

# Tasmanian Ancestry



**Tasmanian Family History  
Society Inc.**

Volume 29 Number 4—March 2009

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# Tasmanian Family History Society Inc.

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## **Deadline dates for contributions**

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

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## From the Editors

This is "farewell" from the editors, Anita and Betty, of Launceston, who have been responsible for producing *Tasmanian Ancestry* during the past four years. We have appreciated the support and constant flow of interesting and instructive articles that have come to hand, and ask that this be continued for the new personnel.

We wish the incoming Hobart-based editor and committee well as they take on this challenging task, beginning with Volume 30, No. 1, June 2009. Note that the email address and PO Box address will remain the same. Again, we ask that articles be kept to a minimum of around 2,500 words, including no more than one photo per page, and submitted by email or by CD.

In this issue, Iris Meek's entry in the 2008 short story competition gives a vivid insight into country school and home life around the time of WWII and later, while Irene Schaffer brings an on-the-spot account of the scary scenes and the tragedy of the loss of life and property in the south of the state during the horrific bushfires of February 1967.

Muriel, State Secretary.

### Journal Editors

Anita Swan and Betty Bissett

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Articles are welcomed in any format—handwritten, word processed, on CD Rom, or by email. Photographs—one per page.

We do ask that you **try to limit the articles to 2,500 words maximum (including endnotes and references)**, unless it is an **Index** which may be included in several issues.

Please note when sending material for the journal to use the address PO Box 191 or email [editors@tasfhs.org](mailto:editors@tasfhs.org).

**Deadline dates: BY 1 January, 1 April, 1 July and 1 October**

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

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**Cover photo:** The City Park Stables, 45 Tamar St, Launceston.  
The building kindly made available by the Launceston City Council to house the library of the Launceston Branch of TFHS Inc.

## President's Message

### Welcome to 2009

As it is now March 2009 I guess you will have recovered from your Christmas and New Year festivities and be back into research mode.

Our five branches have certainly been very busy as you will read in the branch reports. Hobart has been particularly active organising a great programme for the 2009 AGM, to be held at the Bellerive Yacht Club, on Saturday 20th June. Three speakers have been booked for Saturday: Maria Stacey, Director of Tourism Operation Port Arthur Site Management Authority; Adrian Howard, Vice President of the Friends of Soldiers Memorial Avenue Hobart and in the evening Brian Rieusset. There are more comprehensive details in the AGM Programme and Registration Form which is included in this journal. Please make a note in your diaries to attend the AGM and support our Society, which in turn also supports the five branches.

At the AGM we will be announcing the winner of the three competitions. The Journal Competition, the annual Lilian Watson Family History Award and the 2008/2009 Bi-annual Family Chart, which is judged at branch level with winners and runner up taken to the state AGM in 2009 for state judging. Entry forms are available from any of the branch libraries or from the state secretary.

The State Executive has appointed a sub committee to complete and execute the contract with Ancestry.com to obtain access to the World Deluxe subscription of Ancestry for our branches. We are of course hoping this will be finalized in the near future.

Reminders —

Write an article for the journal

Renew membership for 2009/10

Enter the Lilian Watson Family History Award competition, and the Short Story Competition

Remit AGM form early to be eligible for the President's Early Bird Prize.

"Australia's Army War Dead DVD"—check out page 254 for the very welcome information from Anne Levens, VicHeritage Projects Manager regarding the new release. The DVD covers the period 1885-1972 and can be purchased online at the Registry's website—[www.bdm.vic.gov.au](http://www.bdm.vic.gov.au) or you can download an application to post into the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, PO Box 4332, Melbourne, Victoria, 3001. The cost of the DVD is \$250 (inc. GST).

Great news that the Launceston Branch Library has a new home! At the December meeting of Launceston City Council, Aldermen agreed to the lease, at a very nominal figure, but we had to wait for the final 'nod' for a further three weeks—to give opportunity to the public to object. Library hours will remain as previously. When visiting, please make your own parking arrangements—there are 3-hour metres in the area; early-bird parking at the Grand Chancellor and the Willis & Paterson Street East car parks are within easy walking distance.

**Anita Swan**

State President.

## Don't Forget!

**Membership for 2009-10 commences on  
1 April 2009 through to 31 March 2010**

**Current membership subscriptions expire on  
31 March 2009**

You will have received a Membership Renewal Form (green) in the December edition of *Tasmanian Ancestry*. Additional forms may be downloaded from our Website: [www.tasfhs.org](http://www.tasfhs.org)

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**REMEMBER!!!**

**Late payment may result in a delay in the delivery of  
your June 2009 *Tasmanian Ancestry*.**

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## The *Anson* as a Female Reformatory Hulk (1844-1850)

Anne McMahon (Member 6463)

Lady FRANKLIN wrote in her diary of 17 September 1841 that an injunction had been laid upon her by Elizabeth FRY on her departure from London to become involved in the management of female convicts while in Van Diemen's Land. She reflected upon how little she had attended to Elizabeth Fry's request and mused that it was the arrival both of Kezia HAYTER, a protégée of Mrs Fry, matron on the *Rajah*, and its surgeon Dr James DONOVAN, that had urged her to act. On 3 August 1841 she wrote to Elizabeth Fry recounting the 'wretched condition' of the females and the evils of Assignment in the colony.<sup>1</sup> Among the matters raised by Lady Franklin were that additional funds were required to improve conditions for female convicts; increased accommodation was necessary as were plans for the penitentiary commissioned by Lord STANLEY as Colonial Secretary. Finally, she explained that there was a need for qualified staff from England.<sup>2</sup> Kezia Hayter also wrote to Mrs Fry deploring the lack of religious instruction at Cascades female factory. On receipt of these letters Elizabeth Fry lost no time in communicating their contents to Lord Stanley by sending him large extracts which had an immediate effect as she recorded in her diary of 25 June 1843:

We have cause for thankfulness in the excellent arrangements made by Lord Stanley for our poor prisoners in Van Diemen's Land; he appears so carefully to have attended to the representations we made respecting the evils existing there, and to have proposed good measures to remedy them.<sup>3</sup>

Under Lord Stanley's direction the Colonial Office set about dealing with the issues raised within the Probation System which replaced Assignment. He informed Sir John Franklin that, in conjunction with the Home Office, he would try 'to engage the services of competent persons to undertake the superintendence of this new establishment' (meaning the proposed penitentiary)<sup>4</sup> and he secured the re-fit of the HM *Anson* for use as a reformatory hulk in the interim. The result of his initiatives was the appointment of Philippa BOWDEN, ex-matron of Hanwell Asylum, as matron and her husband Dr John Edmund Bowden as superintendent, at a joint salary of £500 pa and Dr Bowden received an additional £300 yearly for his medical services.<sup>5</sup> John Franklin was recalled in 1843 and Lord Stanley informed the newly appointed Lieutenant Governor, Sir John Eardley-Wilmot, in mid-August 1843, that the *Anson* 'intended as a depot for Female Convicts at Van Diemen's Land' was about to sail for the colony.<sup>6</sup>

The *Anson* was a 74 gun, 1724 ton, three-decker ship that had been in use as a quarantine station. It was despatched to Hobart Town with 499 male prisoners, arriving on 4 February 1844. Meanwhile Philippa and Dr Bowden and family had landed from the *Woodbridge* transport in December 1843 with fifteen nurses from Hanwell, four male warders and 204 English female prisoners. In Hobart the Bowdens organised the re-fit of the *Anson* to include laundry, kitchen, storerooms, library, chapel and staff quarters. The plan was that all female exiles were to serve their initial six months probation on the vessel. The *Anson* was then moved to moorings at Prince of Wales Bay four miles upstream from Hobart where Philippa and Edmund Bowden commenced duty on 25 April 1844 with their staff and 359

English female convicts from the *Woodbridge* and *Emma Eugenia* 3, the latter transport having arrived on 2 April 1844.

In her role as matron of Hanwell Asylum for the pauper insane at Middlesex Philippa Bowden was the principal assistant to Dr John CONOLLY, superintendent from 1839 to 1844 who introduced a non-restraint method supported by John Adams, chairman of the Middlesex magistrates (1836-1844), who was the prime mover in the policy of non-restraint both at Hanwell and at Middlesex prison. Hanwell was the first large scale institution of its type to dispense with all mechanical restraints on its patients. The elements of non-restraint were based on the belief that any form of mechanical restraint distressed patients and exacerbated madness. Its aim was to relieve the patients' pain as well as to maximise order, regularity and the performance of work. Work, in fact, was a necessity within the non-restraint method as it was intertwined with order, regularity and discipline. Prescribed behaviour was achieved through watchful supervision by trained, carefully disciplined officers. Moral treatment took the form of face-to-face personal correction. Dr Conolly formalised non-restraint at Hanwell in the belief that 'everything should be done regularly and ... quietly ... Perfect order; perfect cleanliness and great tranquillity should prevail everywhere'. His approach was supported by rules and surveillance aided by features of the building to form a de-personalised environment.<sup>7</sup> In the prison the non-restraint method placed less emphasis on the physical confinement of inmates and more on efficiency and orderliness to enable a progression of behaviour towards reformation. Silence was used as a means of control and punishment involved solitary confinement and separate treatment rooms as just measures of pain.<sup>8</sup>

Dr J S HAMPTON, who was yet to take up office as Comptroller General of Convicts, inspected the *Anson* on 4 September 1844 by which time it had received two further shiploads of female prisoners from the *Angelina* and the *Greenlaw* and had a total of 600 convicts on board. John Hampton was highly critical of the reformatory method used by the Bowdens. In his report, addressed to Sir John Eardley-Wilmot, his criticisms revealed that he had no knowledge of the non-restraint method but was quite intolerant of it. Dr Hampton's first criticism was that he was unable to find out what the punishment consisted of beyond being on board ship. Dr Bowden, in his reply to the Lieutenant Governor, said that watchful supervision and moral constraint exercised over the women superceded the necessity for frequent punishment. He further explained that '... we wish as far as practicable to rely upon moral and religious influence and agencies directed to the hearts and consciences of reasonable and responsible beings ... As a punishment we prefer seclusion and reproof ...' However, he advised that there were solitary cells for the more refractory females.<sup>9</sup>

Dr Hampton claimed there was not sufficient productive work on board. The Bowdens agreed although, at the time, the women were straw plaiting, shoe, mat, lace and button making. He then criticised the lack of schooling. The Bowdens, in reply, stated that the existing arrangements were satisfactory having regard to the health of the women and their need for exercise on deck. Dr Hampton asserted that the females were placed in their ships' companies on separate decks but this observation was an error. Dr Bowden explained to Eardley-Wilmot that only the orlop, the lowest deck, was reserved for the newly-arrived where they were kept

under observation until they could be trusted elsewhere. The upper deck housed the best conducted and the middle deck contained those women 'not of so fixed a character'.<sup>10</sup> At the time of John Hampton's visit the Irish females from the *Greenlaw* were in two wards on the middle deck together with the most troublesome and noisy of the English females from the *Woodbridge*. Dr Hampton claimed that housing Irish and English, and thus Catholics and Protestants, on the middle deck was likely to produce inconvenience and evil. Dr Bowden said that he was at a loss to conceive how this arrangement could foster national or religious distinctions as there was a mixture of all countries and religions on every deck and in every ward. Dr Hampton further reported that he did not find a system of classification or separation of the classes in place. Dr Bowden told His Excellency that the classification was actually that of Dr Hampton but explained that the physical separation of the classes was unnecessary due to the constant and watchful supervision of the female officers. John Hampton in his final remarks said that nothing could be cleaner or more regular than the appearance of the women on the *Anson*. Dr Bowden commented rather wryly that 'coming from so severe and competent a judge ... this is testimony that our system on board is not altogether a bad one'.<sup>11</sup> Dr Hampton however did not let the matter rest but continued to dispute the efficacy of non-restraint.

The non-restraint method used on the *Anson* was a unique reformatory approach to the treatment of female convicts. It was the first coherent system of reform since Lieutenant Governor Arthur's time during the late 1820s when he had commissioned the Cascades female factory and the orphan schools, both of which used punitive discipline. Non-restraint was humane, non-invasive and it did not seek to humiliate offenders. Importantly the women, while on the *Anson*, were protected and safe from the risks and sexual exploitation which characterised assignment. John West, a contemporary of Philippa Bowden, described her as 'a lady of majestic presence and enlightened mind'.<sup>12</sup> She adopted a more face-to-face method of training than the detachment of Dr John Conolly at Hanwell. In his 1845 report, Dr Bowden wrote of Mrs Bowden's 'affectionate remonstrances, severe admonitions or stern rebuke' to individual offenders.<sup>13</sup> The colonial press, as might have been expected, circulated stories of spies, spite, maligning, thwarting and petty annoyances.<sup>14</sup> The exception was the *Launceston Examiner* which supported the approach used on the *Anson*.<sup>15</sup>

Philippa Bowden soon began to feel lack of support from Eardley-Wilmot. During February 1846 she wrote letters to her friend John ADAMS, who had been indispensable for the success of non-restraint at Hanwell, that were passed to the Under-Secretary for the Colonies, James Stephen, who commented:

Mr Sergeant Adams told me that Mrs Bowden entertains the opinion so commonly entertained respecting the Lieutenant Governor's habits of life and ascribed to the feelings of indifference or distrust with which he regards her and her labours.<sup>16</sup>

He added that 'Mrs Bowden is a very remarkable person possessing talent for Government of the highest order ... She went out with as strong recommendation as could well be written to the support of the Lt Governor, yet of her proceedings, we have never heard anything'.<sup>17</sup> After receiving a third letter from Mrs Bowden to the Adams family, written in similar vein, a report on the progress of the *Anson*

experiment was demanded of Eardley-Wilmot from London. In it he asserted that the *Anson* was successful.

Church of England Bishop Francis NIXON was a supporter of the *Anson*. He described its reformatory program as 'a pleasing exception to [the] general rule of depravity' which afflicted the hiring depots. However, he was aware of problems that existed, namely lack of sufficient employment for the women as well as deficiencies in their training as household servants. Bishop Nixon commended the Bowdens on their industry and 'judicious exertions'<sup>18</sup> and supported the work of Revd George GILES, the *Anson's* deputy superintendent. Louisa MEREDITH hired several domestic servants from the *Anson* and was well satisfied with their conduct:

Simply judging from the superior usefulness, willingness and orderly, decent, sober demeanour of the women I have taken from the *Anson*, over all others of their unfortunate class that I have known, I must believe the system pursued there by Mrs Bowden to be an excellent and effective one...<sup>19</sup>

Louisa Meredith wrote that her female servants from the *Anson* always seemed to feel great gratitude and reverence for Mrs Bowden. The voice of a female convict speaking of her treatment on the *Anson* was also described by Louisa Meredith who was about to write to Mrs Bowden and asked her servant, Jane, if she would like to say anything from her. Jane replied: "Oh! if you please ma'am to give my best thanks and duty to Mrs Bowden, and my kind love to all the officers."<sup>20</sup>

Sir Eardley-Wilmot was dismissed in 1846 after twenty-seven notices of rebuke had been sent to him about his failures in the duties of office. Charles LA TROBE was then appointed Administrator to report on the probation system which had become the subject of widespread rumours of idleness, inefficiency and unnatural vice which greatly alarmed William GLADSTONE who had succeeded Stanley as Colonial Secretary. La Trobe, with the ready cooperation of Dr Hampton, investigated the probation stations, dismissed various corrupt officials and recommended the closure of a number of the stations. He did not undertake a detailed investigation of the *Anson* and, in his report of January 1847, stated that it was a subject which required distinct and full report. Nevertheless he judged it unfavourably: "I entertain however the strongest general impression that the experiment is a total failure as regards the real improvement of the Female Prisoners."<sup>21</sup>

In La Trobe's statistical report of 1846, the *Anson* was shown to have 419 females on board, 336 probationers and 83 awaiting hire. There were no women sick and none was in solitary confinement at that time.<sup>22</sup>

Sir William Denison was sworn in as Lieutenant Governor on 29 January 1847 shortly before the ailing Eardley-Wilmot died in Hobart on 3 February 1847. Dr Hampton quickly formed a close alliance with Denison in his role of Comptroller General of Convicts. Lady Denison, with an official party, visited the *Anson* on 5 March 1847 which, at that time, had 486 female inmates including women from recently arrived Irish female transports. She described Philippa Bowden as 'reigning with pretty despotic authority'<sup>23</sup> but she wrote favourably of the conduct of the women who were quiet and respectful. Sir William however, on the advice of Dr Hampton, maintained his opposition to the reformatory method of the *Anson*. Hampton wrote dismissively in his first report dated 10 July 1847. He wanted the

*Anson* abandoned. "... [the women he said] are deteriorated both morally and physically by association for six months' probation in a crowded ship."<sup>24</sup>

He claimed that they had no opportunity of gaining useful knowledge, were not properly classified and lacked suitable exercise. His judgement was that 'the vessel is, ... altogether unfit for a probationary establishment for women'. In the meantime no progress was made with the building of the penitentiary. Dr Bowden died in September 1847 and Philippa Bowden was appointed superintendent but with a reduced salary. In December 1847 Denison, who had engaged in selective reporting to London to present a negative view of the *Anson*, recommended to the Colonial Secretary, Earl Grey, that its use be discontinued. Philippa Bowden appealed against the decision and spoke in its defence in the House of Lords. She claimed that *Anson* women committed one third fewer breaches than those directly hired.<sup>25</sup>

Philippa Bowden had obtained leave of absence and departed for England in February 1848 still grieving the death of her husband and to visit her ailing brother. In her absence Dr Hampton again urged that the *Anson* be abandoned. His view now was that the women should be hired out on arrival and marriage should be encouraged as this had proved the best means of reform.<sup>26</sup> Philippa Bowden extended her leave on grounds of ill health and did not return to Van Diemen's Land. As John West remarked 'Mrs Bowden returned to England convinced that moral insanity is far more hopeless than the diseases of Hanwell'.<sup>27</sup>

Guided by Dr Hampton, Lieutenant Governor DENISON officially closed the *Anson* in 1849 having advised Earl GREY on 27 June 1848 that no evidence existed 'that discipline on board the *Anson* has had any beneficial moral effect upon those subjected to it'. He reported likely savings of £4,365.8.1 per annum.<sup>28</sup> The *Anson* was towed down river on 17 July 1849 and moored off the Queen's Domain where it ceased operating as a probation station by 31 August 1850 when only a few unemployable women remained on board. The vessel was broken up on 25 January 1851.<sup>29</sup> Over its six year life 4,000 women from twenty-five transports had served time on the *Anson* in its reformatory program.

John WEST praised the commitment of Lord Stanley to the management of female prisoners as having 'devoted commendable and humane attention to their needs'. As he concluded, however, 'local officers were averse to the plan ... and they succeeded in postponing and finally defeating the project'.<sup>30</sup> Stanley had resigned from Peel's ministry in December 1845. Thereafter the forces against the *Anson* achieved prominence in Van Diemen's Land led by Dr Hampton who gave every appearance of interpreting the prison primarily as a place of punishment. In 1848 he expressed the hope that the separate apartments at Cascades female factory would 'preserve the general tranquillity of the prison, and be greatly dreaded by even the most turbulent ...'<sup>31</sup> He had lauded the effects of Pentonville on two shiploads of male exiles which he brought to the colony. These men had experienced isolation, silence and degradation as the method of penal servitude. On Norfolk Island in 1848 Hampton vigorously defended the cruelty of John PRICE's administration. John Barry judged him a 'cold-hearted devious opportunist'<sup>32</sup> and Revd ROGERS claimed Hampton defended barbarity on the island. The *Anson* was not a prison in the harsher contemporary usage of the term. That Dr Hampton had refused to

accept the non-restraint method as legitimate corrective training was obvious by his actions in opposing it but whether he was able to comprehend its humane ideals is another question altogether.

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## Relbia Ramble

Commentary as given by Lucille Gee (Member No 6297)

The Launceston Branch of the Tasmanian Family History Society Inc., decided for their Christmas party that they would have a "Relbia Ramble" on the 29th November 2008. Lucille Gee organised the day and the Ramble began at her home at 1.30pm. Lucille welcomed everyone to Relbia and proceeded with her narration of each site visited. "Relbia" is an aboriginal word meaning "Long way, long time" The ramblers went to three properties: *Caledonia Drive, Corra Linn and West Lynne*. Lucille commented:

"Relbia is a wonderful place to live and we must be grateful to our ancestors for the fortitude and dam hard work they experienced developing such a beautiful and bountiful area that we now live in". Lucille explained how Relbia became such an integral place to the early settlers. Lieutenant Colonel William PATERSON and his party surveyed the Port Dalrymple area in 1805 as far as the Corra Linn Gorge and noted that he found excellent pasture and a natural *corral* that would suffice for the grazing of the government herds. Lieutenant Paterson would be proud at the sight of Relbia today, as many vineyards have sprung up in this area and William did like a 'drop or two', and I am sure William would think he knew this Relbia place had the future of being a "Paradise".

First stop was Caledonia Drive where we visited a convict built Sawpit. Lucille



explained its history, its construction and its output. There is dispute where the first sawpit was established—research has not dispelled the argument. The northerners believe that William Patterson ordered the first sawpit to be built and the southerner's believe that Cascades built the first sawpit. As I am a northern I go with William Patterson.

The Convict sawpit: The tenacity of the convicts and their will to survive is clearly demonstrated in the early timber industry. The government used the timber industry as a means of maintaining convict order; it was a means of disciplining and punishing the convicts as well as producing timber lengths for housing and bridges etc. The convicts that lived and worked in the logging camps were usually rough, tough men and developed immense strength. Every logging camp had its own sawpit. It took four men twenty days to fall five hundred trees and then the rough sawn log was carried on the shoulders of a gang of 60 to 70 convicts, in what was called the human caterpillar, to the sawpits. With no draught animals in the early days of Van Diemens Land it took considerable energy to roll the logs by human effort onto the pits. These pits were only used for sawing logs. Each pit was erected with considerable labour and consisted of a dugout, which was approximately six feet deep and twenty feet long; it had side stobes, skids and uprights which were made again of heavy timber. The depth of the sawpit was 1.4 metres below current

ground surface. Strong lengths of timber were placed across the pit and the logs were rolled onto them and then lined up. The log was rolled longitudinally over a dugout on wooden crosspieces. Sawing lines were drawn along the log. The 'sawyer'; name used for the convict cutting the timber; entered the pit while his mate remained on top of the log. Then the sawing commenced with the man in the sawpit making the cut and the man above pulling up the saw and guiding the cut. The man in the pit got all the sawdust over him, and usually fixed a bag over his head to keep it out of his eyes and nostrils. When the first "cross bearer" was reached another was placed behind the saw, and the first one was withdrawn. This method was continued down the log. The average log 6 feet in diameter when freshly cut weighed around 3 ton and a good average pair would cut 300 feet a day. (Ref. "Colonial" Timber industries before 1830" written by Mr McPherson).

We moved onto the second site which was on the property *Corra Linn*. The view from where the cars were parked looked down the Tamar valley and we could all see where Lieutenant Colonel William Patterson had reached the end of his survey of finding good pastures. *Corra Linn* was named by Governor-in-Chief Lachlan MACQUARIE after a waterfall in his homeland of Scotland. Governor Macquarie was visiting the Launceston area in 1811 and rode to the Sugar Loaf Hill (this borders onto *Corra Linn* and *Camden*). He then rode through *Corra Linn* back to Launceston. Whilst Governor Macquarie was riding through the Whitehills/Relbia area he was noted to say, "Soil and grazing all of them good, with fine promising crops, but the habitations of the settlers are **wretchedly** mean." The property *Corra*



*Linn* 800 acres in all, was granted to Lieutenant David ROSE of the 73rd Regiment on the 18th August 1814 by Governor Macquarie for the work he had done earlier with the fine care of the Government's livestock especially the enlarged herd of the Bengal cattle. David Rose died on 6th July 1826 and his nephew Alexander Rose inherited *Corra Linn*. Many stories can be told of the life of Alexander Rose, but they can be told another time. During the time the Rose family owned *Corra Linn*, small acreage was leased to many families who farmed the land with crops and livestock. It is

amazing in reading and researching other people's work that you find that at some time they have experienced life on *Corra Linn*. The CHUGG family leased the property in the early 1900's and then in 1923 *Corra Linn* was purchased by Mr Andrew B CHUGG, 400 acres with the value of 150 pound. In 2007 *Corra Linn* was purchased by Mr & Mrs Peter DIXON.

The features that we see at *Corra Linn* are firstly the convict built Georgian-styled brick building c1840. It is situated close to the Old Coach road and there is mixed views about what it was used for—most likely to house the convicts whilst all the other constructions in the area needed convict labour. The windows of the building are fitted with steel bars on the northern side and are shaped to be wide on the outside and narrow on the inside, possibly to aid gun defence of the building from marauding bushrangers.



There are large timber columns (struts) inside the barn, sunk into the ground and they are possibly on stone pads.

We will move over to the Slippery Elm Tree *Ulmus Rubra* This tree was brought to Launceston from England for medicinal purposes for the early settlers as well as the livestock It is a South American tree and is uncommon to Tasmania. The mucilage found in the inner bark of this tree is recorded to cure the common cold, sore throat, coughs, Crohn's disease, gastritis, reflux and heartburn. Even today people are using Slippery Elm tablets as tonic for similar ailments. Poultices were made for applying to livestock open wounds.

**The Natural Corral:** Lieutenant Colonel William Paterson and his party explored the open woodland and river meadows of Port Dalruple Valley as far upstream as Corra Linn Gorge. He was surprised natural pastures at Corra Linn. The grassland looked as though it had been ploughed and sowed with rich pasture. He noted "There was excellent pasture and a natural corral



for the government herds. At Corra Linn it was found that the aboriginal tribes maintained the vegetation patterns in this area by controlled burning—fire management regenerated the plant food and increased the abundance of game and kept the terrain clear for ease of movement. This was really the winter larder for the aboriginal people. The corral helped with shepherds stationed around the side hills to kept the livestock together whilst the type of fencing was being decided upon.

**The Old Coach Road:** The old Coach Road that ran from Hobart to Launceston ambles its way through Corra Linn straight past the Convict Station House and then continues its way down to the North Esk River to Launceston. It is visible in several places on *Corra Linn* and Lucille explained that on the old road was a hotel called the *Opossum Inn* and a Flour Mill. She also explained that many families had leased the property from the Rose family and used several acres to grow livestock and have very fruitful crops.

The last site we visited was at *West Lynne* and as we are travelling Lucille asked members to notice the Hawthorn hedges on the side of the road. Hawthorn hedges were the most distinctive and commonly used form of exotic planting in this region. Governor Macquarie encouraged settlers to use hawthorn hedging as a form of fencing. In between the hawthorn hedges, Sloe Berries were growing and Lucille offered a recipe handed down from Mrs Clara GEE (Talisker) for Sloe Berry Gin. The recipe states that after the gin has been drunk the dregs of the gin (sloe berries) should always be used in a game stew. Nothing is wasted!

"The last site we visit today is the property *West Lynne* and we four-wheel drive into the middle of the property and see Cameron's Hill where you will see a viaduct built for the Western Railway Launceston to Hobart track." It was a great sight to see sprightly members of the Launceston group jump into the backs of the four wheel drive vehicles—no one was going to miss out on this site!

**The viaduct:** On the 15th January 1868 the first sod was turned for the Western Railways linking Hobart to Launceston, by His Royal Highness the Duke of

Edinburgh. The ornate carved Huon Pine wheelbarrow used to carry the first sod is in the Queen Victoria Museum, Launceston. After many setbacks the first railroad in the state was opened in 1871. The First Ride on the Rail was on the 19th August



1869 to Relbia to Cameron's Hill—the Viaduct was not completed. In Launceston it was decreed a holiday and hundreds lined the route of the railway out of town to watch the first train disappear, the first trip being to Relbia approximately 6½ miles on the track and it took 16 minutes for one trip. That day The Western Railway trains took 10 trips to Relbia and 4,000 people travelled free of charge. Much criticism was generated in regards to the sparks from the

wood-burning engines setting fire to the fineries of the ladies. The hill and chasm where the Viaduct was built is called Cameron's Hill. The first viaduct was a double

arch viaduct, built above the ground joining the two hills but the flood came and washed it away and it was replaced with the now single arch. It cost up to £30,000 to replace the viaduct which was very damaging to the Melbourne Company of Overrend and Robb. When this happened there were riots in the streets of Launceston and the shareholders had to sell to the Tasmanian Government, receiving only ten shillings in the pound return. The existing Viaduct is 350feet long and nearly 10 feet high. This



Viaduct contains 90,000 cubic yards of material and was considered to be the heaviest viaduct in the Southern Hemisphere. When the Viaducts was being built the company employed some 700 men, 70 horses, 50 bullocks 25 drays, 115 carts, 47 wagons, and 250 wheelbarrows for this section only. The employers had a camp in the Jinglers Creek Bush and a painting was completed and placed in the Melbourne Post on the 8th October 1868.



The bricks for the viaduct came from Cocked Hat Hill as the clay for the bricks was of superior quality. There was one reported fatality during construction. The Western Line was opened, Launceston to Hobart in 1871 and in 1877 three trains per day stopped at Relbia Station. It was an

experience to walk through the viaduct as in the centre it became quite dark and we walked in single line with a culvert of water rushing through the middle of the tunnel.

Out of the tunnel and another jump into the back of the vehicle; a short drive to Lucille's place and a good strong cup of tea and hot venison sausage rolls with homemade scones, jam and cream. The day finished with Christmas greetings from President Anita Swan to all members and friends.

Many thanks Lucille, we are all looking forward to another Ramble in the New Year.

## Answers to Rosanna of Rosemary House

Angela Prosser-Green (Member No 6599)

See article in *Tasmanian Ancestry* Volume 29, No 3 p164

Louisa Susan was the daughter of Thomas ARCHER and Mary ABBOTT, and a grand-daughter of Thomas Archer and Susannah HORTLE, who established *Woolmers*, a farming property at Longford, Tasmania now a Heritage Listed property open to the public. Louisa married Thomas Reibey Gardiner ARTHUR who died in 1919. He was a descendant of Thomas and Mary REIBEY of Sydney and *Entally House* at Hadspen. Louisa predeceased him in 1903.

Frances was the daughter of John SMITH whose father had established the property *Marchington* at Breadalbane just south of Launceston, and Eleanor PIDDINGTON. Frances married Frederick Hawley REED, son of “the important father” Henry Reed the well-known merchant, philanthropist and preacher and Maria Suzanna (sometimes Suzanna Maria) GRUBB. They had two daughters Frances Winifred born 1880 and Irene \*Lesley Reece born 1882 with a son Erick Lindon born 1887

(This appears to be a mistranscript)

Frances’ younger daughter Irene, who was nick-named Donna Bella, is the author of the book. Irene married Keith Tasman HEADLAM son of Charles Headlam and Anna BARTLEY in 1915. Anna was a daughter of Theodore Bryant Bartley and Hannah PICKERING.

The “other grandparent” was Henry Reed’s widow. Three years after his first wife died in England in 1860 Henry married Margaret Sayres Elizabeth FRITH and she appears to be the “other grandparent”.

The two-storey house on the bend on Elphin Road was number 89, which was a part of William Gibson’s estate and situated four houses south of Cypress street. The numbers were changed in about 1915.

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**Important to Immigrants:** *Kelso Chronicle* 23 January 1857, Kelso News, p2 c6

At a time when many of our fellow countrymen are immigrating to the land of gold—Australia—we feel it our duty to direct attention to the steamship *Great Britain*, now loading at Liverpool for Melbourne. She is to sail on 15th February. The *Great Britain* has been undergoing repairs and alterations for some time past, so that in point of speed and passenger accommodation, nothing can equal her.

It is a treat to visit her grand saloon and first-class cabin births. They are wanting in nothing that can secure comfort, happiness and health during the passage; whilst the other class of births are everything that can be desired. It is expected that with the new screw and the additional spread of canvas which has been given her, she will make the run to Melbourne in a little more than fifty days. To any of our readers contemplating a voyage to Australia, we would say do not omit to take passage in the *Great Britain*.

## The Garcia School of Music: Elsie Corrick (1894-1974)

Shirley Foster (Member No 6420)

I left New Zealand in 1910, after finishing Newton High School and Wellington College, to study at the *Garcia School of Music* in Pott's Point Sydney. Madame CHRISTIAN, (1) the Director, employed the best teachers like Monsieur DE BOULEZ who studied in Prague. I used to think how good Dad was for giving me such an expensive music education. When I got to Sydney I discovered there were all sorts of operas I could go to. There was the Melba/ Quinn Opera and Melba would sing. "How much pocket money do you think we should give you? Do you think a pound a week will be enough?" he would say. All the other students' fathers were cocky farmers and they would go to town and buy lunches but I'd write to my father and say, "Please could you send another cheque because I've been to the opera and the first time Melba did not sing. Now I have to go again" So after that another cheque would come. Most of the students were not mad music lovers like my family who were giving a month's season in a crowded theatre in Brisbane. I joined them whenever I could. During the General Strike in 1912, there were no ticket sellers, or theatre electricians working and I had to have a police escort when returning to Sydney. I arrived a week too soon with my French violin and trunk full of opera scores and had to live with a skeleton staff in the kitchen. Evidently resuming dates were to be casually read in those days and were not strictly observed. There were 30 practice pianos at *Garcia* for the students to use. I would work through the whole book full of CHOPIN's Preludes and Polonaises. The harder the music the more I practiced. I learnt to accompany all the operatic singers, and on my door I had a notice saying 'Accompaniments played with pleasure'. I should have added 'with less wrong notes from now on'. Dickie GRIEVES, who played in the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, was a splendid violin teacher. When I first started the violin I did not know there were 7 or 8 different positions for the hand on the violin. And double and treble notes and harmonics. It was the great PAGANINI who found out all these things during the last century. So I still look at his concertos and think 'Yes there is still plenty to learn for they are very stiff'. Our Italian teacher used to fine us if we were late for classes and told us we would have a picnic at the end of the year with the money he collected but I never remember having a picnic in Challis Avenue. I went to two elocution classes. Laurence CAMPBELL was one of my teachers. Mr FLORES taught a private class but one of the girls used to giggle and laugh when we did the same piece of SHAKESPEARE each lesson, so I went and learnt to do monologues instead. I copied soubrettes like Margaret COOPER and Daisy JEROME who was famous for wearing a leopard skin coat. Madame Christian wanted to make me an opera singer after I sang the *Marriage of Figaro* to the Vice Regal party but I really liked to entertain with monologues like *Musicians and how they Muzish*. I composed a number of piano pieces while at *Garcia*. I left Sydney feeling I had learnt a great deal about music.

### End notes.

(1) Madame Christian was trained by Manuel Garcia II (1805-1907) 'the greatest teacher of singing in the world' at The Royal Academy of Music London. She gave Melba (Helen Mitchell) her first three years of tuition when the latter was a school-girl at the Presbyterian Ladies College in Melbourne.

Reference. *Melba's Teacher Still Works on.* *The Australian Women's Weekly* July 16, 1938.

## Manslaughter Sentences

Extracts from the Campbell Street Gaol Gate-book - 1873–1890  
Compiled by Laurie Moody (Member No 5835)

Between 1873 and 1890 seventeen men were charged with manslaughter, three of whom died in gaol.

A search of BDM records was undertaken for each person mentioned, but unfortunately in some cases this did not always provide further information.

**Abbreviations:** The use of 'aka' indicates 'also known as', Van Diemen's Land appears as VDL; New South Wales as NSW; Campbell Street Gaol as CSG; Hobart Supreme Court as HSC; Ticket of Leave as TOL; Conditional Pardon as CP and Births, Deaths and Marriages appear as BDM. There is no further information as NFI. Years as yrs.

**Acknowledgements & Thanks:** Archives Office of Tasmania for Births, Deaths and Marriages, Pioneer Shipping Records, Leonie Mickleborough, Sue Guinan and Linda McKenzie.

**Armstrong, Richard** Convict shipping records show Richard arrived in VDL aboard the *Cressy* from Plymouth on 20 Aug 1843. On 17 Oct 1872 he was found guilty of *Manslaughter* and sentenced to *Fifteen Yrs* at Port Arthur. His warrant number 10756. Richard eventually arrived at CSG on 20 Oct 1874, when shown as 55 yrs-old, a carpenter, Protestant with one prior conviction and literate. Richard was eventually released on 16 Apr 1880, presumably with remission.

A search of BDM records show a person of this name died at Emu Bay; 31 March 1895 aged 79 yrs. NFI.

**Curtis, Richard:** Native-born Richard was found guilty at the LSC on 16 Apr 1885 of *Manslaughter* and sentenced to *Four Yrs*. His warrant number 15742. He arrived at CSG six days later when shown as 40 yrs-old, a labourer, Protestant with no prior convictions and illiterate. Richard was discharged to the Launceston Gaol on 5 Feb 1888 presumably prior to release.

A search of BDM records show a person of this name born Launceston, 20 Nov 1842. The records also show two marriages, one to a Mary Ann Stewart at Launceston, 28 Apr 1866 and the second to an Elizabeth Rebecca Tresider, also at Launceston on 4 Aug 1888. NFI.

**Douglas, James:** Convict shipping records show James arrived in VDL aboard the *Joseph Somes (1)* from London on 20 May 1846. On 28 Feb 1882 he was found guilty at the LSC of *Manslaughter* and sentenced to *Eight Yrs*. His warrant number 14258. He arrived at CSG on 8 March when shown as 65 yrs-old, a shoemaker, Protestant with three or more prior convictions and literate. James did not complete his sentence as he died at CSG, 2 Jan 1886.

A search of BDM records show a person of this name possibly married a Margaret Woods at Oatlands; 4 May 1863. He is shown as 40 yrs-old and Margaret, 30 yrs-old. NFI.

**Downs, George:** Gate-book records show George arriving in VDL aboard *HMS Anson* as a *free settler* but a search of convict shipping records failed to confirm this information. On 15 May 1883, George was found guilty in the HSC of *Manslaughter* and sentenced to *Twelve Months*. His warrant number 14857. He arrived at CSG the following day when shown as 66 yrs-old, a labourer, Protestant with *one* prior conviction and literate. George was released on 19 Apr 1884 with remission. NFI.

**Duncan, Peter:** Gate-book records show Peter arrived in Tasmania aboard the *Lorna Doone*, (possibly early in 1878) as a free convict. On 26 Feb 1878 he was found guilty in the HSC of *Manslaughter* and sentenced to *Two Months*. His warrant number 12280. He arrived at CSG on 2 Mar when shown as 50 yrs-old, a seaman, Protestant with no prior convictions and literate. Peter was released on 25 Apr. NFI.

**HEFFERMAN, Michael (transported as Heffernan):** Convict shipping records show Michael arrived in VDL aboard the *London (2)* from Kingston, Ireland on 19 Mar 1851. On 13 May 1890 he was found guilty at the HSC of *Manslaughter* and sentenced to *Life*. His warrant number 18277. He had arrived at CSG on 23 Apr 1890 when shown as 69 yrs-old, a labourer, Catholic with three or more prior convictions and literate. A notation, apparently added some ten yrs after the gate-book was closed, states that Michael was released on 12 May 1900 with remission. NFI.

**Hill, George:** Native-born George was charged at the HSC on 24 Jul 1889 with *Manslaughter* and was to *Bound to await Judgment*. His warrant number 17817. He had arrived at CSG on 17 Jul when shown as a contractor, Protestant and illiterate. No entry appears for age or prior convictions. George was released to bail on 18 Jul prior to appearing in the HSC. As there are no further entries, presumably George was found not guilty.

A search of BDM records shows three births for a person of this name. The records also show a number of marriages and a death at Hobart, 25 May 1894 aged 41 yrs.

**Jeffrey, Mark (transported as Jeffery):** Convict shipping records show Mark arrived in VDL aboard the *Eliza* from London. After a short stay he was taken to Norfolk Island. When the penal settlement was closed in 1853 he was moved back to VDL and was eventually released with a CP. On 13 Feb 1872 he was charged with the Willful Murder of James Hunt. At the conclusion of his trial, Mark was found guilty at the HSC of *Manslaughter* and sentenced to *Life*. His warrant number 897. After spending some time at Port Arthur, Mark arrived at CSG on 17 Apr 1877 when shown as 55 yrs-old, a labourer, Protestant with three or more prior convictions and illiterate. Mark was transferred o Launceston with a TOL on 23 Dec 1890. A search of BDM records show a person of this name died at Hobart, 18 Jul 1894 aged 68 yrs. NFI.

**Langley, George:** Convict shipping records show George arrived in VDL aboard the *John Renwick* from Spithead on 11 Apr 1843. On 15 Jul 1873 he was found guilty at the HSC of *Manslaughter* and sentenced to *Ten Yrs* at Port Arthur. His warrant number 11437. George was transferred to CSG arriving on 20 Apr 1876 when shown as 52 yrs-old, a labourer, Protestant with one prior conviction and literate. George was returned to Port Arthur on 8 Aug 1876.

A search of BDM records show a person of this name died at Hobart, 13 Jan 1883 aged 59 yrs. NFI.

**Mcnamee, James (transported as McNamer):** Convict shipping records show James arrived in VDL aboard the *London (2)* from Kingston, Ireland on 19 Mar 1851. On 7 Feb 1888 he was found guilty at the HSC of *Manslaughter* and sentenced to *Six Yrs*. His warrant number 17089. He arrived at CSG the following day when shown as 69 yrs-old, a labourer, Catholic with three or more prior convictions and literate. No release date is shown as the book closed at the end of 1890. NFI.

**Mead, John:** Native-born John was found guilty at the HSC on 17 Nov 1877 of *Manslaughter* and sentenced to *One Month*. His warrant number 12162. He arrived at CSG three days later when shown as 20 yrs-old, a cab driver, Catholic with one prior conviction and literate. John was released on 26 Dec.

A search of BDM records show a person of this name married an Emily Elizabeth Phillips at Hobart, 5 Aug 1878. He is shown as 21 yrs-old and Elizabeth, 18 yrs-old. NFI.

**O'Brien, Richard:** Richard, also native-born, was charged at the Bellerive Police Office on 22 Nov 1890 of *Manslaughter* and remanded. His warrant number 18610. He arrived at CSG the same day when shown as 25 yrs-old, a labourer, Catholic with no prior convictions and literate. Richard was discharged to the police a week later on 29 Nov. It appears he was found not guilty as his name does not appear again unless he was sentenced after the end of 1890.

A search of BDM records show a person of this name may have married a Mary Ethel Price at Evandale, 8 Feb 1899. He is shown as 35 yrs-old and Mary, 17 yrs-old. NFI.

**Parker, Edwin (Robert):** Yet another who was native-born, Edwin, apparently known as Robert, was found guilty in the LSC on 4 Nov 1886 of *Manslaughter* and sentenced to 15 Yrs. His warrant number 16496. He arrived at CSG six days later when shown as 25 yrs-old, a seaman, Catholic with three or more prior convictions and illiterate. No release date is shown as the gate-book ceased at the end of 1890. NFI.

**Ronayne, Richard aka Rawlingson:** Convict shipping records show Richard arrived in VDL aboard the *HMS Anson* from Plymouth on 4 Feb 1844. On 13 May 1890 he was found guilty at the HSC of *Manslaughter* and sentenced to *Life*. His warrant number 18215. He had originally arrived at CSG on 17 Mar but was not tried until 13 May. Richard is shown as 72 yrs-old, a labourer, Catholic with one (?) prior conviction and literate. For some unexplained reason it appears he was released on 12 Nov 1890!

A search of BDM records show a person of this name died at Hobart, 11 Jul 1890 aged 72 yrs. NFI.

**Sheeran, Francis (transported as Sheaghan):** Convict shipping records show Francis arrived in VDL aboard the *North Briton* from Dublin on 4 Apr 1843. On 23 Jul 1878 he was found guilty at the HSC of *Manslaughter* and sentenced to *Eight Yrs*. His warrant number 12481. He arrived at CSG three days later when shown as 66 yrs-old, a farm labourer, Catholic with one (?) prior conviction and illiterate. Francis died at CSG on 22 Jun 1879. NFI.

**Steers, Emanuel:** Native-born Emanuel was found guilty at the HSC on 15 May 1877 of *Manslaughter* and sentenced to *Four Months*. His warrant number 930. He arrived at CSG two days later when shown as 48 yrs-old, a labourer, Protestant with no prior convictions and illiterate. Emanuel was released on 14 Sep. NFI.

**Thompson, John:** John, also native-born, was found guilty on 13 May 1890 of *Manslaughter* and sentenced to *Life*. His warrant number 18185. He had originally arrived at CSG on 26 Feb but like Richard Ronayne was not tried until 13 May. John is shown as 38 yrs-old, a surveyor, Protestant with no prior convictions and literate. John died at CSG four days before Richard Ronayne on 7 Jul.

A search of BDM records show a John Thomas Thompson born at Oatlands, 29 Dec 1851. The records also show a possible marriage to an Isabella Sarah Gilbert at Launceston, 12 Mar 1878. He is shown as 25 yrs-old and Isabella, 20 yrs-old. NFI.

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### **Flitting Day:** *The Kelso Chronicle*—30 May 1856, p3 c2

Monday last, being Whitsun term, our town was all in a stir. By an early hour in the morning great numbers of carts, loaded with hinds' furniture passed through the town, having wives & whole swarms of rosy-cheeked happy looking children seated upon the tops of the loaded carts. The day was rather unfavourable for the flitting business, being showery until far on in the afternoon. There was scarcely so many removals amongst our town population as has been observed in former years. Still there are enough to impart quite a bustling appearance to the streets. Toward the afternoon lots of braw country lasses began to heave in sight and in the evening we observed numbers of them eagerly scanning the immediate immense bargains and amazing novelties displayed in the shop windows.

But it was on Tuesday that the shop keepers had their harvest. Some of the drapers were very throng, the shops having been crowded with bonnie lasses spending their "sair won penny fee" and many of them we are glad to state having engaged themselves not for another half year, but for the long term. It is no wonder that such could not keep being, not almost, but altogether as happy as they well could be. (Jedburgh News)

## A Stitch in Time

### Teaching of Needlework in Early Tasmanian Government Schools Betty Jones (Member No 6023)

Records reveal that needlework was taught as a subject in the Government schools of Van Diemen's Land from at least 1835, though it was presumably included earlier. A Government Report in 1835 indicated that, at the school at Back River, which was attended by seven boys and twelve girls, the Mistress, Mrs Charlotte WELLS, taught the basic subjects to all pupils and, in addition, the girls learnt marking, netting and plain needlework. At Green Point School at the same time, Mrs Mary Elizabeth SMALES, wife of Head Teacher, Reverend Joseph Holbert SMALES, taught a similar range of sewing skills to the female pupils there<sup>1</sup>.



Teaching needlework to girls had long fulfilled societal expectations. In early nineteenth century Tasmanian history, the place of the average female was perceived as domestic. Within the working classes, the feminine role included being able to hand-sew and mend basic clothing for the family or, if employed in Service, to carry out such tasks for the household members. Clothing imported into Van Diemen's Land at that time would have been in short supply with only the better-off families likely to have access to such a range. This led to a demand for locally produced items of apparel. Many girls went on to earn a living from their needlework skills by becoming seamstresses and milliners or through doing piecework dressmaking and mending. An advertisement placed in a Launceston newspaper in 1841 provides such an example: "Wanted - A steady free woman as Nursemaid, she will be required to work a little with her needle ..."<sup>2</sup>

Members of the middle and upper classes also saw needlework as a desirable accomplishment for young ladies but their emphasis was more on needlework as a leisure-time pursuit. Their projects possibly would have included embroidering British flowers and other decorative scenes and patterns to embellish items such as table covers, waistcoats, canvas slippers and drawing room aprons. When females in those social ranks encountered changed financial circumstances, they, too, often relied on their needlework skills to supplement their income.

"Plain needlework" was taught in Tasmanian schools throughout the 1800s. The content of a popular series of English craft magazines printed during the late 1800s<sup>3</sup> would suggest that pupils were probably taught the stitches and skills associated with seams, hems, piping, pleating, darning, mending, buttons and buttonholes. A variety of stitches and their branches based on running stitch, back-stitch, hemming and over-sewing were likely to have been practiced to cover the making and maintenance of common articles of clothing. At Campbell Town Public School in 1879 the following girls received prizes for their darning and patching: Eliza BARTLETT, Mary CLARKE, Charlotte LAY, Emma LEE, A McCLUTCHEY, Caroline PICKETT and Ellen WRIGHT<sup>4</sup>. Sewing machines, of course, were not readily available then to the average family in the colony.

In June 1840, the management of the Government Orphan Schools in Hobart called for tenders (with samples) for the supply of a number of items, including the

following, which suggest that a considerable amount of plain needlework was to be undertaken by the older girls in making clothes for themselves and their fellow orphans:

70 yards blue print, 50 yards blue serge, 12 gross shank buttons, 18 gross mould buttons, 12 gross shirt mould buttons, 1000 yards strong unbleached calico, 200 yards lining calico, 250 yards check or striped cotton, 400 yards flannel, 530 yards moleskin cloth, 6 pounds white sewing cotton, 4 pounds black sewing cotton, 12 pounds black thread, 12 pounds drab thread, 36 pounds grey worsted and 56 knitting pins<sup>5</sup>

A detailed list and timetable of duties for the teachers at the Female Orphan School dated 1859 indicated that Matron H L SMYTH was in charge of cutting and marking clothing, bedding and the like between 10.30 and 12.30 each day, while Senior Mistress, Miss Catherine A QUINN and Assistant Mistress, Mrs Annie Mary PARSONS taught needlework between 2.00 and 4.00 on a daily basis. The two teachers also took turn on alternate Saturday evenings to lead the repairing of clothes<sup>6</sup>

The introductory paragraph of this article and the previous one refer to “marking”, a term not commonly associated with needlework today and therefore requiring some description. In the early 1800s, girls were taught how to delicately cross stitch letters and numbers onto garments to “mark” the owner. It was also fashionable for some household linen to be marked with owners’ initials and monograms. One way young females learnt to do those tasks was by stitching samplers which usually included the alphabet, numbers, a short religious or moral verse, some simple decorations and the embroiderer’s name, age and date of commencement.

Another unfamiliar term used in the introductory paragraph is “netting”. A search of various needlework resources on the internet ended in some confusion as to just exactly what girls would have been taught under that banner in the 1830s, three possibilities appearing. The writer suggests that it was most likely to be decorative sewing on a net-mesh foundation fabric using darning stitches to give an imitation lace appearance. Examples illustrated in some old books online suggest that such craft could have been suited to decorating curtains, fancy cloths, collars and edgings.

The draft notes of Inspector Thomas ARNOLD are perhaps the most instructive about the teaching of needlework in the early 1850s, the snippets of information included in his reports on all Government and Church Schools from 1851 to 1853 providing useful insights into what took place<sup>7</sup>

- *It was not taught every day in all schools.* In June 1853, Inspector Arnold recorded that Mrs JOHNSON at Lymington Public School taught needlework three times a week to the nine girls on the register;
- *Plain needlework was mainly taught but fancy needlework was occasionally mentioned.* When Inspector Arnold visited the Roman Catholic School at Westbury in July 1853, he noted that the girls were taught needlework, plain and fancy by Mrs BENSLEY, wife of the Master, Thomas BENSLEY;
- *Children were encouraged to bring their own articles of work from home.* This was the case at a New Town School conducted by Mrs Elizabeth STEPHENS. That practice, as well as requiring minimum financial outlay, emphasized the practical application of needlework;

- *The girls sometimes made their own garments at school.* At Westbury in 1853, Mrs Susan CLEMENTS, Mistress of one of the Girls' schools there, indicated that some pupils brought their own work from home and were encouraged to make their own dresses;
- *Materials were provided for children who did not bring their own.* In 1853, the girls at Melville Street School in Hobart were encouraged to bring their own work but if that did not happen, the Mistress, Mrs CANAWAY, supplied the materials. Mrs Clements, mentioned in the previous example, informed Inspector Arnold that work was taken in from within the local Westbury district and she believed that the students learnt a lot from that practice;
- *Knitting was taught, though rarely mentioned.* Evidence of the actual teaching of knitting was given in the 1853 report on Mr Duncan STALKER's British and Foreign school at Bothwell;
- *Some of the tutors were volunteers and taught the girls gratuitously.* In March 1861, the Board of Education recorded that Mona Vale local identity, Mrs KERMODE, was voluntarily giving lessons in needlework at the Public School there<sup>8</sup>

Prior to 1860, not all schools taught needlework, its provision dependent upon the Master having a wife or other female family member such as a sister, daughter or mother who could teach it. However, the body of evidence uncovered in the official records indicates that the Teacher of Needlework in early Government schools was most likely to be the wife of the Head Teacher. According to the Northern Board of Education's Secretary's Letter Book of the 1860s<sup>9</sup>, there was a regulation that married male teachers could not be considered for permanent status if their wives were not prepared to take up such positions. Joint, rather than separate salaries for a husband and wife were common. In addition to teaching needlework, the teacher was often given responsibility for teaching the younger children in the school.

- Upon her appointment as Female Assistant to Swansea Public School in April 1860, Mrs Eliza CROCKETT was required to remain in the school during the ordinary school hours, to teach the girls needlework and to give general instruction to the younger children, both male and female, subject to such directions as [the Head Teacher] might from time to time issue to her<sup>10</sup>
- At Stanley Public School in January 1871, Mrs Agnes Mary ROBERTS, wife of the Head Teacher, John Harris ROBERTS, was "to attend in the classroom from 2 to 4 o'clock of each school day and to aid and instruct in the ordinary work of school during those hours when not engaged in teaching needlework"<sup>11</sup>

In March 1860, the Board of Education granted the larger schools in Hobart £3 to £4 to be expended in the purchase of materials for needlework for use of the children. In addition, a limited number of copies of *Instruction for Needlework and Guard Book* to hold specimens of needlework were to be supplied upon application. The Board advised that they discouraged altogether the performance of crotchet or other fancy work during school hours, and no portion of the grant was to be devoted to the purchase of materials for such work.<sup>12</sup> No more than twenty years later, however, the position had changed, evidenced when Ellen CLERK, Marion BILLING, Edith CRAWFORD, Amy MURRAY and Henrietta THOMPSON received prizes for crochet at Evandale State School in 1884.<sup>13</sup>

Inspector John J STUTZER's *Annual Report* for 1861 on behalf of the Southern Board of Education included a review of the examination in needlework. He commented that the results were "lamentable" and gave assurance that the Board

had at once taken steps to “correct this neglect of an art so indispensable for women; and it [was] to be hoped that the next Examination [would] show a marked improvement.”<sup>14</sup> The corresponding report for the Northern Board of Education in the same year presented by Inspector Thomas STEPHENS stated that a common complaint of Mistresses was that they had very great difficulty in providing work for the girls and that their exertions were not always supported by the parents. Inspector Stephens emphasized that the efficiency of a school in needlework mainly depended upon the amount of interest which was taken in it by the ladies of the district. At the same time, he praised the school at Lymington “which in this respect [stood] conspicuously out from all the others.”<sup>15</sup> The Teacher of Needlework there at that time was Mrs Jane LIGHT, wife of the Head Teacher, Charles LIGHT.

The title, “Teacher of Needlework” had been gradually dispensed with by the early 1860s and replaced with the more all-encompassing term, “Female Assistant”. However, the specific use of “Teacher of Sewing” had reappeared by the 1880s. Little meaningful information on sewing teachers was recorded in the Inspectors’ Reports on schools from that time apart from brief comments on the standard of teachers’ work in that area:

- In September 1892, the Inspector noted that good work was done in needlework at Little Oyster Cove State School by Teacher of Sewing, Mrs Emma HUMPHRIES;<sup>16</sup>
- Miss Armine Emma FURLONG, Head Teacher at Black Sugar Loaf State School from 1893-1902, was viewed positively by the Inspectors, her teaching of needlework appearing to be very fair, and the standard of the girls’ buttonholes good.<sup>17</sup>

It is interesting to note that Inspector Samuel Ouston LOVELL, who held that senior position from 1892 to 1913, frequently commented in his reports on the quality of the stitching of buttonholes. One might wonder what his personal credentials were for making such judgments. A review of his family history, however, shows that he was descended from good buttonholing stock! Samuel was the grandson of Esh and Rachel (nee OUSTON) LOVELL who arrived in Hobart Town from England in 1823. Soon after their arrival, Mrs Lovell placed a newspaper advertisement for two apprentices for her millinery and dressmaking business.<sup>18</sup> From 1828-1831, Esh and Rachel Lovell held the positions of Superintendent and Matron at the Female Factory in Hobart where Mrs Lovell’s needlework expertise would have been very useful.

Another interesting snippet: Mrs Fanny GREGORY taught sewing at Iveridge State School from 1887 to 1893 after having been Head Teacher at Red Hills Public School for almost seventeen years prior to that. By way of observation, Mrs Gregory, whose bachelor son, Alfred Perry GREGORY was the Head Teacher at Iveridge at the time, was possibly the oldest female teacher in the employ of the Government when she retired at the age of 81 in 1893.

The teaching of needlework continued to flourish in Tasmanian schools well into the twentieth century, its curriculum content changing over time to reflect community needs and fashions. Many female readers are likely to remember their own experience of hand-sewing a basic needlework bag, tray cloth or apron at some stage during their school career. Judging by the number of names attached to

needlework pursuits in school award lists published by the newspapers over a long period of time, many will no doubt take pride in remembering that they, also, received a prize for their efforts.

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My article 'Arthur Gordon Jackson: My maternal grandfather' in the December 2008 edition of *Tasmanian Ancestry* included a caricature designated as Murray Burgess.

Indeed, it was Richard Propsting, a one-time Superintendent of Police in Tasmania. I thank member Wendy McLennan for pointing out the error and now provide the caricature of Murray Burgess. Both prints are courtesy of Allport Library and Museum of Fine Arts, State Library of Tasmania, Hobart. Robin Flannery (Member No 5263)

## Tasmanian Family History Society Inc.

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2008 Short Story Competition Entry:

## The Best Little School of All

Myrtle Bank Tasmania

Iris Meek

Residents of Myrtle Bank made an application for a school in 1891 after a school had been opened nearby at Patersonia in 1886. Miss Florence KEARNEY was in charge there, using the little church built 1885 while the department put up a school and residence a mile closer to Launceston, however there were children living much further away than Myrtle Bank who could not get to Patersonia, but who might walk the shorter distance to Myrtle Bank.

Mr William CARINS had a private school on the Patersonia side of Myrtle Bank and it was his daughter Violet\* who was the first teacher at Myrtle Bank, taking classes in the home of William and Ellen IMLACH, once the abode of a former convict named STEWART or STUART at Myrtle Bank.

The home was already too small for the growing Imlach family who were erecting a new home (still standing exactly where it was built) a little closer to Launceston.

Locals got together and with working bees, set up a temporary school which was used to hold dances, concerts, religious services and education classes.

A new hall was built by residents on a corner of SKEMP's land where the present Fire Station stands and this was the hub of entertainment for Myrtle Bank. *The old hall was taken away to Nunamara and used as a Forestry nursery after the Myrtle Park Consolidated School was set up.*

Another school was opened at Lower Patersonia in 1888 in the CALVERT home with Miss SLEIGHTHOLM in charge\* until a new one-roomed school and porch were built in 1890 which my maternal grandmother attended two or three days a week and still others had the opportunity of attending classes at the St Patrick's River Hall built in 1900, where Mr W A Carins was in charge. *(This was possibly another private school).*



Old School 1906: Mrs Imlach and Mrs Skemp back with from left to right standing:

John Imlach, Eric and Vern Alexander, Les Skemp, James Imlach, Win and Vera Blyth.

Seated Gladys Blyth, Beatrice Imlach on Phyllis Blyth's knee, Harriet Alexander, Margaret Imlach.

Front John Skemp and Bill Imlach.

(A family photo)

To the relief of the residents of Myrtle Bank and surrounds, the Education Department built a new school opposite Imlach's new home in 1907 with one teacher and children aged from five to fourteen.

It was obvious the residents of all these small schools wanted their children to be educated and even in my mother's (Gladys BLYTH) time at school 1921-30, early classes were taught from blackboard and paper chart "tables" to slates.

A copy book was a desired requirement for learning copperplate handwriting.

Yet other schools were opened; Tayene in 1913 with Miss Ina PITT (Mrs Skemp's niece) in charge and much later Diddleum in 1948 [sic] with Miss Joyce HARPER the teacher. These last schools saved the children from the Camden and Diddleum area the very long walk to Myrtle Bank school.

In 1894 Miss KEARNEY married Rowland SKEMP who described himself as a poor Englishman trying to be a farmer. He wrote some excellent poetry and songs, (*some of the work which his son had published*) and following the marriage the Patersonia headmistress resigned her post, leaving the little school with its attached residence to live at "Reediford Holm" Myrtle Bank.

Miss Carins taught at the Myrtle Bank until 1901 when she was promoted to Longford as an assistant.

The residents wanted Mrs Skemp to take over; for one thing she was close by, secondly she was a very good teacher and thirdly, they did not want the school to close.

In those days the Department frowned on married women teaching, but Mrs Skemp had relatives with some clout, so objections were overruled and the popular teacher took over at a salary of 20 pounds per annum plus fees\*. Fees were abolished about 1906 and her salary gradually rose until she was receiving 180 pounds pa when she retired at the end of 1930.

The little school was surrounded by a fenced yard, which was in turn surrounded by tall timber. Children were encouraged to make garden beds and one, which was shaped like a map of Tasmania was still well defined when the school was taken away on a truck and the land sold for private use.

The classroom ran from the road to the back fence with long desks facing the large fireplace; the empty ink-wells in position ready for work. A lean-to porch was used for storage of dry wood, satchels, clothing and even some books.

Mrs Imlach came in regularly to teach crochet and needlework and being left-handed she could sit facing the girls so they could easily follow instruction.

Mrs Skemp made table charts of 2x to 12x tables. The Lords Prayer and Civic Pledge were recited each morning, followed by the tables. I can vouch for the fact that many of her pupils were better at maths than many children of today. *My step father could do a mental equation in half the time more learned men could work it out on paper and he thanked his teacher for those tables.*

Accidents sometimes happened. Some, which I was told of included a small boy getting hit on the head when a make do see-saw fell on him after other children jumped off the opposite end. Another lost an eye in a silly school prank, while another accidentally chopped his toe off.

Most of the children went to school willingly, as it was much easier than the chores on the farms, plus they had friends to play with. Some came by pony or perhaps a bike, but most were on foot, meeting classmates on the journey.

Quite often Mrs Skemp would have both her sons with her. The youngest, Jack, would sit with the older children and must have got a great start with his education. He went on to Oxford to get his degree. Les Skemp was a popular lad at school and much loved by "Granny" Imlach. In later years he joined the army with his friend John Imlach and served overseas in WW1. On return he moved to New Zealand, married and carried on the Skemp name.

All children were encouraged to take part in school games to get some fresh air into their lungs, for physical education wasn't needed by country children, many of whom had rounded up cows to be milked before even leaving home in the morning to walk to school.

The children of Myrtle Bank school looked forward with anticipation to the Christmas Break-up. Mrs Skemp always found a gift for every child, plus the book "prizes" for those who achieved a little more than others. Was there anything better than receiving a "Prize" at the end of the year? I still proudly display my beautiful book prizes on a shelf and was one of the fond parents who watched on many years later when Mr J R Skemp presented the Florence Skemp Memorial Prize at Myrtle Park School.

My mother said the break-up days were the best of her life. Grandma Blyth would make new dresses for each of the girls and new shirts for the boys. Grandad always found money for new shoes and they looked forward to taking any part in the school production which was chosen for them by Mrs Skemp.

Often the children were taught songs or poems or even encouraged to take part in a play to show parents and friends the lighter side of learning. How many of those parents must have wished they had had a school to attend when they were children!

As populations dwindled, new sawmills opened in different areas and some schools were forced to close. Such was the case with Patersonia and Myrtle Bank. Families like Blyth's, MILLWOOD's, BUTWELL and Carin's could walk to either school, so when number fell at Patersonia the children went to Myrtle Bank and vice versa. Both my mother and stepfather attended only Myrtle Bank school, but most of my mother's siblings attended both at different times.

The little school at Myrtle Bank closed down during WW2 and I waited anxiously for it to re-open after we moved to Myrtle Bank to live at the end of 1946, but sadly the department said the student numbers were not sufficient, so we walked to Patersonia while others had correspondence courses.

Granny Imlach would often let me into the school of a weekend and I would pretend to be the teacher, pouring over encyclopaedia and other books, writing on the blackboard with the chalk which was ever ready for the next teacher.

At the end of 1950 the department decided to close all schools in the district (with the exception of Nunamara) and transport them to Myrtle Park. When 1951 dawned we had a bus picking up children who sometimes still had a good walk from their homes to the nearest stop, and taking us to the hall built at Myrtle Park in 1930 with

Mr Kev PETER in charge. Now we could learn team sports and grades VII, VIII and 1X children could be taken each Friday to St Leonards by Mr or Mrs W BROADHURST (the bus run owners) for Domestic Science (girls) and Woodwork and Metal Work (boys), often crowded into the very large sedan owned by our bus driver Mr Bill Broadhurst. It was not a popular part of our curriculum.

Our little school along with Tayene and Patersonia school and residence were taken and reassembled as Myrtle Park Consolidated State School. It was ready for occupation 1952, complete with a separate library room.

Now older students could attend the new Brooks High School at Mowbray each Friday. This continued until Queechy High School was opened at Norwood.

Mr Jack Skemp would come once a week to teach Nature Study and Mrs Daphne TOLE would take a weekly needlework class, knitting, darning etc, probably on a volunteer basis.

We still looked forward to Break-up concerts and prize giving at the end of the year.

Much later the old school buildings were sold off and new classrooms were assembled at the Myrtle Park site for grades 1a through to V1.

Sadly even this could not last and the school closed for the last time during the 1980's, leaving local residents with no other options than to move house or send their children to school in Launceston or Scottsdale.

Here and now in 2007, very few of the former Myrtle Bank pupils live on; a couple of Blyth's, a couple of Carin's, Gofton's, Alexander's, Town's, Imlach's, Millwood's, Faulkner's, McGiveron's, Saltmarsh to name but a few, and those who do can still tell a story or two about their days at Myrtle Bank school.

Mr Peter taught us a poem "The Best School of All" which perfectly describes my favourite schools and how sad I felt when it was time to leave.



Myrtle Park CSS

Robert and Debra Meek, Lynne Imlach and Paul Meek sitting in front of the old Myrtle Bank School

(the nearest building)  
just prior to demolition  
circa 1971.

(Photo I Meek)

\* Some dates taken from Memories of Myrtle Bank by John Rowland Skemp.

## Where is That Place?

Nancy Higgins (Member No 3916)

Tucked away amongst my childhood memories lies the story of my mother's grandmother, Nanna HARRIS. Nanna had been a midwife and the story was that her home in Launceston, Tasmania, was used at some time as a Lying In Home. Aged about nine years at the time of hearing this tale, I clearly remember my questions.

What is a Lying In home? What is a midwife? followed by What do you mean your Nanna took girls in? My mother answered those questions simply. However to my next question, Where is that place? (The Lying In Home) my mother only smiled and shrugged. Clearly my interest in family matters stems from childhood.

In recent times having compiled all the Harris family data collected over the past 18 years, I presented it in a booklet to share with interested family members. This included information of Nanna Harris' husband, John, being a Parkhurst boy—but that's another story. Childhood memories drove me to continue the Harris family search.

After purchasing a copy of *Tasmanian Federation Index* on CD Rom, I sat happily at the computer recording life events for more recent generations of the Harris line. Here were the names in my memory, Aunts, Uncles and distant cousins, now they could be recorded in my family file, connected and placed in the appropriate spot on the family tree; something I had not completely grasped at age nine. Soon I recognised the address at 111 Cimitiere Street, Launceston had appeared several times, each time for different family members. Inspiration struck!

Clearing all the search fields on screen I entered the address only. This brought a result of over 100 births occurring over a five year period between 16/5/1914 to 28/9/1919. Typing in the address in a different format eg Street / St brought forth another 19 births. Sometimes there were two births recorded on the same day, each for different surnames. Checking the entries revealed that several women returned to the address at 111 Cimitiere Street, for subsequent births, years apart. More than 40 births were registered with the father's name not stated. Were these the 'girls' Nanna Harris took in?

It is now more than 50 years since asking that child-like question and I have stumbled upon a unique way to discover the whereabouts of Nanna Harris' Lying In Home.

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### **Death in St Paul's Cathedral:** *The Kelso Chronicle*, 21 Mar 1856, p4 c5

An awful accident was committed on Friday in St Paul's Cathedral by Mr A SMART, a retired watchmaker, of South St, Barclay Square, who threw himself from the Whispering Gallery into the knave, a distance of nearly 150 feet.

Insanity was undoubted cause of the act. It appeared that after waiting in the gallery until the great clock of the Cathedral struck 12, Mr Smart mounted the handrail of the Gallery, gave three hysterical laughs, crying out each time & before the verger who rushed towards him could reach him, jumped off and was picked up dead.

## My Schooldays: Elsie Corrick (1894-1974)

Transcribed by Shirley Foster (Member No 6420)

After The Family went on tour my sister, Jessie, and I went to live with our cousin Florrie, her husband 'Uncle' Ross BOUTELL and their little daughter, Myrtle, at Lower Hutt in Wellington. The house had had two gables. We children slept upstairs. The house faced a horse drawn bus route to Taitai and had a ditch where three little girls and a tiny dog could hide. There was a swing in the garden and I thought everyone was laughing at me doing tricks but it was because a goat owned by Mr MASON, next door, was coming through the hedge behind me. When the road was widened the old hedge had to go. There was a lovely Music Room with bay window where we used to sing our Sunday school anniversary hymns in perfect harmony while Florrie played our accompaniments and Uncle Ross straddled in with big logs for the fire. Every Sunday night Uncle Ross read to us from his father's hand written composition book, *A Wonderful Answer to Prayer*, and his own hand written book full of uplifting thoughts and poems.

At the anniversary Mr. HARDY played the organ and the side and back galleries were full with extra people to help children sing the *Halleluiah Chorus*. I loved my auntie in her bonnet. I loved to go at night when they would sing *The Day Thou Gives Lord is Ended*. Myrtle was three years younger than me. She was very clever. She could play the piano with proper bass when only five years old and she would sing alto for us to sing duets. The ministers at Wesley Church were first the Rev GARLIC, then the Rev SPICER and then the Rev GINGER. Yes. Really true!

Uncle Ross had a shop called *The Variety* because it had everything. He stocked chaff, maize, groceries, draperies, farmer's hats and trousers. There were boots hanging from the ceiling which he got down with a hook. There was a wooden path to wheel bags of chaff along from his store house. We went two ½ miles to the Lower Hutt school. The class room had desks in raised platforms. At first no one knew I was related to the famous CORRICK Family and that my sister was singing arias. At Sunday school the children said 'Our father which art in heaven'. I didn't because I knew my father was alive and that he was traveling giving concerts in Hobart, and Melbourne. I sat next to Grace MEVILLE. She was a champion at getting sums right. Marjorie STILL was at school with me. She was the best speller and became a professional journalist. She wrote about Nellie STEWART who was my idol.

Dad made sure I had the best music teachers in Wellington. My first lady teacher thought I was a chatter-box and told my aunt that she wished all little girls would get on as well but 'little Elsie is inclined to talk too much about her family'. I especially liked the Henry VIII dances which we played with four hands on the piano. Another of my teachers in Wellington was Mr C D MACINTOSH. Mr Seedy MacIntosh taught me harmony and helped me pass all the exams. Sometimes when there was an old hobo at the door he would give him and order to go to the Salvation Army for a free meal and bed. I learnt the E flat Fugue by Bach but one day I kept playing a wrong note. Mr Macintosh got very angry so I thought if he hadn't stopped me and thumped so much on the stool Bach, in his grave, would never have noticed. I used to be afraid that he would growl at me so I would go back home 15 miles in the cable-car, train, coach with four horses and tram. Wellington was very windy and

trams were blown off the lines twice but as soon as I got home I would start practicing again. I had to go miles too for my elocution lessons and I learnt the organ from the City Organist, J MAUGHAN BARNETT, on the big pipe organ in the city. On the way I would open my purse and take a peep at the gold coins for the fees. I was the school pianist. Mr. WORBY the head, would ask me to play and he would get the children to guess the name of the tune. I used to copy famous people and entertain everyone with a low comedy character called *Mr Bung 'em Up* which became the pest of my life.

Mother sent us beautiful muffs from Melbourne and although I was only a little girl Auntie let me use my allowance to buy my own hats and gloves. I bought bull-eyes too which I kept under my pillow. One holiday my sister and I went to Australia to see our family. We travelled on ½ tickets all the way to Melbourne via Bluff, because the Tasman Sea was so rough. We two little girls should have been on a proper steamer with grownups because we called at five ports before we got to there. We were told not to go ashore at ports but we did. We were without a toy watch between us and did not know the time. We went by cable car in Dunedin to see if a place called Mornington was as good as the Kilbirnie cable-car in Wellington. We thought it was only 2nd fiddle because our knees were out in the air in the Dunedin one.

I was speechless when I saw my sisters on the Melbourne stage in their beautiful gowns. Their show was just ending when our cab drew up and I was allowed to peep in the door and see them take their curtains. The audience was cheering and there were flowers all over the stage. Alice, with her brown eyes and golden blonde hair, looked beautiful. I wanted to get up there on the stage too so in Bendigo, before I returned to school in New Zealand, I played the drum for "*Oh listen to the Band*" and never hit a wrong note. After that they kept travelling; forgetting to stop. Well they never came back.

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### **Mr Daniel Neal** *The Weekly Courier*, 1 July 1909, p28 c2-3

On the 15th inst large gathering of relatives and friends assembled at the residence of Mr Edgar DIPROSE, Yolla, North-Western Tasmania, to celebrate the eightieth birthday of Mr Daniel NEAL. [photographs of the occasion appear on page 22].

Mr Neal is one of Tasmania's early settlers, having arrived with his parents by the ship *George IV*, in 1834, being at that time five years old, he having been born at Banbury in 1829. His parents, with other immigrants, were engaged by the VDL Company to work on their sections at Circular Head, but, being dissatisfied with the arrangements made for their accommodation, the whole shipload decided to leave the settlement and go to Launceston.

After many hardships they reached Emu Bay, where the greater number remained. One of the party made his way to Launceston, where he hired a boat which conveyed them all to Launceston.

Mr Neal remained in Launceston for eight years, thence went to the Macquarie River, afterwards proceeding to Longford, where he married a daughter of Mr Francis FRENCH, who was the first Methodist local preacher in Launceston.

Mr and Mrs Neal were married by the Rev Jonathan INNES. Both Mr and Mrs Neal are hale and hearty; the lady is 77 years of age, and they have reared 10 children out of 14, most of whom are in the state, so are an object lesson to those who say they "cannot exist with more than one." Mr Neal is an authority on the early days of Tasmania.

The company, Mr Neal says, had plans prepared in England showing streets laid out and cottages built, with neat gardens and each separate, in what is now known as Stanley, but on arrival the immigrants found only one long slab building, subdivided into many compartments, blacks, who being rounded up by the central ones being reserved for Mr ROBINSON. There were no gardens or streets.

On arrival in Launceston, the people concerned sued the company for compensation, and gained their case. They had to walk to and from Hobart to the court. The company then took action against the married men for the amount of their passage money. The claim was successful, and again the unfortunate had to trudge to Hobart and back.

Mr and Mrs Neal have been residing at Yolla for the past 10 years, near the residence of Mr Edgar Diprose, who is the husband of one of their daughters.

Mr Neal relates that the vessel in which he came out was subsequently captured by pirates, and was recovered nine years later.

### **How they Marry in Aran** *The Weekly Courier*, 14 July 1910, p39 c1

In her article on the Aran Islands, off the coast of Ireland, in "Harper's" for May, Miss Maude Radford WARREN tells of some marriage customs obtaining there. "The marriages are made by the parents and frequently the couple never speak to each other alone until after the wedding. 'But ought a man not to choose his own wife?' Darragh Shuan, the fisherman, was asked.

'Let you listen to me,' said Darragh Shuan, leaning back on his curagh on the beach of Inishmore. He pointed first to a thin line of green on a plateau of rock, and then to a tiny cottage, lonely against a grey crag. 'If that field were my father's,' explained Darragh Shuan, 'and I was thinking of a girl in that cottage there, and if my father did not like the girl, then he would not give me that field. Then what would I be doing? It has to be.' It has to be, that is the word of the islands.

'There is a girl back from America,' said Darragh Shuan, 'and she is having sixty pounds of her own. She has told the priest, and we are all knowing it, that she will go back next month if no one wishes to marry her. Mourteen Michael BAWN will be asking her if his great-uncle, who is dying, leaves him his cottage, and field. But the old man may not die before the steamer sails.' Darragh Shuan said this very gravely.

'The most desirable consort is a man or girl returned from America, for they always have money. About 25 per cent of the population go to America, and most of them come back, for they love their islands so dearly that they only go away as it were, in order to stay in them. Many of those who return die of consumption, but many more regain whatever health they have lost and marry, reverting to their old ways, with no regret for the civilisation they have cast behind.'"

**Churchyard Humour** *Launceston Examiner*, 26 Nov 1894, p3 c6

Quaint monumental lines in praise or dispraise of the dead are to be found in many odd God's Acres of the United Kingdom (says the *Standard*) but they generally have some redeeming quality in a peculiar phrase or graceful expression; but we venture to think that nothing as crude or bald as the following could be found in any other country but that presided over by the high-soaring eagle:-

"Here lies John Meadow,  
Passed away like a shadow.

**NB: His name was Field, but it would not rhyme**

And we can picture the look of satisfaction, of the something attempted, something done, order, with the wreathed smile which must have lit up the face of the author after bringing forth this prodigious production of his poetic fancy. In the capital of the United States is to be found the following very great on metaphor inscription:-

"Our little Jacob  
Has been taken away from this earthly garden  
To bloom in a superior flower-pot above."

We wonder what Washington would have thought of that effort at composition.

The next specimen gives the local wit an opportunity of which he makes more or less satisfactory use. Many are the samples of punning epitaphs to be found in American graveyards, but the following is as good as any:-

"Owen Moore has gone away,  
Owin' more than he could pay."

In the annexed specimen rhyme was evidently the one thing aimed at, regardless of rhythm, measure, and such like necessities of the poetic muse:-

"Beware how you approach, man,  
Here lies the body of John, the coachman."

From which we must infer that John was a fearful personage when in the flesh. In the following we are treated to a little bit of prophecy, which may possibly have been fulfilled ere this:-

"John Palfreman lies buried here,  
Aged four and twenty year;  
Near this place his mother lies,  
Likewise his father when he dies."

The schoolmaster is at times evidently very much abroad when the necessity for composing an epitaph arises, and must have been so on this occasion:-

"Him shall never come to we:  
But we shall surely go to he,"

Which evinces faith if naught else. The married state often affords much amusement to wayfarers in graveyards, and husbands and wives both show their sarcastic satisfaction at Death having carried off their helpmates. The following are good specimens of epigrammatic epitaphs of this description:-

"Here lies my wife, a sad slattern and shrew,  
If I said I regretted her I should lie too."

Continued on page 276

## Help Wanted

### Barker/Moore

Richard BARKER b. 1875 Tas, md. 1903 to Ada MOORE b.1867 Tas. Issue ? Colin and Alan Gordon. Richard and Ada buried Cornelian Bay Cemetery Hobart. Alan and wife Joyce Ethel ? had three known children, Frances, Geoffrey and Christine. Alan Gordon Barker and Joyce Ethel Barker buried Kingston cemetery 1996.

Information of any kind re this family gratefully accepted. Nancy Higgins, 74 Main St, Gordon VIC 3345, email: [nancymh8@bigpond.com](mailto:nancymh8@bigpond.com). (Member No 3916)

### Clarke/Butler

Seeking information on Susan Phoebe Minnie CLARKE who married Frederick BUTLER in 1881 in Hobart. I am especially seeking her parents' names. It is believed she was born in Cressy, but there appear to be no records. Susan died in 1941 in Hobart. There were ten children from this marriage. Frederick was previously married to Margaret HILL, and this marriage produced five children.

Janine Hunt, 37 Sherwood Court, Lindisfarne, 7015 Tas, ☎ 03 6243 5544 (Member 749)

### Davie

I am trying to trace descendants of Sinclair Keith DAVIE. He arrived in Tasmania on *Eliza* in April 1838 and was employed by the government for the next seventeen years in various positions—Deputy Water Bailiff for Hobart Town, Officer in charge of the Mount Nelson Signal Station, worked in the Customs department. From 1843-47 he was coxswain and overseer of the aboriginal settlement on Flinders Island, then in 1850 he took over the day to day running of the Oyster Cove aboriginal settlement. He was there until 1855.

He md Lucy Jane DONN daughter of Charles and Mary Donn. She had at least two siblings—Bridget and Charles. Sinclair and Lucy Davie had seven children: An **un-named** female; **Sinclair Keith jnr**. he md Fanny SMITH and had five sons, George, Donald, Arthur, Darcy and William. He was accidentally killed 14 Aug 1880, aged 37 (Fanny remarried). **Lucy Jane** md John RILEY, **Elinor**; **Malcolm Keith**, md Elizabeth DEVEREAUX; **Walter George**, md Mary Ann Alice SMITH (sister of Fanny, above) an **un-named** male. Sinclair Keith Davie died in hospital in Hobart 19 July 1874, aged 69.

Contact: Pauline Hardy, ☎ 03 6437 2755 (Member 6197)

### Lipscombe/Bennett/White

John LIPSCOMBE (convict as BENNETT per "Lady Palmyra") and Rebecca Sarah WHITE. Seeking marriage of this couple. Their first child (either John or Elizabeth), was born 1858 in Hobart. Rebecca's death certificate states she was born in Hobart, but I have been unable to find any birth details, or parents' names. Seeking any information on this couple.

Janine Hunt, 37 Sherwood Court, Lindisfarne, 7015 Tas, ☎ 03 62435544 (Member No 749)

**Help Wanted** queries are published **free for members** of the TFHS Inc. (provided membership number is quoted) and at a **cost of \$10.00** per query to non-members.

**Special Interest Groups:** advertising rates apply.

Members are entitled to three free queries per year, and should be limited to **100 words**. 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 forwarded to The Editor, *Tasmanian Ancestry*, PO Box 191 Launceston TAS 7250 or email [editors@tasfhs.org](mailto:editors@tasfhs.org)

## New Members

A warm welcome is extended to the following new members

6826	CHIN Mr Howard	8 Moorpark Court	FORCETT	TAS	7173
6827	DORAN Mr Robert William	1023 Port Sorell Road	LATROBE	TAS	7307
6828	RIDLEY Mrs Ruth	Not for publication			
6829	WHITTLE Mr George	12 Brady Place	SOMERSET	TAS	7322
6830	WHITTLE Mrs Margaret	12 Brady Place	SOMERSET	TAS	7322
6831	POKE Mrs Shirley Lorraine	PO Box 543 shirleypoke@internode.on.net	WYNYARD	TAS	7325
6832	WINSKILL Mr Peter James	C/- Post Office	TULLAH	TAS	7321
<u>Email correction:</u>					
6809	BROWN Jennifer Marjorie	pj.jm.brown@bigpond.com—see Interests in Sept <i>Tasmanian Ancestry</i>			

## New Members' Interests

Name	Place/Area	Time	M'ship No.
DORAN	TAS AUS	1870	6827
WINSKILL	Mt Balfour, Lottah, Tullah TAS AUS	1890-1950	6832
WINSKILL	Zeehan, Williamsford, Strahan TAS Aus	1890-1950	6832

*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 received a SSAE.

**Note:** If you have ticked the block on the Membership Application/ Renewal Form indicating that you wish your contact details to remain private, your Members Interests will not be published.

### Privacy Statement

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

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

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

## TFHS Inc. Launceston Branch Publications

### *The Tasmanian Mail – a photographic Index:*

Series covers years 1894-1935 – now available:

Volume 1: 1894-1904

Volume 2: 1905-1908

Volume 3: 1909-1912

Volume 4: 1913-1916 **(new!)**

Price for each volume \$27.00 (Mailed \$36.60)

### *The Weekly Courier—Index to Photographs, Birth, Death & Marriage Notices and Personal items of interest to Family Historians:*

Series covers years 1901-1935 – now available:

Volume 1: 1901-1903

Volume 2: 1904-1905

Volume 3: 1906-1907

Volume 4: 1908-1909 **(new!)**

Price for each volume \$30.00 (Mailed \$39.60)

## New

### *The Kelso Chronicle (Scotland)—Index to Birth, Death & Marriage Notices and Personal items of interest to Family Historians*

These newspapers were mailed from Scotland by Mr A Scott, to James Scott, Surveyor, "Bowhill", Launceston. Mr Scott gave them to *The Examiner* office who passed them on to Launceston Branch some years ago.

Series covers years 1855 to 1865

**Now available:** 1860-1861

Price: \$22.00 (Mailed \$27.50)

TFHS Inc. Launceston Branch  
PO Box 1290, Launceston TAS 7250

## Hobart Branch – New Release

### Assessment & Valuation Rolls of Tasmania: Index to City of Hobart 1888

Following those for the years 1868 and 1878, this is the third in the series of indexes to the Assessment and Valuation Rolls for Hobart as published in *The Hobart Town Gazette*.

The Rolls in the newspaper give the location, a description and value of the property, the name of the occupier and the name of the owner with, often, his or her address. Where the owner is deceased or absent, the executor or agent is usually named. All this information is included in the new publication with separate alphabetical lists for Owners and Occupiers.

The *Hobart Town Gazettes* 1826-1899 are available on microfilm at TFHS Inc. Hobart Branch library.

Price \$25.00 (members' discount of 10% applies)  
Plus p&p \$9.60

Resource Manager  
TFHS Inc. Hobart Branch  
PO Box 326  
ROSNY PARK  
TASMANIA 7018  
AUSTRALIA

## Family Chart Competition

Check with your Branch for closing date

The winning entry from each Branch will be judged at the TFHS Inc. Annual General Meeting at Hobart  
20th June 2009

## Diary Notes

### April - Sunday 5th April 2009 – Heritage Listed site – Bruny Island Variety Bay Pilot Station (c1830) and Church (c1846)

*Open Day at Variety Bay Pilot Station - North Bruny Island* – An Open Day will be held at Variety Bay on site 10.00 a.m. - 3.00 p. m. [Entrance - via Great Bay - *gateway will be well signposted*] There will be an interpretative display and guided tours of both the Pilot Station and Church (*stabilised by the Bruny Island Historical Society in 2003 under the Cultural Heritage Projects Program*) A great chance to see part of the island not normally open to the public.

Bring a Picnic lunch, or just drop in - No admission charge.

*Hope to see you there!*

### Bruny Island Sunday Ferry Timetable

Depart Kettering	Depart Bruny Island
7:45	8:25
9:30	10:00
11:05	11:35
12:05 pm	12:35 pm
1:45	2:15
2:45	3:15
3:45	4:30
5:00	5:30
6:30	7:00

#### Further information:

Bev Davis - Co-ordinator Bruny Island Historical Society Ph. 62606366  
or Kathy Duncombe Ph: 62606287 Email [kdunc@netspace.net.au](mailto:kdunc@netspace.net.au)

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## Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages

From Anne Levens, VicHeritage Projects Manager

### NEW RELEASE: Australia's Army War Dead DVD

The Victorian Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, in cooperation with the Australian Army's Central Army Records Office (CARO), is proud to present the *Australia's Army War Dead* DVD.

On 11 November 2008, on the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the signing of the Armistice which ended World War I, the Registry, in co-operation of the Australian Army (SCMA Division) released the *Australia's Army War Dead (1885 – 1972)* DVD at the Shrine of Remembrance. The Premier, Hon. John Brumby, and the Deputy-Premier and Attorney-General, Hon. Rob Hulls launched this new product

This searchable DVD includes over 88,000 Australian Army index records of service personnel, from all states and territories, who lost their lives during or as a result of operational service between 1885 and 1972. The deaths include all

personnel in Australian Army units, or personnel attached to an Australian Army unit.

This database has been compiled by the Registry's VicHeritage Unit of Volunteers from the index records held by the Australian Army, Central Army Records Office (CARO), Victoria Barracks, Melbourne.

The service personnel included in this publication lost their lives during operational service in the following Operations: Sudan War, Boer War (South Africa), World War I, World War II, British Commonwealth Occupational Force (Japan), Korea, Malayan Emergency, Indonesian Confrontation and Vietnam.

Not all of these operations were classified as Wars or Conflicts. It is for this reason that the term used in this publication is "Operation", at the request of the Australian Army.

The *Australia's Army War Dead* DVD is covered by a Licence Agreement which must be accepted prior to purchase. The terms and conditions of the Licence Agreement are available at the time of purchase or can be viewed on our website prior to purchase. The DVD can be purchased online at the Registry's website – [www.bdm.vic.gov.au](http://www.bdm.vic.gov.au) or you can download an application to post into the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, P. O. Box 4332, Melbourne, Victoria, 3001. The cost of the DVD is \$250 (incl. GST).

In 2005 the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages began collecting photographs of the service personnel from relatives, the family history community, and other secondary sources. In some cases additional information was provided by the person supplying the photographs. This information, if consistent, has been included. The additional information is located in 'Age at Death' and 'Place of Burial' in the index.

The photographic collection associated with this project has grown enormously in the past couple of years. The photographs of the service personnel add another dimension to the index records and bring the names to the realisation that these were real people who lost their lives whilst serving Australia. In addition to the photographs, the Registry seeks additional information from the photograph submitters, such as parent's name, spouse's name, issue and their birth years (to work out ages at the time of death of the deceased person), year of marriage and the deceased's place of birth.

If you have photographs of servicemen or servicewomen, or their grave/headstone, who lost their lives during any of the conflicts that Australia has been involved in, please consider submitting them for inclusion in the database. These will be made available once we develop the Australia's Army War Dead online system. You can download a photographic submission form on the home page of the Registry's website.

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## Hughes Family Reunion

There will be a reunion for descendants of Alfred and Sarah HUGHES, formerly of "Fern Hill" at the Kettering Hall on **Sunday 29th March**, commencing at 10.00am

For further information, please contact Pauline Hardy ☎ 03 6437 2755.

**Miss Nightingale** *Kelso Chronicle*, 5 Sep 1856, p3 c4

The workmen in the large manufactory in the neighbourhood of Newcastle-on-Tyne sent an address to Miss Nightingale a few days since, congratulating her upon her safe return to her home and friends. Miss Nightingale returned the following reply:

"August 23rd  
1856, My Dear Friends

I wish it were in my power to tell you what was in my heart when I received your letter. Your welcome home—your sympathy with what has been passing while I have been absent—have touched me more than I can tell in words. My dear friends, the things that are deepest in our hearts are perhaps what is most difficult to us to express. 'She has done what she could.'

These words I inscribed on the tomb of one of my best helpers, whom I left in the graveyard at Scutari. It has been my endeavour in the sight of God to do as she has done. I will not speak of reward when permitted to do our country's work. It is what we live for, but I may say that to receive sympathy from affectionate hearts like yours is the great support, the greatest gratification, that it is possible for me to receive from man. I thank you all, the eighteen hundred, with grateful tender affection; and I should have written before to do so, were not the business—which my return home has not ended—almost more than I can manage.

Pray believe me, my dear friends,  
Yours faithfully and gratefully,

Florence Nightingale."

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## T.A.M.I.O.T and eHeritage

<http://eheritage.statelibrary.tas.gov.au/> click on "Monuments and Historic Sites" ... To access transcriptions of the headstones surviving in some 800 cemeteries around Tasmania; held by the five Branches around the State: Burnie, Devonport, Hobart, Huon and Launceston. Cemeteries are arranged by municipality and alphabetically. TAMIOT fiche are available for purchase from:

**TFHS Inc. PO Box 191, Launceston TAS 7250,**

and images are available for purchase from the branches.

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## Bushfire at Fern Tree 1967, and our escape

Irene Schaffer (Member No 2008)

The morning was one of those incredible beautiful ones that I had become accustomed to over the years I had been living in Summerleas Road. Crisp, clear, not a cloud in the sky. Mount Wellington from my kitchen window was so clear, that every rock seemed to be within reach.

It was a Tuesday and the first day at Taroona High School for my eldest daughter Chris. Glenda my youngest daughter was also ready to catch the bus to the Macquarie Street School in South Hobart. Craig my son was only three and was at home with me.

Most of the men and older boys in Fern Tree for the previous couple of weeks had been helping to contain fires in and around the area, so when the siren went off at 7 o'clock that morning some of the men reported to the fire station, for the boys, it was off to school.

My husband Merve groaned and said as he had lost a couple of days without pay already, he had better go to work.

The morning continued in all its beauty, and even though the men had gone off to Nieka and beyond, the women continued on as usual. My neighbour Margaret came down to my place as arranged and gave me a home perm, thankfully getting to the setting stage. Another neighbour Jacky came and asked if she could leave her 9 months old son Roy with me, so she could go to Hobart, as it seemed as if it would be a hot day.

So with my hair in curlers, dressed in shorts and no shoes, Craig playing, and Roy asleep, I went on with my house-work. By lunchtime the day had changed completely, the wind had come up and smoke began to blow over the top of the house. Soon it was quite scary; here I was with two young children, no car, and no idea what to do. I expected every moment that Merve would walk in the door and do all the things that he would know how to do.

From the lounge room door I could see a few flames over towards Chimney Top Hill, across the valley. They shot up to the top at such a speed I couldn't believe what I was seeing. Once it reached the top sparks dropped down the other side and wherever they fell the bush would flare up, until the fires descended to the bottom, which was close to our place. The smoke became so bad that I couldn't see above the roof. I kept listening to the radio and it was only then did I realize how wide spread the fire was.

Then the potaroos began hopping around the corner of the house, they had come from the gully behind and I dared not go and see what was happening there and leave the kids.

Time passed and I heard a voice, not Merve's, but Cliff from over the road telling me to get the kids and come down to the road. I dashed around the house wondering what I should take! I tried to think of what valuables I had but nothing would come to mind, so I grabbed Roy from his sleep and the bag Jacky had left with his things in, and took Craig's hand, shut the door and ran.

Thank goodness the men who were fighting the fire at Neika decided it was time to get back to Summerleas Road, or I don't know what would have happened to those who were left there, mostly women and young children with only a few cars.

When I reached the road I found that the men had assembled everyone and were putting them in whatever car was available. I started off in a big car, but when the driver viewed Miss CAMPBELL coming up her drive with two suitcases a hat over her arm and a friend in tow, he moved us into Shelia's little red mini. We ended up having 3 women, 5 children and 2 kittens in the mini.

As soon as everyone was settled into the cars (about nine I think) we drove off up the road expecting to be able to get to the Huon Road and then on to Hobart. Not so, we only proceeded half way up the hill and were told by a council worker to turn around and go back the way we had come.

At this stage my mind is a bit blurry, I only know we went up and down Summerleas Road quite a few times, being turned back at the top of the hill and also about a mile the other way, because the flames were too severe.

At last the man in the first car took it on himself to make a decision and he went straight through the flames, which thankfully had subsided somewhat. We found ourselves in a burnout area, but still smouldering bushes and telephone poles all along the roadside.

I don't remember what Shelia, Jean and myself said during this time, which seemed like hours, but it must have been less than an hour. I do remember the five children, who were aged between 9 months and four years, never made a murmur. I had Craig next to me in the back seat and Roy on my lap, and one of the other children, and they never cried or wanted attention, they just sat there. It had become very hot in the car and though Jean had thought to bring some water and a wet blanket we had not been able to lower the windows as the sparks kept flying in on us. The poor little kittens were almost at their last, laying along the back seat panting for breath. The poor little Mimi was a bit over crowded.

On reaching a somewhat safe spot about 2 miles down Summerleas Road, the cars stopped and the children were allowed out and placed in the middle of the road (most of them were so relieved at being able to have a pee).

That was the first time we were able to see who our companions and helpers were. It was a mixed bag as not all of them were from Fern Tree. One I remember was from Marlyn Road and didn't know how his family was fairing. We learnt later that it was very burnt out and some people died there. I never knew who he was, or if his family were all right. Others were from around the Huon Road with their older children, who had not returned to Collage at that time.

What I remember most is that there was no panic or complaining. We even had some laughs. One instance I remember was the hat Miss Campbell had over her arm was filled up with a packed of plums for the children one that of the men had in his car. The elastic went down with the weight, but we all got a laugh from the look on Miss Campbell's face. Her best hat full of plums!

We were scared and didn't know what was ahead of us or if the fire was finished but it was decided we could only continue on. Further down we came to the first bridge, where we again stopped and the young people took the children down and

let them paddle in the creek. Craig had only a pair of underpants on and ended up with a cold a week later.

The next bridge was still burning and we were not sure if it was safe to cross. On inspecting it the men decided it was, and that we could go on. From there it was not far to the township of Kingston. When we turned into the town. It was like watching a war movie, there were people everywhere, sitting in the gutters with their heads in their hands, faces streaked with smoke, just sitting there, not saying anything. Some had suitcases, others, bags beside them. This was a shock as at that time we did not know that Snug had been burnt out and that some of these people had only escaped with what they had.

Again I don't remember our trip up to Dynnynne where Sheila's mother lived and where she was taking us. My thoughts were, where was Merve, why didn't he come home, and where were the girls? The one thing that was good was that I had Roy to give back to his mother.

After ringing around for what again seemed like hours, Jacky came for Roy, but there was nothing about Merve. What had happened was that he was refused permission to go any further up Huon Road than below the Turnip Fields, even though he told the police he was trying to get home to his family and that he was also a fire volunteer for Fern Tree. I think he tried a couple of times but the bitumen was catching fire and he had to leave. On his way down to Hobart he saw a lady just standing on the side of the road. He stopped and told her to get in the car, but she said she had to get something from the house. He waited and finally followed her and found her standing in the middle of the room with her arms full of her husband's suits. He finally got her and the suits into the car. Only a few hundred yards further on he found a couple on the side of the road near Hillborough Road. They at least had packed their belongings into suitcases, but the flames were coming up behind them, so they were lucky Merve came along when he did.

While I was waiting at Sheila's mothers place, one of the visitors informed me that our newly erected house that we had built ourselves had been burnt down, I should have been devastated but all I could think about was where everyone was. One thing that I did think of was that my friend's wheelchair was in the hallway. It had been sent from Brisbane as a spare while she was staying in Tasmania.

While I was waiting to have news about my family I watched the TV, well for a while I did. I could not bear to see what had happened and still was. Even though I had been in it myself, it looked a lot worse that what had happened to us while we were trying to escape.

Finally Merve arrived. He had been ringing the Town Hall (as many people were) and was told where I was. He had been frantic as when the trucks had arrived in Hobart with the people who had been caught at the Fern Tree Hotel, we were not with them.

While we were trying to get through to the Huon Road many residents on arriving at the Fern Tree Hotel were told they could not go any further. They locked their cars and some even had to leave their pets and went and assembled outside the hotel, hoping they would be rescued by someone. There were nearly 100 women and children of all ages all sitting and waiting. They watched the hall, store, fire station, pub and the Villa, all go up in flames around them.

Speaking to many of them afterwards they said they thought it was all over, especially when someone came around telling the women to take off all their nylon underwear, as it would be the first to burn. Suddenly two trucks, that had been up on the mountain came out of the smoke. Everyone was quickly handed up on to the back of the trucks and wet bags thrown over them. These were the trucks that Merve was told had arrived in Hobart.

When he knew we were all right, he went off to find the girls. Chris had been evacuated from the school with other children, who usually caught buses to outlying suburbs, and placed in the river. This was ok until burning tiles began dropping next to them in the water, having been blown off the burning houses further up the hill behind the school. She was later taken to a private home for safety, but that too became threatened and she was moved for the second time.

Glen was marched with the Macquarie Street School children up to the Barracks and later taken to some of the houses on the Domain near Government House. She was later picked up by her father and brought back to the Dynnyrne where I was with Craig.

We decided to leave Chris with the people who had taken her in when she was evacuated for the second time and go back to see how our home was at Fern Tree. I had been told that our home had been burn down, but Merve told me he had been back and it was alright.

It was a bit of a horror trip going up Huon Road as some of the trees along the sides of the road were still burning and many of the power poles were on fire and falling down near the road. We arrived at the junction of the Huon and Summerleas Road but it was too dark to see what had been burnt down. Later the next day we learnt that the pub was gone as well as Street's store and the hall and the fire station. The Villa was also destroyed; this was a fine old home behind the hotel where we had stayed when we first arrived in Tasmania in 1960 before moving down to Leslie Farm.

Travelling down Summerleas Road we were stopped by one of our neighbours Mr GRAY who wanted to know who we were as there had been some looting, when he saw it was us he signalled us on.

At last we arrived home; everything was quiet as most of families had not yet returned. Cliff DAVIS who lived across the road called out "who the bloody hell are you" we were more scarred of being accosted by the neighbours than the fire. Cliff said it was so hot in his house and could the boys come up and sleep on our concrete floor.

As small fires were still flaring up every now and then we decided to take turns at sleeping and keeping an eye around the house, it was well we did as a small fire broke out under our trailer about 7am.

On arriving home and going in the front door we were overcome with the smell of burnt wood and beer. The back part near the house had caught fire when the wind swept some leaves under the eaves setting the beams alight. Roy the little baby I was looking after lived a few doors from us and his father Alex SKELENICA had walked from Hobart to his house and was very lucky to save it as it was circled by fire. After making sure it was safe, he walked along the road to see if there was anyone in need of help. He was almost blind from the smoke and his ears and

head were burnt. When he arrived at our house he noticed there was smoke coming from the roof and thought it was our combustion stove but decided to have a look. As soon as he opened the door he realized the roof was on fire.

Finding there was no water in the taps; he looked around to see what he could find and came across our homemade beer in a rubbish tin in the corner of the kitchen. Dragging it up the bank to the back of the house he was able to step across to the roof and by pulling off some iron he was able to pour the beer over the fire and put it out. That was why the house smelt like a brewery.

A large number of Summerleas Road residents lost their homes, out of 57 homes only 17 remained. The fire raced up and down and across the mile long road taking a house here, leaving four on the other side, only to race back and take another four further up the road.

The death toll was very high over the worst burnt out areas, so we were relieved to hear that none of our neighbours were missing. Mr KING down past where we lived, died later from burns he had received.

Over the next few months we gradually started to live normal lives, some families did not return but many did. Homes were built and looking back now that I have seen and heard of other disastrous fires throughout Australia I realize that we did not get counselling (not heard of in 1967) everyone just got on with it and helped themselves and their neighbours.

Because it was so sudden and was all over in a day there was not the usual radio or TV coverage, especially in the Huon Road area and mostly only those who lived from Longley to South Hobart were aware of how close we came to nearly losing over 100 people at Fern Tree that day.

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## **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 12224, A'Beckett Street, VIC 8006 Australia  
<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~dcginc/>

## George Johnston–The Sailor Boy

Nancy Gibb

Was it just happenstance that George JOHNSTON was the first seaman in his extended family? His parents Alexander Johnston and Margaret Lyle of Glasgow arrived in Launceston on the *Storm Cloud* in 1855 after a voyage of 71 days in the stormiest seas of the world, and George was born only a few weeks later on 15 September 1855. He had 12 close uncles and aunts and almost 40 first cousins in Scotland but it was only his younger brother Alexander and Alexander's descendants who shared George's love of the sea.

A number of letters which George wrote to his family in Tasmania have survived and show that he spent many years on cargo and passenger boats, both sail and steam, plying between the Far East, UK, the Americas and Australasia. He had a firm clear handwriting and was of a literary turn of mind.

It is not certain when George first went to sea. There is a letter from him dated 5 September (no year given) from the *Hawkesbury* in Sydney, about to leave for Shanghai. George described it as a "flash trader". 'The Times' shipping records show that the *Hawkesbury*, a Devitt & Moore clipper packet, did a regular run between London and Sydney; a voyage in 1874 arrived in Gravesend on 2 Jan from Sydney and departed again on 29 Feb 1874. Perhaps George was on these voyages. He would have been nineteen.

By July 1874 George was writing to his family from the other side of the world on board the *Wimmera*, a celebrated Aberdeen clipper and large passenger and cargo ship of 1008 tons, Lloyds class A1. She was sailing somewhere north east of the (River) Plate, which forms part of the border between Argentina and Uruguay on the SE coastline of South America, a famous nautical area visited by Sir Francis Drake in early 1578 and where the German warship *Admiral Graf Spee* was scuttled after fighting Allied warships in WW2. They 'spoke' (met at sea) another ship which would have delivered George's letter at its next port of call. The *Wimmera* had previously sailed from Calcutta on 13 Jan 1874 presumably to South America and then back 'home' (England) where it was reported anchored in the River from Deal on 17 Oct 1874, bound for Port Phillip and Geelong in Victoria.

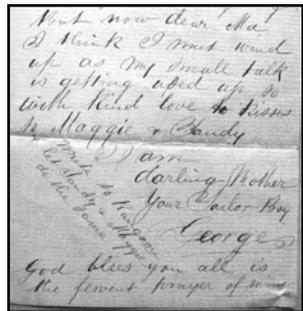
Probably in late 1875 George transferred to the *Peter Denny* (see picture) of the Albion Shipping Co., 998 tons, a fast sailer which engaged in the China trade and also took passengers to Australia and NZ. George wrote from Bluff at the southernmost tip of NZ on 23 Jan 1876 saying they were off to Rangoon. Within a few months the ship had turned around again and was in Bassen (near Goa, in what was the Portuguese East Indies and is now Gambia on the west coast of South Africa), from whence George wrote home on 2 May 1876:



I have managed to make myself comfortable aboard the ship pretty well supplied with clothes and have a comfortable place to live in comparatively speaking so am Jolly as Mark Tapeley. (*Charles Dickens - Martin Chuzzlewit. Mark Tapley was Ostler at the Blue Dragon Inn and servant to young Martin Chuzzlewit. He accompanies Martin to America and later marries Mrs. Lupin, the Blue Dragon's landlady. The inn is renamed The Jolly Tapley.*)

George signed the letter: I am, Darling Mother, Your Sailor Boy George. (see photo).

Then it was off again to Bluff in NZ (24 Nov 1876) and then Rangoon and after the East Indies going to either London or Liverpool. Hopefully the ship reached London in time for George to spend Christmas with his Uncle John's family. He wrote from there on 5 Jan 1877, mentioning a walk to the dock with Maggie the eldest daughter, and how he secured a fortuitous late berth on the three-masted *Loch Ard*:



"I leave tomorrow morning or Sunday not sure which, but I have to go aboard in the morning. I was nearly losing the chance but the Captain behaved very decently to me and signed me. ... I was going down yesterday but Maggie said she was going for a walk so I went with her and did not go to the dock. Tonight there is a party at our house so I made up my mind to stay in today and was going tomorrow Saturday the 6th to see when the Captain was to sign hands. He told me a week ago that he would leave here on the 10th and so sign on the 8th. But something turned up and he signed on the 4th. I recd a *Launceston Examiner* from Glasgow this morning and looking over the Births Deaths and Marriages saw a notice of Milligans loss at sea he was third mate in the P & O. You know he and I were great friends when he was in the *Araunah* and his death so upset me that I had to take time out somewhere to calm myself. I was so grieved, so sorry poor lad he was, such a nice chap and so young only 24. I just went down to the dock thinking I might see someone on the P & O boats in port that knew him, and aboard the *Loch Ard* at the same time the Captain told me he had signed all yesterday, but as you went round there Johnston I will make room for you, sign here; All right! Thank you sir." (!).

He wrote from the *Loch Ard* in Nov 1877 saying they were in Shanghai en route to Sydney then going on to Twatow and Amoy. He mentioned evading a typhoon:

"I am now in China sound and hearty after a very fine passage of forty six days to the anchorage of Woosong. We had to lie there a week for the high spring tides and have been in Shanghai another week. The other ship I at one time thought of shipping in came up four days ago with her topgallant masts gone. She lost them in a typhoon, one of those fearful blows known only to the China Seas."

Luckily he did not remain on the *Loch Ard* much longer, as seven months later she was wrecked on 1st June 1878 near Curdies Inlet, 27 miles west from Cape Otway on voyage from London to Melbourne, with the loss of 52 lives of the 54 passengers and crew aboard. In a later letter George mentioned having "run away" from this ship in Melbourne—more likely he signed off, or he would not have been able to claim sea time towards his mate's ticket.

From then on it is not known which ships he sailed on, but he continued to write home at intervals. On 29 May 1878, writing from Glasgow, he called himself a

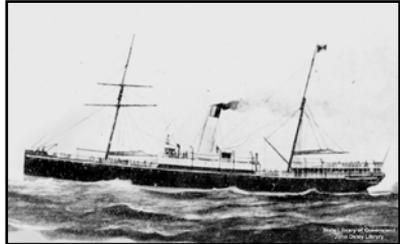
'cocoethes scribendi'. He was previously in Greenock for 10 days—"a fine town". Next voyage was to be to the Mediterranean and New York—a 3 month round trip. He said he had written to the Registrar-General of Seamen—he was 6 weeks short of the required 4 years (for a mate's ticket?).

On 12 July 1878 he wrote a long letter from Bombay. He mentioned having sailed there from Glasgow to Liverpool then to Gibraltar and the Mediterranean, then through Suez. He talked about Port Said and mentioned that they wore paper collars which could be discarded when they got too grubby. He gave news of Uncle George in Glasgow, and his father's cousin John MUIRHEAD from Glasgow now living in Bombay. (*This information enabled the author to trace the family's Muirhead connection. George's paternal grandmother's sister Bethia LAMONT/LEARMONTH married a Muirhead.*)

Another letter undated but probably late 1878 mentioned how Glasgow is changing. George was to sit his final seaman's exam in Glasgow in July. He gave his Uncle George's full address in Glasgow and said that Uncle Peter lived near the Necropolis and was preaching. (*Thus providing wonderful corroboration for the author's research on Census records - the surname Johnston being rather common in Glasgow!*).

It is not known what happened to George in the next five years. He obtained his First Mate's ticket on 25 Oct 1883. Perhaps he decided he was tired of sailing the world and wanted to be closer to home and his family, for whom he obviously had much affection. George's eldest brother was by that time living in Sydney.

Possibly George was one of the crew of the steamer *Cahors* on her maiden voyage to Australia in 1884 and decided to stay with her when she became an interstate coastal steamer. The SS *Cahors* was a powerful screw steamer of 550 tonnage register and of 1200 tons gross, built in England in 1883. She carried 200 passengers and cargo between Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane, making several record-breaking runs. About 1884 George became the second officer.



No doubt George's family were happy to know he was closer to home and no longer subject to the perils of the open sea. But on 15 June 1885 the family received terrible news. Shipwreck!

*The Sydney Morning Herald* (SMH) of Friday 12 June 1885 reported:

The steamer *Cahors*, from Sydney to Brisbane, ran on Evans' Reef, 13 miles south of Richmond Heads, at 6 pm on Wednesday, while going at a rate of 14 knots per hour (sic). After continuous signalling, the steamer *Burwah*, also bound to Brisbane, came up at midnight. She immediately lowered boats, and commenced transhipping the passengers from the *Cahors* which was accomplished with difficulty .... The steamer *Tomki* also stayed by the *Cahors* for some hours today, and succeeded in rescuing a horse which was swimming about ... There is little or no hope of the vessel being recovered, the water in the hold and engine-room being at tide level. Captain WALKER and the officers and crew still stay by her.

*The Illustrated Sydney News* Vol 22, No. 7, 1885 published a “highly interesting narrative ..... supplied by a gentleman who was a passenger on the *Burwah*”, accompanied by the large half page pen-and-ink illustration. Interestingly, it was not ‘women and children first’, because it was still dark. “The men were let down by means of ropes into the sea, and were then picked up by the lifeboat”. Ladies and children were taken off in a coal basket, but “... even this was not unattended with danger, owing to the heavy surf waves. One lady was ducked under water three times before the men were able to haul her into their boat”.

The next day it was reported that the Government steamer *Dione* followed the *Burwah* and later “.. returned with 30 of the crew, the second mate (ie George), and 130 mail bags.” But then tragedy struck. As described six months later in the Launceston *Daily Telegraph*:

“It will be remembered with regret by many of our readers that Mr George Johnston, second mate of the *Cahors*, lost his life when returning to the wreck of that vessel ... Mr. Johnston and the crew worked all night, aiding the passengers, who were at last transhipped to the steamer *Burwah* and landed safely. He was lightly clad in his under-clothing, wet and exhausted from over-exertion, but he went ashore in charge of the mails, which he landed safely at Clarence Head, and remained there during the night. Next day, the 12th of June, he was going back in a launch to the captain and part of the crew who remained in charge of the wreck, when a heavy sea struck the launch and she nearly foundered. Mr. Johnston was washed overboard, and as the launch could not be brought to or turned, he perished in sight of those who admired his gallantry and unselfish labours to save others, and who were most anxious to rescue him. The launch had, in fact, put out contrary to law, as the danger flag was flying at Clarence Head at the time.”

The wreck occasioned a great deal of interest, the *Sydney Morning Herald* carrying the news story for many days. It was also the subject of several Editorials particularly when George’s death became known.

The first meeting of the Marine Board of Inquiry was on Monday 29th June 1886, with a full account published next day. It was stated that the Second officer (George) had been relieved of his watch when the vessel was a little to the south of Clarence Heads, so he was not personally responsible for any of the ensuing drama. Eventually the Board decided that the Master had navigated his ship too close to the shore and suspended his certificate for 6 months. The Chief Officer was also suspended for 3 months. The *Cahors* was sold as a hulk. (Jack LOVEY, “Wrecks on the NSW Coast”, 1st Ed. 1993.)

George was awarded a posthumous gold medal for bravery by the National Relief Society of NSW. (*both sides pictured*). The Mayor of Launceston wrote pompously to Alexander, in the language of the times:

“I need not say how deeply I sympathise with you and Mrs Johnston on the loss you have sustained; yet you will derive some consolation from the reflection that your son died as a British sailor should die—at the post of duty, having endangered his own life in his efforts to rescue others.

... I am quite sure that parents do not need a medal to perpetuate the memory of such a son ...”



More friendly was a letter to George's brother Alex from G D CLARKEY of Kensington Hall, Melbourne where George spent his last night before sailing on the ill fated voyage:

"I trust that you will pardon the liberty which I, a stranger to you, am taking. Your brother whose sad loss we deeply regret was a great friend of ours and spent his last night at our house. We are very anxious to obtain his photo and should feel very much obliged if you could kindly let us know where we could get one..." (*The author would love to hear from any Clarkey descendants, particularly if they have a photo!*)

It was a great joy to the author when she discovered the medal and letters are now in the possession of the descendants of George's brother Charles. The letters not only made it possible to piece together some of George's travels, but gave independent corroboration that the extended Glasgow Johnston family had been correctly identified.

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## Venture and Adventure

The Romantic story of the Henty Family by Rev J Lewis Hurse, as presented as a series in *The Examiner*, August 1933.

Part 2—Submitted by Angela Prosser-Green (Member No 6599)

Where did Thomas Henty settle? The answers to that question are various, and it is difficult to ascertain the correct one with certitude. Some have asserted that the property at Kelso, now occupied by Mr Reginald SLATER, was first owned and occupied by Thomas Henty. But circumstantial evidence, backed by the statements of members of a family whose ancestor—Henry Hills—was an overseer to the Henty Landed Estates, seems to the writer to point conclusively to the beautiful and extensive property known as "Landfall", now in the possession of Mr Gerald ARCHER, as the estate occupied by Mr Thomas Henty before this date.

In this connection an old paper, of early twentieth century date, had come into the writer's possession, in which the following most interesting paragraph appears:- "There is, living on the banks of the Tamar, an interesting personality, whose life spans the vital period of Tasmanian history between 1833 and 1904 (the date of the paper mentioned above). Mr Frank Hills has been settled on East Tamar for 73 years, and only for five or six weeks has he been away from haunts which have become so familiar to him. Mr Hills' father was associated for many years with the celebrated Henty family, both in England and in Tasmania. He came out to them in 1833, to become overseer in connection with their landed efforts. Two years previously (1829) three of his sons accompanied the youthful pioneers (Stephen, James, and John) to Western Australia, and afterwards to Launceston, and when he followed he brought out from England the remainder of his family—seven in all.

"The old gentleman, who had, in fact, been connected with the Hentys for thirty years in Sussex, England, spent two further years with them on the old "Landfall" estate, whereupon he occupied a farm adjoining, called "Allanvale", since named Eastfield (now owned by Mr John MacDONALD, who lately purchased it from Mr E W PARRY).

"Mr Henry Hills died in 1866, but some time previously his son, Mr Frank Hills, had taken over the farm, and he carried it on until the early eighties, when he rented at "Landfall" his present (1904) property, "New Spring Farm" (a mile or so further

north from the "Landfall" homestead). Mr Frank Hills is now 77 years old, has been twice married, and has done his duty to his adopted country in many ways, for instance, he has reared a family of 20 children, 13 of whom are still (1904) alive. He and his father were among the earliest orchardists on the Tamar.

"On his present farm are the remains of an unused road (says this scribe), which in the forties was destined to connect Launceston with George Town; and at Dilston there are still the old piles of a collapsed bridge erected in 1847, but never applied to the purpose for which it was intended. Mr Hills plaintively remarked that had the old road been opened there would have been only one small hill to surmount between Dilston and Launceston, whereas on the present thoroughfare the ascents are as numerous as those in 'Pilgrim's Progress'."

**Hentys and "Landfall":** It is practically certain that the original grantees to what is known as "Landfall" were the brothers George and Charles BARNARD. In an old book on Tasmania, entitled "Present State of Van Diemen's Land" by Henri Widowson, published in London in 1829, there occurs the statement that the land about Barnard's Creek (as it has been called for many years) was under cultivation by the Barnard Bros in 1828. The old house on the south bank of this creek has the reputation of having been intended for a mill. (Miss WAYN, of the Records Office, thinks that G Barnard brought a mill with him). The house is three-storied, and has all the appearance of a possible mill house, though the tradition is that it was never used as such.

In the year 1830 Governor Arthur authorised a map to be published, on which the various estates and sections of VDL with their owners, were plainly marked. I understand that this is fairly well known, and on this map the name of Barnard appears as the owner of the estate adjoining Reeves—the section nearer Launceston. But in discussing this subject we must not forget that Thomas Henty died in the year 1839—only seven years after his arrival in Launceston. According to his own correspondence with Mr John Street, (referred to later), a part of that time was spent at "Cormiston" (1835) - Mr F W Hills says "for twelve months". That leaves a very brief period for the occupation of any other home.

During all this time the impression left on one's mind is that of a man who was rather concentrating on the development of his sons' fortunes than concerned about his own. Granted that the tradition of the Hills family is correct (and I accept it as such), then Thomas Henty did for a time occupy, but did not own "Landfall"—and this is all that can be stated with certainty.

The Kelso house may have been occupied by the father. It was certainly owned and occupied by the son, Charles Henty, who, according to the inscription on the tombstone in George Town Cemetery—died March 18, 1864. His wife followed him on *May 4, 1872*.

**First Owner of "Landfall":** Mr G M Barnard has supplied me with some interesting information about "Landfall". He writes

"I never heard that Mr Thomas Henty occupied "Landfall". My grandfather, the late G W Barnard, took it up originally, and gave it its name from the old sailor's word, 'landfall', meaning, literally, 'to arrive exactly at one's destination'. My family knew the Hentys fairly well. As a matter of fact, the two families were indirectly connected by marriage. It is quite possible that Thomas Henty may have had possession of the property and other land in the vicinity, before it was alienated.

"My grandfather built the mill, erected a high dam, which was swept away three times by flood, and cut a by-wash, mostly through solid rock, on the northern side of the creek. I believe he lost over 7,000 pounds in the venture, and the mill was never worked. It was the intention that the family should live in Launceston, but eventually they occupied the old mill house attached to the mill.

"I was born at Landfall several years after my grandfather's death, and my father—the late Thomas Barnard—controlled the property until 1875, when it was sold to the late Mr Frank Archer. "I remember the late Mr Frank Hills. He was a tenant on a portion of 'Landfall' and all the family were widely respected.

"I am sorry I cannot give you more satisfactory information. In the old days people seem to have been very careless about records that might interest posterity. I had an old diary of my grandfather's, which contained a lot of interesting information, but it was lent, and has never been found since. A good deal of it dealt with my grandfather's marine survey—he was originally a naval officer, but threw up his commission to settle here—of King Island and the North-West Coast. I cannot remember the exact date, but it was somewhere in the thirties of last century. (No; the twenties, according to H Widdowson, who travelled through in 1828, and found it cultivated. J.L.H.) He did this job with a crew of convicts in a whaleboat, and had a mutiny, to make matters more exciting."

In the issue of the *Launceston Advertiser* dated November 15, 1832, the following notice appears: "having taken possession of the 100 acres called Red Hills, late the property of Mr C Barnard, I hereby caution all persons not to trespass by feeding stock, or in any other way whatsoever. Thomas Henty, Cormiston, Nov. 10, 1832."

In the same issue there appears the following: "on sale, at the Stores of the undersigned—The cargo of the schooner *Conch*, from the Cape of Good Hope, consisting of Cape wine in half and quarter pipes; butter, in casks and kegs; tallow, limejuice, empty bags. J and C S Henty, Launceston, Oct. 10, 1832.

**Henty Properties:** Whilst dealing with early Henty properties, it may be of interest, to my readers if I interpolate a story at this stage. An old lady parishioner of the writer living at Invermay, recently related the following facts: "For many years," she said, "I worked for old Mr. WHITEFOORD. I was married from his house 47 years ago. The house we lived in was very old and was situated about the left centre of what is now called Mann-street—the houses on the opposite side occupying what we called the cow paddock. The right side of Henty-street, a few chains lower down, formed the southern boundary of the estate. There were large double iron gates to the George Town-road entrance to Mann-street, and the lodge was stationed just about where Mrs GOUGH's store is now." "Mr Whitefoord," she said, "often conversed with me concerning the early days of the colony, and the name of the Henty family was frequently on his lips. He told me, not once, but often, that the old homestead has always belonged to the Hentys (that is Charles S)" I asked her if she could remember the name of the place, but she could not.

This property was owned and occupied by Mr William Henty until he removed his residence to Hobart at the time of his appointment to the position of Colonial Secretary during the Weston regime. From that time until he left Tasmania for New South Wales, the place was occupied by Mr Whitefoord, who held the two posts of Recorder and Commissioner in the Court of Requests.

Some disagreement exists concerning the name of this Henty home. Some say that it was known as Invermay House, but others apply the designation to the old McKENZIE home across the George Town-road and near the site of St Finn Barr's school. I have not been able to come to any finality in the matter.

[Note - Mr Whitefoord was very well known and much respected by older residents of our city. He has been described as "the perfect type of an English gentleman." His wife, who pre-deceased him, was much loved by all who knew her. She is well remembered as a little lady of the early Victorian type, one of her characteristic features being the ringlets that hung on either side of her face.]

**Henty Home at Kelso:** Nor must we forget a property of which brief mention has already been made, which holds many intimate and tender memories for a number of people who are still living. It lies on the west bank of the Tamar, and near to the mouth of the river, namely, at Kelso. Close enquiry has satisfied the writer that the old Henty home, occupied for many years by Mr and Mrs Charles Shum Henty, is that now occupied by Mr Reginald Slater. One lady, and old friend of the Henty family, tells of numerous visits paid by her over 50 years ago to this home, when she was a little girl. She said that the house was exceedingly old even then, and that the floor of the verandah was so rotten that it had broken into many holes, through which she had often seen snakes poke up their heads.

Referring to the quantity of these reptiles which infested these parts in those days, she said that as they walked along the dusty roads they would often count the spoors the snakes made in the dust, and often it ran into hundreds.

When speaking at Kelso, Mr William Dowling became reminiscent.

"In my day," said this veteran, "this house belonged to that most genial and honourable of men, Mr Charles Shum Henty" .... Then he began to laugh, "You have stirred up a humorous memory," he said. "When I was a boy one of my greatest pleasures, eagerly looked forward to from year to year, was to spend my holidays at Kelso along with Vernon de LITTLE (son of Mr B de Little), who always accompanied me. Our chief enjoyment was that of sailing out on the Tamar—and indeed in calm weather. Outside the Heads—in the little boat which Charles Henty had named *Susan*—after his wife, he added—when married her name was Susan BONIFACE, of Arundel, England. "One day," he continued, "Mr Henty came out with us. He was a great joker and was for ever laughing, and suddenly, without any warning, he tossed me head over heels into the water. Of course (he added) he knew that I was in no danger of drowning; but I have never forgotten that episode. When I came to the surface he was nearly bursting his sides, laughing at the comical figure I was cutting in the water."

Regarding the Henty's ownership of Kelso, it must appeal to any thoughtful mind who knows aught of their history, that an astute and far-seeing man such as Mr Thomas Henty was, would probably perceive that strategic advantage of establishing that spot at a point as near to the Tamar mouth as possible, and so within easier access of Portland. This would save the necessity of his ships sailing up the difficult and winding stream on each trip, especially at night time. Supplies could be floated down on lighters by the tide in two days, with a minimum of expense, and reloaded on to the busy, bustling little barques and schooners that soon began to ply regularly between Van Diemen's Land and the mainland.

**A Letter from "Cormiston":** In August 8, 1835, Thomas Henty wrote a letter to his friend John Street, which bears the startling heading, "Cormiston". The present

writer has examined several documents, and approached many old identities, but has proven without doubt that "Cormiston" was purchased from the Crown by one Mr. Archibald THOMSON (22nd March 1828). It has remained in the Thomson family ever since—which is, perhaps, something of a record.

Nathaniel LUCAS had in 1820 bought 60 acres of land on the West Tamar, and Charles Lucas obtained the block next "Danbury Park", in 1827 (Griffiths). "Cormiston", according to a record in the Hobart office, adjoins this block. It is of interest to know that at the present day the block of land on the right-hand side of the West Tamar-road, and opposite the Ecclestone-road, is still designated "Lucas' paddock". It is asserted by Mr MOORE-ROBINSON that Mr William Henty did occupy "Cormiston" for a period, and Mr William Francis Hills declared that he remembered his grandfather, Henry Hills, say that Mr Thomas Henty had also occupied that homestead for 13 months. From these facts and from the heading of the letter mentioned above, it is seen that for a period, at least, "Cormiston" was occupied by members of the Henty family—though it was never owned by them.

Before leaving this interesting subject of property ownership, a matter of special interest has been brought under my notice. James Henty, the ancestor of the present Launceston branch of the family, was set up in business soon after his father's return from Hobart, as a merchant. The building in which he is said to have carried his business forms the rear portion of the premises owned to-day by Law, Duncan and Co of Cimitiere-street. The old house known as "Grant Staples" was also built by this soon afterwards passing into the possession of Mr Richard GREEN. James Henty removed to Geelong, and later entered into a business partnership in Melbourne with a branch in Sydney. It was in recent years (1896) that his grandson, Mr T Norman Henty, returned to Launceston, and, by a strange coincidence opened up a business nearly opposite to his grandfather's old business premises and home. One other property owned by Mr Charles Henty was the block on the corner of Welman and Arthur streets on which now stands the fine brick guest house of Mrs CLARK. It was purchased from him by Mr W C WILLSON (father of the Deputy Commissioner for Taxes). I would ask the pardon of my readers in digressing as I have done and can only hope that the reading of these facts has proved as interesting to them as their discovery has been to me.

Mention has been made many times of Charles Shum Henty. In 1834 he visited England, and was so successful in his endeavours to interest British capital in Tasmania that he returned with a Royal Charter from King William the Fourth, dated May 21, 1835, "empowering the society or co-partnership, styled the Bank of Australasia, to carry on the business of banking in the territories commonly called New Holland and Van Diemen's Land, and the smaller islands adjacent." During the trip to the Old Country he made the best use of his time, and married Miss Susan BONIFACE, a lady who afterwards became well known and much esteemed and loved by a wide circle of friends, many of whom are still with us.

The business of the Cornwall Bank was acquired by the new institution, and on January 1, 1836, branches were simultaneously in Launceston, Hobart Town, and Sydney. Local boards of directors were appointed at each centre, the Launceston board consisting of Messrs W E LAWRENCE (Chairman), James Henty, William BARNES (Trevallyn), and Henry REED (Mount Pleasant). Mr Charles S Henty was

the first manager. The initial capital was 200,000 pounds in 500 shares of 40 pounds a share.

The obtaining of this Royal Charter explains the meaning of the beautiful royal coat of arms that adorns the corner of the present handsome bank building. The first edifice in which the Bank of Australasia was conducted was a square cottage-like structure, with a shingle roof, standing opposite the Queen Victoria Museum, near to where "The Towers" now stands. Some few years afterwards it was removed to the well-known premises in Cameron-street, which still bear vivid reminders of the past, in the name that adorns the front, and also the iron bars which still guard the windows. It is now used as the Agricultural Bureau. The business was finally removed to the commodious and stately building which forms an elegant adornment on the south-west corner of the intersection of Brisbane and St John streets.

**William Henty arrives:** William Henty, a third son of Thomas Henty, who was left behind in England in 1831, arrived in Launceston late in 1836, or early 1837. (The writer has gathered this information from an old tombstone discovered in the Cypress-street Cemetery, bearing the following inscription, "Sacred to the memory of William, infant son of William and Matilda S Henty, who died at sea on December 9, 1836. Aged one year and six months." (The inference naturally is that William and his wife arrived in Launceston some time after the death of this child.) He had chosen the calling of a solicitor and might be termed one of the business ancestors of the well-known firm of Ritchie, Parker and Alfred Green. William Henty entered into a partnership with Mr John Ward GLEADOW, known as Gleadow and Henty, with offices in St John-street, where Armitage and Armitage now carry on their business. In Walch's Almanac in 1863 the firm of Gleadow, Ritchie and Parker is mentioned, the foundation date being given as March 27, 1836.

William Henty ultimately stood for Parliament, and became State Treasurer during the regime of Mr WESTON, father of Mr W D Weston, of Elphin-road. Charles also succeeded in getting in to the House of Assembly, and represented one of the Northern constituencies for some years.

**Blown into Portland Bay:** But it is the story of Edward, Stephen, John, and Frank, and their romantic development of the vast areas of Portland, that ultimately rendered the name of Henty one to be conjured with. After his father's return from Hobart, and it had become certain that the free grant of land had been finally withdrawn by the Home Government, Edward Henty, disappointed but not disheartened, turned his attention to the vast stretches of country that lay on the opposite side of Bass Strait—crying out for settlement. He sailed away in the barque *Camavon* in 1832, and nosed his way along the none too safe southern coast of New Holland until he came to Spencer Gulf. Here he landed. Re-embarking, he proceeded, and was blown by a friendly storm into Portland Bay. "Had it not been for this restlessness on the part of Edward Henty," says a late nineteenth century writer, "Thomas Henty and his seven sons would doubtless have settled down to be merchants, woolbrokers, whalers, lawyers, and bankers. Notables, without a doubt, they would all have been, but the restless spirit of Edward was the cause of the family name becoming famous in the history of Australia. Van Diemen's Land was too small for him. Three of his brothers had seen western Australia, and had reported it barren. He wished to see the southern

shore for himself. So, a short time after he landed from London, Edward Henty sailed in the barque *Camavon* (Captain ALDRED) to Spencer Gulf and remained there two months examining the country. He secured a passage back to Launceston in the schooner *Thistle* (Captain LIDDLE) from Port Lincoln and it was during this voyage that Edward Henty got his first experience at close quarters of Portland and its environs."

This was the commencement of that long connection between the Henty family and the schooner *Thistle*. For many years the gallant little boat sailed backwards and forward between Van Diemen's Land and the mainland.

"The hurricane which drove Edward Henty into Portland Bay proved the cause of the laying of the foundation of a large city and the settlement of the prosperous western district of Victoria. Edward Henty was tremendously impressed with all that he saw of the natural resources of the country—a good harbour, excellent fishing grounds, a perfect anchorage and landing, the luxuriant vegetation on the shore, indicating a good climate and soil. What better place could there be for the site of a settlement? In Van Diemen's Land no good land could then be obtained. Here it was to be had for the taking. At this time there was no settlement, no white man nearer than King George's Sound on the west and twofold Bay on the east."

**Sealers and Whalers:** So writes this scribe of the 80's; but it has since been shown that without a doubt Portland Bay was frequented by sealers and whalers, who had built a few huts and a couple of jetties there, for their own convenience. In a recent issue of the Melbourne *Argus* a letter appeared from the pen of the secretary of the Portland Historical Association, stating that Captain DUTTON, a whale fisherman, had made this interesting port his home for many years prior to the coming of Edward Henty, and mentioned that in his correspondence Edward Henty had stated that he pitched his tent on his arrival between two jetties—these being doubtless jetties built by the whalers. Nevertheless, this does not detract in any degree from the fame of Thomas Henty's sons as the developmental settlers in the Portland and Western districts of Victoria.

Isaac SELBY, in his "History of Melbourne", writes: "The Hentys had been preceded in Portland by the whalers, so they turned to pastoral pursuits." "Yet", he adds, "in the true memorial spirit, we set down the fact the he (Edward Henty) was the first permanent settler and pastoral pioneer in Victoria."

**Settling of Portland:** The scribe mentioned above continues: "Edward Henty again visited Portland Bay in 1833, in the schooner *Elizabeth*, and prospected the country inland. He found good grass and soil round Darlott's creek, Lake Condah, and Bridgewater, and then returned to Launceston to report to his father his determination to settle in Portland. Before sailing to Portland, however, Thomas Henty stipulated that a trip should be made to Western Australia, so that he might view the landscape over with his own eyes, and see for himself the possibilities, or otherwise, of the situation. This was done, and the old man of Sussex, having seen the land, decided finally to abandon the grant, for it was seen to be 'sand not land' (their own words). After some months Thomas Henty fitted out his young and plucky son (he was only 24) with stock and farm implements, some young fruit trees, seedlings, seeds, etc., bought from John Pascoe FAWKNER, who at that time kept the Cornwall Hotel, in Cameron-street, and also had a nursery garden on the slopes of Windmill Hill, Launceston."

The writer has made careful enquiries regarding the site of this garden, and Mr William Dowling came to his assistance with the information that his father Mr Henry Dowling had purchased it from J P Fawkner, and continued to use it as a garden for many years. It was situated in Brisbane-street, between where "Park View" and "Strathblane" now stand.

**A Terrible Voyage:** To convey this property to Portland Thomas Henty chartered the *Thistle*, and in October, 1834, the expedition sailed from the Tamar. But, alas! The friendly hurricane that drove Edward Henty into Portland Bay proved a fickle jade, and now seemed to have repented of its kindly office. In two days the *Thistle*, laden surely below what would now be called the "Plimsoll line", came within sight of its desired haven, when suddenly a fierce storm broke out from the west, and despite their almost superhuman endeavours, back they were driven to King Island. Six times did they make the attempt to gain their objective, and six times were they driven to the shelter of the island. It was only after 34 days of agonised battling against the wind and tide that the gallant little schooner her freight of live stock sadly depleted owing to deaths during the storm, but her crew still undaunted and cheerful—made the bay, and in due course hove to—as we may surmise—beside one of the whalers' jetties, early in the morning of November 13, 1834, at 10 minutes to 8. By one o'clock, we are told, they had landed 13 heifers, 4 working bullocks 5 pigs, 3 turkeys and 2 guinea fowl; also 6 dogs, 4 indentured servants, a plough, seeds, plants, vines, supplies and fruit trees of different kinds, a fishing boat and a net.

Mr Henry CAMFIELD, a friend of Edward Henty's, also landed, and remained with him for a short time. According to an inscription on a tombstone in the Cypress-street Cemetery, a son of William Henty's, who died at the age of six years (1837), was named Camfield.

From Mr Hardwicke WEEDON, the manager of the Bank for Savings the writer gained the following interesting bit of information: "My father, Mr Charles James Weedon, (he said) came to Tasmania in the *Thomas Laurie*, 300 tons (Captain LANGDON, a grandfather of one of Launceston's medical men, and owner of two vessels). He came to Launceston from Hobart and accompanied Edward Henty to Portland in 1834, assisting him to build the first Henty House."

[to be continued]

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## The Flowerdale District [NW Coast, Tasmania]

By Risdon, part two: *The Advocate*—Saturday, May 30, 1903

The name of "Butterdale" would not be inapt for Flowerdale. Nevertheless, it is a land where deep-tinted English flowers will flourish, and round some of the homesteads, under the shadow of the great trees, one observes a refreshing collection of many-coloured blooms. The hawthorn thrives exceedingly, and in places this familiar bush and also the blackberry, are seen side by side with the tree fern. In such fertile soil almost any plant compatible with climatic conditions will thrive.

**Dairying:** is at present perhaps the most substantial industry in the district. It works in most happily with the somewhat rough nature of the country. Only meagre clearing is necessary before cattle may be run on the slopes and down in the

valleys. The fallen timber is gathered together, some of the bracken is cut and allowed to dry, and the whole is then burnt. On the ash English grasses are sown, and provide ample pasture in a few months' time. The native grass is comparatively valueless. Extensive clearing is not imperative in the first stages of dairying. Afterwards, when the cows are yielding of their milk, the dairyman may devote his spare hours to a more thorough clearance of timber and bracken, and thus in course of years, while already obtaining profits from land, he may enhance the value of his property.

**Sow Fodders:** to increase the holding capacity of his land; or, if he wishes to engage in all-round farming, he may cultivate potatoes, oats, or wheat, and fatten sheep for the market. It is thus that the shrewd landholder is never at a standstill in such country, and it is by this process that some of the Flowerdale farms have increased in value during the past five years from, say, £7 to £20 per acre. The local people are emphatic in the belief that their best land is as well adapted for dairying as for potato cultivation, and that the two resources may be conveniently combined. It is an opinion worthy of the attention of the old-established producers in more settled parts of Tasmania. Some day, too, the latter may recognise the availability of adopting the principle. For obvious reasons there is no extensive dairying at Flowerdale; it is merely an object lesson in miniature. In the first place, there is no great area of country; in the second, because of natural obstacles, the holdings are comparatively small (and wisely so); and in the third, the process of clearing the land is a tedious one.

**The Chief Dairyman:** in the district is Mr A P ANDERSON, of Upper Flowerdale, a view of whose pleasant home appeared in last week's "*Courier*". His house is situated on rising ground, and round about are pleasant slopes, perfectly suited for grazing cattle, and sheltered valleys where they may lie in the cold nights. At present Mr Anderson milks about 38 cows, mostly Devons or Durhams, and he uses their produce for cheese-making. He is the chief cheese-maker in the district, and finds a ready market for his goods on the West Coast. While he recognises the wisdom of cultivating fodders he has not yet been able to rely very fully on them, but still slightly adds to his returns in that way. Mr Anderson was away from home on the day of my visit, but it is understood that he is well satisfied with his prospects at Flowerdale.

**Two Young Englishmen:** who settled in the district 13 years ago. The sight which greeted them on the day of their arrival might very naturally have daunted men who had never fought with nature in her primeval (or any other) state. Their holding was a dense forest, but as the impenetrable bracken and giant trees covered magnificent soil, they shouldered their axes and set to work. It has been a hard battle. For the first few weeks their hands were reduced to a raw condition, and they returned from their laborious toil of an evening with very little result to show for the day's work. A single tree has sometimes occupied their attention for a whole week. They built a comfortable home on the hillside, but in February, 1898, a bush fire swept through the district, and theirs was the only homestead destroyed. Today they run from 40 to 50 cattle on their farm, having about 30 in milk at present. Having to some extent conquered the forest, Mr Vernon SMITH believed that he was fitted to meet the Boers, and he went to South Africa with the first Australian Bushmen. He is back again now, swinging his axe among his cows,

and going out at odd moments with his Kodak to get typical pictures of the district to interest his friends in England. Mr J A Smith, his elder brother, remained on the farm, and is greatly helped by his wife, who evinced worthy courage in making her home in the backwoods.

**Creamery At Upper Flowerdale:** managed by Mr W POWLETT on behalf of the Table Cape Butter and Bacon Factory of Wynyard. Mr J A Smith holds the view that Flowerdale is too cold for Jerseys, Alderneys, or softer cattle, and he confines himself almost entirely to pure Durhams, keeping among his herd a pure Durham bull. He estimates that each cow is worth about £6 per season on artificial grasses. Owing to his land being still heavily timbered he has not been able to go in for cultivation. In the early part of the season the brothers grow a little fodder, but in the flush time they milk entirely from the grass, and dry the cows off in the autumn. Next year they propose to engage in cheese manufacture. Mr B G HAINES is another local settler who devotes himself entirely to dairying. He is a South Australian, and took up land at Boat Harbour 15 years ago. Like the Smiths, he had to wield the pioneer's axe in the district for the first time, and his heavy labours caused a strain from which he has never completely recovered. Mr Haines now has a farm on the hill dividing Flowerdale and Upper Flowerdale and is a staunch believer in the suitability of the land for dairying. On artificial grasses he reckons that he can run 50 cows on 150 acres, but is convinced that the holding capacity could be enormously increased by cultivation—a development which is merely a question of time.

**Feeding Pigs On Milk:** Mr Haines separates his own cream, using an Alfa-Laval machine, driven by a turbine served by steam from a boiler. He has had this plant running constantly for four years, and it has not once got out of order. Most of the other farmers in the district duplicate their returns by engaging in potato cultivation as well as dairying. Mr J T BONNEY conducts a private butter factory, having a very complete Sharples plant. Among his herd are some very fine Ayrshires. Mrs. Elizabeth ALEXANDER keeps 22 cows and affirms that some of her land will carry a cow to the acre on artificial grasses. She adds that on occasion the pasture gets the upper hand. She grows potatoes, and occasionally oats. My examination of the district convinces me that fodders and roots can be as successfully cultivated in Flowerdale as in New Zealand. Our neighbours the other side of the Tasman Sea are able to maintain in this way one and a half and two cows to the acre. My opinion is confirmed by that of some local people, who propose to resort to this advanced system when their land is sufficiently clear. At present they are satisfied with the profits they are making on artificial grasses.

**Table Cape Butter and Bacon Factory:** whose head office is in Wynyard in charge of the secretary (Mr C J FENTON), and whose factory is on the banks of Deep Creek. Besides the factory the company has creameries at Mount Hicks, Sisters Creek, Flowerdale, and Detention. Last year £505 18s 8d was paid to Flowerdale suppliers from the Mount Hicks district. The company, which has been an influential factor in the recent industrial prosperity of the Table Cape districts, was established about 10 years ago, and is a co-operative concern, many of the suppliers being shareholders. According to its rules no more than 10 per cent per annum can be paid in dividends, and this interest has gone to shareholders each year. Supplying shareholders, however, get more than a dividend and the ordinary price for milk, for in the first year they were awarded ¼d a gallon on the milk sent

in; in the second year 1/2d per pound on butter contents of the milk; in the third year 20 per cent on the amount of money paid for supplies; in the fourth year 15 per cent; 5th year 7½ percent; sixth year, 5 per cent; and seventh and eighth years, 3 per cent. In the ninth year no bonus was paid, owing to the cost of improvements to the plant, although the profits were as great last year as hitherto. In the first year £2493 was paid out for milk, and last year £8183. Because of the high price of potatoes a slight falling off, or arrest of increase, has been apparent during the last two years. About 120 tons of butter are sent away every year for distribution throughout Tasmania. Mr Fenton remarks – “Every farmer who has engaged in dairying in the surrounding districts is in a better position than those who have not. Many of the producers were in almost an insolvent condition when the factory started, but now they are doing well.” By getting their monthly cheque they are able to buy goods for cash, and can make a pound go as far as 20s previously under the old system. The same story is told in the dairying districts of Victoria and New South Wales. [The end].

### **Churchyard Humour** *Launceston Examiner, 26 Nov 1894, p3 c6*

Continued from page 249

Another runs thus:-

"Here lies my wife, here let her lie:  
She is at rest and so am I."

A wife had this inscribed on her tombstone:-

"Oh! Do not weep, my husband dear;  
I am not dead but sleeping here:  
Then mend your ways, prepare to die,  
For you are soon to come to I"

Thus evincing her disregard of the laws of grammar. Beneath this inscription her husband pencilled these lines:-

"I do not weep my dearest life,  
For I have got another wife;  
Therefore I cannot come to thee,  
For I must go to cherish she."

Away in the Pine Mountain is to be seen this:-

"Here lies William Moore;  
Reached the golden shore,  
June 14th '64."

The following is certainly as good as any:-

"A lady named Bridget McGuire  
Endeavoured to kindle afire:  
The wood it was green,  
So she tried kerosine,  
And is gone where the fuel is drier."

## We Assaulted The Constabulary

### Extracts from the Campbell Street Gate-book 1875—1880

Compiled by Laurie Moody (Member No 5835)

The following is a list of prisoners who were charged with assaulting various members of the constabulary between the yrs 1875–80. The surnames of the constables who were assaulted are shown on the offence. This practice appears to have ceased after 1880 as no further names appear. As the act of assaulting the police was a common offence, I have only listed the names where a constable's surname is shown. Most were sentenced at the Police Office Hobart unless otherwise stated before being taken to Campbell Street Gaol to serve their sentences.

Some time ago someone asked if I had a list of prison warders who were employed at Campbell Street Gaol. Unfortunately, I don't have at this stage. However, some thirty odd surnames of staff employed there between 1875 and 1880 may possibly assist this person. As per usual, a search of BDM records was undertaken for each person mentioned.

**Abbreviations:** New South Wales appears as NSW, Campbell Street Gaol as CSG and Launceston General Sessions as LGS. There is no further information as NFI. Years as yrs.

**Acknowledgements & Thanks:** Archives Office of Tasmania for Births, Deaths and Marriages, Leonie Mickleborough, Sue Guinan and Linda McKenzie

**Bannon, John:** Gate-book records show John arrived in Tasmania aboard the *Ethel* (date unknown), as a free convict. On 11 Dec 1876 he was found guilty of *Assaulting Constable McCormack* and sentenced to *Three Months*. His warrant number 11681. He arrived at CSG the same day when shown as 18 yrs-old, a seaman, Catholic with no prior convictions and illiterate. John was released on 1 Jan 1877 after a fine was paid. NFI.

**Barclay, Robert:** Convict shipping records show Robert arrived in VDL on 16 May 1846 aboard the *China* from Woolwich. On 30 Sep 1876 he was found guilty at the Police Office New Norfolk of being *Drunk and Disorderly* and *Assaulting Constable Dineen* and sentenced to *14 Days* on the first charge and *One Month* on the second. His warrant number 13081. He arrived at CSG four days later when shown as 70 yrs-old, a labourer, Protestant with three or more prior convictions and could only read. Robert was released on 12 Nov. The day following his release, Robert was found guilty of *Assaulting Constable Peterson* and sentenced to *Three Months*. His warrant number 13143. Robert was eventually released on 12 Jan 1880. NFI.

**Bennett, Thomas aka SMITH; John:** Convict shipping records show Thomas arrived in Tasmania aboard the *Britomart* (date unknown), as a free convict. On 7 Nov 1876 he was found guilty of *Assaulting Constable Connor* and sentenced to *One Month*. His warrant number 11644. He arrived at CSG the same day when shown as 19 yrs-old, a seaman, Protestant with no prior convictions and literate. Thomas was also released the same day after a fine was paid.

Less than a fortnight after his release, 17 Nov, Thomas was again found guilty of *Assaulting Constable Burke* and sentenced to *Three Months*. His warrant number 11653. Thomas was released on 16 Feb 1877. A search of BDM records show a number of marriage possibilities. NFI.

**BUDD, Thomas:** Native-born Thomas was found guilty on 25 May 1876 of *Assaulting Constable Rollins* and sentenced to *Two Months*. His warrant number 11480. He arrived at CSG the same day when shown as 25 yrs-old, a seaman, Protestant with one prior conviction and illiterate. Thomas was released on 4 June after a fine was paid.

A search of BDM records show a person of this name born Hobart Town, 13 June 1850. The records also show a person of this name married a Mary Ann Thompson at Hobart, 15 October 1884. He is shown as 32 yrs-old and Mary, 30 yrs-old. NFI.

**Carns, William:** Native-born William was found guilty on 29 Dec 1876 of *Assaulting Constable Grew* and sentenced to *One Month*. His warrant number 11723. He arrived at CSG the same day when shown as 23 yrs-old, a seaman, Catholic with one prior conviction and literate. William was released on 27 Jan 1877.

On 14 June 1876, William was again found guilty at Hobart of *Assaulting Constable Leitch* and sentenced to *Three Months*. His warrant number 11507. William was released the following day after a fine was paid. NFI.

**Cleary, Thomas:** Convict shipping records show Thomas arrived in VDL on 3 Aug 1842 aboard the *Isabella Watson* from Dublin. On 7 Mar 1877 he was found guilty of *Assaulting Constable Rennie* and sentenced to *Two Months*. His warrant number 807. Thomas arrived at CSG the same day and shown as 54 yrs-old, a labourer, Catholic with three or more prior convictions and illiterate. Thomas was released on 5 May.

A search of BDM records show a person of this name married a Mary Meehan at Richmond on 27 Sep 1852. The man was 37 yrs-old and Mary, 21 yrs-old. A death is also recorded for a person of this name at Fingal on 31 Oct 1895, aged 74 yrs. NFI.

**Connors, Isaac:** Isaac arrived in Hobart aboard *HMS Hero*. He was found guilty on 21 Oct 1879 of *Assaulting Constable Peters* and sentenced to *One Month*. His warrant number 13105. He arrived at CSG the same day when shown as 20 yrs-old, a seaman, Catholic with no prior convictions and illiterate. Isaac was released two days later after a fine was paid. NFI.

**Consedine, William:** Native-born William was found guilty on 18 May 1876 of *Assaulting Constable Poultney* and sentenced to *Two Months*. His warrant number 11476. He arrived at CSG the same day when shown as 19 yrs-old, a seaman, Catholic with no prior convictions and literate. William was released on 17 Jul. NFI.

**Doran, Frederick:** Gate-book records also show Frederick arrived in VDL aboard the *Blenheim (4)* as a *free* convict. A search of convict shipping records failed to find a person of this name aboard the vessel. On 3 Dec 1879 Frederick was found guilty at the Police Office New Norfolk of being *Drunk and Disorderly and Resisting Constable Phillips*. He was sentenced to *Seven Days* and *Three Weeks*. His warrant number 13181. He arrived at CSG the following day when shown as 50 yrs-old, a gardener, Catholic with three or more prior convictions and literate. Frederick was released on 29 Dec. NFI.

**Fentiman, John:** Convict shipping records show John arrived in VDL on 24 Jul 1850 aboard the *Blenheim (3)* from Plymouth. On 6 May 1876 he was found guilty of *Assaulting Constable Dore* and sentenced to *Three Months*. His warrant number 11457. He arrived at CSG the same day when shown as 40 yrs-old, a labourer, Protestant with three or more prior convictions and could only read. John was released on 5 Aug. NFI.

**Griffiths, John:** Gate-book records show John arrived in Tasmania aboard the *Ethel* (date unknown), as a *free* convict. On 15 Dec 1876 he was found guilty of *Assaulting Constable Pool* and sentenced to *Two Months*. His warrant number 11687. He arrived at CSG the same day when shown as 34 yrs-old, a seaman, Protestant with no prior convictions and literate. John was released on 4 Jan after a fine was paid.

A search of BDM records show a person of this name married a Julia Eliza Read at Launceston, 18 Sep 1860. Both are shown as adults. NFI.

**Hancock, George:** Native-born George was found guilty on 20 Nov 1880 of *Assaulting Constable Coghlan* and sentenced to *Three Months*. His warrant number 13657. He arrived at CSG the same day when shown as 32 yrs-old, a labourer, Catholic with three or more prior convictions and literate. George was released 19 Feb 1881.

A search of BDM records show a person of this name born at Hobart, 9 Sep 1850. NFI.

**Harbuckle, John:** Gate-book records show John arrived in Tasmania aboard the *Elphinstone* (date unknown), as a *free* settler. A search of convict shipping records failed to confirm this information. On 21 Nov 1879 he was found guilty of *Assaulting Constable Dove*

and sentenced to *Two Months*. His warrant number 13161. He arrived at CSG the same day when shown as 56 yrs-old, a labourer, Protestant with three or more prior convictions and literate. John was released on 20 Jan 1880.

A search of BDM records show a person of this name died at Hobart, 19 September 1882, aged 65 yrs. NFI.

**Harters, Thomas:** Gate-book records show Thomas arriving in Tasmania aboard the *Richard Shepherd* (date unknown) as a free convict. On 26 Jan 1877 he was found guilty at the Police Office Pontville of *Resisting Constable Figg* and sentenced to *14 Days*. His warrant number 762. Thomas arrived at CSG five days later and is shown as 50 yrs-old, a labourer, Protestant with no prior convictions and literate. He was released on 8 Feb. NFI.

**Imber, Alfred:** Gate-book records show Alfred arriving in Tasmania aboard the *Windward* (date unknown) as a free convict. On 12 Feb 1877 he was found guilty of *Inciting to resist Constable Beard* and sentenced to *One Month*. His warrant number 774. Alfred arrived at CSG the same day and is shown as 19 yrs-old, a seaman, Protestant with no prior convictions and literate. He was released on 27 Feb after a fine was paid. NFI.

**James, Thomas:** Gate-book records show Thomas arriving in Tasmania aboard the *Caranjah* (date unknown) as a free convict. On 17 Nov 1876 he was found guilty of *Assaulting Constable Chaplin* and sentenced to *Two Months*. His warrant number 11654. He arrived at CSG the same day and is shown as 23 yrs-old, a seaman, Protestant with no prior convictions and literate. Thomas was released on 16 Jan 1877. NFI.

**Johnson, Samuel:** Gate-book records show Samuel arriving in Tasmania aboard the *Lufra* (date unknown) as a free convict. On 30 Oct 1876 he was found guilty of *Assaulting Constable Maum* and sentenced to *14 Days*. His warrant number 11635. He arrived at CSG the same day and is shown as 23 yrs-old, a seaman, Catholic with no prior convictions and literate. Samuel was released on 12 Nov. NFI.

**Lerick, Daniel:** Native-born Daniel was found guilty 10 Apr 1877 of *Assaulting Constable Peterson* and sentenced to *Two Months*. His warrant number 850. He arrived at CSG the same day when shown as 19 yrs-old, a seaman, Protestant with no prior convictions and literate. Daniel was released 11 Apr after a fine was paid. NFI.

**Loring, William:** William, also native-born, was found guilty on 25 Oct 1879 of *Assaulting Constable Scully* and sentenced to *One Month*. His warrant number 13113. He arrived at CSG the same day when shown as 22 yrs-old, a seaman, Protestant with no prior convictions and literate. William was released 24 Nov.

A search of BDM records show a person of this name married an Agnes Dawson at Hobart, 3 June 1882. Both are shown as adults. NFI.

**Madden, Henry:** Another native-born, Henry was found guilty on 21 Mar 1876 of *Assaulting Constable Chaplin* and sentenced to *Three Months*. His warrant number 11385. He arrived at CSG the same day when shown as 20 yrs-old, a seaman, Catholic with three or more prior convictions and illiterate. Henry was released the same day after a fine was paid. NFI.

**Marsh, John:** Native-born John was found guilty on 3 Nov 1879 of *Assaulting Constable Delaney* and sentenced to *Six Months*. His warrant number 13123. He arrived at CSG the same day when shown as 21 yrs-old, a labourer, Catholic with no prior convictions and illiterate. John was released 1 May 1880.

A search of BDM records show a person of this name died at Hobart, 18 Jun 1883, aged 24 yrs. NFI.

**McClements, John:** Gate-book records show John arriving in Tasmania aboard the *Derwent* (date unknown), as a free convict. On 8 Oct 1877 he was found guilty of *Assaulting Constable Beard* and sentenced to *Two Months*. His warrant number 12098. He arrived at CSG the same day and is shown as 45 yrs-old, a painter, Protestant with no prior convictions and literate. John was released on 10 Oct after a fine was paid.

A search of BDM records show a person of this name died at Hobart, 9 May 1878, aged 40 yrs. NFI.

**McKenna, Thomas:** Native-born Thomas was found guilty on 4 Apr 1877 of *Assaulting Constable Chaplin* and sentenced to *Three Months*. His warrant number 836. He arrived at CSG the same day when shown as 21 yrs-old, a seaman, Catholic with no prior convictions and literate. Thomas was released 3 Jul.

A search of BDM records show a person of this name born at Hobart, 12 July 1857. NFI.

**Morrison, William:** Convict shipping records show William arrived in VDL aboard the *Aboukir* from London on 20 Mar 1852. He was found guilty on 22 Mar 1879 of *Assaulting Constable Beard* and sentenced to *One Month*. His warrant number 12809. He arrived at CSG the same day and is shown as 64 yrs-old, a labourer, Protestant with three or more prior convictions and illiterate. William was released on 21 Apr.

A search of BDM records show a person of this name died at Hobart on 25 Oct 1897 aged 86 yrs. NFI.

**Patterson, Thomas aka Williams:** Native-born Thomas was found guilty on 4 Jun 1877 of *Assaulting Constable Chaplin* and sentenced to *One Month*. His warrant number 11957. He arrived at CSG the same day when shown as 22 yrs-old, a labourer, Protestant with one prior conviction and literate. Thomas was released 3 Jul.

On 22 Dec 1879, Thomas was in trouble again when found guilty *Assaulting Constable Elliott* and sentenced to *One Month*. His warrant number 13218. Thomas was released on 29 Dec after a fine was paid.

A search of BDM records show a person of this name born at Hobart Town, 25 Jan 1855. The records also show a person of this name married a Jane Geary at Hobart, 9 Oct 1899. He is shown as 45 yrs-old and Jane, 50 yrs-old. NFI.

**Riley, Patrick:** Patrick, also native-born, was found guilty on 21 Aug 1876 of *Assaulting Constable Meredith* and sentenced to *Two Months*. His warrant number 11563. He arrived at CSG the same day when shown as 16 yrs-old, a labourer, Catholic with no prior convictions and illiterate. Patrick was released five days later after a fine was paid. NFI.

**Rowe; George (Roe):** Gate-book records show George arriving in Tasmania aboard the *City of Hobart* (possibly in 1864 as he was tried in Hobart that year) as a free convict. On 13 Mar 1877 he was found guilty at the Police Office New Norfolk of *Assaulting Constable Simper* and sentenced to *Two Months*. His warrant number 818. He arrived at CSG the same day and is shown as 73 yrs-old, an upholsterer, Protestant with three or more prior convictions and literate. George was released on 12 May. NFI.

**Shepherd; Thomas:** Gate-book records show Thomas arriving in Tasmania aboard the *Falcon* (date unknown), as a free convict. On 17 June 1878 he was found guilty of *Assaulting Constable Delaney* and sentenced to *Two Months*. His warrant number 12438. He arrived at CSG the same day and is shown as 30 yrs-old, an upholsterer, Protestant with no prior convictions and illiterate. Thomas was released 12 Oct.

A search of BDM records show there was a possibility that a person of this name may have married a Caroline Ship at Deloraine, 14 June 1870. Both are shown as 19 yrs-old. Thomas was released on 16 Aug. NFI.

**Smallwood, Robert:** Native-born Robert was found guilty on 25 May 1876 of *Assaulting Constable Rollins* and sentenced to *Three Months*. His warrant number 11479. He arrived at CSG the same day when shown as 20 yrs-old, a seaman, Protestant with no prior convictions and illiterate. Robert was released two days later after a fine was paid. NFI.

**Spencer, Joseph:** Joseph, also native-born, was found guilty on 23 Nov 1876 of *Assaulting Constable Chaplin* and sentenced to *Three Months*. His warrant number 11665. He arrived at CSG the same day when shown as 21 yrs-old, a seaman, Catholic with no prior convictions and literate. Joseph was released two days later after a fine was paid. NFI.

**Thompson, David:** Native-born David was found guilty on 13 Jul 1878 of *Assaulting Constable Delaney* and sentenced to *Three Months*. His warrant number 12469. He arrived at CSG the same day when shown as 18 yrs-old, a shoemaker, Protestant with two prior convictions and literate. David was released 12 Oct.

A search of BDM records show a person of this name possibly married a Mary Peters at Launceston, 11 Sep 1884. He is shown as 23 yrs-old and Mary, 24 yrs-old. NFI.

**Thompson, Michael:** Gate-book records show Michael arriving in Tasmania aboard the *Lufra* (date unknown), as a free convict. On 30 Oct 1876 he was found guilty of *Assaulting Constable Burke* and sentenced to *14 Days*. His warrant number 11636. He arrived at CSG the same day and is shown as 22 yrs-old, a seaman, Catholic with no prior convictions and literate. Michael was released 12 Nov. NFI.

**Thompson, Richard:** Native-born Richard was found guilty on 28 Mar 1876 of *Assaulting Constable McConnell* and sentenced to *Two Months*. His warrant number 11403. He arrived at CSG the same day when shown as 23 yrs-old, a labourer, Protestant with no prior convictions and literate. David was released two days later after a fine was paid.

A search of BDM records show a Richard Henry Thompson born at Hobart Town, 18 Nov 1852. NFI.

**Thompson, William:** William, also native born, was found guilty on 23 Nov 1876 of *Assaulting Constable Chaplin* and sentenced to *Three Months*. His warrant number 11644. He arrived at CSG the same day when shown as 22 yrs-old, a seaman, Catholic with one prior conviction and literate. William was released 22 Feb 1877.

A search of BDM records show a person of this name born at Hobart Town, 12 Sep 1854. The records also show a possible marriage to an Alfreda Hilda Paulden at Longford, 30 Dec 1875. He is shown as 23 yrs-old and Hilda, 19 yrs-old. NFI.

**Tynan, William:** Native-born William was found guilty on 26 Jun 1876 of *Assaulting Constable Maum* and sentenced to *One Month*. His warrant number 11516. He arrived at CSG the same day when shown as 19 yrs-old, a labourer, Catholic with no prior convictions and could only read. William was released three days later after a fine was paid. NFI.

**Walker, John:** Gate-book records show John arriving in Tasmania aboard the *Derwent* (date unknown), as a free convict. On 15 Oct 1878 he was initially found guilty at LGS of *Horse-stealing* and sentenced to *Four Yrs*. John, however, managed to escape on 16 Nov and was apparently recaptured on 25 Nov and sentenced to another *Six Months in Chains*. It appears that on 27 Oct he was found guilty of *Assaulting Constable Duggan* and sentenced to *Three Days Solitary*. His warrant number 12587. He had arrived at CSG on the 21 Oct when shown as 23 yrs-old, a labourer, Protestant with *no* prior convictions and literate. John was eventually released on 5 Apr 1880. NFI.

**Walters, William:** Native-born William was found guilty on 21 Oct 1879 of *Assaulting Constable Petersen* and sentenced to *Two Months*. His warrant number 13103. He arrived at CSG the same day when shown as 34 yrs-old, a labourer, Protestant with three or more prior convictions and literate. William was released 20 Dec.

It is noted that he was charged along with Robert Woolender. NFI.

**Waters, William:** Another native-born, William was found guilty on 26 Jan 1876 of *Assaulting Constable Connor* and sentenced to *Two Months*. His warrant number 11320. He arrived at CSG the same day when shown as 29 yrs-old, a drayman, Protestant with three or more prior convictions and literate. William was released to the General Hospital on 31 Jan.

A search of BDM records show a person of this name born at Hobart Town, 30 Jun 1845. The records also show a possible marriage to a Mary Clarke at Franklin, 28 Sep 1878. He is shown as 28 yrs-old and Mary, 20 yrs-old. NFI.

**Welsh, William:** Convict shipping records show William arrived in VDL on 9 Dec 1852 aboard the *Lady Montague* from Plymouth. On 27 May 1875 he was found guilty at the House of Correction of *Assaulting Constable Sheeran* and sentenced to *Six Months*. William arrived at CSG the same day when shown as 30 yrs-old, a labourer, Catholic with three or more prior convictions and illiterate. He was released on 21 Feb 1876.

A search of BDM records show a person of this name died at Hobart, 9 Jul 1898, aged 65 yrs. NFI.

**Williams, John:** Convict shipping records show a person of this name arriving in VDL aboard the *Lady Montagu* from Plymouth on 9 Dec 1852. On 2 Jul 1878 this person was found guilty at the Police Office Hamilton of *Assaulting Constable Clements* and sentenced to *Two Months*. His warrant number 12462. He arrived at CSG four days later and is shown as 58 yrs-old, labourer, Protestant with one [?] prior conviction and literate. He was released on 31 Aug. NFI.

**Williams, Robert:** Native-born Robert was found guilty on 23 Nov 1876 of *Assaulting Constable Chaplin* and sentenced to *Three Months*. His warrant number 11666. He arrived at CSG the same day when shown as 19 yrs-old, a seaman, Catholic with no prior convictions and literate. William was released two days later after a fine was paid.

A search of BDM records show a person of this name born at Hobart, 7 Apr 1856. The records also show a possible marriage to an Anne Jones at Hobart, 6 Jan 1876. Both are shown as adults. A death is also recorded for a Robert Williams at Launceston, 25 Nov 1889, aged 31 yrs. NFI.

**Woolender, Robert aka Hill; Hervey:** Robert, another native-born, was found guilty on 21 Oct 1879 of *Assaulting Constable Bronman* and sentenced to *Two Months*. His warrant number 13104. He arrived at CSG the same day when shown as 22 yrs-old, a seaman, Catholic with no prior convictions and literate. Robert was released 20 Dec. It is noted that he was charged along with William Walters. NFI.

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## Society Publications

TFHS Inc. volunteers around the State work on a variety of their local publications which are published from time to time and are available for sale. Look up the following websites for details:

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

Devonport Branch: [www.tfhsdev.com](http://www.tfhsdev.com)

Hobart Branch: [www.hobart.tasfhs.org](http://www.hobart.tasfhs.org)

Launceston Branch: <http://users.bigpond.com/ltnstasfh>

TFHS Inc: [www.tasfhs.org](http://www.tasfhs.org) (with links to all branches)

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## *Tasmanian Ancestry* Journal Competition

Send an article into the journal and be eligible to be for a prize in the best article competition.

The article should be limited to 2,500 words maximum, including endnotes and references. Articles are welcomed in any format—handwritten, word processed, on CD Rom or by email.

Articles to be forwarded by email to: [editors@tasfhs.org](mailto:editors@tasfhs.org) or

By mail to: The Editors  
TFHS Inc.  
PO Box 191  
**Launceston** TAS 7250

## Burnie Branch

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

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

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

**PO Box 748 Burnie Tasmania 7320**

**email: petjud@bigpond.com**



Further to our upgrade to Broadband we now have installed a wireless access point into our LAN. This now enables us to access the internet from the reading room so that if guest speakers need internet access when giving a presentation they can now use this facility. This was used to great advantage during our October meeting as the topic was accessing Defence Force Information. Our November meeting was our Dinner meeting and the last night function for the year.

Our Monday day meetings are still well patronized and those that are able to come along enjoy the informal nature of the proceedings. The last day meeting was held on 1st December and a special thank you luncheon was held at the end of the meeting for not only the regular Monday members but all those who had volunteered their time as duty librarians and other work that is so necessary to keep our branch functioning.

The Family Chart competition is on once again. The branch entries will be judged at our AGM on the 21st April. The winners will then go to the State AGM in Hobart on 20th June.

For those that haven't renewed your membership please call in to the branch and pay your fees or drop a cheque in the mail to our Branch Box number. Remember all memberships expire on the 31st March each year.

Our Branch Library will not be open on Easter Saturday, 11th April, but will open on Tuesday 14th April.

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## Devonport Branch

<http://www.tfhsdev.com>

**President Sue-Ellen McCreghan 6428 6328**

**Secretary Helen Anderson (03) 6427 8997**

**PO Box 267 Latrobe Tasmania 7307**

**email: secretary@tfhsdev.com**



In November we boarded a stage coach and headed for Historic Woolmers in Longford.....well it sounded good there for a while. We actually went by bus with our Resident Bus Driver. We made our way through the small village and to the Grand Property of Woolmers. A tour of the House was included and then we roamed the Rose Garden. At this stage not all the roses were out but the ones that were in bloom were exquisite. Afterwards we had lunch in Longford then it was time to head home—a great day out was enjoyed by all.

Our big fundraiser for the year was a Hamper and this was won by one of our members Jodie Lunson, it was drawn at our annual Christmas Dinner held at the Beachway in Ulverstone. We had our photos taken and they were published in *The Examiner*. I did hear on the grape vine the paper was sold out in a few hours.

In April it is our AGM so please give a thought to maybe nominating for a position on Committee or on the Executive. We have a great Library and it would be great to have all positions filled.

Because of our low attendance at our General Meetings we have decided to trial something different and if our attendances increase we will adjust our Calendar accordingly. We will still be conducting our committee meetings monthly. If any member wants to put forward any suggestions or would like to be present you are most welcome to do this. Most of our meetings will be held in our Library at Latrobe. Our calendar of meetings and events are:-

- January 29th: BBQ at our Library
- February — no meeting
- March 27th: Daytime meeting BYO lunch
- April 30th: AGM to be held at the Devonport Library
- May: Volunteers Morning Tea date TBA
- June: TBA
- July: Latrobe Chocfest/ midyear Christmas Dinner venue TBA
- August: Daytime meeting BYO lunch
- September 19th: Bus trip to Latrobe Spring Fair
- October: Antiques Valuation Night
- November: Break up
- December: Christmas Dinner

Please use our website to view the updated calendar, informative details of meetings and events for further details. Hope to see you there soon.

**www.tfhsdev.com** or contact our secretary on 64278997 or email **secretary@tfhsdev.com**

## Acquisitions

### Books

- \* Flower, Trevor, *Nunn Family Reunion, Parkham Hall, February 9th, 2002*
- Rigney, Frank L, *A Midland Odyssey – A Journey through parts of the Northern Midlands of Tasmania*
- TFHS Inc. Hobart, *Assessment & Valuation Rolls of Tasmania – Index to City of Hobart 1868*
- TFHS Inc. Hobart, *Assessment & Valuation Rolls of Tasmania – Index to City of Hobart 1878*
- TFHS Inc. Launceston, *Index to The Kelso Chronicle 1860–1861*
- TFHS Inc. Launceston, *The Tasmanian Mail: A Photographic Index 1913–1916*
- \* Walker, Jo [Comp], *A Flower from Frome – Flower Family Reunion 10 February 2001, Parkham Hall*

### CD-Roms

Archive CD Books, *Reports of Crime; Tasmania Compendium 1861–1865*  
*Reports of Crime; Tasmania Compendium 1866–1870*

*Reports of Crime; Tasmania Compendium 1871–1875*  
TFHS Inc. Devonport, *ILMO Series: Railton Cemeteries, North-West Tasmania*

### Microfiche

- \* Central Queensland Family History Assoc. Inc., *Rockhampton Morning Bulletin Notices 1988–1997 Index to Deaths, Funerals & Cremations*
- Central Queensland Family History Assoc. Inc., *North Rockhampton Cemetery Burial Records March 1, 1879–January 9, 1998*
- Central Queensland Family History Assoc. Inc., *North Rockhampton Cemetery Headstone Inscriptions*

\* Indicates donated items

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## Hobart Branch

<http://www.hobart.tasfhs.org>  
**President Robert Tanner (03) 6231 0794**  
**email: [president@hobart.tasfhs.org](mailto:president@hobart.tasfhs.org)**  
**Secretary Leo Prior (03) 6228 5057 or 0419 527 542**  
**PO Box 326 Rosny Park Tasmania 7018**  
**email: [secretary@hobart.tasfhs.org](mailto:secretary@hobart.tasfhs.org)**



The main planning for the AGM in June is now completed. Details are included on the enrolment form sent out with this edition of the journal. We look forward to a big attendance at what promises to be a very interesting weekend. Although there are a number of branches of the TFHS, we are, after all, one organisation of people with similar interests, and it is great when

we can all get together.

At the August meeting, our librarian, Judy Mudaliar, gave a most interesting talk entitled, "The Vikings and Your Family History." She included examples of Viking words which are now part of the English language, and showed how some surnames (like my "Allanby") derive from the Vikings.

Judy returned to the stage, so to speak, at our November meeting. She and Maurice Appleyard, our Resource Manager, led a discussion on making better use of our library. Going by the number of questions asked, and the notes people were taking, it is apparent that, even though we think we know our library, we all learnt something new! This was the final meeting for the year, so it finished with a Christmas festive board and a general social chat.

### General Meetings

Members are reminded that all general meetings are held at the Rosny Library building in Bligh Street on the third Tuesday in the month at 8pm. Visitors are always welcome at these meetings.

At the time of writing this report, planned addresses at our general meetings for early 2009 are –

- 17 February – Tony Marshall from the State Library: "Family History in the Tasmanian Archive and Heritage Office".
- 17 March – Dr David Woodward: "Criminals up the Family Tree – tales of my nine convict ancestors."

- 21 April – Wendy Andrew: “Footprints in Clarence Plains.”

### Family History Computer Users Group

Branch library – second Wednesday of the month at 7:30 pm.

### WISE Interest Group

Branch library – first Sunday of February, May, August and November at 2:00 pm.

### Family History Writers Group

Branch library – third Thursday of each month between 12:30 and 2:30 pm.

Details of these meetings and other activities may be found on our website at <http://www.hobart.tasfhs.org>

## Acquisitions

### Books

- \* Arulappu, C; *I Would Send You My Hart If I Could.*
- \* Baker, A; *Index to 'The Mercury' Death Notices, 1974.*
- Bennett, K; *A Thematic History of Hobart's City Fringe.*
- \* Goodwin, G; *Until The Day Breaks—Life and times of Ernest Goodwin.*
- \* Johnson, K & H Sainty; *Geneological Research Directory 2002.*
- McFarlane, W.H.; *History of North-East Tasmania.*
- McPherson, K; *Van Diemen's Land Colonial Timber Industries Before 1830*
- Michael, D J W; *Convict Chains—A family history of convict & free ancestors.*
- Oatlands District Historical Society; *Chronicle No. 5—October 2008.*
- TFHS Inc.—Hobart; *Assessment & Valuation Rolls of Tasmania:*
  - Index to City of Hobart 1868.*
  - Index to City of Hobart 1878.*
- Worthington, V R; *Anastasia—A women of Eureka.*

\* Indicates donated items

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## Huon Branch

President Betty Fletcher (03) 6264 1546

Secretary Libby Gillham (03) 6239 6529

PO Box 117 Huonville Tasmania 7109

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



No report

## Launceston Branch

<http://users.bigpond.com/lnttasfh>

President Anita Swan (03) 6326 5778

Secretary Muriel Bissett Phone/Fax (03) 6344 4034

PO Box 1290 Launceston Tasmania 7250

secretary: [bbissett@bigpond.net.au](mailto:bbissett@bigpond.net.au)



During the week of 18th January we were busy getting the carpet laid, cleaning and organising the connection of the necessary services at the new branch library at The City Park Stables, 45-55 Tamar Street, Launceston.

The space is less than we have been used to, so it has been an interesting exercise to prioritise and decide which equipment and resources are the most important to our members. As time goes by adjustments can be made. Other resources are being kept in storage and researchers may order items for the following week. The Branch has committed for Ancestry.com and this should be connected early in the year.



Cnr of Cimitiere & Tamar Streets



City Park Stables, 45 Tamar Street

**Visitors please note that we have been allocated one only parking place beside Albert Hall, opposite the front door. We do not have LCC authority to park in any other spots.**

### A message from Launceston Branch member 6599, Angela Prosser-Green:

'If you would be interested in assisting with the care of the older areas of Carr Villa, could you please contact Angels Prosser-Green on 6344 5856—[acgreen@bigpond.net.au](mailto:acgreen@bigpond.net.au)'

Angela is hoping to get organised early in the year, and is keen to find out who and how many people would be interested.

### Meetings & activities:

- 22 Mar, 9.30: Deloraine, bus/walking tour. Check at the library for details.
- 15 Apr, 2pm: BIG meeting, Adult Education, York St.
- 28 Apr, 7pm: AGM. Speaker: John Munday, "Misty Memories", Digital Photo Restoration.
- 26 May, 7pm: Dating Family Photos, led by Helen Stuart.

## Library Notes

### State Microfiche Roster

	23/02/09	18/05/09	25/08/09	16/11/09	22/02/10
	15/05/09	21/08/09	14/11/09	19/02/10	14/05/10
<b>Burnie</b>	Set 1	Set 5	Set 4	Set 3	Set 2
<b>Devonport</b>	Set 2	Set 1	Set 5	Set 4	Set 3
<b>Hobart</b>	Set 3	Set 2	Set 1	Set 5	Set 4
<b>Huon</b>	Set 4	Set 3	Set 2	Set 1	Set 5
<b>Launceston</b>	Set 5	Set 4	Set 3	Set 2	Set 1
<b>Set 1</b>	GRO BDMs Index 1868–1897				
<b>Set 2</b>	Griffith's Valuation for Ireland Series. GRO Consular Records Index Old Parochial Records and 1891 Census Indexes for Scotland				
<b>Set 3</b>	GRO BDMs Index 1898–1922 and AGCI				
<b>Set 4</b>	National Probate Calendars 1853–1943				
<b>Set 5</b>	GRO BDMs Index 1923–1942 Exchange Journals Members' Interests and One Name Studies Index Lilian Watson Family History Award 2007 and entries				

### Devonport & Launceston Microfiche Roster

	23/02/09	18/05/09	25/08/09	16/11/09	22/02/10
	15/05/09	21/08/09	14/11/09	19/02/10	14/05/10
<b>Devonport</b>	Set 2	Set 1	Set 2	Set 1	Set 1
<b>Launceston</b>	Set 1	Set 2	Set 1	Set 2	Set 2
<b>Set 1</b>	GRO BDMs Index 1943-1946				
<b>Set 2</b>	GRO BDMs Index 1947-1950				

## Society Sales

### The Tasmanian Family History Society Inc. Publications

*Payment by Visa or MasterCard—now available (mail order only)*

**Mail orders (including postage) should be forwarded to the:**  
State Sales Officer, TFHS Inc., PO Box 191 Launceston TAS 7250

<b>Microfiche</b>	TAMIOT (p&p \$2.00)	\$55.00
<b>Books</b>	<i>Van Diemen's Land Heritage Index</i> , Vol. 3 (p&p \$5.50)	\$11.00
	<i>Van Diemen's Land Heritage Index</i> , Vol. 4 (p&p \$5.50)	\$11.00
	<i>Van Diemen's Land Heritage Index</i> , Vol. 5 (p&p \$5.50) **	\$25.00
	<i>Tasmanian Ancestry Index Volumes 1—20</i> (p&p \$5.50) **	\$22.50
	<i>Tasmanian Ancestry Index Volumes 21—25</i> (p&p \$4.50) **	\$15.00
<b>CD-Rom:</b>	<i>Tasmanian Federation Index</i> (p&p \$2.50)	\$231.00
	** members discount applies	

# Branch Library Addresses, Times and Meeting Details

**Burnie** Phone: (03) 6435 4103 (Branch Librarian)  
Library 58 Bass Highway, Cooee  
Tuesday 11.00 a.m.–3.00 p.m.  
Saturday 1.00 p.m.–4.00 p.m.  
The library is open at 7.00 p.m. prior to meetings.  
Meeting Branch Library, 58 Bass Highway, Cooee 7.30 p.m. on  
3rd Tuesday of each month, except January and December.  
Day Meeting 1st Monday of the month at 10.30 a.m. except January and February.

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**Devonport** Phone: (03) 6427 8997 (Branch Secretary)  
Library "Old police residence", 117 Gilbert St, 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.  
Meeting The last Thursday of each month is flagged for evening events with a  
commencement time of 7.00 p.m. Meetings are held at the Mersey  
Regional Library in Devonport, the Branch Library in Latrobe or at other  
places as determined by the committee. Please check the website at  
**[www.tfhsdev.com](http://www.tfhsdev.com)** or contact the Secretary.

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**Hobart** Phone: (03) 6228 5057 (Branch Secretary)  
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 Rosny Library, Bligh Street, Rosny Park, at 8.00 p.m. on  
3rd Tuesday of each month, except January and December.

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**Huon** Phone: (03) 6239 6529 (Branch Secretary)  
Library Soldiers Memorial Hall, Marguerite Street, Ranelagh  
Saturday 1.30 p.m.–4.00 p.m.  
Other times: library visits by appointment with Secretary,  
48 hours notice required  
Meeting Branch Library, Ranelagh, at 4.00 p.m. on 1st Saturday of each month,  
except January.  
Please check Branch Report for any changes.

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**Launceston** Phone: (03) 6344 4034 (Branch Secretary)  
Library 45-55 Tamar Street, Launceston (next door to Albert Hall)  
Tuesday 10.00 a.m.–3.00 p.m.  
1st & 3rd Saturday 1.30 p.m.–3.30 p.m.  
Meeting Generally held on the 4th Tuesday of each month, except January and  
December. Venue as advertised. Check the Branch News and the website  
**<http://users.bigpond.com/tntasfh>** for locations and times.

# 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 2009–10:-

Individual member	\$39.00
Joint members (2 people at one address)	\$49.00
Australian Concession	\$27.00
Australian Joint Concession	\$37.00

**Overseas:** Individual member: A\$39.00: Joint members: A\$49.00 (including airmail postage).

**Organisations:** Journal subscription \$39.00—apply to the State Treasurer.

## Membership Entitlements:

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

## Application for Membership:

Application forms may be downloaded from [www.tasfhs.org](http://www.tasfhs.org) or obtained from the TFHS Inc. State 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. Treasurer, PO Box 191, Launceston Tasmania 7250. 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. Research request forms may be downloaded from [www.tasfhs.org](http://www.tasfhs.org).

## 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 \$27.50 per quarter page in one issue or \$82.50 for four issues. Further information can be obtained by writing to the journal editors at PO Box 191, Launceston Tasmania 7250.

**ISSN—0159 0677**

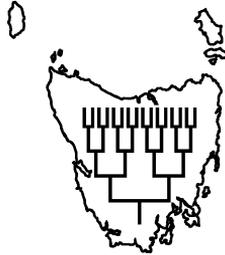
Printed by *The Design & Print Centre*—Launceston Tasmania

# 8th Annual General Meeting

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## *Tasmanian Family History Society Inc.*

ABN 87 627 274 157



to be held at

### **Bellerive Yacht Club** **64 Cambridge Road, Bellerive**

Hosted by TFHS Inc. Hobart Branch



Hobart Branch Library, 19 Cambridge St, Bellerive

## **20th-21st June 2009**

# Programme

Saturday 20th

- From 9.45am**      **Registration and Morning Tea**
- 10.20 am**      **Open meeting**
- *Drawing of President's Early Bird Prize*
- 10.30 am**      **Marcia Stacey** – Director Tourism Operations Port Arthur Historic Site Management Authority
- *Port Arthur: Today and the Future*
- 11.30 am**      **Adrian Howard** – Vice President Friends of Soldiers Memorial Avenue
- *Hobart Memorial Avenue*
- 12.30 – 1.30pm**      **Lunch**
- 1.30 pm**      **Annual General Meeting**, including presentation of:
- Lilian Watson Family History Award
  - TFHS Inc. Awards
  - Journal Article Competition
  - Family Chart Competitions
- 2.30 pm**      **Afternoon Tea**
- Lunch, Morning and Afternoon Teas cost \$18.00.
- 6.30 pm for 7pm**      **Buffet Dinner**
- Bellerive Yacht Club — Cost \$40.00 per person
- Guest Speaker – Brian Rieusset
- *Maria Island Convicts 1825-1832*

Book Stalls and new publications from Branches will be on offer Saturday.

# Registration Form

**Closing date for registration and payment is 1 June 2009**

*Map of location will be sent out with your receipt*

The AGM Committee  
TFHS Inc. Hobart Branch  
PO Box 326  
**Rosny Park Tas 7018**

Name/s .....

Address.....

.....

**I/we will be attending**

**No.**

Morning tea

Lunch

Afternoon tea

- Lunch, Morning & Afternoon Tea: \$18.00 per person

Buffet Dinner - \$40.00 per person

Total \$

## Sunday 21st

- Visit to **Hobart Penitentiary Historic Site Campbell St** at 10.00am.  
Cost \$5.00 (normally \$8.00. Pay on site.  
*Please indicate number attending: .....*
- Self-conducted tour of **Soldiers Memorial Walk** on the Hobart Domain.
- **Hobart Branch Library** will be open from 10.00am to 2.00pm.

### Early Bird Prize

Register before the **Monday 10th May** and you could be in the draw for the President's Early Bird Prize

# *New Releases for Ancestry.com*

## **Australian Records - Ancestry.com.au**

**Australian Electoral Rolls, 1901–1936:** All states except South Australia.

<b>ACT</b>	1928; 1935
<b>NSW</b>	1930; 1936
<b>NT</b>	1922; 1929; 1934
<b>QLD</b>	1903; 1905; 1913; 1919; 1925; 1930; 1936
<b>TAS</b>	1914; 1919; 1928; 1936
<b>VIC</b>	1856; 1903; 1909; 1914; 1919; 1924; 1931; 1936
<b>WA</b>	1901; 1906; 1916; 1925; 1936

**NSW Assisted Immigrant Passenger Lists 1818–1896:** This collection is comprised of four different series of records. Information may include name, age, marital status, gender and native place.

**NSW Unassisted Immigrant Lists 1826–1922 (with gaps):** Taken from the *Inward passenger lists* and *Reports of vessels arrived* the information may include details about the ship and names of passengers.

**NSW Convict Register 1826–1879:** The register recorded convicts who died while serving their sentence. Information includes name, ship of arrival, age and death date.

**NSW Convict Ship Muster Rolls and Related Record 1790–1849:** This database consists primarily of ship muster rolls of convicts transported to NSW from England. However some are for convicts transported from other places within the Empire (e.g. Canada, India, South Africa) and to other parts of Australia (e.g. VDL, SA or WA).

**ANZAC Memorial 1914–1918:** A book compiled to commemorate those who served in the Australian and NZ Army Corp and died in WWI, giving soldiers' names, their number, rank and date of death.

## **British Records - Ancestry.com.uk**

**British Army WWI Service Records 1914–1920:** Surnames A-N only so far.

**UK Soldiers died in the Great War:** Database of 703,000 individuals.

**National Roll of the Great War 1914–1919:** A 14 volume series of short biographical sketches.

**UK Incoming Passenger Lists 1878–1888; 1890–1960:** Many pre-1890 lists were destroyed by the Board of Trade therefore not many lists are included from these early years.

**British Phone Books 1880–1984:** Nearly full county coverage for England as well as substantial records for Scotland, Ireland and Wales.

*Both Ancestry.com.au and Ancestry.com.uk can be accessed at our Burnie & Hobart Branch Libraries – see contact details inside back cover.*