was different again, a country school. They spent a number of years there before a move to the north-west coast where Betty's family was, and she taught at various schools, ending her career as principal at Boat Harbour. She took early retirement at 55, a few years after her husband, after 37 years of teaching.

When Betty retired, she joined the Burnie branch of the TFHS Inc., and did work indexing the *Advocate* births, deaths and marriages. At one school she had been at there was a clean-up, and a box of old *Educational Records* (the magazine of the Education Department) was going to be thrown out. Betty saved them, and now she remembered them and thought they would be a good source of names of teachers. She started to work on them, and became fascinated by the information they included—not just names but information about schools, teachers and

pupils. She also went to the Archives and did research there, helped by her husband Colin.

Betty became very interested in the Cape Barren school in about 1900. It was very small with features such as shutting down in the mutton-birding season, and, a different job for the teacher—escorting the Bishop when he visited. Betty wrote a paper about it and the co-editor of *Tasmanian Ancestry*, Betty Bissett, encouraged her to publish it. It appeared in December 2006. Since then, Betty has had an article in virtually every issue: there have been 45 and she had written over 40 articles.

Betty's life prepared her well for her second career as a historian. With her own schooling and then her teaching, she spent over fifty years, half a century, in the Tasmanian state school system. When she started school in the 1950s, the system had not changed greatly for many years, probably since the massive changes brought about by Neale at the start of the century (the book includes an interesting article about that). So Betty had a real link with the past, having experienced inkwells, blackboards, chalk, needlework lessons and corporal punishment (probably not herself!), and the old style of teaching. Then as a teacher she saw the other side. As a result, she knows exactly what she is writing about, is completely at home with it. That comes across in the articles: they are authoritative, trustworthy.

The editors of this book chose 22 articles to reprint here. Wisely, they chose more of the general ones rather than those about specific schools, to give a broad outline of how Tasmanian state education has developed from its beginnings to about 1930. There are a few about individual schools, just to give a taste:

Stanley school, and the smaller Black River State School, 'a useful case-study on the rise and fall of educational facilities provided for children in relatively isolated areas' (Black River is inland from Stanley).

Nineteenth-century topics deal with the schoolroom itself, a very good introduction; the school residence; pupil teachers; education for the poor; children's games and children's discipline, scholarships to private secondary schools as there were not government ones; and an interesting article contrasting public and private education in Burnie at the end of the century.

Some chapters emphasise the difference between then and now—sometimes entertainingly, often with a more serious note. When we think of nineteenth-century education, strict discipline looms as a topic, and Betty Jones has a chapter on 'Spare the Rod'. Control, she writes, 'relied largely on the personality of individual educators and whatever other means they could muster'. Those 'other means' were all too often the cane or the strap. Surprisingly, corporal punishment, though widely used, was frowned on by the educational authorities as early as 1839, when the Board of Education stated that detentions were preferred to maintain discipline. In 1861 the Board discussed abolishing the cane altogether. But horrific stories were told of excessive corporal punishment by teachers. Children wore three layers of clothes or smeared their hands with resin to lessen the pain.

The chapter on 'Instructions to teachers, 1905' is fascinating. It includes these rules: 'Every teacher must devote the whole of the day to actual teaching'; 'when visitors enter the school, children should be taught to behave exactly as all

well-bred people do when receiving a visitor'; 'every teacher should draw children's attention to the necessity of destroying rats'. On Friday afternoons, after school hours of course, teachers had to make a mixture of carbolic acid, kerosene, water and a little soft soap, wring out a duster in this mixture, and wipe down desks, seats, architraves, frames and other woodwork. (They did not, however, have to undergo professional development, or deal with Occupational Health and Safety rules or mobile phones in classrooms.)

Then came the huge changes under Neale, and articles about the early twentieth century: correspondence school, married women teachers, boarding houses, attendance, and needlework, woodwork and cookery lessons.

The married female teacher had a difficult time, cut off from a career path. Some had to make a choice between a career and marriage. Miss Amy Rowntree, the first Tasmanian woman to be promoted to Inspector of Schools in 1919, realised this. 'A professional woman must necessarily be cut off from many of the joys of womanhood and there is always a danger that she will become hard and narrow', she wrote to the Education Department in 1940. 'Generally such women lead arduous lives.'

The articles combine scholarship—thorough research, full footnotes—and good writing. Betty is obviously fascinated by her topics, and this comes through to the reader.

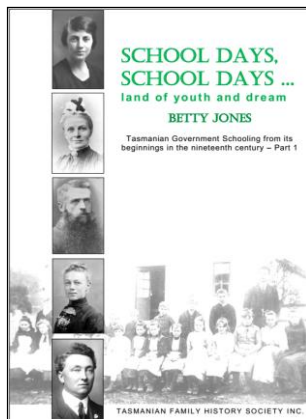
There are a number of helpful extras in the book. A good map of school areas by Eddy Steenberg. A timeline of events in Tasmanian educational history. A list of schools with alternative names, which is very useful. There are other lists of schools with residences provided, details of playgrounds, pupils who won exhibitions, had full attendance—I'm sure Nellie O'Brien from West Zeehan would be amazed to know that she's remembered nearly a century later. There is an excellent index.

A number of TFHS members did a lot of work in putting this book together. Congratulations to Beverley Richardson, who conceived the idea, and her editorial team, Rosemary Davidson and Beryl Dix—a huge amount of work, real labour of love. The book was printed in Tasmania, so it is an entirely Tasmanian production.

When we read Betty's articles in *Ancestry* we find them enjoyable and interesting—but this book shows that they are much more. Read together, they build up an excellent picture of education in Tasmania: its aims, its weaknesses and strengths, and how it changed and developed

in the period the book covers. A wonderful picture of an engrossing subject!

Congratulations to Betty Jones on a magnificent achievement. And Betty has an article in the *Tasmanian Ancestry* published at the same time as the launch. There will be plenty more for a second volume! ◀



VOICES FROM THE ORPHAN SCHOOLS

MARY ANN SARSFIELD:

'A CONVICT WOMAN'S OFFSPRING'

Dianne Snowden (Member No. 910)

MARY ANN SARSFIELD, whose proper name was MURPHY, was tried in Limerick, Ireland, in 1850, and sentenced to transportation for fifteen years for stealing a cow. Described as a laundress and house servant when she arrived in Van Diemen's Land, she was 22, single, Roman Catholic, with a dark complexion, black hair, low forehead, hazel eyes and a long, cocked nose. She was from Cork City. Her family, known as Murphy, comprised her father Michael, mother Julia, brother Timothy and sister Ellen, all of whom were living in Cork City.¹

In October 1851, Mary Ann Sarsfield wrote to her parents from Hobart Town. Letters written by female convicts to the family they left behind are rare. Mary Ann's letter is the only known letter by an Irish female convict to her family back in Ireland.

It seems that Mary Ann's parents might not have been aware she had been transported as she stated, 'most likely you have been made acquainted with my misfortune before this'. She explained that she had been transported in Limerick as Mary Ann Sarsfield.² In her letter, Mary Ann appealed to her parents to

contact Rev. DOWDEN of Cork to intercede on her half to get a recommendation for a conditional pardon. Rev. Dowden wrote,

The convict when arrested and charged with crime assumed a false name [Sarsfield] to prevent her father and mother learning of her involvement ...³

Mary Ann also had personal news she wanted to share with her family,

I am Happy to inform you that I have got married since I have been here and most likely by the time you receive this Letter I shall be come a Mother if God spairs me.⁴

Earlier that year, in June, Mary Ann and fellow-convict Charles JONES married at St Georges Church of England, Battery Point. Charles was a servant who signed his name; Mary Ann signed an X (and did so consistently throughout her life).

Charles Jones, alias Henry JENKINS, was tried in 1845 in Southampton, Portsmouth Borough Quarter Sessions, for stealing a pair of pistols and a dressing case. He was sentenced to transportation for ten years and arrived on the *Pestonjee Bomanjee* (1) later that year. A 26-year-old shoemaker from Hereford, his be-

¹ TAHO, CON40/1/28 No.955 Mary Ann Sarsfield alias Murphy 1850 *Duke of Cornwall*; TAHO, CON15/1/6 pp. 276–277 Mary Ann Sarsfield alias Murphy 1850 *Duke of Cornwall*; NAI, CRF 1852 S31 Mary Ann Sarsfield

² NAI, CRF 1852 S31 Mary Ann Sarsfield

³ NAI, CRF 1852 S31 Mary Ann Sarsfield. Dowden commented he was asked to try to get her liberty, so that 'her honest husbands children should not be a convict woman's offspring'.

⁴ NAI, CRF 1852 S31 Mary Ann Sarsfield

haviour on board the convict ship was described as ‘most exemplary’.⁵

In her letter, Mary Ann added, ‘My Husband at present is very kind to me but he wishes to go to Sidney’. This may explain the urgent tone to her letter: Charles was recommended for a conditional pardon in June 1851 but Mary Ann, who had a fifteen-year sentence, was not yet free to leave Van Diemen’s Land and sought her parents’ support to get a conditional pardon. She was pregnant when she wrote the letter and no doubt did not want to be left behind in Van Diemen’s Land with a child and no husband.

Mary Ann’s release was hampered by her long sentence. She did not receive her ticket of leave until June 1855 and her conditional pardon until November 1856. By this time, the wish for a family she expressed in her letter home had been fulfilled; she had five children between 1852 and 1862. However, her husband Charles died of

phthisis (pulmonary tuberculosis) in April 1863, aged 40, leaving Mary Ann destitute with five young children.⁶

Mary’s first child, Mary Amelia Jones (later known as Amelia) was born on 7 March 1852. Mary Amelia’s father was employed as a constable with the Fingal

Police and living at Avoca.⁷ Two sons—Henry William Jones (born 30 December 1853) and James Michael Jones (born 12 March 1856) were also born when Charles was a police constable at Avoca.⁸

For some reason, Mary and Charles’ fourth child was registered as GRIF-FITHS. He was born on 28 July 1858 to Charles Henry Jones Griffiths, boot-maker, and Mary Ann (née Sarsfield). At



Henry William Jones

the time of the registration, he did not have a given name recorded. When he entered the Queen’s Asylum for Destitute Children, he was known as George Jones. His date of birth, recorded on the application, was 28 July 1858. His mother, ‘Mary Ann Griffiths’, of Launceston, registered the birth.⁹ When Mary Ann died, her son was recorded on her death certificate as George Augustus Jones.¹⁰

Mary Ann’s youngest child, Esther, was born on 24 April 1862 in Hobart.¹¹ Esther married

⁵ TAHO, CON33/1/74 No. 17522 Charles Jones alias Henry Jenkins *Pestonjee Bomanjee* (1) 1845

⁶ TAHO, RGD35/1/32 District of Oatlands 1863/382 Charles Henry Jones

⁷ TAHO, RGD33/1/30 District of Fingal 1852/166 Mary Amelia Jones

⁸ TAHO, RGD33/1/32 District of Fingal 1854/227 Henry William Jones; TAHO, RGD33/1/34 District of Fingal 1856/289 James Michael Jones

⁹ TAHO, RGD33/1/36 District of Launceston 1858/1107 Griffiths, given name not recorded; TAHO, SWD26/1/9 [Image 463] George Jones

¹⁰ Victorian Death Certificate 1888/9028 Mary Ann Jones

¹¹ TAHO, RGD33/1/8 District of Hobart 1862/5354 Esther Jones

John CAULFIELD in 1886 in Collingwood. Her brother, James, was a witness. Esther died in 1946 aged 84 and survived all but one of her seven children. Her son, William Stanley Caulfield, served in the AIF in World War I.¹²

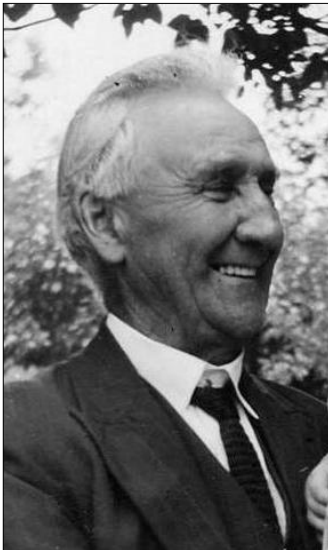
Henry William Jones and James Michael Jones

Henry William Jones aged 10½ and his younger brother James Michael Jones aged 7 years 3 months were admitted to the Queen's Asylum for Destitute Children on 15 June 1863, only weeks after their father died. Their mother, Mary Ann, made the application with the assistance of the Oatlands Municipal Council,

I came to Oatlands with my husband about nine weeks [ago]. He fell ill, and died and left me with five children. I am [destitute] of means, and therefore unable to support my five children.¹³

Mary Ann also had three other dependent children, Amelia Mary, aged 11, George 4, and Esther, 13 months. She was employed washing clothes. The application for her two boys was approved and they were admitted in June 1863.¹⁴ Mary Ann had

hoped to be able to provide for her other three children but later that year, application was made by the Warden of Oatlands for the admission of Mary Ann's youngest son, George, to the Queen's Asylum. At the time, Mary Ann was working as a charwoman and laundress. When at work, she left her children in the care of Mary Amelia, aged 11.¹⁵ The application for George's admission was approved in August 1863.¹⁶



James Michael Jones

Mary still found it difficult to survive and in December 1863, her daughter Mary Amelia, then aged 11 years 8 months, was admitted to the Queen's Asylum for Destitute Children. This followed an application, on 24 November 1863, from George HUNTER, Catholic Chaplain, to the Colonial Secretary, requesting assistance,

The father died a short time since leaving the mother with five young children, three of whom are at present in the Asylum. This woman appears to be in a very

destitute condition, without home or means of protecting and instructing this little girl. They are residing at Norry Donahoo's, Harrington Street.¹⁷

The letter activated the usual process of investigating and reporting, beginning

¹² Victorian Marriage Certificate 1886/3801 Esther Jones and John Caulfield; Victorian Death Certificate 1946/5252 Esther Jane Caulfield; *Argus* (Melbourne) 20 May 1946 p. 2

¹³ TAHO, SWD26/1/9 [Image 461] Henry William and James Michael Jones

¹⁴ TAHO, SWD26/1/9 [Image 462] Henry William and James Michael Jones

¹⁵ TAHO, SWD26/1/9 [Image 464] George Jones

¹⁶ TAHO, SWD26/1/9 [Image 465] George Jones

¹⁷ TAHO, SWD26/1/6 [Image 634] Mary Amelia Jones

with the Colonial Secretary's request for a report from the Inspector of Police. The Inspector of Police visited Norry DONA-HOO's house where he found Mary Ann and her two children in 'a most deplorable state of poverty'. He also reported that Mary Amelia was 'a very interesting girl [and] the mother appears anything but a strong woman'.¹⁸ Mary Ann and Mary Amelia were obviously found to be worthy candidates for assistance,

The mother appears to be a very destitute woman, and as she has been placed in her present miserable condition by the visitation of God and not through any misconduct and it is moreover certain that the girl can never be expected to become a moral and subsequently useful member of society by being left to grow up in such a place as one the low lodging house[s] of the City, we beg to recommend that she be admitted in to the Queen's Asylum for Orphans.¹⁹

A letter of support from E SWARBRECK Hall, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Hobart Benevolent Society, was attached to the application. It stated the Society's unanimous recommendation that Mary Amelia be admitted to the Orphan School, 'as she can neither read nor

write' and her mother was unable to provide for her.²⁰

The formal application for admission was made on 2 December 1863 by Rev. G Hunter. Mary Ann's name was recorded as 'Sourcefield', one of many spellings of her surname. It is not clear when Mary Amelia left the institution.

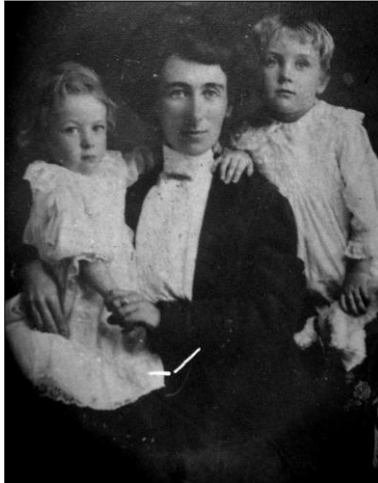
Henry William Jones

No discharge date from the Queen's Asylum was recorded for Henry and an element of mystery surrounds his life. His great-granddaughter, Denise GOODFELLOW, writes, 'He apparently disappeared for 47 years, from 1876 to 1923, and was presumed to be dead'.²¹ In 1923, the *Mercury* published the following,

LONG LOST
HOBART MAN.
TO BE PRESUMED
DEAD.

In the Practice Court yesterday, ... the Chief Justice ... applied for an order presuming Henry William Jones, at one time of Hobart, to be dead, and that his share in £1,000 with his sister and two brothers in the estate of the late

Amelia White (also a sister) be distributed among them, their names being Esther Caulfield, James Michael Jones, and Henry William Jones. [George Jones?] Counsel stated that, as ordered by the Court, the missing brother had been advertised for in the mainland States. The



Emily Esther Jones
daughter of H W Jones

¹⁸ TAHO, SWD26/1/6 [Image 635] Mary Amelia Jones
¹⁹ TAHO, SWD26/1/6 [Image 632–633] Mary Amelia Jones

²⁰ TAHO, SWD26/1/6 [Image 636] Mary Amelia Jones
²¹ Denise Goodfellow, *personal communication*, August 2017

two surviving brothers and sister were parties to the application. The missing brother's share to be distributed would be £225, but he had not been heard of for 47 years, when he left Hobart, whilst perfectly friendly with all the family, and for some time corresponded with a Miss Salmon, of Oatlands, and then ceased writing altogether, though he was engaged to be married to her. Miss Salmon died about 12 years ago.

His Honor said he was satisfied that every precaution had been taken to find the long lost brother, and ordered that the share be distributed among the surviving two brothers and a sister, costs of the application to come out of the sum.²²

Henry was not dead but living in South Australia. In 1882, Henry, aged 27, and the son of Charles Jones, married Emily Randall, aged 18.²³

JONES-RANDALL.—

On the 13th July, at the minister's residence, by licence, by the Rev. Henry Morgan, Henry William Jones to Emily Randall; all of the Grange.²⁴

The newspaper notice was repeated in several newspapers over the following week.



George Albert Jones

Henry and Emily had at least ten children between 1883 and 1903. He died at the age of 84 in Fulham, South Australia, on 7 December 1938.²⁵ He was survived by seven of his children,

JONES.—On the 7th of December, at Fulham. Henry William, beloved husband of Emily Jones, and father of Harry, George, Ern, Alf, Mary, Ada and Eva. Aged 85. Rest after weariness.

JONES—On the 7th of December, at his late residence, Henley Beach road, Fulham. Henry William, dearly beloved husband of Emily Jones, aged 84 years. At rest.²⁶

James Michael Jones

James Michael Jones received a special mention for religious knowledge for Roman Catholic children at the annual Orphan School prize giving in 1867.²⁷ He was apprenticed to Patrick BURNS on 1 February 1870.

James, a boot maker aged 22, married Annie

KNAPTON in Collingwood, Victoria, in 1879.²⁸ Aged 83, he died in 1940 in the Melbourne Benevolent Asylum, Cheltenham, Victoria. According to his death certificate, he had lived 15 years in Tasmania and 68 years in Victoria. He was survived by six of his seven children.

²² *Mercury* (Hobart) 24 July 1923 p. 4; TAHO, AD961/1/14 Letters of Administration No.3667 p. 217 Amelia White

²³ South Australian Marriage Certificate District of Adelaide 1882 132/166 Emily Randall and Henry William Jones

²⁴ *Express and Telegraph* (Adelaide) 14 July 1882 p. 2

²⁵ South Australian Death Certificate District of Adelaide 1938 608/5415 Henry William Jones

²⁶ *Advertiser* (Adelaide) 9 December 1938 p. 20

²⁷ *Mercury* (Hobart) 31 December 1867 p. 3

²⁸ Victorian Marriage Certificate 1879/1063 Annie Knapton and James Jones

James was buried in the Melbourne Cemetery, Carlton.²⁹

George Jones

George Jones has not been traced. He was alive in 1923 when his sister's estate was resolved.³⁰

Mary Amelia Jones

Mary Amelia Agnes Jones, aged 21, and Job WHITE, a mariner aged 32, were married on 6 December 1872 by Congregational Minister John Wilkes SIMMONS in the residence of Thomas HILL, 217 Elizabeth Street. Her brother James was one of the witnesses.³¹

Amelia's husband, a warder at the Hobart gaol, died in 1904,

WHITE.—On July 31, 1904, at his residence, angle Bathurst and Campbell streets, Job, the dearly beloved husband of Amelia White, in the 74th year of his age. Funeral will leave his late residence for Cornelian Bay Cemetery on Tuesday (This Day), at half-past 2 o'clock.³²

Amelia died suddenly in 1920,

THE SUDDEN DEATH AT HOBART.

The City Coroner ... yesterday ordered a post-mortem examination to be made of the remains of Mrs. Amelia White, a mainland visitor for some time resident at 165 Murray-street, who suddenly expired whilst visiting neighbours several doors away. It had been stated by those with whom she had been living that the deceased had frequently complained of heart trouble, and the examination conducted by Dr. W. L. Crowther disclosed that death was due to heart failure. The

deceased was a widow with no children, her relatives being resident in Victoria.³³

A slightly different version appeared in the *World*,

WOMAN'S SUDDEN DEATH.

A widow, Amelia White, aged 67, residing with Mrs. Grimmond, at 165 Murray street, collapsed suddenly at her home on Monday evening, and died shortly afterwards. The body was removed to the morgue, where a post mortem examination was held yesterday by Dr. Crowther, who reported that death was due to chronic heart trouble. The deceased, who was a widow, leaves no children, and it is understood that she has a brother and sister living in Victoria.³⁴

Amelia's death notice referred to her as 'the relict of the Job White, Chief Wardsman H.M. Gaol'.³⁵ She was buried at Cornelian Bay.³⁶

Amelia had acquired two properties during her lifetime: a weatherboard house at 12 Thomas Street and a brick cottage at 58 Ware Street.³⁷

Mary Ann moved to Victoria about 1886. Two years later, aged 56, she died of pleuro-pneumonia at the residence of her son, James, in Collingwood. She was survived by her five children and was buried in the General Cemetery Melbourne.³⁸ ◀

For more orphan stories, visit
Friends of the Orphan Schools,
St John's Park Precinct:
www.orphanschool.org.au

²⁹ Victorian Death Certificate 1940/534
James Michael Jones

³⁰ *Mercury* (Hobart) 24 July 1923 p. 4

³¹ TAHO, RGD37/1/32 District of Hobart
1873/315 Mary Amelia Agnes Jones and
Job White

³² *Mercury* (Hobart) 2 August 1904 p. 1;
TAHO, AD960/1/27 1904 Will No. 6435
p. 163. He left a small estate to his widow.

³³ *Mercury* (Hobart) 19 May 1920 p. 4

³⁴ *World* (Hobart) 19 May 1920 p. 2

³⁵ *Mercury* (Hobart) 20 May 1920 p. 1

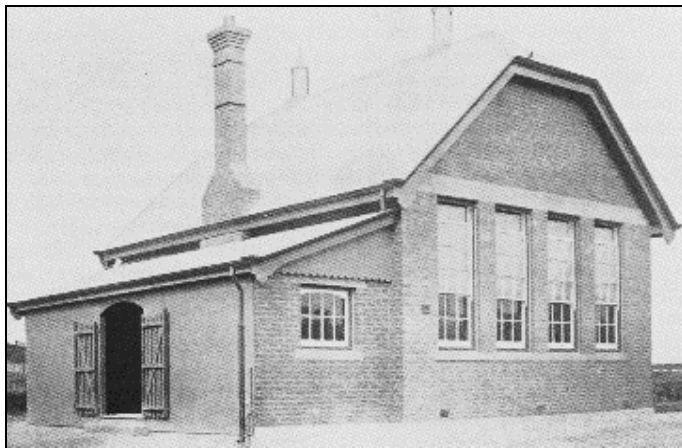
³⁶ SRCT (Millingtons) 1B21947 CE Section
X No. 15 Amelia White

³⁷ *Mercury* (Hobart) 5 October 1921 p. 8

³⁸ Victorian Death Certificate 1888/9028
Mary Ann Jones; *Age* (Melbourne),
4 August 1888 p. 5.

IN-SERVICE TRAINING FOR TEACHERS MODEL SMALL SCHOOLS, 1910–1950

Betty Jones (Member No. 6032)



East Launceston Model School, 1909–1916
Courtesy of Derek Phillips, *Making More Adequate Provision*,
Education Department of Tasmania, 1985. p. 133

FROM early in the nineteenth century, one- and two-teacher schools were the most common providers of education for children in country and isolated areas throughout Tasmania. In January 1911, out of more than 370 schools supported by government, just over 70 per cent were classified as Class VI and Provisional, staffed by only one or two teachers.¹ The problems confronting teachers of small schools were of a different character from those of the class teacher in a large school. The comparatively small enrolment in the five, six, or sometimes seven classes under the control of one teacher presented the need for grouping and plans for keeping all pupils continuously and profitably engaged. Ensuring that each student received a fair distribution of the

teacher's direct attention presented another challenge, as did an understanding of the monitorial system in certain settings.

This contribution examines one of the important systems implemented by the Education Department specifically for training and bringing up-to-date staff already employed in small schools during the twentieth century. Model one- and two-teacher schools, attached to selected large practising schools used for teacher training, were introduced first in Launceston, Hobart and Cooee (Burnie) prior to, and during, the years of the Great War. More were opened and prospered beyond the end of World War II. Some readers of this article and/or their family members are likely to have attended such a school themselves, and those with ancestors who were educators during that era may have heard

¹ *The Educational Record*, 15 January 1911

entertaining stories about teaching in such situations.

Between 1909 and 1916, East Launceston Practising School offered fifteen-week training courses designed to prepare or Jean Graham PORTER as the original demonstration teacher. Lansdowne Crescent School, situated in West Hobart, opened in 1916 as a model two-teacher school built specifically as an adjunct to the Training College and Elizabeth Street Practising School. Mr William Woodman HOWARD of the Bellerive School was placed in charge, and Miss Ivy WATSON, a trained teacher from Elizabeth Street, was his assistant. Wellington Square Model Small School replaced the previous training facility at East Launceston from 1917.



A more co-ordinated approach by the Education Department to make use of such schools for training purposes was obvious between June and September 1917 when one-week courses, each limited initially to twenty teachers, were offered at four venues: Lansdowne Crescent, Elizabeth Street and Wellington Square Model two-teacher schools, and also Cooee Observation School, a one-teacher school with the assistance of a monitor. The work was carried out under the supervision of the district inspectors of the time—Messrs Robert S WRIGHT, R H (Harry) CRAWFORD, Albert L BROCKETT and John F JONES—and followed a set daily routine:

9 a.m. to 12 midday:—Observation of ordinary schoolwork in various classes on successive days;

12 midday to 12.40 p.m.:—Conversational discussion on the morning's work under the guidance of the inspector;

2 p.m. to 4 p.m.:—Observation of ordinary schoolwork in various classes on successive days;

4 p.m. to 4.40 p.m.:—Conversational discussion on the morning's work under the guidance of the inspector;

7.30 p.m. to 9 p.m.:—Lectures upon organisation, discipline, and method of teaching the various subjects set down in the curriculum.²

Some Elizabeth Street Practising School Teachers, 1916

Left to right: Mr Frank McCABE, Misses Lilian CROCKER, Elsie White and Kate MILES³

Such was the success of those week-long schools of method that their offer and format were continued annually for decades. By the 1930s, one-day schools of method conducted by the inspectors were also held in a variety of small country schools throughout the state.

Another four practising schools later included model small schools—Charles Street in Launceston, West Devonport,

² *The Examiner*, 23 June 1917

³ Courtesy of *The Tasmanian Mail*, 7 September 1916 and TAHO

and Campbell Street and Albuera Street in Hobart. A snapshot of the one at West Devonport follows.

West Devonport Model Small School, 1922–44



Left, Mr Oscar Albert McCall (1888–1959)⁴

In 1922, West Devonport Practising School under the headship of Mr Percy HUGHES had an enrolment of 620 pupils, making it one of the largest in the state. A special feature of that year's operation was the introduction of a model two-teacher school led by Mr Oscar McCall with assistance from Miss Lynda J COOLEY. The school was conducted in the building that previously housed Devonport Intermediate High School pupils prior to the move to their new purpose-built high school on the corner of Best and Williams Streets. Mr McCall took responsibility for Grades II to VI, and Miss Cooley was in charge of the younger classes.⁵ (Mr McCall later returned to Devonport Practising School as its Master of Method (Head Teacher) from 1941–44.)

The model two-teacher school was reported as ideally having 72 pupils across all classes (six pupils—three girls and three boys—at each of the six grade levels), selected from the list of pupils showing average ability. They were described as bright children and attentive to their work. The following children

were listed in the school's admission register for 1922:⁶

Phyllis ANDREWS, Myra ARCHER, Leonard BARRETT, Lorna BARRETT, George BOND, Maggie BONNEY, Joyce BRYAN, Jean BUCHANAN, Alan BURROWS, Alan BUTLER, Lance BUTLER, Maxwell W BUTLER, Albert COBBING, Elsie COLEMAN, Albert COLLINS, Ena COLLINS, Isabell COLLINS, Selma CONINGSBY, Llewellyn DAVIS, Marjorie DAZELEY, Melba DRAKE, Nancy DRAKE, Philip DUKE, David EASTMAN, Charles EDMUNDS, Ian FINDLAY, Lewis GARDNER, Wilfred GIBSON, Alfred GRAHAM, Reg GRAVES, Alfred GREGORY, Minna GRICE, Beatrice GRUNDY, Eileen HADFIELD, Willie HAWKINS, Alexander HOBSON, Roy HOBSON, Alice HOLLOWAY, Florrie HUTCHINS, Gwen JESSUP, Frank KELLY, Jack KIRBY, Maud KIRBY, Norman LANDON, Jesse LAWSON, Tasman LAWSON, Joyce LAYCOCK, Stanley LEARY, Vincent LEARY, Effie LEE, Jean LOWRY, Rita LOWRY, Bert McCALL, Joan McLEAN, Jean McORRIE, Max MONSON, Max MORGAN, Percy MOURANT, Stella MULLIGAN, Norman MURFET, Frank PHILPOTT, Rhoda PHILPOTT, George POULTER, Ena REID, Freda SAWYER, Don SCHULZ, Nellie SEARLE, Jean SMITH, Max SMITH, Dennis THOMPSON, Mervyn TURNER, Bernice WALSH, Jack WEATHERHEAD, Kathleen WEATHERHEAD, Gertie WELLING, Steele WELLING, Joyce WHITEHORN, Claire WHITLEY, Kenneth WILLIAMS, Jean WILSON, Willie WILSON, Hilda WOOD, Neil WOOD.

⁴ Courtesy of Ancestry.com member J_Cowburn1

⁵ *The Advocate*, 24 January 1923

⁶ TAHO: ED124/5/1/1

The Department's intention to erect a new two-roomed model school was announced in April 1924. Built of brick, the structure faced Fenton Street on one of the finest sites of the school's elevated grounds. One advantage of having the new school detached from the main building was that there was no interference with the lighting.⁷ In April 1925, it was noted that the model school pupils were temporarily housed in buildings near the Town Hall pending the completion of the new school.⁸

The demonstration aspect

On a day-to-day basis, the school operated along the lines of many others in the state, the children enrolled being taught a regular curriculum and taking part in activities usually offered through the government system of the time. The defining difference was the requirement of best practice/excellence being demonstrated to visitors, not just by the teacher/s-in-charge, but also by the pupils through their work and behaviour.

In September 1922, the first week-long class of instruction was held for a group of thirty visiting teachers from as far afield as Forest in the north-west and Swansea in the east. Following the previously successful format established elsewhere, the guest teachers were given the opportunity over five days to view the latest methods of conducting a small school. At mid-day and in the evening, they were invited to ask questions and discuss methods with the two inspectors, Mr Wright and Mr Jones. On one evening Mr Wright spoke of self-instruction for teachers and dwelt on the Montessori system; while on another night Mr Jones spoke on the importance of teaching English. The necessity of devoting

special attention to tuition in that area was in view of the perceived weakness of many pupils in the prime subject of English at that time.⁹

The week-long schools of method were offered annually throughout the life of the model school, the in-school and after-hours sessions both being found of great value. In 1924, the topic of 'What Constitutes a Successful School?' caused lively debate and participants reportedly enjoyed being entertained at the local National Café one evening by the inspectors.¹⁰ In 1928, there was an emphasis on physical education, including the teaching of eurhythmics and a demonstration on physical drill. Miss Mary BLACKBURN, by then the only teacher in charge of the model school with assistance from a monitor, was presented with a round picture of the Devonport Bluff as a token of appreciation from the participants for the trouble she had taken.¹¹

In 1937, in addition to the usual detailed demonstrations given by Miss Alison SMITH, the teacher, observation lessons were provided by the practising school staff, including Mrs Gwen MEER, Miss Elvie ILES, Miss Catherine LILLICO, Miss Irene KERSLAKE, Mr Athol GOUGH and Mr Bruce HEAZLEWOOD. Nature study, speech training, health talks, formal and comprehension reading, composition, grammar and physical drill were all covered.¹²

Teachers who attended came from a wide geographical area. In 1938, participants included:

⁷ *The Advocate*, 4 April 1924

⁸ *The Advocate*, 17 April 1925

⁹ *The Advocate*, 26 September 1922

¹⁰ *The Advocate*, 28 June 1924

¹¹ *The Examiner*, 24 August 1928

¹² *The Advocate*, 29 May 1937

Misses Edith J BLACKBURN
 (Bishopsbourne)
 Bertha M BOATWRIGHT (Western
 Creek)
 Mr I Vernon BURK (Don)
 Margaret J CAREY (Wilmot)
 Elvira CASTLE (Gowrie)
 Dora M CHILCOTT (Brookhead)
 Freda CORNELIUS (Sassafras)
 Myrtle A CREEDON (Birrilee)
 Lorna M CULLEN (Montana)
 Dorothy J DAZELEY (Cluan)
 Mr Norman E DODDRIDGE (Detention)
 Joyce ELLIOTT (Quamby Brook)
 Joan M EUSTACE (Robbins Island)
 Mr Leo J FAHEY (Wilmot)
 Florence E GRAINGER (Magnet)
 Mr John HEALY (Aberdeen)
 Mr William J LECKIE (Sassafras)
 Mr William T LOVELL (Ashley Home
 for Boys)
 Heather J MacRAE (Paradise)
 Patricia M MAHONEY (Central Castra)
 Annie M MEDCRAFT (Moriarty)
 Mr Terrance M OATES (Northdown).¹³
 Joyce K PARKER (Liena)
 Mavis RANSOM (Winkleigh)
 Mr Mac W SMITH (Golden Valley)
 Mr Alan R THORNE (Moriarty)
 Florence A WYATT (Port Sorell)

Emeritus Professor Phillip HUGHES AO
 (1926–2011), a
 pupil of West
 Devonport Model
 School from 1932
 to 1938, remem-
 bered well the set
 up with Miss
 Smith.¹⁴



Prof. Phil Hughes

Mr Hughes pro-
 vided testament to
 the excellent tui-
 tion offered under
 the system. He

became a Rhodes Scholar in 1947 and,
 after an illustrious career in education in
 Australia and overseas, was appointed
 Professor of Education at the University
 of Tasmania from 1981 to 1991. Mr
 Hughes recalled visiting teachers would
 sit in neat rows at the back of the
 classroom observing the complex patterns
 of teaching being demonstrated through-
 out the day. The teacher would instruct
 one or two grades at a time, having set
 each of the others to work on their own
 tasks, and then she would move to
 another group. A timetable under glass
 above the fireplace gave the order of
 lessons for each day and was followed
 strictly. The front wall was lined with
 blackboards, their content catering for
 the different grade levels, carefully prepared
 the night before with enough blank
 spaces to allow for more spontaneous
 daily additions. For the 36 children in the
 room, Miss Smith reportedly provided a
 sense of certainty that she knew what
 every one of them was doing and, above
 all, cared what they were doing.¹⁵

It is interesting to
 look more closely
 at Miss Alison
 Smith (1904–90).
 She was in charge
 from 1935 to
 1944, making her
 the school's long-
 est-serving and last
 teacher.¹⁶ Alison
 was born at East
 Devonport, the
 eldest child of
 William Smith and his wife Agnes



Miss Alison Smith

¹³ *The Examiner*, 3 September 1938

¹⁴ Australian National Museum of Education

¹⁵ Peter Brooker, Phillip Hughes, Bill
 Mulford, *Teachers Make a Difference*,
 University of Tasmania Faculty of
 Education, 2000, p. 8

¹⁶ Courtesy of Mrs Elaine Page, in *ibid*, p. 7

Maxwell (née McFARLANE), both of whom were of Scottish descent. Her father had been a pioneer of Erriba near Cradle Mountain since 1899 and the family made its home in that isolated, small farming community still known today for its extreme winter temperatures. After attending the little school there (then called Belmont), young Alison lived at 15 Tarleton Street, East Devonport during term time for at least the last three years of her schooling with her mother's eldest sister, Miss Lucy McFarlane. She achieved the Qualifying Certificate at East Devonport in 1917, as well as gaining first place in the Sixth Class that year. There is no evidence that Miss Smith attended high school, but her education undoubtedly continued at home. Teaching could be said to have been in her blood. Her mother had been a teacher with the Education Department for seventeen years prior to her marriage in 1903, and two of her mother's siblings were also government teachers. However, it was not until 1923 that Miss Smith joined the Department as a Junior Teacher at the small school at West Kentish. From there she became the teacher at Erriba for a short time after it was reduced to subsidised status. Following a year at Storey's Creek, Miss Smith attended Teachers' College in 1927. Her appointments then included the schools at Waratah, Allen Creek and Nook. A transfer to the model school at West Devonport represented the pinnacle of her career for, in 1944, aged just 40, she resigned from the Department on the grounds of ill-health.

In later life, Phillip Hughes remembered his former teacher with great respect, but as a young pupil he viewed her as a severe and uncompromising figure. In 1988, fifty years after he left the model school, he renewed his acquaintance with

Miss Smith, by then in her declining years in a nursing home at Ulverstone. During their interaction, Miss Smith related to Mr Hughes an amusing incident that illustrated her human dimension, not something shared with her young pupils.

The teachers who came to watch me used to ask if I was nervous, teaching in front of them. One of them told me one morning that I had looked tense. I didn't tell him but the elastic band had broken on my knickers and I was afraid I'd lose them. I kept my arm close to my side to hold them up.¹⁷

Closure

At the end of 1944, it was announced that the Department would in future confine model small schools to Hobart. In addition to the Elizabeth Street School, there were to be practising schools at Campbell Street and Albuera Street to assist with the training of teachers. The schools at Charles Street, West Devonport and Burnie lost that status.¹⁸

The mid-1920s small school building at West Devonport, the envelope of which still stands, has been put to a number of uses by the Department over the years, its early conversion to a residence for the head teacher remembered by many. In more recent decades it has served as an important regional administrative office for the Department.

For about forty years, model small schools were seen as a practical adjunct to teacher training in Tasmania. Lonely teachers, often left to their own devices for long periods in isolated places, welcomed the opportunity to spend a week at a demonstration school in a larger centre where they could enjoy both professional and social interaction with colleagues from similar settings. ◀

¹⁷ *ibid.*, p. 9

¹⁸ *The Advocate*, 14 December 1944.

LOST IN THE BUSH

OUR GLOOMY FASCINATION WITH A TERRIFYING ASPECT OF LIFE IN THE AUSTRALIAN COLONIES

Don Bradmore (Member No. 6756)

A number of commentators in recent times have pointed to the prevalence of the image of the ‘lost child’ in Australian literature, art and film, arguing that that motif has played a major part in the making of the nation’s culture.¹

In 2012, for instance, Elspeth TILLEY argued that Australians have long been ‘gloomily fascinated’ with the image of the lost child. Her contention supports the earlier findings of Peter PIERCE who claimed that almost every major Australian writer of the 19th century had a ‘lost child’ story, citing the novels of Henry KINGSLEY and Joseph FURPHY and the short stories of Marcus CLARKE and Henry LAWSON. To Pierce’s list, observers have added Charles ROWCROFT, Ethel PEDLEY and Banjo PATERSON among others.²

Other commentators and critics have made similar claims about the ‘lost child’ image in the visual arts in Australia,

pointing particularly to Frederick McCUBBIN’s painting, ‘Lost’ (1886), and to films including Peter DODDS’ ‘Lost in the Bush’ (1970), Nicholas ROEG’s ‘Walkabout’ (1971), Peter WEIR’s ‘Picnic at Hanging Rock’ (1975), David WADDINGTON’s ‘Barney’ (1976), Manuela ALBERTI’s ‘The Missing’ (1998), John HONEY’s ‘Manganinnie’ (1980), Rachel PERKINS’, ‘One Night the Moon’ (2001) and Philip NOYCE’s ‘Rabbit-Proof Fence’ (2002).³

These artistic and imaginative creations were underpinned, of course, by stories of lost children that were true—and often incredible! Of the many examples to be found in colonial newspapers, three in particular created more than the usual level of interest. Each evoked a huge outpouring of emotion throughout the colonies.

The first occurred in 1864, when the DUFF children—Jane, twelve years old, her brother, seven, and her sister, five—were lost in the bush near Horsham, Victoria, for over a week. Eventually, when even their parents felt sure that they must have perished, they were found alive. Jane Duff was deemed a heroine

¹ Tilley, ‘The Lost-Child Trope in White Australian Literature’ in *Cross/Culture*, Issue No. 152, January 2012

² Pierce, *The Country of Lost Children: An Australian Anxiety* (Cambridge University Press, Melbourne, 1999); Kingsley, *The Recollections of Geoffrey Hamslyn*, 1859; Furphy, *Such is Life*, 1897; Clarke, ‘Pretty Dick’, 1870; Lawson, ‘Babes in the Bush’, 1899; Rowcroft, *Tales of the Colonies*, 1843; Pedley, *Dot and the Kangaro*, 1899; Paterson, ‘Lost’, 1887

³ McCubbin: https://www.ngv.vic.gov.au/australianimpressionism/education/insights_ssites.html; cinema: <https://www.jukolart.us/australian-cinema/the-lost-child-found.html>

and lavished with praise when it became known that she had managed to keep her brother and sister alive by taking off her frock at night to give them protection from the bitter cold. Newspapers of the day referred to the Duff incident as ‘the most remarkable ever recorded in such cases’, adding that ‘seldom has a tale been told which relates so much patient suffering as those little children underwent, and seldom has brotherly or sisterly affection been so beautifully illustrated.’⁴

A couple of years later, colonial emotions were stirred to a similar degree when three small boys—brothers William and Thomas GRAHAM, aged seven and four respectively, and their friend Arthur BURMAN, five—were lost in the bush

could join the search parties, the bodies of the little boys were found huddled together in the hollow of a tree, their bones already gnawed by animals. Mercifully, the position of the bodies, with the youngest in the middle for warmth, seemed to indicate that the boys had died in their sleep, possibly on their first night in the open. As it happened, that night was reported to have been the coldest of the season.⁵

The third case to have generated an unusually high level of interest and emotion in the colonies was that of twelve year-old Clara CROSBIE, who was lost in the bush, without food or water, near Lilydale, Victoria, for twenty days in 1885—and remarkably survived!



near Daylesford, Victoria. Sadly, the story ended tragically this time. After five days, during which almost every store, bank and public office in the shire was closed so that owners and employees

Tombstone of the Lost Children at Daylesford⁶

⁴ *Star* (Ballarat), 29 August 1864, p. 4; *Hamilton Spectator and Grange District Advertiser*, 7 September 1864, p. 2; *Leader* (Melbourne), 17 September 1864, p. 8

⁵ *Leader* (Melbourne), 6 July 1867, p. 21; *Braidwood Independent*, 28 September 1867, p. 8

⁶ Courtesy of Greg Johns, <http://hikingfiasco.com/2014/06/20/three-lost-children-walk-daylesford/>

She had been visiting a neighbour's place and had decided to walk through the bush to her own home about a mile away. When found, she was said to be emaciated and exhausted. Her eyes were sunken and her feet swollen and inflamed. Her rescuers believed that she could not have survived another day. She told them that she had made a nest of sorts for herself in a tree near a creek, and it is believed that she had avoided some of the depredations of hunger and exposure by remaining in one place and not roaming about much. It is said that her extraordinary case was the inspiration for McCubbin's 'Lost'.⁷

While it can be argued that these three cases in Victoria were primarily responsible for generating the emotion that gave rise to the prevalence of the 'lost child' image in Australian art and literature, it must be said that many of the cases of lost children in Tasmania were almost, if not equally, dramatic. Here are some, chosen at random.

In mid-July 1846, three year-old William HODGSON, described in newspapers as 'a fine little child', wandered away from his parents' home near Richmond. When, after a week of frantic searching, he had not been found, a reward of £25 was offered for information about his disappearance. In addition, Sir John EARDLEY-WILMOT, the Lieutenant-Governor, was pleased to announce that any prisoner who might discover a clue to the whereabouts of the lost child would be granted a conditional pardon immediately. Unfortunately, the rewards did not produce the desired result—and it was not until late August that the remains of the boy were found about three miles

from his home. It was assumed he had starved to death.⁸

Although the case of twelve year-old Emma RANDALL in June 1866 did not end quite so tragically, it was another sad story which stirred emotions in nineteenth-century Tasmania. For twelve days Emma was lost in the bush near Oatlands. Miraculously, she came across a box of matches which had been lost or discarded in the bush, and when her dog caught a wallaby she was able to cook and eat it. Eventually, she managed to find her own way back to the hut where she lived but soon discovered that it had been deserted by the person who was supposed to be her guardian. Police, who found the girl alone at the hut a short time later, said that she was in reasonably good health. However, as she had no other friends or family, they were at a loss to know what to do with her.⁹

Also lucky to survive was a small boy named POULTER who wandered into the bush near his home at New Norfolk in July 1866. Dressed only in light clothing, and without shoes, he was found alive after being missing for fifty-one hours in bitterly cold weather. He had had nothing to eat in that time. Although he was unable to stand when found, rescuers were amazed at his condition, reporting that he was surprisingly 'sensible' and aware.¹⁰

On the afternoon of 22 January 1869, four year-old Mary Ann WILSON went missing in the Brown Sugar Loaf district near Birralea, north of Westbury. She had

⁷ *Bacchus Marsh Express*, 13 June 1885, p.3; 20 June, p.4; *Star* (Ballarat), 19 June 1885, p.4

⁸ *Britannia and Trades Advocate* (Burnie), 23 July 1846, p. 3; *Colonial Times*, 18 August 1846, p. 4; *Launceston Examiner*, 26 August 1846, p. 4; death: RGD35/3/1846, Richmond

⁹ *Tasmanian Times*, 27 June 1866, p. 3

¹⁰ *Mercury* (Hobart), 28 July 1866, p. 2

followed her two older brothers from her home to watch them drive some pigs from a neighbouring field. While the boys were working they asked little Mary Ann to sit on the bank of a dry creek to wait for them. But when they came back for her, she was gone. Despite vigorous searches which continued for weeks, no trace of the child could be found and police feared that she had either been kidnapped by some person or carried off by hyenas which were numerous and fierce in that region. Distressingly, it was to be nine months before her remains, consisting only of bones, some clothing, her shoes and several pieces of hair, were discovered three miles from where she was last seen. The girl's mother was able to identify the clothing but, considering the roughness of the terrain, police could not imagine how she had managed to stray so far. Nevertheless, it was ultimately decided that foul play had not occurred and that the poor little girl had been alone in the bush when she perished.¹¹

In 1870, a three year-old boy named EVANS strolled away from his home at Cressy to go to his father who was working nearby. It was not until his father returned to the house at dusk that anyone realized that the boy was missing. A search party was quickly arranged and for the next two days and nights twenty or thirty men scoured the nearby bush. When the boy was found, he was curled up asleep almost five miles from his home. In freezing weather and without shelter, he was considered very fortunate to have survived.¹²

Of course, it was not only children who became lost in the bush in Tasmania—and some of the stories of the adults who did not survive or were missing for days are even more terrifying than those of the children. Many people will be familiar with the horrific story of Alexander PEARCE, the Irish-born convict, who escaped with seven others from the Macquarie Harbour Penal Station on the wild west coast of the colony in 1822 and attempted to walk to Hobart Town through the bush. When they became hopelessly lost, they resorted to cannibalism to survive. When recaptured, Pearce was hanged for murder.¹³

In 1837, Private Thomas RILEY of the 21st Regiment deserted his post at Hobart Town and headed south-west through the bush in the direction of the Huon River in an attempt to reach Port Cygnet and from there to reach a whaling station where he could take a ship to another country. Thomas SMITH, a police constable, was ordered to lead a search party to find him and bring him back. For the next week, Smith and his men searched for Riley up and down the Huon without success. Later, Riley, close to death, turned himself in. He had been lost in the bush for six days during which he had had nothing to eat but berries and tea-tree leaves.¹⁴

It was not only enlisted men who became lost in the bush; it also happened to experienced, high-ranking officers. In 1838, Captain Charles O'Hara BOOTH, Commandant of the convict settlement at Port Arthur, set out to inspect another of the stations under his control on the Tasman Peninsula. Before leaving, he

¹¹ *Mercury* (Hobart), 9 February 1869, p. 2; *Launceston Examiner*, 30 September 1869, p. 3

¹² *Cornwall Chronicle*, 27 April 1870, p. 3

¹³ Paul Collins, *Hell's Gates: The Terrible Journey of Alexander Pearce, Van Diemen's Land Cannibal*, Melbourne: Hardie Grant Books, 2002

¹⁴ *Hobart Courier*, 2 June 1837, p. 2

told fellow officers that he would be back the following day. When he had not returned four days later, a search party led by Thomas LEMPRIERE, the Commissariat Officer at Port Arthur, headed out to look for him. Luckily, only after two days of searching through very difficult country, Booth was found but he was in a very bad way. When discovered, he was lying almost insensible, having lost the use of his legs and arms. He told his rescuers that, on his second day out, he had lost his way while riding through a thick, scrubby swamp. Later, he was to say that it was the cold rather than the hunger which had been the worst part of his perilous situation and that he had resigned himself to die.¹⁵

Women also became lost in the bush. In 1881, a Mrs GILLESPIE, the 50-year-old wife of a farmer at Pipers River, east of George Town, had a narrow escape from death when she lost her way while looking for some missing cows. For almost thirty-six hours she wandered backwards and forwards in very rough country, crossing creeks and climbing over fallen logs. When found, she was in an exhausted condition. Her rescuers believed that she would not have survived another night in the bush.¹⁶

In 1887, a Miss BURTON of Perth, Tasmania, was lost in the bush for a day and a half near St Marys, where she had gone to visit her married sister. Early on a Saturday afternoon, she had gone out to gather berries and ferns and had inadvertently strayed from the track which became hard to see when heavy rain started to fall. When she had not

returned by nightfall, the alarm was raised. For two days, search parties, comprising about seventy men in all, some on horseback and others on foot, and accompanied by their dogs, looked for her. Fortunately, word reached them late on the Sunday afternoon that she had been able to find her own way to George Town where, despite the suffering she had endured, she was comfortable. She told police that when darkness fell on the Saturday night, she had taken refuge in a hollow tree after covering up the opening as well as she could with branches.¹⁷

Even today, the Tasmanian bush has a fearsome reputation. Experienced bushwalkers say it is easy to become lost among the thick ferns, fallen trees, moss and muddy soil of the dense forest, especially on the south-facing slopes of the ranges. When a thirteen year-old boy and his father were found alive after three freezing nights in the bush in October 2017, a police spokesman described the terrain the missing pair had been in as 'impenetrable'. 'It's the type of terrain that you can't walk through,' he said. 'If you want to get through it, you get on your hands and knees and push through.'¹⁸

Considering the frequency of incidents such as these, and the drama they provoke, it is little wonder that the image of the 'lost-child' has become so common in the Australian cultural landscape. It is fair to say that in the nineteenth century the idea of losing one's child to an alien country reflected the early settlers' distrust of their strange, new land. Does that distrust still exist, perhaps? ◀

¹⁵ *Bent's News and Tasmanian Register*, 8 June 1838, p. 2; *Hobart Town Courier*, 8 June 1838, p. 3; 15 June 1838, p. 2; *Launceston Advertiser*, 21 June 1838, p. 4
¹⁶ *Launceston Examiner*, April 12, 1881, p. 2

¹⁷ *Launceston Examiner*, September 27, 1887, p. 3

¹⁸ *The Mercury* (Hobart), 21 October 2017, p. 7.

GERMAN-AUSTRALIAN GENEALOGY AND HISTORY ALLIANCE

Michael Watt

IN March 2016, Colleen Read, secretary of the Tasmanian Family History Society, referred me to correspondence received from Dirk Weissleder, national chairman of Deutsche Arbeitsgemeinschaft Genealogischer Verbände (DAGV), an umbrella organisation of German genealogical societies. The correspondence sought contacts with genealogical societies involved in researching German heritage in Australia, and referred to an initiative taken in May 2015 to form the German-American Genealogical Partnership for genealogical societies in Germany and the USA to collaborate on various projects. The intention of the correspondence, which had been sent to genealogical societies and German interest groups across Australia, was to form a similar network between Germany and Australia.

In January 2016, the South Australian Genealogy and Heraldry Society's Germanic and Continental European Group (SAGHS) and the Lutheran Archives began discussing the concept of establishing a German heritage group to collect German-Australian family history information. Coordinated by Benjamin Hollister, a professional genealogist specialising in tracing German connections in South Australian families, DAGV, SAGHS, the Genealogical Society of Queensland, the Queensland Family History Society and the Lutheran Archives established the German-Australian Genealogy and History Alliance (GAGHA) in August 2016. In September 2016, GAGHA launched a website at germanheritage.org.au. Since

its establishment, the Genealogical Society of the Northern Territory, the Kuring-gai Historical Society, the Wend-Sorb Society of South Australia and the Genealogical Society of Victoria have joined GAGHA.

In July and August of 2017, Dirk Weissleder undertook an international tour. First, he visited the USA to foster the work of the German-American Genealogical Partnership. Then, he travelled to Australia and New Zealand for a series of seminars organised by Unlock the Past, a collaborative venture of expert speakers, writers, organisations and commercial partners across Australia and New Zealand promoting history, genealogy and heritage. Seminars he ran in Brisbane, Auckland, Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra, Adelaide and Perth, examined topics relating to genealogical research in Germany. While in Adelaide, he met with representatives of GAGHA.

In October 2017, GAGHA announced that it will hold its first conference in August 2018 at the University of Adelaide for researchers to discuss German-Australian history, heritage and culture under the theme: *Australisches Deutschum – Reconnections, Recollections, Resilience*. Presentations will include workshops running from two to six hours, one-hour presentations and lightning talks of 30 minutes. Readers interested in learning more about GAGHA and its forthcoming conference can contact Benjamin Hollister at ben@germanheritage.org.au ◀

NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome is extended to the following new members

7911	GIBBONS Mr Colin	38B Saltburn Road colinggibbons@yahoo.co.nz	MILFORD AKL	NZ	0620
7912	COTTERELL Mrs Sally	22 Walker Street sallycotterell@bigpond.com	WYNYARD	TAS	7325
7913	STEVENS Mrs Margaret	9 Marlou Court margieastevens@gmail.com	RIVERSIDE	TAS	7250
7914	ROSS Ms Lynette	9 Adams Street lynetross4@bigpond.com	MOWBRAY	TAS	7248
7915	BARRETT Mr Douglas	PO Box 245	LATROBE	TAS	7307
7916	BARRETT Mrs Elizabeth	PO Box 245	LATROBE	TAS	7307
7917	DONAGHY Mrs Collene	3 Mersey Place nekloc@gmail.com	DEVONPORT	TAS	7310
7918	DUNN Dr Helen	10 Village Drive helendunn@bigpond.com	KINGSTON	TAS	7050
7919	McGEE Ms Di	2204 East Tamar Highway dzeemcgee@icloud.com	MT DIRECTION	TAS	7252
7920	HAMMOND Mr Wayne	54 Sunset Boulevard	CLARENCE POINT	TAS	7270
7921	GIPTON Ms June	U1 12 Avonbury Court	NORWOOD	TAS	7250
7922	CALABRIA Mrs Christine	PO Box 69 chrissiec09@gmail.com	TINONEE	NSW	2430
7923	JOHNS Mrs Beverley	31 Silwood Avenue johnsrg@netspace.net.au	HOWRAH	TAS	7018
7924	JOHNS Mr Ross	31 Silwood Avenue johnsrg@netspace.net.au	HOWRAH	TAS	7018
7925	ASHLIN Ms Catherine	279 Roslyn Avenue catherine.ashlin@bigpond.com	BLACKMANS BAY	TAS	7052
7926	BETRIDGE Miss Sharon	PO Box 168 sbetridge@outlook.com	VERMONT	VIC	3133
7927	MOLLINEAUX Ms Lindy	43 Belar Street limollineaux1@hotmail.com	HOWRAH	TAS	7018
7928	WALDON Mrs Sandra	93 Arthur Street	HOBART	TAS	7000
CORRECTION					
7888	McFARLANE Mrs Helen	PO Box 562 raymcfarlane@bigpond.com	LOCH SPORT	VIC	3851

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A copy of the 'Privacy Policy' of the Society is available on request at Branch Libraries or from State or Branch Secretaries. The 'Privacy Policy' document sets out the obligations of the Society in compliance with the Privacy Act of 1988 and the amendments to that Act.

NEW MEMBERS' INTERESTS

NAME	PLACE/AREA	TIME	M'SHIP NO.
BEST/SYKES Sarah			7919
BESTON			7917
BROWN			7917
BYRNE Patrick			7919
CAPEL Elizabeth	Nottinghamshire ENG	1800–1843	7925
CHEYNE/CHAMBERS Margaret	Hobart TAS AUS	1841	7926
FARRELL Louisa	Tasmania AUS/UK	1880–1950	7920
GEARD Amelia	Gretna TAS AUS	c.1890	7923
GIBBONS Henry Rose	Sevenoaks KEN ENG	1700–1900	7911
GOOD Matilda	Penguin TAS AUS	1865–1946	7921
GRANT Jessie Duncan	Launceston TAS AUS		7919
HALL/SIMPSON Charlotte	Clarence Plains TAS AUS	1808	7926
HAMMOND Charles Walker	Tasmania AUS/UK	1800–1880	7920
HAMMOND Robert Kennedy			7919
HARTLEY William	Hobart TAS AUS		7926
HIGGINS Mary Ann	Tasmania AUS/UK	1840–1865	7920
HOBSON Mary Ann	Campbell Town TAS AUS	1824–1845	7914
IVORY			7917
KIDD William	Larling NFK ENG	c.1830	7921
KIDD William Robert	Port Sorell TAS AUS	1864–1954	7921
McCASKER Patrick	Campbell Town TAS AUS	1824–1845	7914
McGINNIS William	Sorell TAS AUS	1838	7926
MOLLINEAUX John	Somerset ENGLAND		7927
PALMER			7927
PIERCE			7917
ROSS James			7914
SEABOURNE George	Somerset ENGLAND		7927
SELF Thomas	Trowbridge SOM ENG	1797–1843	7925
SHEPHARD			7917
TATE Charlotte	Port Sorell TAS AUS	1862–1886	7921
WALPOLE Ellen	Tipperary IRE	1800–1850	7925
WARD William Gordon	Ireland	c.1778	7919
WARD William Gordon	ENG/Portugal/AUS	1770–1820	7913
WILLISON Thomas	MLN SCOTLAND	1780–1824	7925
WOLFE Apolonia Genova	Gajdel Hungary/Klacno, Slovakia		7913

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

If you find a name in which you are interested, please note the membership number and check the New Members' listing for the appropriate name and address. Please enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope and don't forget to reply if you receive a SSAE.

BOOK REVIEW

Glorious! Exploring Tasmania in 1914 – by Margaret Deacon.

A nicely crafted book using many quotes from her grandmother's travel diary taking the reader from southern Queensland to Hobart in Tasmania. An exciting journey for a group of young women, friends, when the rest of the world was focused on a world war. They were brave to set out at such a time, but thrilled by the adventure, the things they did and saw, and the people.

Margaret's choice of older illustrations gives the story an authentic charm; or should I say a 'glorious' charm? Yes! Tasmania is a glorious place to visit and to live in. Well done Margaret, a good read!

Jenny Gill ◀

PRO Vic Advise New Records to Explore

Under Section 9 of the *Public Records Act 1973*, files of a personal or private nature can be closed for up to 99 years to prevent the violation of personal privacy. As of the 1 January 2018, another year of files has been opened to the public to access for the first time. Records include capital sentence and criminal files, male prison registers, divorce case files and cause books from 1942 as well as children's court registers from 1917 and birth registers from 1911–1918 among others.

HELP WANTED

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

Special Interest Groups are subject to advertising rates.

Members are entitled to three free entries per year.

All additional queries will be published at a cost of \$10.00.

Only one query per member per issue will be published unless space permits otherwise.

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

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

HELP WANTED

Joseph WARD

Jeff Ward has an ancestor, Joseph WARD transported to Van Diemen's Land in 1824 aboard the *Chapman* for robbing a carrier's cart. He was born in Layham, Suffolk, 8 September 1806, eldest of nine children. His brother Thomas, born 1811, was transported to NSW in 1836. Parents Joseph Ward born 1782 and Jemima HARRINGTON born 1785. Jeff has been unable to find any further trace of him. A Joseph Ward married a Mary KETLEY 22 September 1834 at New Town, VDL. However Jeff has established this is unlikely to be his Joseph, as a subsequent well publicised dispute between Joseph and Mary gave rise to a detailed description of this Joseph being issued, and it did not fit his Joseph. If anyone can help, please contact Lyn Hookway and who will put them in touch with Jeff. **hook.jl@bigpond.com**

ARE THE ANCESTORS HANGING FROM YOUR FAMILY TREE REALLY YOUR OWN?

The Genealogical Proof Standard

consists of five elements:

- 1 *A reasonably exhaustive search for all pertinent information*—The keyword here is ‘reasonably.’ Does this mean that you have to locate and interpret every record or source available for your ancestor? Not necessarily. What it does assume, however, is that you have examined a wide range of high quality sources which relate to your specific genealogical question (identity, event, relationship, etc.). This helps to minimize the probability that undiscovered evidence will overturn a too-hasty conclusion down the road.
- 2 *A complete and accurate citation to the source of each item used*—If you don’t know where a piece of evidence came from, how can you evaluate it? For this reason it is very important to document all sources as you find them. Keeping track of sources also provides the side benefit that fellow researchers can easily locate the same sources in order to verify your information and conclusions for themselves. It is very important in this step to record *all* sources that you have examined, whether or not they provided any new facts for your family tree. These facts which seem useless now, may provide new connections down the road when combined with other sources.
- 3 *Analysis of the collected information’s quality as evidence*—This is probably the most difficult step for most people to grasp. In order to evaluate the quality of your evidence, it is first important to determine how likely the information is to be accurate. Is the source original or derivative? Is the information contained in that source primary or secondary? Is your evidence direct or indirect? It is not always cut and dried. While primary information provided by an original source may seem the most conclusive, the individuals who created that record may have erred in their statements or recording, lied about certain details, or omitted pertinent information. On the other hand, a derivative work which expands on the original through further, careful research of alternative sources to fill in holes and inconsistencies, may be more dependable than the original itself. The goal here is to apply sound interpretation of the data contributed by each source based on its own merits.
- 4 *Resolution of any contradictory or conflicting evidence*—When evidence is contradictory the problem of proof becomes more complex. You will need to determine just how much weight the conflicting evidence carries in relation to the evidence which supports your hypothesis. In general, each piece of evidence needs to be re-evaluated in terms of its likelihood to be accurate, the reason it was created in the first place, and its corroboration with other evidence. If major conflicts still exist, you may have to take a step back and do another search for additional records.
- 5 *Arrive at a soundly reasoned, coherently written conclusion*—Basically, this means to arrive at and document the conclusion that is best supported by the evidence. If conflicts arose which have still not been resolved, then an argument needs to be constructed to provide well-grounded reasons why the contradictory evidence is less credible than the bulk of the remaining evidence. ◀

Powell, Kimberly. ‘Evidence or Proof?’
ThoughtCo, March 4, 2017

[thoughtco.com/genealogical-evidence-or-proof-1420515](https://www.thoughtco.com/genealogical-evidence-or-proof-1420515)

A CONUNDRUM OF KINGS BUGG AND KING FAMILIES AT WYNYARD TASMANIA

Lyn Hookway (Member No. 726) and Jeff Ward

Lyn Hookway writes:

I was born in 1948 in the small town of Wynyard on the North West Coast of Tasmania.

My mother's maiden name was BUGG and her ancestors were Jonathan and Anna Maria Bugg who came from Layham near Hadleigh in Suffolk, England, and settled at Table Cape (as Wynyard was then known) in 1860. If you live in Tasmania and your name is Bugg, or you have Buggs in your family tree, there is a ninety-nine per cent chance you are descended from this one couple.

Jonathan Bugg and Anna Maria KING were married in Layham, Suffolk, in 1838. By the time they came to Tasmania they had eleven children, but only five came with them. The Bugg family sailed in the *Indiana* which left Glasgow on the 24 December 1859 and arrived in Launceston, Tasmania on 24 April 1860. They settled at Table Cape. Details of the

children on arrival were: Drucilla (11 years), Jonathon (10), Philip (7), Charles Randle (3), and Ellis James (1). Three more children were born in Tasmania—William, Eliza Ann and Betsey.

On the marriage certificate, Jonathan's father is named as Joseph Bugg, and Anna Maria's father as James King. I did some basic research on the Bugg side, and determined that Jonathan's parents were Joseph and Mary Bugg—Mary died in January 1859 and Joseph died in the workhouse at Semer in July 1865. I was unable to find any siblings of Jonathan.

I didn't get very far with Anna Maria's parents, there seemed to be James Kings all over the place and I put it in the 'too hard' basket, assuming that her parents would have died and been buried somewhere in Suffolk or nearby.

Then, one day, many years later, on going through my file, I found an obituary in 1933 for the eldest daughter, Drucilla



Lower Layham c. 1900

Bugg, who married James WEEKS. The last line read 'Mrs Weeks was a grand-daughter of the late Mr James King of Wynyard.' This set alarm bells ringing—James King was here in Wynyard! Some more diligent research needed on James King!

The Bugg family's passage to Australia was paid by a James King. He paid £68—£16 each for the parents, £8 each for four of the children, and £4 for the baby. There is a Jas King buried in the Jenner Street Cemetery in Wynyard—no details other than his name. A James King died at Emu Bay in 1863 aged 59 therefore born about 1803. (For him to be Anna Maria's father he would have been only about 18 when she was born—but that is possible.)

I discovered there were two James Kings who were convicts and assigned servants for the Van Diemen's Land Company (VDL Co.), one arrived in 1832 and one in 1833.¹

The first James King I investigated was sentenced to 14 years' transportation after being found guilty at Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk of stealing a fat hog from Mr BERRY of Layham. The coincidence of this crime being committed at Layham, the same village the Buggs came from is very interesting. If he is Anna Maria's father, she would have been about 10 at the time.

At the time of conviction, James stated he was 30 years old and a widower with two children. He had previous convictions of stealing flour (6 months), and leaving his wife (1 month). Transported on the ship

Larkins on 18 June 1831, James arrived in Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania) in October. The birthplace on his convict record is given as Stoke on Trent, Staffordshire, but in the light of subsequent findings I believe this is an error and he was actually born at Stoke by Nayland, Suffolk. He probably said he was born at 'Stoke', and the clerk wrote down where he believed Stoke to be.

James King was assigned to the VDL Company on 31 January 1832, and on 13 January 1844 he married Betsey PERCY; and according to the marriage certificate, he was a widower aged 39 and she was a widow aged 40. By this time James had received a conditional pardon, but Betsey was a recently arrived convict so they had to apply for permission to marry.

Betsey Percy came from near Launceston in Cornwall. In 1842 she was convicted of stealing two sheep in collaboration with her brother Robert and sentenced to 15 years' transportation. She was arrested as Mrs RUSSELL, but at her trial she said she was single, had no children and preferred to be called Percy. There was quite a lengthy report of the trial in the *Royal Cornwall Gazette*. Her brother Robert was also sentenced to transportation. Betsey received a conditional pardon in 1850. Betsey King died in 1882 and is buried in the Jenner Street Cemetery Wynyard. According to the headstone inscription she was aged 80 years, the wife of James King, late of Inglis Farm, Table Cape.

James King's Death 1863

In 1863 James King died. At the time he owned the property called Inglis Farm, 200 acres on the northern side of the Inglis River, and a property of some 400 acres around Camp Creek on the southern side of the Inglis. He made a will leaving his property to:

¹ Assigned servants were convicts who were assigned to work for free settlers. The VDL Co. also employed indentured servants, free settlers who had their passage paid for by the company and were bound to it for a period of 7 years.

- 1 his wife Betsey King for her lifetime
- 2 after her death to James Morton for his lifetime;
- 3 after his death to the ‘children of my stepson John King Percy’

There is no mention of a daughter Anna Maria or her husband or children.

So who is James Morton?

He arrived in Van Diemen’s Land (VDL) on 24 October 1826 aged 21 years on the *Tranmere* which was the first vessel bringing indentured servants to the VDL Co. at Circular Head. He hailed from near Edinburgh in Scotland. James Morton worked around Circular Head and acquired property there. He later (1850s) moved to the Wynyard area and had a block of land at Mount Hicks, near Wynyard.

In an article in *The Mercury*, 28 April 1884, Howard HAYWORTH wrote one of a series called ‘Through Tasmania’, about Emu Bay and Table Cape, which included a short sketch of the life of James Morton. An extract from this says:

In 1850 he came to Table Cape and has lived there since ... When he came over to the Cape he had a partner, and they jointly acquired and worked a piece of land. They had no deed between them, and an unreckoned thing happened – the partner died. He had made a will leaving the property, except an annuity, to his own relatives; hence Mr. Morton, with this exception, lost his share. He has, however, enough for his wants.

Was this partner James King?

James Morton never married, but apparently had a son back in England. He returned to his home country and died there in 1895.

Who is John King Percy?

He is a mystery. ‘My stepson, John King Percy’ would lead one to assume he was the son of Betsey Percy, but at her trial

Betsey said she was single and had no children. John was born in 1831, so if he was Betsey’s son, he would have been about 10 or 11 when she was convicted. I can find no record of a John King Percy being born here or in England, or arriving here either as a convict or a free settler. Betsey was arrested as Betsey Russell. There were a couple of John Russells born in Cornwall about the appropriate time, with a mother named Elizabeth (Betsey?), but nothing definite to go on there. His name is interesting, why ‘King’ as his second name?

The first mention we have of John King Percy is his marriage in 1857 to Sarah Ann RIDGE at Table Cape.

Mr John King Percy, of the River Inglis, to Sarah Ann, second daughter of Mr John Ridge of Table Cape.

The couple had five children—Lucy, Ellen, Sarah, James King, and Mara. He is shown as being a landholder at Table Cape (Wynyard) in 1858 when a group of landholders met to fix the rate of assessment for the roads trust. Also in 1858 he was appointed a Special Constable at Table Cape. In 1858 Wynyard was officially declared a ‘port for the lading of goods’ and John King Percy was appointed clearing officer for the Customs. He held many government positions including Summoning Officer of the Court of Requests, Examiner of Balances Weights and Measures, Provisional Officer of Customs at Circular Head, Collector of Rural Police Rates for the district of Horton, and in June 1866 was appointed Tidewater (whatever a tidewater is!).²

² Tidewater: (formerly) a customs officer who boarded and inspected incoming ships [Ed.]

On 7 August 1866, John King Percy drowned in the West Inlet at Smithton, when attempting to cross at high water.

So, after the death of James Morton in 1895, the King properties at Wynyard passed to James King Percy, the only son of John King Percy. His name is interesting. He was born in 1864, not long after the death of James King. Was he named after him?

The Properties

I made a visit to the Land Titles Office in Hobart. This is a very interesting place, and I had a wonderful time trawling through the indexes and examining land titles bound up in huge ledgers. I found out quite a lot about the properties owned by James King.

Golf Club, was owned by Wynyard's first settler, John King. In 1841 John King purchased two neighbouring blocks of 640 acres at Table Cape. It is possible that John King farmed the property belonging to Frederick Ford as the two blocks he had purchased were covered in forest which was difficult to clear. In January 1845 John King was drowned in the Cam River. John King's daughter Ellenor married Frederick Ford in April 1845, and not long after, the King family and Frederick Ford moved to Circular Head. Whether John King built the house on this property is uncertain, but it seems unlikely that he would build such a substantial dwelling on land which did not belong to him. The homestead is more likely to have been built by Frederick



Inglis Farm:

This 200 acre property (pictured above) on the northern side of the Inglis River was originally purchased from the Crown for £100 in February 1842 by Edward Curr, the manager of the VDL Co. In December 1842 he sold this land to Frederick Wilbraham FORD for £250. James King purchased it from Ford in 1847 for £200.

There is a common misconception that this land is now the site of the Wynyard

Ford or James King.

After James King's death in 1863, the property was farmed by Betsey King with James Morton as her overseer. In the 1870s Betsey moved across the river to a cottage on the Camp Creek property and Inglis Farm was leased by John ALEXANDER. In 1883, after the death of Betsey, James Morton took over, and the property was leased to various people. On the death of James Morton in 1895 the property passed to James King Percy (the

son of John King Percy), and has remained in the Percy family virtually since then.

Camp Creek:

James King purchased 400 acres on the southern side of the Inglis River around Camp Creek on 1 March 1859 for £800 from, of all people, John King Percy! This land was part of a 500 acre block originally purchased from the Crown by John King Percy in December 1856. In the original deed the name was incorrectly cited as 'John King' (i.e. the last name Percy was omitted), so in some maps this land appears to have been originally granted to John King, which is not correct.

In 1860 a small part of this (about 2 acres) was sold to MOORE and QUIGGIN, local sawmillers, and in June 1862 about 1 acre on the point between Camp Creek and the Inglis River was sold to Joseph STUTTERD, leaving James King in possession of 397 acres at the time of his death in 1863. Robert Quiggin leased this land and eventually bought it from James King Percy about 1896.

Evidence that James King is the father of Anna Maria Bugg

I was becoming convinced that this James King was indeed Anna Maria's father, although I had no written evidence directly linking them. However, there were a lot of coincidences:

- Marriage certificate of Jonathan and Anna Maria 1838 states her father is James King.
- James King was convicted in Layham Suffolk.
- James King paid for the Bugg family to come to VDL.
- Obituary of Drucilla Weeks states she was a granddaughter of James King of Wynyard.

- The Bugg family lived at Table Cape (Wynyard) after their arrival in VDL, where James King owned property.

My main stumbling block was, and still is, that there was no mention of the Bugg family in James King's will. There is also no mention of James King junior, Anna Maria's brother. We have evidence he was here as well. A James King died at Emu Bay in 1874, aged 50, and the informant on the death certificate was 'Maria Bugg, the sister'. I have not been able to establish when James King junior arrived here.

There is also no direct evidence that James King the convict is the same James King who owned the land around Table Cape. As an ex-convict, where did he get his money from to buy these properties? Did he owe money to James Morton and John King Percy, and that is why these people are mentioned in the will? There are still many questions, but the coincidences are striking.

The Coppin Family

Another family of interest is the COPPIN family, Joseph and Eliza and children, who came to VDL on the same ship as the Bugg family. A fellow researcher in Western Australia, who has connections to the Coppin family, believes they are related. Joseph and Eliza Coppin were married in the Registry Office, Baintree, Essex, in 1848, citing their residence as Stisted. Born about 1820, Eliza was of a similar age to Anna Maria. Her father's name on the marriage certificate was John King. Were they cousins perhaps? A newspaper item on the death of Joseph Coppin in 1904 stated he was a 'brother-in-law of the late James King of Wynyard'. If this was the case, Eliza would be James' sister, however the age difference made it seem unlikely.

Help needed

I now felt it was time to enlist further help, so I joined the Suffolk Family History Society and posted an item in the Help Wanted section. I was very fortunate to receive a reply from Jeff Ward, who has been very helpful with the research in Suffolk. I will let Jeff continue with the story.

Jeff Ward continues:

Some time ago I discovered that an ancestor of mine, Joseph Ward (b. 1806), was convicted of theft and transported in 1823 to Van Diemen's Land for seven years. In so doing he implicated four other men. One of whom was a David Bugg who was transported to New South Wales for life. Joseph served his time, receiving his certificate of freedom in 1830 and then disappeared without a trace. End of story.

Thus when I opened my June 2016 copy of *Roots* and saw Lyn Hookway's request for help regarding Jonathan Bugg and his wife Anna Maria (née King) who went to Australia in 1860, I was immediately interested, for I was aware that David Bugg was uncle to Jonathan Bugg and it seemed that perhaps I owed her a favour. She was also interested in whether the Bugg family was related to the Coppin family who travelled out to Australia on the same ship. There was apparently a suggestion that Mrs Bugg was related to Mrs Eliza Coppin, on the grounds they each had King as a maiden name.

Anna Maria's father was James King and Eliza's was John.

My first reaction was to concentrate on establishing who exactly Anna Maria was, her parents and siblings etc. Anna Maria married as a minor so she must have been born after 1817. Her name is stated in various places as Anna Maria or

Maria. Trying to find exactly who her father was proved a problem. King is not a common name in Layham; there was only one family and between 1754 and 1900 the church register shows only nine children named King being baptised. Only one of these was named James, in 1793, so not our James.

At Layham, on the 16 November 1821, James King married Maria HEAD. There was a daughter named Maria born Polstead, 3 March 1822. Another possibility was Mary Anne, baptised 21 April 1819 at Polstead, parents James and Elizabeth. Finally, Anne King born Stoke by Nayland 17 May 1820, parents James and Susan. The parishes of Layham and Polstead join, and Stoke is next to Polstead. Also Sir Joshua ROWLEY had large estates at both Layham and Stoke and there was an interchange of staff between the two locations. It was decided on balance of probabilities that James King and Maria Head were her parents. Subsequent discoveries were to confirm this.

Using the Suffolk Family History Society database looking for children baptised between 1820 and 1830 whose parents were James and Maria King, five names came to light.

Maria	Bapt. 3 March 1822 Polstead
James	Bapt. 5 February 1824 Hadleigh
James	Bapt. 8 October 1826 Hadleigh
Anne	Bapt. 27 March 1827 Hadleigh (bur. 2 March 1828 aged one Polstead)
Ann	Bapt. 13 January 1828 Polstead

Maria King, aged 24, was buried at Polstead on 7 May 1827.

It was also confirmed there was no other couple named James and Maria King living in Hadleigh or surrounding parishes at the time. James King born 5 February 1824 must have died but no record

of his death can be found. King is a common family name in Polstead so that the Ann born 13 January 1828 can reasonably be disregarded, bearing in mind Maria's death in 1827. This leaves two children, Maria (1822) and James (1826). In subsequent court appearances James King was to state he was a widower with two children. Furthermore in 1874 Maria Bugg (née King) was registered as being present at the death of her brother James in VDL.

Attention then turned to Maria's father, James King. His parents were John King and Lucy Lilly who married in Polstead on 5 April 1796. They were to have at least sixteen children of which nine appear to have survived. The eldest was John (born 1797) and the youngest Eliza (born 1819). James was the fifth child, born in 1803.

A search of the Polstead parish records provided a great deal of information. In 1817 James King (aged 15) was an inmate in the Tattingstone House of Industry. He was indentured as an apprentice to John Kettle farmer of Shelly on 1 November 1817. Shelly joins both Layham and Polstead. It is known that James' parents were living in Shelly at the time. On the 11 January 1821 a removal order was issued sending him from Polstead to Shelly, however on 21 June another was issued sending him from Polstead to Layham. He married Maria Head on 16 November 1821 at Layham.

The Bury and Norwich Post of 30 July 1823 recorded he was imprisoned for six months for stealing five pecks of corn and 19 shillings in silver from the water mill at Layham. The *Ipswich Journal* of 12 November 1825 records that James was given one month hard labour for absconding from his wife and children

and leaving them a burden on the parish. By extraordinary coincidence my own ancestor Joseph Ward was sentenced to seven years' transportation on 30 July 1823 in the same court and the same day that James received six months. In 1831 he was convicted of stealing a fat hog in Layham and the *Suffolk Chronicle* of 23 April 1831 records that James King, aged 30, who was to be transported for 14 years, was removed from Bury goal and placed on board the hulk *Cumberland*. He later sailed for Van Diemen's Land in the convict ship *Larkins* on 18 June 1831.

This left Maria aged nine and James aged five effectively orphans—were they destined for the work house or would their father's many siblings rally round? It was at this point the penny dropped. Their father's youngest sister, born in 1819, was named Eliza, and whose father was John. Despite Eliza only being three years older than Maria she was their aunt. Now all we had to do was prove she was the Eliza Coppin on the ship.

At the moment what happened next is conjecture. The admittance records for the Cosford Union Workhouse at Semer no longer exist, so we can't say if the two children spent any time there. There was work for young children in the silk mills in Hadleigh, and at the time children as young as five were employed. In view of what happened later it would be nice to think Eliza was involved in their upbringing but that is unlikely. A more likely candidate is Margaret RAND who was their aunt and their mother's sister. Her husband had acted as witness at their mother's marriage. We do know Anna Maria married Jonathan Bugg 25 December 1838.

As for Eliza she has proven elusive. She was baptised at Polstead 31 October 1819. In the 1841 census her parents were

living alone at Shelly. A possibility in the census is an Eliza King aged 20, a servant living in Bocking Essex, now joined to Braintree. But her place of birth is given as Essex. In 1848 she was able to sign her name on the marriage register. For 1851 census she gave her place of birth as an unknown location in Essex. However Joseph Coppin's obituary in July 1904 contains a reference to the fact that he was James King's brother-in-law and that he landed in Launceston in 1860 from the ship *Indiana*. So she must be our Eliza.

A possible scenario is that Eliza, the last of a large number children in a poor family, left the family at a very early age and had no further contact with them until much later in life and was thus uncertain where she was born. It should not be forgotten that Polstead is close to the Essex border. The Guardians of the Poor had been making payments to John King for his sick wife certainly as late as 1824. It is also relevant that the Guardians regularly apprenticed children into North Essex. Their four previous children had died at early ages. Unable to cope in 1819 when Eliza came along, the child had been removed from her mother's care.

That James King should send for his daughter is understandable, but why, out of his many siblings, did he single out his youngest sister for free passage to VDL? Was he aware that the two women were friends or was it that she was the only one who would go? The fact that his son was not on the ship suggests he was already in VDL. We know he died there in 1874 but how and when he arrived has still to be resolved. He was still in Layham in 1841 living next door to his sister.

With the discovery of the ship's passenger list a further complication arose. The Coppins were sponsored by a Mr M

GAUNT and only the Buggs were paid for by James King. We have not been able to establish just who Mr Gaunt was. So it could have been just a coincidence the two families were on the same ship.

They travelled to Tasmania on the ship *Indiana* which left Greenock on the Clyde late December 1859. Of the 260 passengers on board 245 were sponsored by the Scottish Immigration Society of St Andrew. The Buggs and Coppins were among the other fifteen. The ship arrived in Launceston Tasmania on the 25 April 1860 after a passage of 110 days, which was described as being pleasant and prosperous. There was one death and one birth recorded on the voyage. Our two families then transhipped onto the *Titania* for Table Cape. The 245 sponsored by the Society of St Andrew, based in Tasmania, travelled free on the understanding that they would stay for at least four years and that within six months they would reimburse the society at the rate of £8 per family or £5 for individuals travelling alone. At this time, with the cessation of transportation, Tasmania was short of labour and inducements were being offered to encourage immigrants.

Lyn Hookway concludes:

This has been a most interesting journey, and it all started with just happening to notice one line in a small newspaper item. As with all family history research, there are still many unanswered questions. But that is what makes it so addictive! ◀

Previously published in the Suffolk Family History magazine *Suffolk Roots*.

RICHARD USHER: FAMILY MAN, CONVICT AND PETTY CONSTABLE

Jennifer Wood

RICHARD USHER was a family man. Married to Mary in 1808¹ and lived together with their five surviving children, George, Richard, Hannah, Samuel and baby Thomas.² Another daughter Sarah had died aged six in 1815.³ Convict records give us much more of an idea of his life than for most people living in the 19th century.

At the age of 31 Usher was tried for larceny in a dwelling house and sentenced to death. His trial took place in August 1821 at Easington in Warwickshire, where the family was living at the time of their youngest son Thomas's birth.⁴ Looking more closely at his crime of

'larceny in a dwelling house', this seems more like a premeditated act rather than an opportunistic one. The Proceedings of the Old Bailey, in particular, crimes tried at the Old Bailey, defines burglary as breaking into a house at night with the intent of stealing.⁵ It is not known what led Richard to steal—was he out of work and trying to feed his family? Or was he part of a criminal class? The reasons behind Richard's offence are not recorded. Historians have been debating the two suggested scenarios for decades.⁶

After the trial, Usher spent time in the *York* prison hulk,⁷ one of the floating prisons, moored at Portsmouth. This register records Usher as arriving at the hulk in October 1821, approximately 6 weeks after his trial. The register records his sentence as 'Life'.

¹ Ancestry. Marriage record for Richard Usher and Mary Mills married 21 November 1808. Warwickshire, England, Marriages and Banns 1754–1910. County Record Office; Warwick, England; Document Reference: DRO 40. Accessed 15 May 2017.

² Ancestry. Baptism for Thomas Usher. Warwickshire, England, Baptisms, 1813–1910. County Record Office; Warwick, England; Roll: Engl/2/1012. Accessed 15 May 2017.

³ Ancestry. Burial of Sarah Usher 20 August 1815. England, Select Deaths and Burials 1538–1991. Accessed 20 May 2017. FHL Film number 350514, Reference ID p1–2, n9.

⁴ Ancestry. Richard Usher trial record. England & Wales, Criminal Registers, 1791–1892. Home Office: The National Archives of the UK (TNA), Kew, Surrey, England. Class: HO 27; Piece: 22; p. 24. Accessed 20 May 2017.

⁵ The Proceedings of the Old Bailey, London's Central Criminal Court, 1764–1913. Crimes tried at the Old Bailey. <https://www.oldbaileyonline.org/static/Crimes.jsp>. Accessed 16 May 2017

⁶ Dillon, Margaret C. 'Convict Labour and Colonial Society in the Campbell Town Police District: 1820–1839', unpublished PhD thesis, University of Tasmania, 2008, at <http://www.convicthistory.com> Accessed 15 May 2017.

⁷ Ancestry. Richard Usher received 3 October 1831. UK, Prison Hulk Registers and Letter Books, 1802–1849. Microfilm, HO9, 5 rolls. The National Archives, Kew, England. Class: HO9; Piece: 9. Accessed 20 May 2017.

In November 1821 Usher left England on the convict ship, the *Phoenix*.⁸ Medical journals provide quite a bit of useful information for the family history researcher. The medical journal kept by Surgeon Superintendent Evan EVANS states the ship took on board 64 convicts from the *York*, along with 120 convicts from the *Leviathan* Hulk. The *Phoenix* arrived in Van Diemen's Land on the 20 May 1822 less two convicts who had died on the voyage.

Five days after the ship arrived, the convicts were assigned to their employers and began their new lives in the colony.⁹ Convict musters are a good source of information for obtaining the name of the settler to whom the convict was assigned. Musters were used both as a census and to keep an eye on the convicts. The 1826 muster lists Mr PATTERSON as the name of Usher's employer.¹⁰

Myles Patterson arrived in Van Diemen's Land in 1822,¹¹ and owned quite a bit of land around New Norfolk and had a number of convict servants, so it is possible that Myles Patterson is the Mr Patterson referred to in the convict

muster. New Norfolk, situated on the River Derwent, was the third planned settlement in Van Diemen's Land.

Usher was appointed a Petty Constable for the district of New Norfolk in May 1827.¹² Convicts with a life sentence and who were of 'very good conduct' could serve with the police force for a number of years and be rewarded with a conditional pardon.¹³ Usher received his conditional pardon nine years later, in 1836.

While not specifying his actual participation, it is highly likely that Usher took part in the Black Line, also known as the Black War as Lieutenant-Governor ARTHUR gave orders that the colony was to be defended by all able bodied men. This defence of the colony came in the form of attack. The objective of the campaign was to capture 'hostile tribes of the Natives which are daily committing renewed atrocities on the Settlers'.¹⁴ It is estimated that 1600 soldiers, free men and convicts formed divisions to create a line across the countryside particularly where the Aboriginal people frequented.¹⁵

⁸ Richard Usher Transportation record. Australian convict Transportation Registers – Other Fleets & Ships, 1791–1868. Class: HO 11; Piece: 4. Accessed 20 May 2017.

⁹ Free Settler or Felon? http://www.jenwilletts.com/convict_ship_phoenix_1822.htm Accessed 20 May 2017

¹⁰ Ancestry. Richard Usher Convict Muster record. New South Wales and Tasmania, Australia Convict Musters, 1806–1849. Class: HO 10; Piece: 47. Accessed 20 May 2017.

¹¹ Bothwell Historical Society <http://www.bothwellhistoricalsociety.org.au/Bothwell%20Chronology.html> Accessed 20 May 2017.

¹² 'Government Notice'. *Hobart Town Gazette* Saturday 5 May 1827, p. 1.

¹³ 'After Arthur: policing in Van Diemen's Land 1837–1846' by Dr Stefan Petrow, University of Tasmania. Paper presented at the History of Crime, Policing and Punishment Conference, 1999. http://www.aic.gov.au/media_library/conferences/hcpp/petrow.pdf Accessed 31 May 2017.

¹⁴ 'Government order No. 11 Colonial Secretary's Office September 22, 1830' *Launceston Advertiser* Monday 4 October 1830, p. 4

¹⁵ 'Frontier conflict in Van Diemen's Land.' Nicholas Patrick Clements. PhD thesis, University of Tasmania, 2013. <http://eprints.utas.edu.au/17070/2/Whole-Clements-thesis.pdf> Accessed 20 May 2017.

Since first contact, Aboriginal people had often stolen the colonists' property and many settlers had been injured or killed. The outcome of the war was violent death on both sides of the line. While this was the most intense of the frontier clashes, Australians are practically unaware of it.

The convict musters for 1832 and 1833 record that Richard Usher was assigned to his wife Mary. This change of assignment could well be due to the death of Myles Patterson in 1828. I find it interesting that he was assigned to his wife and not another settler. To date, no records have been found as to when Mary Usher came to Australia. The earliest record of Mary Usher in Van Diemen's Land is for the birth of a daughter Mary Ann Usher in 1830.¹⁶ It appears Mary brought some of her children with her. Richard Jnr, Samuel and Thomas all married, had children and died in the new land, while George stayed behind in England.¹⁷ A daughter, Hannah died in 1823, so it is conceivable that Mary and the younger children came to Van Diemen's Land between 1824 and around 1829.¹⁸ Usher's wife Mary died at New

Norfolk in 1853 aged 70.¹⁹ Mary is buried at Back River Chapel Cemetery near New Norfolk. It is likely that Mary's headstone and possibly her remains, were relocated from the old cemetery in New Norfolk which was covered by units many years before.²⁰

The colony was a not a safe place to live. By 1856 Usher was now an old man. One evening Usher was walking along a road when he was approached by a wounded man by the name of Patrick FALLON. Usher worked for the same employer as Fallon, Mr BRADSHAW of Back River, and knew the man by sight. Usher assisted the stricken man to a nearby hut. The victim alleged that he was stabbed by a mate with a knife after a quarrel over rations. A doctor was sent for, but Fallon later died of his wounds. Usher was required to be a witness in court where John CURTIS was charged with murder.²¹ Richard Usher died at 73 years of age in 1861 at New Norfolk, the place where he had made his home.²² ◀

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²⁰ Rootsweb discussion list <http://archiver.rootsweb.ancestry.com/h/read/AUS-Tasmania/2012-05/1337124615> Accessed 20 May 2017.

²¹ 'Supreme Court – Wednesday.' *The Hobarton Mercury*. Friday 6 June 1856, p. 3.

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THE CASE OF THE TOWN CLERK WHO ABSCONDED

Roger Jennans

ONE sentence in the letter made me curious. On the table in front of me at the Derbyshire Record Office in Matlock was a box of letters and other items, surviving records of the Thornset Turnpike Trust, a nineteenth century organisation responsible for a number of roads in and around New Mills. The letter was written in 1844 by Edward REDDISH, clerk to the trust, to Ebenezer ADAMSON, treasurer. Reddish mentions a 'hiatus' in the books between 1840 and 1843 'following the absconding' of the previous clerk, John Kenyon WINTERBOTTOM.¹ What was his story?

John Kenyon Winterbottom was born in Stockport, Cheshire, in 1789.² His father, Henry Winterbottom, was a cotton manufacturer who no doubt envisaged a prosperous future for his son. Henry Winterbottom saw his son articulated to a successful local solicitor, James Antrobus

NEWTON.³ Partnership followed and the firm became Newton and Winterbottom.⁴ Thus when James Antrobus Newton died in 1823⁵ John Kenyon Winterbottom found himself well placed to become a leading solicitor, participating in the public life of Stockport.

Furthermore in 1832 he married Lucy Ann, daughter of James Antrobus Newton,⁶ just a year after she had come of age to inherit a substantial sum from her father's estate.⁷ The couple had two daughters.⁸

John Winterbottom's position enabled him to accumulate a large number of public offices.

In 1823 in partnership with three others he established a bank in Stockport, known briefly as Christy Lloyd Winterbottom and



¹ J K Winterbottom, second Town Clerk, Hobart 1857–1867, (pictured), Allport Library and Museum of Fine Arts, Tasmanian Archive and Heritage Office <http://stors.tas.gov.au/AUTAS001144589181>

² Baptism register High Street Chapel, Stockport 15 June 1789

³ Court of King's Bench: Plea Side: Affidavits of Due Execution of Articles of Clerkship 1 August 1806

⁴ For example: advertisement *Chester Courant* 10 March 1818

⁵ Burial register St Mary Stockport 14 April 1823

⁶ Marriage register, Cheadle: 21 February 1832

⁷ Will: Chester diocesan consistory court: probate 22 April 1823

⁸ Baptism register St Mary, Stockport: Lucy Anne Winterbottom, 26 August 1833; Frances Mary Winterbottom, 30 September 1834

Company and then as the Stockport and Cheshire Bank:⁹ John Kenyon Winterbottom's name was printed on bank notes.¹⁰ The partnership was dissolved in 1829 after the bank had been merged with the Manchester and Liverpool District Banking Company.¹¹ Winterbottom became clerk to a number of turnpike trusts, including the Thornset trust.¹² He served two terms as mayor of Stockport and later as town clerk.¹³ He was clerk, registrar and presiding officer of Stockport Court of Requests, a court which heard cases involving debt.¹⁴

John Winterbottom was a staunch advocate of the Conservative cause but by 1836 in a changing political climate he was replaced as town clerk by a nominee of the Whig persuasion. Local Conservatives responded with a dinner attended by 170 supporters who heard rousing speeches. Winterbottom was presented with eleven pieces of silver plate, including tureens, salver and bread basket 'subscribed for in small sums as a public testimonial of the estimation in which Mr Winterbottom is held' at a cost of some £350.¹⁵

But Winterbottom was soon to face the fact that for whatever reason his financial circumstances had become precarious.

Ironically it was the Manchester and Liverpool District Banking Company that in 1840 initiated bankruptcy proceedings, asserting that Winterbottom was substantially in debt to the bank.¹⁶ Up to forty further creditors attended the first creditors' meeting¹⁷ and by the end of a second meeting creditors had given evidence of debts amounting to almost £30,000.¹⁸ More seriously it became known that while dealing with the estate of a man named John ISHERWOOD of Marple Hall Winterbottom had forged signatures, received a payment of £5,000 from a life insurance policy and not transferred the money to Isherwood's widow and daughters.¹⁹

Winterbottom absconded. (He would later say that he left having 'accidentally heard' about the imminent bankruptcy and that he did not then know about the forthcoming forgery charge.)²⁰ An arrest warrant was issued and a reward of £200 was offered. Rumours were rife: he had been seen on the quayside at Liverpool about to board a ship for America;²¹ alternatively he was thought to have gone to France and a police officer was dispatched in pursuit.²² Winterbottom's wife took their daughters to stay with her married sister in the Isle of Man²³ and later moved to Liverpool.²⁴

Winterbottom managed to avoid arrest for several years. He would later claim

⁹ Pigot and Son's *General Directory of Manchester*, Salford 1829: list of provincial bankers page xxviii

¹⁰ <https://www.the-saleroom.com/en-gb/auction-catalogues/spink/catalogue-id-srsp10034/lot-0642b2ca-13f0-451d-9720-a45100da2667>

¹¹ <https://www.rbs.com/heritage/companies/christy-lloyd-and-co.html>
Derbyshire Record Office: D535

¹² *Manchester Courier* 20 February 1836

¹³ Parliamentary Papers Vol. 46 [1835]: Courts of Requests (England) Return of the Amounts of Fees, [etc] p. 24

¹⁴ *Manchester Courier* 20 February 1836

¹⁶ *London Gazette* 4 August 1840

¹⁷ *Manchester Courier* 22 August 1840

¹⁸ *Derbyshire Courier* 3 October 1840

¹⁹ *Chester Chronicle* 14 August 1840 (and in many other newspapers)

²⁰ Home Office: Criminal Petitions: HO18/163: Petition by John Kenyon Winterbottom 19 July 1847

²¹ *Derbyshire Courier* 15 August 1840

²² *Kendal Mercury* 22 August 1840

²³ 1841 census HO 107/1465/1 f9

²⁴ *Derbyshire Courier* 14 September 1844

that after having spent time abroad he returned to England in May 1844, wanting to see his wife.²⁵ On a September day in 1844 two men were walking along Great Howard Street near the river in Liverpool when they saw a miserably clad emaciated man whom they recognised. Mindful of the reward they gave chase, enlisting the assistance of a policeman they met during the chase. John Winterbottom was found trying to hide between a farmhouse and cowshed.²⁶ Subsequently at Chester Assizes John Kenyon Winterbottom was found guilty of forgery.²⁷ The facts seemed indisputable so why did he plead 'Not guilty'? He had for several years been authorised as the confidential agent of the Isherwood family. Perhaps he saw his actions as legitimate within that role. But it seems he was unable to appreciate how it would appear to others that he had signed in the names of Mrs Isherwood and her daughters; had received and used the money; and had given a false explanation of why they were having to wait for payment.

Sentence was delayed for several months to allow the Exchequer Chamber to consider points of law raised by the case. At Chester Assizes in April 1845 Winterbottom was sentenced to be transported for life. An observer noted Winterbottom appeared deeply affected, as also did many others in the court.²⁸ After a time in the prison at Chester Winterbottom was held with other criminals at Millbank prison situated close to the River Thames

in London.²⁹ Winterbottom may have been taken out of sight of his family and associates but he was certainly not out of mind. There was widespread disquiet at the severe implications of the sentence; disquiet which generated action. While Winterbottom remained at Millbank his supporters sustained the hope that his sentence might be reduced to involve imprisonment in England. In accordance with the practice at the time pleas for mitigation were considered not by the judge at the time of passing sentence but subsequently by the Home Secretary and his officials. Within two weeks of the sentence the Cheshire MP John TOLLEMARCHE presented a petition signed by eminent men of Stockport and district, including almost every magistrate and clergyman.³⁰ George CHAPPELL, chairman of what was now known as the Bank of Manchester lost no time in putting forward the bank's interest. The bank had made loans to Winterbottom of some £16,000, secured in part by a life insurance policy the premiums of which were being paid by the bank. The policy would become void if Winterbottom were to travel beyond Europe or to die at sea. So the sentence of transportation would bring the bank a loss of some £5,000. The implications of transportation for Winterbottom's wife and daughters were immense. His wife Lucy Ann Winterbottom was by now living in Chester where she was assisted by Charles TAYLER, rector of Chester. He had never met Winterbottom but responded to Lucy Winterbottom's plight. He added weight to her immediate letter to the

²⁵ National Archives: Home Office: Criminal Petitions: HO18/163: Petition by John Kenyon Winterbottom 19 July 1847

²⁶ *Derby Mercury* 11 September 1844

²⁷ *Manchester Times* 7 December 1844

²⁸ *London Evening Standard* 4 April 1845

²⁹ National Archives Home Office Correspondence and Warrants HO 13/86/152 8 April 1845

³⁰ These petitions and appeals are at National Archives: Home Office: Criminal Petitions: HO18/163

Home Secretary. She emphasised that in punishing her husband ‘the severity of the law will fall with dreadful weight upon us’. Perhaps sourly she ended her letter with a prayer for God’s blessing on Sir James GRAHAM, the Home Secretary, as a father and husband. The force of her appeal was strengthened in a remarkable way. Her letter was accompanied by a letter from Elizabeth Isherwood, who could be said to have been the victim of the forgery. She, a widow, wrote in an attempt to save Lucy Winterbottom and her children from the permanent loss of a husband and father.

None of these pleas achieved any mitigation of the sentence. But further efforts on John Winterbottom’s behalf were already under way. On 22 April about 200 people gathered at the ‘Bull’s Head’ in Stockport Market Place as part of a campaign to raise a public petition: Stockport was divided into canvassing areas; separate petitions were promoted for men and for women; contributions were expected from Manchester and Liverpool.³¹ Three weeks later the three leading petitioners set off to address the Home Secretary in London. Robert GRUNDY, Thomas CARTWRIGHT and John HAMER carried petitions holding more than 20,000 signatures:³² they also held a letter of introduction from Edward ALDERSON, a senior judge.³³ He had recommended them to accept that transportation was inevitable and to plead that Winterbottom should be spared the horrors of the penal colony of Norfolk Island in favour of a period of imprisonment in Van Diemen’s Land (Tasmania). Alderson envisaged it would then be

feasible for Winterbottom’s wife and daughters to settle there. But that appeal was rejected.³⁴

Time was running out: on 19 August an eye-witness watched as 200 prisoners, Winterbottom amongst them, were marched down steps from Millbank prison to two river steamers fancifully named *Nymph* and *Fairy*. Several of Winterbottom’s friends were present to take what would be a last sight of him.

His appearance was better than might be expected in the circumstances; and he seemed pleased when he was recognised by some who did not forget his kindness when he was placed in a different situation.

At Woolwich the prisoners were transferred aboard the ocean-going ship *Mayda*.³⁵

Separately Charles Tayler and Robert Grundy made further attempts to secure some mitigation. Robert Grundy wrote ‘Surely it is not too late to withdraw him from the ship?’ Charles Tayler submitted a medical report from Richard FLINT, formerly Winterbottom’s doctor, who described inflammation of the kidneys: Winterbottom was totally unfit for severe labour. On 26 August William BALY, medical officer of Millbank prison, under instruction from the Home Office, examined Winterbottom on board the *Mayda*. He declared Winterbottom fit for transportation. *Mayda* set sail on 29 August. In November the ship called for provisions at the Cape of Good Hope and reached Norfolk Island, Australia on 8 January 1846, despite having lost her top

³¹ *Manchester Times* 26 April 1845
³² *Blackburn Advertiser* 14 May 1845
³³ National Archives: Home Office: Criminal Petitions: HO18/163

³⁴ National Archives Home Office Correspondence and Warrants HO 13/86/269 14 June 1845

³⁵ *Hereford Times* 6 September 1845

masts a few days earlier.³⁶ Norfolk Island lies in the Pacific Ocean, almost 900 miles east of the mainland of Australia and at this time was occupied solely as a penal colony. Daniel JONES, a corporal on military duty in Hobart Town, wrote to his father Thomas Jones, a carpenter living in Chester. His account of Winterbottom being robbed of £180 on arrival at Norfolk Island found its way into newspapers in England.³⁷ There is some evidence Winterbottom was spared some of the harshness of the colony's hard labour regime, being required to work as a clerk in the engineer's office: a benefit which generated resentment amongst some of his fellow convicts.³⁸ He remained at Norfolk Island until March 1847.³⁹ His exemplary conduct was noticed by a number of those in authority; and when he along with 300 other prisoners boarded the sailing ship *Pestonjee Bomanjee* for transfer to Van Diemen's Land he carried with him important testimonials:⁴⁰ from Thomas ROGERS, chaplain, an outspoken critic of the Norfolk Island regime; John ISON, chaplain; George BOLT and Henry BLACKFORD, superintendents, and perhaps most significantly an endorsement from John PRICE, civil commandant. During the voyage Winterbottom acquired a further testimonial from Colin Arrott BROWNING, surgeon superintendent of the *Pestonjee Bomanjee*.

John Winterbottom's new home was the Cascades probation station, housed in a

collection of recently built brick and stone buildings situated on the north coast of the Tasman peninsula.⁴¹ There the principal activity of convicts was cutting timber, but as a result of a recommendation from Colin Arrott Browning, Winterbottom was immediately made a monitor in the school maintained on site. As on Norfolk Island his exemplary conduct was noticed by a number of those in authority.⁴² In particular Francis BROWNRIGG, a Hobart clergyman who worked at Cascades station as a religious instructor and was moved to offer assistance. Three months after Winterbottom's arrival at Cascades Francis Brownrigg wrote to Thomas NOLAN, incumbent of St Barnabas church in Liverpool: he enclosed the testimonials brought from Norfolk Island and asked that they be forwarded to Winterbottom's wife to support a further application for mitigation. Brownrigg reported Winterbottom had received a letter from her, written a year earlier, and intended to write to her through the proper channels. He was in moderate health and 'expecting to hear from her every post'. It seems that Lucy Winterbottom received the testimonials and sent them to Charles Tayler, who had by now moved from his parish in Chester to that of Otley near Ipswich. In May 1848 Charles Tayler sent the testimonials to the Home Office: 'though I cannot hope at present for any commutation of the convict's sentence the testimonials may produce a favourable impression'. A Home Office official made a dismissive note on the papers: 'Nothing is asked at

³⁶ Extract from surgeon superintendent's journal https://jenwilletts.com/convict_ship_mayda_1846.htm

³⁷ *Manchester Courier* 8 August 1846

³⁸ *Sydney Morning Herald* 26 August 1847

³⁹ Tasmanian Archives and Heritage Office, TAHO: Conduct record CON-33-1-79

⁴⁰ National Archives: Home Office: Criminal Petitions: HO18/163

⁴¹ <http://ontheconvicttrail.blogspot.co.uk/2014/01/cascades-probation-station.html>

⁴² The following correspondence is at National Archives: Home Office: Criminal Petitions: HO18/163

present.’ In parallel John Winterbottom addressed his own appeal to Queen Victoria. He challenged the legality of his sentence. He had been the authorised agent of the individuals concerned. Furthermore the sentence was invalid because it had been passed by a judge who had not heard full details of the case, the trial judge having died before the sentencing hearing. This appeal was forwarded by William DENISON, lieutenant governor of Van Diemen’s Land; and then by Herman MERIVALE, permanent under-secretary for the Colonies. It was not until May 1849 that a decision was reached to reject the appeal.

In the meantime Winterbottom was confined and occupied at the Cascades station. In January 1849 he became eligible to work for a civilian employer. He was assigned to successive employers in Hobart Town, including William TURNER, proprietor of the ‘Bowling Green Hotel’, and John WATTS, proprietor of a private academy.⁴³ There appears to be no surviving evidence of when the news reached Winterbottom that in March 1849, in Stockport, his wife had died.⁴⁴

One of her brothers, James NEWTON, continued to be mindful of John Winterbottom’s circumstances. Together he and William Newland WELSBY, a Cheshire barrister who had earlier represented Winterbottom, submitted a fresh petition to the Home Office.⁴⁵ This petition was signed by some 150 leading Stockport men, headed by John BOOTHROYD, mayor and Charles Kenrick PRESCOTT,

rector. With the petition were enclosed testimonials of Winterbottom’s exemplary conduct as a convict, including a commendation from William TURNER ‘The Bowling Green Hotel’ and reports from Cascades station by two visiting magistrates, a convict superintendent and a chaplain. Yet again the Home Secretary and his advisors saw no reason to amend the original sentence:

The respectability of the persons signing the petition and the testimonials is undoubted but the case remains the same.

This, numbered by the Home Office as the ninth submission, would prove the last appeal on Winterbottom’s behalf.

In December 1853 Winterbottom was assigned as an assistant to Arthur PERRY, a solicitor active in the public and commercial life of Hobart Town.⁴⁶ Perhaps Winterbottom saw parallels between his earlier life in Stockport and Arthur PERRY’s position and range of interests. In March 1855 Arthur Perry was elected a member of the Tasmanian Legislative Council. In August Winterbottom was granted a conditional pardon: the main condition being that he did not return to England.⁴⁷ He now held the formal status of solicitor’s clerk.⁴⁸ But not for long. In November Arthur Perry suffered a sudden fatal illness. Winterbottom was involved in dealing with Perry’s immediate financial affairs, as it became clear that Perry’s estate was insolvent.⁴⁹ He then appears to have secured employment with Frederick Robert LEES who combined private practice as a solicitor with the office of

⁴³ TAHO: Conduct record CON-33-1-79

⁴⁴ Burial register St Mary Stockport 10 March 1849; announcement *Manchester Courier* 10 March 1849

⁴⁵ National Archives: Home Office: Criminal Petitions: HO18/163

⁴⁶ TAHO: Conduct record CON-33-1-79

⁴⁷ National Archives Home Office Conditional Pardons HO 10/64/page 23

⁴⁸ *The Courier*, Hobart, 4 October 1855

⁴⁹ *The Hobart Mercury* 14 November 1856

town clerk.⁵⁰ The post of assistant town clerk of Hobart became available in January 1856: Winterbottom was one of 34 applicants, but was not successful.⁵¹ It was not long before he saw a further opportunity. The post of town clerk of Hobart, with an annual salary of £300, became vacant. In July 1857 against competition from fourteen other applicants, including Henry WILKINSON who had earlier beaten Winterbottom to the post of assistant town clerk, Winterbottom was appointed. A newspaper editorial claimed that the appointment was irregular: as town clerk Frederick Robert Lees had attended the private selection meeting, but he was also Winterbottom's employer.⁵² Winterbottom had produced testimonials from six local worthies and a seventh testimonial signed by a number of Stockport residents, including solicitors, recommending him as 'a person of great legal attainments'.⁵³

In England a number of newspapers reported the appointment: the *Chester Chronicle* added the headline 'Good Luck at Last'.⁵⁴ It is tantalising to wonder whether Winterbottom's two daughters learned of this news. Following their mother's death in 1849 Frances Mary and Lucy Anne Winterbottom were cared for by their mother's sisters, settling in Southport, where they remained, unmarried, living together throughout their adult lives.⁵⁵ From Frances JONES, one

their mother's sisters, they inherited investments in the Thornset Turnpike Trust and the surviving records of the Trust at Derbyshire Record Office include impeccably polite letters written by one or other of the sisters on behalf of them both, asking about and acknowledging the payment of interest on their investment.⁵⁶

In Hobart Winterbottom held the office of town clerk for ten years. By 1867, by which time he had reached his late seventies, his performance at work was causing some misgivings. How might aldermen confront the deteriorating competence of a venerable senior employee? At the end of a meeting of Hobart council in July 1867 the oldest alderman, David LEWIS, grasped the nettle. He proposed that Winterbottom should take a period of leave, after which he might be able to return to duty. This was enough to allow the unspeakable to be voiced. Newspaper reporters were excluded and discussion continued in private. The council resolved that Winterbottom should be asked to resign by the end of the month: in return he would be paid a year's salary.⁵⁷ But there was more that could now be voiced. The mayor was now told about a financial irregularity. Two years earlier Winterbottom had re-issued council debentures, made no record of the transaction and received £400 which he had not paid into the council's accounts. Winterbottom explained that there had been some confusion at the time and that he would repay the money.⁵⁸ But no repayment was made: Winterbottom was dismissed from his post and charged with embezzle-

⁵⁰ *Tasmanian Daily News* 16 July 1857

⁵¹ *The Hobart Mercury* 23 January 1856

⁵² *Tasmanian Daily News* 16 July 1857

⁵³ *Tasmanian Daily News* 22 July 1857

⁵⁴ *Chester Chronicle* 10 October 1857

⁵⁵ 1851 census HO107 2196/f453; 1861 census RG9 2761/f75; 1871 census RG10 3874/f46; 1881 census RG11 3749/f115; 1891 census RG12 3035/f31; 1901 census RG13 3537/f7

⁵⁶ Derbyshire Record Office D535

⁵⁷ *The Mercury*, Hobart 2 July 1867

⁵⁸ *The Mercury*, Hobart 8 July 1867

ment.⁵⁹ At his trial in September, in an uncanny reflection of his earlier trial in Chester he accepted the facts of his actions but pleaded not guilty. His advocates spoke in court of the difficulty they faced in representing him, but suggested that the issue was more to do with the inadequate state of the council's records than about misappropriation of funds. One of those who gave prosecution evidence was Henry Wilkinson, Winterbottom's long serving assistant who by the time of the trial had been appointed town clerk. The jury found John Kenyon Winterbottom guilty. The judge said that in determining the length of a prison sentence he was mindful Winterbottom might not live long enough to complete the sentence. A sentence was passed of two years' imprisonment.⁶⁰

Winterbottom served the full length of his sentence in Hobart prison. He was released in September 1869, a few weeks after his eightieth birthday.⁶¹ No record has been found of the last years of his life. He died in Goulbourn Street, Hobart 17 May 1872.⁶² Did his daughters learn of his death? Perhaps not. Frances Mary died in 1894⁶³ and Lucy Anne in 1919.⁶⁴ Following Lucy Anne's death her estate was the subject of a case in the Chancery court. The court felt it necessary to guard against the possibility that Winterbottom had heirs in Tasmania. In 1922 an advertisement appeared in a Hobart newspaper:⁶⁵ John Kenyon Winterbottom went to Tasmania in 1845 and is believed to have lived in Hobart Town until the

date of his death. The date of his death is not known, nor is anything known of his relatives. ◀

**INDEX TO COURT
RECORDS OF TASMANIA
Vol. 1 1827–1834
and
INDEX TO COURT
RECORDS OF TASMANIA
Vol. 2 1821–1833**

These indexes have been compiled from four of the early *Tasmanian Papers* held at the Mitchell Library, NSW, as described in an article by Malcolm Ward in *Tasmanian Ancestry* Vol. 37, No. 3 December 2016, pp. 136–138.

Volume 1 is an index to
DLSPENCER165 1&2
and DLSPENCER 434

Volume 2 is an index to
DLSPENCER 96

The accused persons before the courts in Launceston and Hobart are mainly convicts transported directly to VDL, but many came via NSW.

Where possible their ship to the colony and police number have been included.

Many witnesses are also named.

\$25.00 each plus p&p \$6.30 each

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⁵⁹ *The Tasmanian Times* 16 July 1867

⁶⁰ *The Mercury*, Hobart 11 September 1867

⁶¹ *Tasmania Police Gazette* vol. 8/440 10 September 1869

⁶² RGD35-1-8, Death, Hobart 23 May 1872

⁶³ *London Evening Standard* 10 April 1894

⁶⁴ National Probate Calendar 1919

⁶⁵ *The Mercury*, Hobart 2 June 1922.

SMALLPOX EPIDEMIC, LAUNCESTON 1887

Jennifer Jacobs (Member No. 1826)

SILENTLY and stealthily smallpox had arrived. In 1887 Launceston was victim of a smallpox epidemic. Centred in the wharf and riverside areas it claimed a number of lives and unsettled the population of the city. By tracing the contacts of the victims and their families, authorities were later able to track the spread and progress of the disease.

One of the victims was five-year-old Alfred BENNETT who lived with his parents George and Mary-Ann and older brother Thomas at the lower end of Charles Street. He had played with a child from the BISHOP family who had an hotel on the waterfront and were one of the earliest infected families. George, who was a sea captain, was initially isolated on his ship in the Tamar during the outbreak but after entering their contaminated house, he walked out to Mowbray to join his wife and sons at the isolation hospital at Mowbray. Frances, their two-year-old daughter, had died earlier in the year from diphtheria.

The following story, written as part of the UTAS Family History Course is based on facts reported in Tasmanian newspapers at the time.

The Crisis

Leaping and dancing, flames licked up the walls and exploded through the roof.¹ Smoke billowed out across Mowbray as

crackling sparks rose into the air. Firebugs had solved the problem. Nobody would be looking for the guilty party. The isolation hospital was gone. Five miles away, in Launceston, curious heads watched as the glow melted into the night sky and dissipated behind the clouds.

“Just a rash, probably measles or chicken-pox, nothing to worry about,” announced the doctor.

Like an unseen vapour, it had crept along the dank lanes, curling past broken doorways, flooding tendrils of disease into the dilapidated neighbourhood. Gathering pace, it infiltrated the hovels of the wharf area, terrifying the nervous residents. Beginning as tiny spots the illness rapidly blossomed into reddened, weeping pustules. Whole families became ill, the sufferers sometimes dying within days. Mary-Ann could still hear the grief as Mrs PEARSON had shrieked from her doorway, “Poor Emily is dead; won’t anyone come?”²

No-one came. The hysterical woman, recovering from the illness herself, had to prepare her own daughter’s body for a hasty burial. Police guards at the doors of infected houses kept all others away. At ‘Bishop’s Hotel’, where cases had occurred, starving boarders threatened to riot as no-one was allowed to bring food. Letters at the Post Office were being fumigated. Shipping between Tasmania

¹ ‘The Quarantine Station’, *The Tasmanian (Launceston, Tas. : 1881–1895)*, 17 December 1887, p. 30, viewed 12 August 2016, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article199550575>

² ‘Small-Pox Outbreak’, *Launceston Examiner (Tas. : 1842–1899)*, 27 September 1887, p. 3. , viewed 12 August 2016, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article39536584>

and other states was disrupted. Launceston was in a state of siege and the list of affected properties was growing: Bishop, WATSON, SPIERS, and now Bennett. How the teacher must have recoiled as she had noticed the reddened blotches on Alfred's face the previous day.

His mother, Mary-Ann cradled him gently, welling tears weaving down her face and falling on the soft upholstery. Normally such a new and magnificent vehicle would have enthralled her, but today she hardly noticed the beautiful woodwork and gleaming varnish. They were being cast out, isolated to the Mowbray Racecourse. Apprehensive on-lookers stared as the ambulance powered along through Invermay, before deviating up the hill. The rhythmical clapping of the horse's hooves slowed as they ascended the rise, the thick odours of the city melting away as the passengers became aware of the soft rustle of the breeze in the tall gum trees.

And suddenly there it was, Mowbray Quarantine Station. Mary-Ann gasped as a sudden gust lifted the flag from the pole, its skull and crossbones design wavering menacingly.³ 'Stay away, come within,' it messaged.

His uniform rumpled, a policeman stepped from the sentry box to register their arrival. Recently conscripted to fulfil the role he checked their credentials with care. Slowly the ambulance carried the stricken child and mother along the drive to the drab wooden buildings. Stored at the Launceston Hospital, they had been originally designed as an emergency leprosy hospital. Asphalt a foot thick had

been laid beneath them to prevent damp and contagion. Scrim linings did little to keep out the wind and cold.

Perspiration enveloped his body as Alfred was taken to the sufferers' ward. Mary-Ann, as a suspect, was in an alternate room. Only one doctor, one nurse, a carpenter and a handyman were to control and cure a growing number of patients, yet twelve policemen manned the gate. Little thought had been given to the comfort of the latter and it was suggested that there were plenty of hedges for them to sleep under for the time being. 'Mowbray Hotel' volunteered to feed them when the problem of food was raised.

Newspapers accepted the responsibility of informing the public of the progress of the disease and of stirring politicians to action. Twice-daily reports from the quarantine station were printed: Adye BLANCHFLOWER reported convalescent, Harry Watson died, William Bishop feverish, Cecilia HINES not so well, Ann CLARKE improving, Alfred Bennett restless night.

'Cecelia Hines died, Susannah Watson not so well, Alfred Bennett better, rest doing well,' stated the report on 11 November.⁴ A day later, Susannah Watson, Alfred Bennett and William Bishop were all worse.

Debate centred about the value of vaccination. Although compulsory, many considered it dangerous and a cause of syphilis. Mary-Ann had been vaccinated. Why had her son not been given this protection? When supplies ran low, calf lymph was imported and unsuccessful

³ 'Outbreak Of Small-Pox'. *The Tasmanian (Launceston, Tas. : 1881–1895)*, 1 October 1887, p. 21, viewed 12 August 2016, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article199550101>

⁴ '[By Electric Telegraph.]', *The Mercury (Hobart, Tas. : 1860–1954)*, 11 October 1887, p. 3, viewed 12 August 2016, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article9138663>

attempts were made to produce supplies of vaccine from deliberately infected calves.

Cakes, lollies and fruit arrived in abundance from benevolent citizens of the city. Soap, boxes of eggs, jars of calves feet jelly, cornflour, sago and barley accompanied them. Mary-Ann surveyed the variety in awe. Pineapple, with its acid juices, had crinkled her eyes. Donated toys, books and newspapers entertained those who could read.

Extra tents were erected to cope with new arrivals, among them Mary-Ann's son Tom and housemaid, both considered contacts. Fifty-five people were now under observation.

As his disease progressed, Alfred became delirious, wandering aimlessly from his bed at night. Scabs formed across his ravaged skin and his breathing became unsteady. A festering pustule distorted his eye threatening his vision. Finally as the eruptions began to heal, bronchitis invaded his lungs, sending him into convulsions, arching his depleted body as he gasped for breath. Fingers tightening around the cloth, Mary-Ann gently squeezed water back into the chipped enamel bowl. Dried brown scabs played between the droplets as they fell.

Across the room, empty stretchers and stacked blankets stood like ghosts, each signifying the recovery or death of a patient. Politicians had voted to burn them all including the buildings, yet now when the main threat of the disease had waned, they were not so certain.

"Fumigate, boil," they chanted, "how do we know they will not be needed again?"

The debate had continued for a month after Alfred and Mary-Ann had left with the last of the patients. No-one in authority dared make the decision. Someone without authority did. ◀

CEMETERIES OF SOUTHERN TASMANIA

Vol XI

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**MARITA
BARDENHAGEN
MEMORIAL AWARD
FOR LOCAL HISTORY**

was launched by the Minister for Heritage, the Hon. Brian Wightman. Almost 50 of Marita's friends and colleagues attended the launch in Launceston.

The Marita Bardenhagen Memorial Award for Local History is a biennial award to honour the memory of well-known historian Dr Marita Bardenhagen.

The aim of the Award is to encourage local historians to publish the results of their research.

The Award is for a book with significant Tasmanian local history content.

The Award will be determined by an independent judging panel of three, approved by the Trustees of the Award.

Entries for the Award will close on 14 June 2018.

For more information about the Award, please contact
Dr Dianne Snowden at
dsnowden@tassie.net.au

**WOMEN IN
TROUSERS:
WEB ARCHIVE RECORDS
WOMEN'S HISTORY**

A Visual Archive is a new website from Cardiff University that is collecting images of bloomers, knickerbockers, culottes and all manner of bifurcated or 'divided' garments to tell the story of trouser wearing women over more than a century.

The innovative web-site at **www.womenintrousers.org** offers a visual account of the complex and sometimes contradictory meanings represented by women 'wearing trousers' from the 1850s to the 1960s, and provides an illuminating document of the momentous cultural, historical and political shifts affecting women's lives across this period.

Members of the public can submit their own family photographs of women wearing trousers via email to **wearingtrousers@cardiff.ac.uk**

The archive is the work of Dr Becky Munford, of Cardiff University, who said the response to the request for images 'has already been fantastic', adding, 'We would love to hear from anyone who has a photo to share or a story to tell'.

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Family Tree, January 2018, p. 10
www.family-tree.co.uk

WHAT IS THAT PUBLICATION ABOUT?

Maurice Appleyard (Member No. 4093)

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

THE GLASS WORKERS OF SCOTLAND

A4 book of 40 pp. by Diana Connell, published by the Glasgow & West of Scotland Family History Society, 2001.

Glass making in Scotland commenced hundreds of years ago, and continues to be manufactured to the present day. The central belt of Scotland was where the main glass houses were located and by the eighteenth century the large cones of such works could be seen in towns like Alloa, Dumbarton, Leith and Glasgow.

This book contains names, addresses, date and place of birth, as well as occupation of hundreds of glass workers in Scotland. It covers the period between circa 1720 and circa 1880, and whilst there are almost 1,000 entries, it is not meant as a comprehensive work.

The entries contained within this work are reproduced with the original spellings of familial names as well as place names.

Skills shortages prompted the hiring of workers from outside Scotland—the earliest came from Bohemia while later workers also came from England and Ireland.

REV. PETER WALKDEN'S DIARY & EARLY NONCONFORMIST BAPTISMS

A5 book, 200 pp. was first published in August 1996 by the Lancashire FH & HS.

Peter Walkden performed an important service to history by keeping a diary in which he recorded all the ordinary events of his daily life. Through his diary local and family historians can gain an insight into what life was like in rural Lancashire over 250 years ago. In addition to maintaining a diary, Rev. Peter Walkden and his son, Rev. Henry Walkden, in a private notebook, recorded the baptisms they performed.

This publication consists of two parts; Part A features Rev. Peter Walkden's diary for 1725, 1729, and 1730; whilst Part B contains the baptism register of Rev. Peter Walkden (1709–1769) and Rev. Henry Walkden (1747–1793).

THE PEOPLE OF KING-EDWARD & MONQUHITTER 1696

A5 booklet, of 58 pp. published in 2000 by the Aberdeen & Northeast Scotland Family History Society.

The information it contains was transcribed from the *List of Pollable Persons within the Shire of Aberdeen, Volume VI (Presbytery of Turreff)*.

It contains hand drawn maps of the old parishes of King Edward and Monquhitter (showing boundaries, major roads and villages), in the centre. For each of the parishes; alphabetical indexes of individual names are provided, together with a small list of the number of people following the occupations listed. Small place name indexes are also provided. ◀

LIBRARY AQUISITIONS

Hobart Branch

Accessions—Books

- *Aberdeen & North-East Scotland FHS; *The People of King-Edward & Monquhitter 1696*. [A5 929.34 GAL]
- *Connell, Diana; *The Glass Workers of Scotland*. [A4 929.35 CON]
- *Foster, G A; *Rev. Peter Walkden's Diary & Early Non-conformist Baptisms*. [929.3109427 FOS]
- Howard, Patrick James; *Pubs and Publicans of Tasmania's Old West—A History of the Hotels of the West Coast of Tasmania*. [647.9409466 HOW]
- *Jones, Betty; *School Days, School Days ... land of youth and dream* [371.9946 JON]
- *McNie, Alan; *Clan Macmillan*. [929.4 MCN]
- *McNie, Alan; *Clan Scott*. [929.4 MCN]
- *National Library of Australia; *Australian Joint Copying Project Handbook—Vol. 8* [Q994.106 NAT]
- *Num, C; *Irish Research on the Internet*. [929.309415 NUM]
- Richardson, Garry; *Up Country—The History of Goshen, Terryvale, Goulds Country, Priory, The Marshes, Pyengana, West Pyengana, Bullock Drivers and the Sawmills of the Municipality of Portland, North-East Tasmania*. [Q994.64 RIC]
- *Schaffer, Irene; *Nature In Its Wildest Form (Mt Wellington)—James Dickinson, Merchant, Convict, Florist. Hobart Town 1837–1853*. [Q929.2 DIC]
- *Simpson, Kim & Julieanne Richards; *Home from War—Stories from the Newstead War Service Homes, Launceston, Tasmania*. [Qto 355.12099465 SIM]
- *TFHS Inc. Hobart; *Index to Court Records of Tasmania, Vol. 1 1827–1834*. [Q345.9946 IND]
- *TFHS Inc. Hobart; *Index to Court Records of Tasmania, Vol. 2 1821–1833*. [Q345.9946 IND]

*Denotes complimentary or donated item

Launceston Branch

Accessions—Books

- *Deacon, Margaret; *Glorious! Exploring Tasmania in 1914*
- Farmer, Kerry; *DNA for Genealogists*
- *Giblin, L A; *Tracing My Giblin Ancestors*
- *Jones, Betty; *School Days, School Days ... land of youth and dream*
- *McCormack, Tony; *The Blessington McCormacks*
- TFHS Inc. Hobart Branch; *Index to Court Records of Tasmania, Vol. 1 1827–1834*
- TFHS Inc. Hobart Branch; *Index to Court Records of Tasmania, Vol. 2 1821–1833*

Accessions—USB

*Archive Digital Books Australasia; *Tasmanian Government Gazette Collection*
1827–1945

Mersey Branch

Accessions—Books

Biggs, John; *Tasmania Over Five Generations*

Centenary Organising Committees [Comp]; *Devonport High School 1916–2016*

Gatenby, Kris; *Death or Liberty! Rose Lane Convict Burial Ground*

Giblin, L. A; *Tracing My Giblin Ancestors*

Jones, Betty; *School Days, School Days ... land of youth and dream*

TFHS Inc. Hobart Branch; *Index to Court Records of Tasmania Vol. 1 1827–1834*

TFHS Inc. Hobart Branch; *Index to Court Records of Tasmania Vol. 2 1821–1833*

TFHS Inc. Mersey Branch; *The Advocate Personal Announcements*

January 2016 – December 2016

Descendants of Convicts' Group Inc. 1788–1868

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

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

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

SOCIETY SALES

Tasmanian Family History Society Inc. Publications

Payment by Visa or Master Card now available (mail order only)

Mail orders (including postage) should be forwarded to:

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Books

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<i>Van Diemens Land Heritage Index</i> , Vol. 5 (p&p \$8.50)	\$10.00
<i>Tasmanian Ancestry Index Volumes 1–20</i> (p&p \$8.50)**	\$15.00
<i>Tasmanian Ancestry Index Volumes 21–25</i> (p&p \$6.30)**	\$15.00
<i>Tasmanian Ancestry Index Volumes 26–30</i> (p&p \$6.30)**	\$25.00
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(p&p \$13.80 for 3 books or more)

CD-Rom

<i>Tasmanian Ancestry Vols 1–20</i> , [Jun 1980–Mar 2000] (p&p \$8.50)**	\$50.00
<i>TAMIOT</i> (p&p \$8.50) **	\$50.00

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BRANCH LIBRARY ADDRESSES, TIMES AND MEETING DETAILS

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

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

HUON Phone: Branch Secretary (03) 6239 6823
Library Soldiers Memorial Hall Marguerite Street Ranelagh
Saturday 1:30 p.m.–4:00 p.m.
Other times: Library visits by appointment with Secretary, 48 hours notice required
Meeting Branch Library, Ranelagh, at 4:00 p.m. on 1st Saturday of each month, except January.
email vsbtas@bigpond.com

LAUNCESTON Phone: Branch Secretary (03) 6326 1399
Library 45–55 Tamar Street Launceston (next door to Albert Hall)
Tuesday 10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.
Monday to Friday by appointment only (03) 6326 1399
Check the Branch News and the website
<http://www.launceston.tasfhs.org> for locations and times.

MERSEY Phone: Branch Secretary (03) 6428 6328 Library (03) 6426 2257
Library 117 Gilbert Street Latrobe (behind State Library)
Tuesday & Friday 11:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.
Saturday opening has ceased and is now by advance appointment only.
Meetings Held on the 3rd Monday of the month at Branch Library in Latrobe at 1:30 p.m. or sometimes for lunch at 12:00. Please check the website at 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 2018–19:-

Individual member	\$45.00
Joint members (2 people at one address)	\$55.00
Australian Concession	\$35.00
Australian Joint Concession	\$45.00

Overseas: Individual member: A\$50.00: Joint members: A\$55.00 (inc. airmail postage)

Organisations: Journal subscription \$45.00—apply to the Society Treasurer.

Membership Entitlements:

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

Application for Membership:

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

Donations:

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

Research Queries:

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

Reciprocal Rights:

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

Advertising:

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

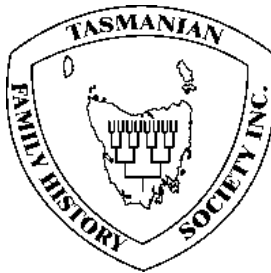
ISSN—0159 0677

Printed by *Mark Media*—Moonah Tasmania

38th Conference & Annual General Meeting

Tasmanian Family History Society Inc.
(formerly Genealogical Society of Tasmania Inc.)

ABN 87 627 274 157



to be held at

**TOWN HALL, CHURCH STREET
ROSS**



Saturday, 23 June 2018

38th Annual General Meeting

Tasmanian Family History Society Inc.

- 10:30 a.m.** **Registration & Morning tea**
- 10:55 a.m.** **Welcome by President, Robert Tanner**
Presentation of 'Early Bird Prize'
- 11:00 a.m.–11:35 a.m.** **Colin Thomas** *Whaling in early Hobart Town and Scrimshaw, the Ancient Art of the Mariner.*
- 11:35 a.m.–12:10 a.m.** **Garry Richardson** *Chinese in the Portland Municipality & European migrants at Pyengana.*
- 12:10 a.m.–1:10 p.m.** **Lunch**
- 1:10 p.m.–1:45 p.m.** **Alison Alexander** *The O'Connors of Connorville: wealthy graziers employing many Tasmanians.*
- 1:50 p.m.** **Annual General Meeting** incorporating presentation of
- Lilian Watson Family History Award
 - Best Journal Article Award
 - Tasmanian Family History Inc. Awards



The Tasmanian Wool Centre & Museum

Book Stalls
with publications from
branches will be on
offer during the day.

Registration Form

Closing date for registration and payment is **6 June 2018**

The State Secretary
Tasmanian Family History Society Inc.
PO Box 326
ROSNY PARK Tasmania 7018

Phone: 03 6244 4527
email: secretary@tasfhs.org

Name

Name

Address.....

.....

I/we will be attending on Saturday, 23 June 2018

Morning Tea and Lunch: \$20.00 per person.

Early Bird Prize

Register before **Monday 17 May 2018** to be in the draw
for the President's 'Early Bird' Prize.

A cheque/money order is enclosed

OR debit by: Master Card VISA (*Please tick*) @ \$20 = \$.....

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Name on Card (please print):

About our Guest Speakers

Colin Thomas is an unashamedly proud Tasmanian who is motivated to preserve artefacts of Tasmania's colonial past. He spent his formative years at Midway Point where he lived on the waterfront and developed a keen interest in marine activities. After furnishing the family home with colonial furniture he developed an interest in early Tasmanian pottery, pre 1830 Tasmanian charts and scrimshaw.

Colin has assembled a major, predominately Tasmanian collection of scrimshaw and whaling related artefacts and paintings which have previously been exhibited at the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery as part of the 2011 Australian Wooden Boat Festival and at TMAG's House Museum, Narryna. Colin was the keynote speaker at the Annual World Scrimshaw Conference in 2017 held at the New Bedford Whaling Museum in Massachusetts. His topic was *Scrimshaw in Tasmania*.

Whilst in the USA Colin had the opportunity to examine museum scrimshaw collections in Honolulu, New Bedford, Nantucket, and Mystic. He is a member of the World Scrimshaw Forensic Group and the Chair of the Tasmanian Chapter of The Australiana Society, a group formed in 1978 to research, collect and preserve Australia's heritage.

Garry Richardson was born at Franklin in the Huon Valley and went to school at Huonville, Sorell and Rose Bay High. At 15 he joined Forestry Tasmania as a Trainee Forest Ranger and worked all over the State before settling in the North East; firstly at Branxholm, then St Marys before finally settling at St Helens in 1980. He retired in 2005 and since that time he has been working away at the history of the old Portland Municipality (now part of Break O'Day).

Four books have been published; *Tin Mountain* on the history of the Blue Tier; *Sail & Steam* on the trading vessels into Georges Bay; *Lottah and the Anchor* on the Lottah township and the Anchor Tin Mine and the latest *Up Country* on all the small towns and farming areas inland of St Helens. He is now researching what he plans to be the last book in the series on St Helens and the coastal settlements.

Our Patron, **Dr Alison Alexander**, really needs no introduction. Alison was born and educated in Tasmania with a doctorate in Tasmanian history. She has a career of writing commissioned 30 histories of various Tasmanian institutions such as municipalities, schools, industries and sporting groups. She has also written general books: *Tasmania's Convicts, how felon's built a free colony; Corruption and Skulduggery: Edward Lord, Maria Riseley and Hobart's tempestuous beginnings;* and *The Ambitions of Jane Franklin*, which won the Australian National Biography Award.

Alison has also written biographies of writers Mary Grant Bruce and Marie Bjelke Petersen, and *Governors' Ladies*, a collection of biographies of early governors' wives and mistresses. At present she is working on *Duck and green peas for ever! The search for utopia in Tasmania*, and a biography of the artist Patricia Giles. She is married with three children and two grandchildren.