

# Tasmanian Ancestry



**TASMANIAN FAMILY HISTORY  
SOCIETY INC.**

Volume 35 Number 3—December 2014

# TASMANIAN FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.

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# Tasmanian Ancestry

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

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## From the editor

After much juggling I have managed to fill the allotted sixty-four pages. The finished result is usually far from my original expectations but I hope you will find something to catch your interest in this one.

For those of you who read the journal from cover to cover, settle in for a quick round the world trip—from various towns in the United Kingdom to India, the United States and back to Tassie.

Two articles which fascinated me are both concerned with furniture—bunks and a sofa.

Although the deadline dates for contributions to the journal are 1 January, 1 April, 1 July and 1 October, I appreciate receiving any reports and articles before these dates. This enables us to have more time for formatting and proof reading and to deliver a quality journal.

As we will be commemorating the 100th Anniversary of Anzac Day in 2015 it would be great to receive some articles relevant to the occasion.

Those who will be enjoying the long summer break might consider producing an article or two for the journal.

Season's greetings to all.

Rosemary Davidson

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

### Deadline dates are:

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

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

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

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**Cover:** Claude and Millie Ahearne with their children. See article *Clara, Court Cases to Heroes*, by Georgina Dooley, page 171.

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**A**S reported in the September Journal, the incumbent Executive office bearers were re-elected at the AGM.

Once again there was only one nomination for the positions of Vice-President. Robert Tanner was elected to fill one of the positions and ultimately, as there were no nominations received 'from the floor', the vacant position was referred to an Executive Meeting, under Section 8 (b) of our Society's Rules.

The Executive has been unable to fill the position from among the Branch Delegates and will now recommend to members at the next AGM, that the second Vice-President position be deleted from our constitution. A notice of motion will appear in this journal at a later date.

The Executive of the Society has reluctantly decided to increase subscription fees for overseas members commencing on 1 April 2015. The high cost of posting *Tasmanian Ancestry* to the various overseas destinations has made this necessary.

The single membership fee will increase to \$45.00; the joint membership will remain at \$50.00.

The Tasmanian Family History Society Inc. has recently published a new DVD entitled *Tasmanian Ancestry, Vols 1 to 20, June 1980 to March 2000* (see p.133 in this issue). The task of digitizing each page of over eighty original issues was solely the work of one volunteer; Robert Tanner. Robert carried out this massive task whilst continuing his other volunteer roles; Society Vice President, Hobart Branch President, Society By-laws Coordinator, Society Webmaster, Hobart Branch Webmaster, etc.

Apart from creating a valuable digital archive for our Society, Robert has created another great research tool. The DVD is fully searchable and should be used in conjunction with our *Index to Tasmanian Ancestry—Volumes 1–20* for even greater effect.

Members who have joined after March 2000 can now easily acquire twenty years of back issues and the valuable information contained in the articles and index lists they contain.

Long term members and other Family History Groups can gain valuable shelf space within their collection of family history material by replacing their hardcopy with one DVD. ◀

*Maurice Appleyard*

*Tasmanian Family History  
Society Inc.*

**2015 Lilian Watson  
Family History Award**

**for a Book**

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

**Entries Close**

**1 December 2015**

Further information and entry forms  
available from

**TFHS Inc. Branch Libraries**

**www.tasfhs.org**

or

The Secretary

PO Box 326 ROSNY PARK  
TAS 7018

email: **secretary@tasfhs.org**

# VALE

## AUDREY HUDSPETH

**B**ORN in England, Audrey met her future husband Ken (later DSC and Two Bars), in England when he was on naval duties. She travelled to Australia in November 1958 and married Ken the following year. Together they raised three sons.

After attending a conference of the Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies (AIGS) in Melbourne in 1977, Audrey became excited about family history, and the following year was one of six Tasmanian members. The AIGS offered the first organisational base for a Tasmanian group.

It was later decided a separate state society was preferred, and the inaugural meeting of the Genealogical Society of Tasmania (now the TFHS Inc.), was held at Rosny College on 4 April 1980 with 122 foundation members, Audrey being number 68.

The first issue of *Tasmanian Ancestry* was published in June 1980, with Audrey as assistant editor from March to September 1981 and editor for the next thirty-nine editions, until June 1991. It was not an easy task holding the journal panel members together with their typing, cutting and pasting—

all before the use of computers became common practice.

Over the years she also wrote many articles and book reviews for *Tasmanian Ancestry*. She gained a Master of Humanities from the University of Tasmania,

was a co-author of the book *Down Wapping*, and with Lindy Scripps she researched and wrote at least seven contract histories mainly covering the Sullivans Cove area.

A professional career woman with a strong social conscience, Audrey had been a social worker, mainly in mental health, and established the social working course at the TCAE in the 1970s. She appreciated books, museums, classical music, cricket, and craftwork, and had an interest in languages, especially Italian.



Audrey in 1997 with her  
TFHS Inc. Meritorious Service  
Award

She was a member of THRA, and a life member of both the Australian Association of Social Workers and the Maritime Museum of Tasmania where she was active until her last few weeks.

After a varied life, much of it centered around family and Tasmanian history, Audrey Hudspeth (née Nicholson), died in Hobart on 4 August 2014, aged 90. ◀

Leonie Mickleborough

# BRANCH REPORTS

## Burnie

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

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

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

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Members who attended our July meeting were fascinated with the account of an old family photo album, purchased in an op-

shop, and its eventual return to one of the family members. Lorraine Cock, member 7036, shared her story of how she tracked down the family with the only clue being a name and age on only one of the photos in the album.

Our August meeting started off with a flow chart that went through the process of the laws and ethics of using copyrighted images. This was followed by a demonstration of how to get back a readable image from one of those old faded thermal printed images that some old photocopiers used. The process will still work on current receipts that have faded as they are also printed by a thermal process.

Our mid-year dinner was held on Tuesday 12 August and those who attended had a most enjoyable night. A special thanks to all who contributed with cooking and/or supplying plates of food. It was nice to see a visitor win the door prize, a new (recent) member won the raffle and our resident quiz champion's table won the competition again—even after a challenge from the runners up they still showed their supremacy.

Our September meeting featured a podcast from the Australian National Archives site titled 'Climbing your Family Tree'. As usual our day meeting was followed by a soup and sandwich luncheon.

During Family History Week Judy and Peter went to the Linc annexe at Smithton where Judy gave a talk on getting started in Family History. The talk was attended by approximately sixteen people and three new members joined.

Our September workshop was all about data input. We had a close look at names, dates, places, description, relationship with spouses, children, parents etc. The workshop was well attended and enjoyed by all.

**Peter Cocker** Branch President

## Hobart

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On Saturday mornings from late June the Hobart Branch conducted a series of 90-minute workshops on a variety of topics related to family history research and skills. A total of eighteen sessions were held with many of the sessions over-subscribed and requiring additional sessions to be scheduled. More than 150 members and non-members participated in the workshops which were

presented by members of the Hobart Branch. The branch also advertised a 'one on one' service to those family historians who have hit 'brickwalls' in their research. These sessions proved to be very popular and many 'walls' were demolished.

### General Meetings

The Hobart Branch of the Society has continued its regular general meetings featuring invited speakers on the third Tuesday evening of the month at 'The Sunday School' in the St Johns Park Precinct in New Town.

The guest speaker at the July meeting was Nick Brodie who spoke on the topic 'Except the Lord build the house: Building St Mary's Cathedral, Hobart'. He provided an account of the building of the Cathedral, starting from the time it was a wooden hut (1820s, Catholic Chapel of St Virgil) on the present site in Harrington Street, then beyond the fringe of development in Hobart. He told of the research difficulties he confronted given the sketchy records and plans that exist.

The Cathedral has at least four foundation stones that record different stages of the building and rebuilding. The site was first used as a Catholic burial ground. It was Father Connolly, an Irish priest who made the first moves in 1823 to establish the Chapel fund. In 1841 Fr Therry blessed the foundation stone for a new St Marys Church but the church was never built due to lack of funds. The first Bishop of Hobart Town was Robert Willson, arriving in 1844. By this time St Josephs Church had been built in Macquarie Street, but was becoming too small for the congregation.

Willson set about establishing a fund for a new church and another 'First Stone' was laid in 1853. Rather than architectural drawings there were sketches drawn

by noted architect Mr Pugin, a personal friend of Willson. It was a donation of £10 000 by Roderic O'Connor in 1860, that made the construction of a substantial building possible. Prior to this, funding had largely been derived from community funding, some from Protestant residents of Hobart.

By 1876 there were signs of weakness in the structure of the Cathedral and resulted in the tower being pulled down. This was the beginning of new plans being drawn up and a rebuilding program (with deeper foundations) for the rebuilding of the tower ... and another foundation stone.

Nick is the author of *Joyful and Glorious* a book about the history of the Cathedral. It provides detail of the construction and reconstruction of building on the Harrington site and a social history of Catholicism in early Hobart.

The guest speaker at the August meeting was branch member Brian Rieusset speaking on the topic 'A Story for the Record Books', an account of a lost and recently found Hobart Gaol Record Book.

Brian gave a brief history of the gaol located in Campbell Street Hobart from the time it was Convict Prisoners Barracks (1821–1856) and then the Hobart Gaol (1857–1963). The end of this period was when prisoners were moved to the present-day gaol at Risdon. At the Hobart Gaol in Campbell Street few detailed records of prisoners were kept between 1857 and 1890 and many of the books, including the gate-keepers' books were deliberately destroyed by fire when the Archives Office of the day was unable to provide storage for these items. However records were kept in volumes of Prisoner Record Books from 1 January 1890 to 31 December 1963, and some such records were taken to Risdon. Books 1 and 4 were missing, but some

warders recall seeing them at Risdon Gaol. However indexes for the missing books existed so the names were known.

It appears Book 1 had been kept by a warder when books were being taken from Risdon to a refuse tip. It remained in the warder's family for several years and it was not known it was one of the two missing record books until it was handed over. It contained the details of 525 prisoners from the late 1880s, and matched the index of prisoners. Book 4 continues to be missing.

The pages of Book 1 have now been digitized and will be available on line. Brian concluded his talk by giving some details of a selection of the prisoners whose records are contained in Book 1.

At the September meeting, member Cecily Dougan spoke about her ancestor James Morrisby and his family. James Morrisby was a blacksmith convicted of theft of an iron bar. On 7 July 1784 he was sentenced in the Old Bailey to transportation for seven years. James was transferred from prison to the *Censor* hulk on the Thames on 6 September 1784 and on 24 February 1787 and transported by wagon for embarkation on the *Scarborough* three days later. The *Scarborough* was one of the convict transports of Australia's 'First Fleet'. James was transferred to Norfolk Island aboard the *Sirius* in 1790. In July 1791 James was living with Ann Brooks, also known as Ann Lavender, and her son William who had been transported aboard the *Lady Juliana* with his mother as part of the Second Fleet. They prospered on Norfolk Island with 12 acres of land at Queenborough. This had increased to 34 acres by 1796. The family increased by the birth of five children between 1791 and 1805. James, Ann and five children somewhat unwillingly left Norfolk Island

to travel to Van Diemen's Land aboard the *Porpoise* in December 1807 as part of the demise of the first Norfolk Island settlement. They left behind them 55 acres of well developed land with a house and several other buildings.

James was granted 80 acres at Clarence Plains (now Rokeby) in the area where the Police Academy now stands. Anne died in 1813 and was buried in St Davids, Hobart. Although it seems that Anne and James were never married, Rev Knopwood referred to her as Anne Morrisby. James established several businesses in Hobart and married Eleanor Murphy in 1816. He bought a house in Collins Street, Hobart, and was granted more land at Clarence Plains. He died on 27 May 1839 and was buried at St Matthews at Clarence Plains.

The talk included details of family connection between James' offspring and several prominent colonial names including Risby, Knopwood, Allomes, Calvert and Chipman. Also a connection through marriage with the Bellette family, also 'First Fleeters.'

Cecily's book *Pioneers, Ploughman and Pull-shots: A family's experience in Tasmania from 1808* was awarded the Lillian Watson Award in 2014.

### **Speakers for 2015**

To date the following speakers have been arranged for the General Meetings in 2015:

**February 17:** Russ Ames (Curator, Police Museum Hobart) 'The Police Museum collection and a history of the police force from 1804 to 1990.'

**March 17:** Maree Ring 'Our grandfather's war diary'

**April 21:** AGM . Speaker to be advised.

**Howard Reeves** Branch Secretary

## Launceston

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**Seniors' Week:** Launceston Branch hosted an 'Open Day' on Thursday, 16 October, theme: 'Researching Your Family History'. There was a good response and

we thank the volunteers who made themselves available, giving one-on-one attention to each visitor.

**Family History Month:** Visitor numbers were good and the excellent displays generated a great deal of interest and points for discussion.

**Publications:** work is continuing on the next two volumes, 1921–1925 and 1926–1930, Index to *The Examiner*, new combined editions of BDMs and Dunn's Funeral Records, commencing in 1955. The Branch has purchased a Digital SLR camera to assist in this project.

**Research:** The team had been kept very busy and their efforts have resulted in a good source of income.

**Branch Dinner:** held on Friday, 21 November at the Colonial.

**Holidays:** Break-up, Tuesday 9 December 3 p.m.

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

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

**Check the website** for more detail on the Branch Dinner, workshops and for a list of publications now available from Launceston Branch.

## Mersey

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

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Secretary Sue-Ellen McCreghan  
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Library (03) 6426 2257

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



**NEW SIGN** – To distinguish between the Mersey Branch Library and the Latrobe Public Library, we have replaced the word library

with a photo of the building in which the Mersey Branch is housed.



The sign is usually placed at the edge of the street footpath, at the start of the lane to the cottage where the Mersey Branch is situated.

Indexing and inscriptions of the Central Coast Lawn Cemetery is near completion. This is the third book in the series for Ulverstone.

The next project will be the Mersey Vale Lawn Cemetery.

The indexing of Birth, Death and Marriages from the *Advocate* newspaper for 2010 has been completed and is being checked.

Work is underway on the indexing of the *Advocate* newspaper, Birth, Death and Marriages for 2011 and 2013.

Throughout August there was a display of World War 1 Veterans at the Devonport Public Library. This display was put together by Mersey Branch Members, Ros Coss and Gary Bryant. Information about the World War 1 Veterans is available at our library.

In our library we have put together an 'Index to Undertakers Ledger', 1924–1934 from Latrobe Funeral Directors, F E Watts & Sons Pty Ltd.

The University of The Third Age at Port Sorell (U3A) will be starting courses in October, and members from the Mersey Branch will be attending to help people who are interested in researching their family tree.

Finally, the Mersey Branch is looking at having a sojourn to Ross in March, next year. We would love to hear from anyone who would be interested in going on this trip.

Please check out our website for any upcoming activities, or come into the Mersey Branch Library and have a look at our new publications.

## Huon

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No report received

## *Tasmanian Ancestry*



### *Volumes 1 to 20 June 1980 to March 2000*

*Tasmanian Ancestry*, the Journal of the TFHS, (originally known as the Genealogical Society of Tasmania), was first published in June 1980 shortly after the formation of the society.

This DVD covering Volumes 1 to 20 was digitised by the Hobart Branch of the Society in 2012–14.

**It is in PDF format and is fully searchable.**

Members who joined after March 2000 are now able to acquire the 80 back issues (hard copy prices total \$132) and the valuable Information they contain. Long term members and Family History Groups can gain valuable shelf space by replacing their hardcopy collection with one DVD.

Available from:  
Sales Officer TFHS Inc.  
PO Box 326 Rosny Park TAS 7018  
or email **sales@tasfhs.org**

**\$50.00 + \$8.35 p&p**  
**Single-use licence**  
[Individuals, small Family History Groups]

A members' discount applies.

**\$75.00 + \$8.35 p&p**  
**Multiple-use licence**  
[Libraries, FH Groups with internal Servers, etc.]

# ISAAC, ALICE AND SARAH ELIZABETH BRIGGS

Andrew Cocker (Member No.6865)

**D**ATING back to settlement by the Danish Vikings from 650, Barkisland is a village in West Yorkshire, 1.6 km east of Ripponden and 6.4 km south-west of Halifax, in the UK. Ripponden is a village which was once a main stopping place for the Halifax to Liverpool stagecoach. In 1811 nine cotton mills were in operation in the Ripponden area deriving power from the river Ryburn making it a thriving commercial centre. Elland is a larger market town in Calderdale by the River Calder, some 6 km from Barkisland.



In 1620 the DEAN family built Old House Farm in Barkisland. In 1736 the owner John Dean died, and left the farm to his eldest son John, and the land on the other side of the road to his youngest son Joseph. In 1737 Joseph and his wife Mary built New House Farm.

In 1785 Joseph's son Moses leased the farm land, and because it was not viable as a farm, he opened New House Farm as a pub named 'Sign of the Cross' after a nearby stone Celtic Cross. In 1798 Moses died, aged 49 years. He left his property to be divided among his six children, Joseph, Sarah, John, Thomas, George Stansfield and Alice once they were 21 years old. This decision by Moses, to share his estate equally was the start of a series of disasters.

On 23 January 1803 in St Mary the Virgin Church of England at Elland, Moses' widowed wife Mary (née STANSFIELD, married a local

stonemason, John AINLEY. John tried to comply with the terms of the will and some of the children were paid. The eldest son, Joseph, became a school teacher in Liverpool and he put pressure on John Ainley but there was not enough money to pay everyone. When the youngest daughter Alice, who was born in 1797, came of age there was nothing left and the pub had been mortgaged three times over, which eventually led to a fraud trial. John Ainley moved to a cottage opposite the pub and was cleared by the court because he gained nothing out of the will. However, on 27 December 1825 John Ainley, Innkeeper of Barkisland, was declared bankrupt.

Alice had married Isaac Briggs in 1821 and on 22 May 1827 Isaac was also declared bankrupt. The pub, 'Sign of the Cross', was sold along with the other land and assets by public auction on 29 June 1827. The pub still trades today as one of the only two in Barkisland, and is now known as the 'Fleece Inn'.



Isaac Briggs, the second born child of Grace (née FIRTH) and Joseph Briggs was born in Elland and christened on 25 October 1789. Joseph (born in 1747 in Barkisland and died in 1829 at Ripponden) and Grace had married in Elland on 15 February 1779. Other children born to Joseph and Grace were John, Elizabeth, Isaac, Hannah, Susan and Benjamin.

Isaac Briggs and Alice Dean's marriage was on 27 October 1821 in St John the Baptist Church, Halifax, when Isaac was

recorded as a manufacturer; he was in fact a weaver. They had three children: Mary, Alice and Sarah Elizabeth. However when Isaac was declared bankrupt in 1827 his occupation was recorded as dealer and chapman.<sup>1</sup>

Isaac, was able to read and write and was a weaver, like his father. It appears the first two children, Mary and Alice died young and Isaac must have been desperate to provide for his wife who was pregnant with Sarah Elizabeth. Desperate, he resorted to crime and became a member of an infamous local gang of forgers. The *Lancaster Gazette* (and other local papers) reported widely on the trial and on 24 May 1825 heralded the committal for trial of six men.

Just days before Sarah Elizabeth was born Isaac entered a guilty plea to two charges and on 19 July 1828 he was sentenced to death at the City of York Summer Assizes on both accounts.

Reprieved, Isaac was sentenced to transportation for life. He spent eight months on the hulk *Retribution* anchored at Woolwich in the Thames River prior to his transportation to Van Diemen's Land (VDL).<sup>2</sup> He may have been incarcerated at York Gaol prior to this.

Isaac departed London for Hobart Town on 26 March 1829 aboard the convict ship *Lady Harewood* which was built at Thames, England in 1791. There were 208 convicts aboard with only one death during the 124 day journey which ended at Hobart Town on 28 July 1829, the day Isaac's daughter Sarah Elizabeth turned one.

At 40 years of age Isaac was 5 feet 4¼ inches [164 cm] tall, brown whiskers, an oval visage with a perpendicular forehead, dark brown eye brows and dark hazel eyes. He had a long nose and medium to thick lips with a medium long chin. His trade was given as wool carder.<sup>3</sup>

Upon completion of the convict arrival process in Hobart Town, Isaac was sent to the male house of correction, the Campbell Street penitentiary. From there he was sent to the Female House of Correction—the Female Factory, at the Cascades in South Hobart. There, he taught the convict women how to sort/comb/card and spin the wool. Wool prepared by the female prisoners at the Cascades Female Factory was sent to Maria Island to be woven into cloth. Having had experience as a wool carder/comber/sorter he was presumably regarded as an expert in this field. And Maria Island is where Isaac was soon sent. He arrived there in November 1829 (occupation given as weaver) where Commander Major Daunt LORD had a factory which produced 100 yards (91 metres) of cloth per week.<sup>4</sup>

It is likely he was on the maiden voyage of the VDL government cutter *Charlotte* which departed with prisoners and stores for Maria Island on 26 October 1829.

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<sup>1</sup> A chapman was an itinerant dealer or hawker. At that time insolvent debtors and bankrupts were different at law and bankruptcy was restricted to traders making their living by buying and selling. Many insolvent debtors described themselves fictitiously as 'dealers or chapmans' to qualify for bankruptcy, which was only extended to include most skilled craftsmen after 1861.

<sup>2</sup> The *Retribution* was launched in 1779 as the 74-gun navy ship HMS *Edgar* which was converted to a prison hulk in 1813, renamed *Retribution* in 1814, and broken up in 1835

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<sup>3</sup> Description record CON18/1/12, p.14

<sup>4</sup> This was made into prisoner garments and blankets for the Convict Department

On 7 March 1832 he was recommended for assignment but instead he was one of twenty-four male convicts detained to assist in the closing down of the first Maria Island settlement. Isaac was still on Maria Island in April 1832 and may have left in September with the last of the convicts and Major Daunt Lord and his family.

Isaac was 'assigned' to Port Arthur in 1832 and in 1833 was on 'public works'—location not specified. From 1840–1845 he was at Bridgewater—when not on the tread-wheel in Hobart or in the local lock-up. Isaac's records show he spent many days on the dreaded tread wheel in gaol—for 21 days from 13 August 1839 which was only nine days before his wife Alice and daughter Sarah Elizabeth were to have arrived in Hobart.

The years from 1832 were clearly unkind to him as he was regularly punished for being drunk. In May 1840 the Lieutenant-Governor deprived him of his Ticket of Leave and ordered him to three months hard labour on the roads at Green Ponds.



Meanwhile, in September 1838 Alice Briggs and her remaining living daughter, Sarah, had departed Liverpool, England for Sydney to join her husband Isaac in VDL. Isaac's brother Benjamin with his wife Lydey and their four children; Joseph, Elizabeth, Sarah, Maryanne and Lydia accompanied them. Lydia their fifth child was probably born at sea on the James Moran journey to Sydney.

Their ship *Dunlop*, with Captain BANCE in command of eighty-one emigrants from the UK headed for Hobart Town, ran ashore in fine weather at Cape Town, Cape of Good Hope, South Africa on 24

November 1838,<sup>5</sup> going to pieces within hours. The Briggs families walked into Cape Town where for almost 6 weeks, they were at the mercy of local benevolent societies; a public subscription for donations having been established.

On 1 January 1839 they departed Cape Town on the *James Moran*, arriving in Port Jackson, NSW on 11 February 1839, a voyage of 113 days.

Five months later, on 17 July 1839, Alice and Sarah Briggs left Sydney aboard the *Medway* at the expense of the VDL government. The journey from Sydney to Hobart Town took an extraordinary five weeks. There were extremely bad storms and Master Borthwick WIGHT had to take measures to protect the passengers, one being Lady Jane FRANKLIN, wife of Lieutenant-Governor Franklin.

Eleven months after leaving Liverpool and within days of her destination, Alice died. She was buried at sea on 1 August 1839 off the Bay of Fires, north-east VDL.

This event and her interactions with Sarah Briggs are recorded in Lady Jane Franklin's journals.

#### **Thursday 1st August**

Snachall told me when bringing my breakfast, that the poor daft woman Mrs Briggs had died about an hour before - It was only at dinner yesterday that I heard she was seriously ill, though some jokes had been afloat for a day or two previously as to Mr Grant giving her Mollison's pills, sometimes whole, sometimes pounded, sometimes in a powder by way of variety - I thought I would go and see her either after dinner or next morning, but left it till morning - her complaint appears to have been inflammation of the bowels and she said all thru' her indisposition

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<sup>5</sup> The *Dunlop* was a wooden ship of 389 tons built in Montreal, Canada in 1806 and registered in London

that she should die. At 12 o'clock I heard the bell toll, and took it to be a mark of decent respect to her memory, but presently Mr Elliot knocked at my door and asked if I would be present at the funeral. I made what haste I could to go on deck, where Captain and sailors and the women assembled and Mr Braim read the service which he did very well.

Mrs Briggs had a little girl on board, 11 or 12 years old, she was said to have behaved very ill to her mother and to have shown not the least feeling at her death - the child was present, was observed to watch very attentively and to be affected at the disappearance of her mother in the waves - I sent for the child after dinner in my cabin and found her very interesting and as I thought clever, expressing herself in terms and in a manner beyond her years.

She did not express any sorrow at her mother's death, but could have wished she had been buried on the land, she said. I mentioned at tea the favourable impression she had produced on me and then found that all the gentlemen partly Wright, Grant, Braim and Elliot agreed in thinking her a very bad child and Captain who was never mistaken - he said in anyone's countenance thought she had one of the worst he had ever met.

### **Tuesday 6th/3 weeks**

- had sick headache - At night the wind fell and we rolled more in the calm than before - having heard that Sarah had put on her other frock and the pinafore she had made herself and was very anxious to know if I should send for her (which was owing no doubt to Mr. Braim and M. Stanley having talked to her, I sent for her while in bed. She looked very tidy, with her hair brushed back behind her ears - read to her, made her read ...

They eventually arrived in Hobart Town passing Adventure Bay, Bruny Island on 19 August. Lady Franklin arranged for Sarah to be admitted to the Queens

Orphan School at New Town and called in a few days later.

Her journal continued on 22 August 1839:

I enquired for Sarah Briggs who arrived in the school yesterday and has been scrubbed and washed and clothed afresh, operations which Mrs Gazard assured me were highly necessary. I sent for Sarah who seemed pleased to see me, but flung herself round a little when I gave her some good advice.

Sarah stayed in the Orphan School for two years and three months, being discharged on 12 November 1841 when she was released to the care of her Uncle Benjamin Briggs and his wife Lydey.

Benjamin and family had arrived in VDL on 3 April 1840 on the *Marion Watson* from Sydney some eight months after Sarah. Lydey Briggs died in childbirth, aged 36, on 8 November 1842 at Brighton—Sarah probably cared for her younger cousins. Brothers Benjamin and Isaac were fellmongers in the Black Brush district.<sup>6</sup> Benjamin and Lydey's son, Joseph was still carrying on this business in 1876.

Sarah, aged 17, married convict John COCKER, aged 33, at Green Ponds on 22 August 1845. John had been sentenced to 21 years' transportation after conviction for his third attempt at desertion from the British Army; the last time in Montreal around the time of the Canadian Uprising. John Cocker received a conditional pardon in 1849. He and Sarah had eleven children.

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<sup>6</sup> Removing hair from animal hides in preparation for tanning. According to Alison Alexander's *Brighton and Surrounds*, there are remains of a shed and hide drying equipment on the rivulet. There is a road in the district named Briggs with a few Briggs descendants still residing in the area.

Benjamin Briggs died 31 October 1852. His death was registered at Brighton by John Cocker of Green Point. Records show John's mark (X) as the informant.

According to his inquest on 2 November 1852 Isaac Briggs died at Black Brush of natural causes. Evidence given by friends George GIBBARD, farmer Thomas HAMPTON (who married Isaac's niece Elizabeth Briggs), and by local doctor Charles LEMPRIERE, paints a sad picture of a lonely man who had probably become an alcoholic. He was buried on 4 November 1852 by Reverend John BURROWES in an unmarked grave at St Marks Church of England, Pontville.

It is unlikely Sarah saw her father again after she and husband John Cocker chose to leave the Brighton District. By April 1848 when Sarah gave birth to her second child (Sarah) they were at Lincoln in the Macquarie River district of Campbell Town. By April 1851 the Cocker family was living at Hadspen where they remained for about nine years and was where the next three children were born. Between 1860 and 1863 the growing family lived at Hagley, Quamby and Westbury. The eleventh and last child was born at Barrington in 1870.

We know that religion played a large part in Sarah's life as all her children were baptised in the Methodist faith within three months of birth. Journeys from Hadspen to Launceston's Paterson St Church were made on four occasions, and for the youngest, Jane Evangeline, a trip was made from Barrington to Latrobe. What may be a 15-minute journey by car today was probably a full day's return journey by horse and cart or bullock and dray and a major commitment.

John Cocker died at Evandale in 1872 after an accident with a steam threshing machine. He was working as a wheat

feeder with two of his sons on the 'Cambock' estate at Evandale, then leased by Edward EASTON, for a Mr BRYAN when his foot was caught in the machine. His last words when they tried to extricate him were, "Don't; let me alone; I'm all right." But the machine had pulled his left leg off and he died at the scene within minutes.

Within three months of his death, Sarah made application for charitable assistance for her four youngest children. Sarah died from a cramped bowel on 30 August 1874, aged 46 at the home of her son John at Barrington, two years after the death of her husband.

The families of Isaac and Alice Briggs and his brother Benjamin and Lydey have grown to include over 2000 people and some 450 unique surnames. Their details may be found at [www.cocker.id.au](http://www.cocker.id.au)

Isaac, Alice and Sarah Briggs were buried in unmarked graves; the sea, St Marks Pontville and, we believe, Barrington. ◀

To commemorate their lives,  
and those of their Tasmanian families,  
descendants will be unveiling a  
memorial plaque at a short service at  
5:00 p.m. at

**St Marks Church, Pontville**

followed by a local celebratory  
drink and dinner

**Sunday 22 February 2015**

Details, an invitation to descendants and  
an online registration form are available  
from the Cocker family web site at  
[www.cocker.id.au/ceremony.htm](http://www.cocker.id.au/ceremony.htm)

# EXPANDING THE CURRICULUM

## WOODWORK SCHOOLS, 1907

Betty Jones (Member No.6032)



### **B**ackground

When Mr William NEALE took up his appointment as Director of Education at the beginning of 1905, the Tasmanian education system was judged as being much behind the times. Some of the problems of the period were recalled more than three years later by the Minister for Education, Mr W B PROPSTING, thus: High fees were charged to children, especially to the poor; schoolrooms were ill-lighted, not sanitary, ill-adapted for work, and sadly out of repair; the inspectors were poorly paid, and their number so inadequate that schools were but partly supervised; teachers' emoluments were inadequate in all the smaller schools, prices of books for school children were so high that very many children were without the necessary writing material; and the large majority of teachers were untrained.<sup>1</sup>

By 1908 many changes to the system had been implemented, including: 27 new

school buildings erected, with new homes for teachers included in many of them; a book store established so books could be supplied to children at a lower cost; two additional inspectors appointed, with the result that all schools could be visited twice a year, including schools in the Catholic system; registration of all private schools and teachers made compulsory; medical inspections introduced; a teacher training college set up; and specialist cookery and woodwork schools established in Hobart and Launceston.<sup>2</sup>

This article takes a closer look at the last named innovation, the woodwork schools which were introduced in 1907.

### **The rationale**

In December 1905, Mr Neale advised the Executive of the Tasmanian Teachers' Federation that it was proposed to send two young teachers to Melbourne to be trained in 'Sloyd' at the Woodwork School.<sup>3</sup> In some other parts of Australia

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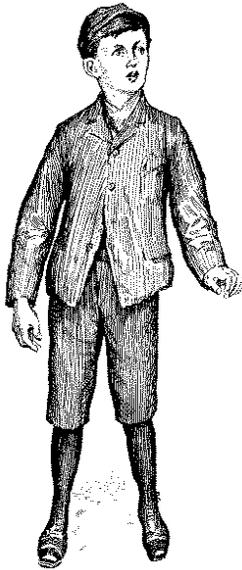
<sup>1</sup> *Daily Telegraph*, 14 October 1908

<sup>2</sup> *ibid*

<sup>3</sup> *North Western Advocate and Emu Bay*

the Sloyd system from Sweden had been taken up as a progressive educational idea that used handwork, and in particular woodwork, as a mechanism for giving meaning and fullness to other subjects, 'to train the eye to see and the hands to execute'.<sup>4</sup> In 1906, the Principal of the newly opened Teachers' Training College, Mr J A JOHNSTON, MA, gave a lecture on the value of handwork being included in the curriculum. As well as stating that such work provided an alternate focus for scholars who did not enjoy 'head-work', he suggested it also promoted sound guidance in careful accuracy in those who wished to become, for example, doctors or lawyers.<sup>5</sup>

The Department was keen to explain to parents that the introduction of the subject was not just a mere fad or a 'new-fangled notion' that would interfere with the acquirement of the Three Rs. Several articles on the topic were published in local newspapers stressing that all experience indicated that the most accurate thinkers and the most rapid learners of the Three Rs were those who had had proper manual training at the proper stage of growth.<sup>6</sup> Every University was said to be teaching that 'the fingers actually weave the brain.' The final object, then, was to make brain



growth possible, and thus to give power to think.<sup>7</sup>

### The Hobart Woodwork School

Mr Neale made application in December 1906 to the Secretary for Lands to convert the Fives Court at Anglesea Barracks and the adjoining allotment in Hobart for the purpose of a Woodwork School, and £5 was paid for a license for one year. Stubbs Bros' tender for £250/10/- to carry out the work was approved in April 1907.<sup>8</sup> The original Barracks building dated back to 1836.

The new school was to afford accommodation for forty boys but a start was made by taking twenty boys in the morning and another twenty in the afternoon. Thus two hundred boys were to receive instruction in the course of a week. Those boys were to be drawn from the metropolitan and suburban schools and also from schools within a 28 mile radius of the railway lines. In the case of this last-named class of scholars, the railway fares were to be paid by the Education Department.<sup>9</sup>

With a maximum of twenty boys in each class, the number from the outlying schools was apportioned according to school size. Schools and participants in this category in 1907 included.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Times*, 6 December 1905

<sup>4</sup> *The Examiner*, 24 May 1907

<sup>5</sup> *North Western Advocate and Emu Bay*

*Times*, 13 September 1906

<sup>6</sup> *The Mercury*, 4 May 1907

<sup>7</sup> *The Mercury*, 27 May 1907

<sup>8</sup> Tasmanian Archive and Heritage Office (TAHO): ED9/1/962

<sup>9</sup> *The Mercury*, 4 May 1907

<sup>10</sup> TAHO: ED9/1/285 686/1907

*Bellerive:* George ATKINS, Alfred EASTON, George NASH, Raymond SLY, Fred THOMPSON, Irwin WARD

*Bismark:* It was noted that the two boys enrolled for Saturday morning classes were unable to attend as they belonged to the sect of Seventh Day Adventists and kept up that day as their Sabbath.

*Bridgewater State School:* Percy EVERETT, Frank HODGMAN, Eric PAUL, Harold RODWELL, John TRIBOLET

*Cambridge:* Sydney BACKHOUSE, John BELBIN, Athol BRIANT, Clarence FERGUSSON

*Claremont:* Claude BURRIS, Samuel MOSELEY, Charles REED

*Dromedary:* Lesley AITKEN, Ernest NICHOLS, Eric RAYNER

*Glenorchy:* Thomas BACKHOUSE, Charles BRIGGS, Herbert BUTTERWORTH, William BUTTERWORTH, Daniel COOPER, William COOPER, Athol HALLAM, Victor JACQUES, Arthur MAY, Eric SMITH, Leslie SMITH, Leonard WESTBROOK

*New Norfolk:* Robert ANDREWS, Norman BLAKE, Roy ELMER, Alan EXCELL, William FYLE, Walter HANSEN, Archibald HYTT, Arthur C JONES, Keith JONES, John LAHL, Eric MAXFIELD, Michael MITCHELL, Alan PATMORE, Robert PERRY, Joseph TRIFFITT,

*New Town:* Sylvester BRUE, Alan BUCHANAN, Vernon BYRNES, Loyal CHERRY, Clyde COOLEY, Vernon DRAKE, Clarence FREEMAN, Alfred GRUBB, Thomas HALLAM, Douglas HICKMAN, Garnet HYATT, Derwent LIPSCOMB, Leslie LONG, Edgar PROCTOR, Errol QUINN, Montagu READ, John SHEEN, Walter STREET,

Charles THOMPSON, Arthur WHARMBY

*Pontville:* Harold FLEMING, Eardley GEARD, Ronald GORE

*Sorell:* Eric BARNARD, Harold BIDGOOD, John HARROD, Allan MARSHALL, Donald POWER, Errol POWER

By July 1907, the timetable also accommodated boys from the local State schools: Monday, Macquarie Street; Tuesday: Bathurst Street Central; Wednesday: Battery Point; Thursday: Goulburn Street; Friday: Trinity Hill; Saturday morning: Training College students. A number of materials had been requisitioned, giving indication of the work being undertaken: T squares and set squares for blackboard use, HH and HB lead pencils, rulers, brass compasses, Roll books, stock books, time books, chalk, coloured chalk, rubber stamp to mark models, first aid box, bench hooks, trestles, teacher's desk, two cupboards, and a great many racks for extra tools.<sup>11</sup>

Not all members of the general public were immediately accepting of the way the participants were chosen. A letter to the Editor published in *The Mercury* in August 1907 aired the view that the privilege of attending the Woodwork (and Cookery) Schools was granted to 'the favoured few at the expense of all.' The Department responded quickly stating that it was the intention of the Department that eligible scholars would attend those classes one day a week for six months. When the classes were inaugurated, the teachers were instructed to select the scholars who should receive instruction in cookery and woodwork, giving preference to boys and girls who

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<sup>11</sup> *ibid*

were most likely to leave school, first.<sup>12</sup> It is interesting to note that the issue of access for all continued to be raised in the decades that followed. In 1943, for example, at the annual general meeting of the Albuera Street State School Parents' Association, members expressed their concern that many boys were disappointed at not being able to attend a Sloyd class. It seemed that the only satisfactory way of affording all primary school boys the opportunity was to have a Sloyd school attached to every large school.<sup>13</sup> That, of course, would have been very expensive to implement.

Train travel for boys attending from outlying areas was not without problems. Miss Elizabeth JOHNSTON, Teacher-in-Charge at Cambridge State School, wrote a letter on 18 August 1907 stating that the parents of Athol Briant and Clarence Fergusson had refused to allow them to attend the Woodwork classes. Two or three of the local boys who travelled to private schools had been behaving badly, quarrelling and fighting. Unfortunately, the parents had witnessed this and felt afraid that perhaps their boys might be drawn into some similar bother on the train.<sup>14</sup>

### **The Launceston Woodwork School**

The Launceston Woodwork School was purpose-built in the grounds of Wellington Square State School in 1907. The brief from the Education Department was that it was to be of an inexpensive character and constructed of wood. A



lean-to was needed at one end to act as a cloakroom and also a storeroom for timber.<sup>15</sup> In May, the tender of Messrs Russell and Sons for its erection at a cost of £1305 was accepted, and the work was expected to take six weeks to complete.<sup>16</sup>

### **The first teachers**

Mr George James Downing McLEOD (1882–1966), also known as 'Jimmy', was born at Hokitika, New Zealand, son of British-born teachers, John McLeod and his wife Mary, née DOWNING. He arrived in Tasmania with his parents in November 1884 and later attended his father's school at Winkleigh. From 1894 to 1897 he assumed the position of Paid Monitor there.<sup>17</sup> Mr McLeod underwent training as a Pupil Teacher at Charles Street State School in Launceston from 1898. After that he held a number of Head Teacher positions in a variety of small schools. In 1906 he attended Melbourne Teachers' College to learn the Sloyd system at the Woodwork School, and then worked as the sole teacher at the new Woodwork School in Hobart from 1907 to 1911. Seeking a return to mainstream schools again, he was appointed 1<sup>st</sup> Assistant at Battery Point and then Albuera Street State Schools between 1912 and 1917. During that time he studied part-time at the University and was awarded a Bachelor of Arts in 1916. Mr McLeod enlisted for World War 1 in 1917 as a Gunner in the Field Artillery Brigade. He returned home in April 1919 and resumed his previous position at Albuera Street. In

<sup>12</sup> *The Mercury*, 6 August 1907

<sup>13</sup> *The Mercury*, 19 August 1943

<sup>14</sup> TAHO: ED9/1/285; 686/1907

<sup>15</sup> TAHO: ED9/1/854; 751/191

<sup>16</sup> *The Examiner*, 24 May 1907

<sup>17</sup> TAHO: ED2/1/1725; file 1969

1920 he started teaching at Hobart High School followed by some time at the Launceston Junior Technical College, and by the mid-1930s was appointed Head Teacher at Scottsdale High. He returned to Hobart in 1944 to become Headmaster at Princes Street School, and it was from there that he retired in 1952. In December 1921, Mr McLeod married Lillian Alma TOWNLEY in Hobart and they had four children.

Mr Arthur Conrad WALKER (1883–1966) was born at Weldborough, son of James Walker and his wife Harriet, née LEE. He had been a store keeper before joining the Department, and was living at Weldborough in 1901 when he first made application.<sup>18</sup> His teaching career commenced at Queenstown as an assistant teacher in 1902 before he became Teacher in Charge at Rocky Cape in 1904. During 1906 he spent three months at Melbourne Teachers' College being trained in the Sloyd system of Woodwork. When the Launceston Woodwork School opened in July 1907, Mr Walker became the teacher. He remained in the position until the end of 1911, at which time he indicated his desire to return to ordinary teaching, and subsequently became an assistant at Invermay and then Beaconsfield State Schools. A series of Head Teacher appointments commenced from 1913, placing Mr Walker in the communities of Campbell Town, Geeveston, Waratah, Longford and Mowbray Heights over a period of twenty-seven years. In 1939 he became Head master at Bellerive, and it was from that school that he retired in 1951. He then returned to live in Launceston. Mr Walker married Edith SOLOMON at Launceston in 1912, and they had three children between 1913 and 1921.

### **The course of study**

At both schools there were ten work benches, each shared by two boys. Everything that the boys made was of a practical nature, and could be used in their own homes. The timber was given free of all cost, all tools and implements were found, and the work became the property of the boy who made it. Starting with the making of a simple wedge for windows with a pocket-knife, each boy worked through a definite series of Sloyd models which took three years, and also during that time received lessons in elementary mechanical drawing. The fundamental idea of the teaching was to fit the boys for the taking up of any manual occupation by laying the foundation of knowledge upon which to build after they left the school. The desire was not so much to turn out carpenters or mechanics as to cultivate the habit in the boys of doing things carefully and correctly, and in that respect it was said to be found very beneficial in boys who did not take up manual occupations at all.

The work done included the making of wooden scoops, towel rollers, pastry rollers, photo frames, knife boards, hat-racks, racks for books, plant labels, plant stands, axe handles, egg stands, wooden foot-stools and other things of that nature. The wooden scoops revealed great work of art and a good degree of mechanical adaptability on the part of the boys, being carved from a block of wood smoothed off with no other tools than gouges, files and chisels (anything in the nature of a machine was barred altogether). Wooden pin bowls, beautifully finished off, became much-admired products, as were rulers, made with ordinary tools, but displaying as much precision as if they

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<sup>18</sup> TAHO: ED2/1/2066; file 2325

had been turned in the lathe. A carved crumb tray was another prized product.<sup>19</sup>

Many of those simple woodwork items made by the boys who attended the schools are known to have become useful items in family homes, kept and treasured for years. For example, in 1966 the Launceston Field Naturalists Club was bequeathed the old Skemp family property at Myrtle Bank, outside of Launceston, and later a huon pine coat hanger made by John (Jack) Rowland SKEMP (1900–1966) at the Launceston Woodwork School was found in the house. It bore the Sloyd stamp and a mark of '9'.<sup>20</sup>

### Development

By 1912 the Hobart school had been relocated to the old Trinity Hill State School building, the Barracks site lease having come to an end. The popularity of the Sloyd system continued to increase across the State throughout the following decades with more and more woodwork schools being opened. By 1937 for instance, there was an additional school at Moonah (taking selected boys from New Town, Bowen Road, Bridgewater, Claremont, Glenorchy and Moonah State Schools). With the growth in the number of High Schools and Area Schools available, Woodwork as a primary school subject eventually became the almost exclusive domain of secondary and technical education.

Some readers of this article are likely to remember the names of other teachers associated with the Hobart and Launceston Woodwork Schools up to 1949. The following men had appointments there, ranging in status from Junior Teacher to Teacher in Charge:

*Hobart:* James R EYRE (1940–1946), John W GREEN (1912), William Wallace HOPE (1913–3.1914), Mervyn Henry MADDOCK (1917), Charles Stansell SNOOK (1919–1944), William Gilbert SPEERS (1914–1918), Francis WILLIAMS (1940)

*Launceston:* Matthew Henry (Harry) EYRE (1919–1927), Alex M FRANCE (1948–1949), William Wallace HOPE (.4.1915–1918; 1937–1949), Herbert HOPGOOD (1928–3.1939), Hubert Roy NICHOLS (1912–3.1915), Herbert James WHITTON (1918)<sup>21</sup>

Multiple thousands of boys throughout Tasmania have undertaken courses in woodwork during their school years thanks to the introduction of the Sloyd system in 1907. The original theory that 'the fingers actually weave the brain' passed the test of time. ◀

### NEWS FROM PRO Vic Digitised Childrens Ward Registers 1864–1890s Now Available!

Files which offer detailed information on children identified as 'wards of the state' during the years 1860s to the 1890s now available to view online.

The files can provide terrific information for family researchers such as the child's name, date of birth, native place, religion, cause of commitment, where they were stationed, licensing out details, details of discharge and general reporting information.

To search by name use the function 'search within a series' and use the numbers 4527 after the letters VPRS, and then search by typing in a name.

<http://www.access.prov.vic.gov.au/public/component/daPublicBaseContainer?component=daSearchWithinSeries>

<sup>19</sup> *The Mercury*, 9 February 1910

<sup>20</sup> [www.lfnc.org.au](http://www.lfnc.org.au)

<sup>21</sup> *The Educational Record*, 1912–1949

# BUNKS IN BARNs

Ivan Heazlewood (Member No.5081)

**O**LDER generation Australians were aware of the bombing of Darwin in the 1940s but the full extent of Japanese air raids on northern Australia was not made public then.

Ask any Australian born after World War II if the invasion of southern states by Japan was ever considered a real possibility, requiring detailed and comprehensive plans for evacuation of the civil population as well as military operations, and the answer would likely be “surely not we are too remote”.

However, the facts are that a negative answer, to the above question, is definitely wrong and indeed detailed plans for the evacuation of civilians from the two major cities in our remote island state were formulated in early 1942.

But where, you might ask, is there any material evidence of such an undertaking? No plaque or memorial mentions it and even written evidence requires research.

As far as I am aware the only material evidence still in existence is found in old farm buildings. That evidence is sleeping accommodation built in granaries and other farm buildings in 1942 or put briefly ‘Bunks in Barns’.

In my own case, although I can remember bunks being built in our old 1860s barn in 1942 and using them as storage shelves

over the next four decades, by about 1980 they had become an impediment to progress and like most other cases in the district they were dismantled. The timber, mostly 3x1 inch battens, was then used for other purposes. However, two horizontal lengths of 3x1 inch, running along each wall, one at three feet and the other at six feet high still remain and

although hundreds of people have since been in that building very few could identify the original purpose.

In 1942 bunks were not rare in barns and many farm buildings in the Whitmore district, and indeed the Longford, Westbury and Deloraine municipalities, were prepared to receive people from Launceston. Fortunately in

my local area there are two cases where the bunks still exist and they must now be regarded as historical icons.

It is now unnecessary to mention that plans and provisions made in our remote island were never implemented but it is profitable to record and contemplate the remarkable efficiency and swiftness of their formulation. Soon after my decision to attempt to record some of the circumstances which affected my local community in 1942, I became aware that official records of the country receiving areas were scarce or not available (Westbury Municipality kept no records),



Ivan and the bunks at ‘Roselands’

but was delighted to find comprehensive records of correspondence from the Civil Defence Legion to the Launceston City Council were held at the Queen Victoria Museum, Inveresk Campus. Fortunately, although these records give explicit instructions about evacuation preparations for Launceston citizens there are also some indications of requirements needed in the country receiving areas, such as ours. However, for that important aspect we are left to rely to some extent on older citizens' memories, recounted memoirs, suppositions and most probably some imagination.

It is the records of the organisation known as the Civil Defence Legion which furnish most of the reliable material for this paper. It was established in 1927 and in 1935 plans were produced showing priority target areas in Launceston and surrounding areas. Then in January 1939, four months after the declaration of war on Germany, a spate of correspondence from the Legion to the various Tasmanian municipalities began. Examples are listed below:

- Correspondence with and about the Launceston Branch of the Legion
- Outward letters from the Director and Secretary of the Legion
- A report on a black-out practice in Melbourne
- Advice from specialists on Air Raid precautions
- Map of Tasmania showing priority invasion areas
- Plus numerous other associated matters

The Japanese air raid on Pearl Harbour took place on 7 December 1941 and the United States of America (USA) then entered the war with the Allies. The correspondence now quickly changed from general outlines of procedure to specific instructions. A circular from the

Legion to Municipal Councils dated 12 January 1942, less than six weeks after Pearl Harbour, outlined the actions to be taken in the country reception areas. Foremost were surveys of the food resources, quantity of chaff bags that could be filled with straw for mattresses, cooking utensils and quantity of crockery, cutlery available plus trestle tables, tents and tarpaulins. What lavatory accommodation would be necessary and what water and wood was on hand.<sup>1</sup>

Later a document headed 'Secret' was circulated to councils saying evacuation from both areas liable to invasion and those likely to receive intensive air raids would be necessary.

It went on to mention Hydro installations, Electrolytic Zinc, Mount Lyell as specific targets but said that industry was not to be interrupted.

Wireless was not to be used for warning the civil population.

The city areas were required to determine the number of evacuees by age, sex, establish assembly areas, equipment to be taken, vehicles available, petrol supplies to be taken to the country areas.

The Police Force was charged with arrangements for notifying the civil population of the need to evacuate. The specified means to be used for this purpose are runners, motor cyclists, despatch riders, whistles, sirens etc.

It included instructions for Welfare Officers, Police, Billeting Officers and Live Stock Officers in the country areas. The latter to call on drovers, shepherds and owners to move stock 'without delay' and to see that all class of livestock were

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<sup>1</sup> Civil Defence Legion to Municipal Councils 12 January 1942 Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery (QVMAG)

moved from areas where they could fall into enemy hands and be used for food.<sup>2</sup>

The broad plan was to move most of the population of Hobart to the Upper Derwent Valley or the Channel area and that of Launceston to Longford, Westbury and Deloraine municipalities and while it is recalled that Devonport citizens were to be sheltered in the Sheffield region no such information is available in respect to Burnie.

The scant records relating to Westbury reveal that on 1 May 1939 five months prior to the Declaration of War, Westbury acceded to a direction from the Civil Defence Legion that a local committee should be set up to institute air raid precautions. On 9 February 1942 only five weeks after Pearl Harbour the Legion requested formation of a committee 'for receiving and carrying out instructions to receive evacuees'. Warden, Councillor C A ARCHER, Council Clerk and Senior Constable KEARNEY were appointed.

In May 1942 another committee of the Warden and Councillors BENDALI, WHISHAW, CONN, FRENCH and the Council Clerk was formed after receipt of correspondence from the Director of Evacuation.

In contrast to Westbury, the material detailing plans for Launceston's evacuation procedures are extensive.

Following a survey of Launceston's population ten evacuation centres were established with the number of evacuees at each identified e.g. York Park 6,176, St Georges Square 3,652, to a city total of 30,863.<sup>3</sup> Then details of each centre were tabulated—number of males and females,

number of vehicles available, number of people requiring transport etc.<sup>4</sup>

Early lists of vehicles could be of interest to motoring enthusiasts. They gave the owner's name, address, phone number, make of car and capacity. So you see Pontiac 6 persons, Olds Sedan 6, Hudson 5, Hillman 6.<sup>5</sup>

There were also surveys to establish what stocks of crockery, cutlery and cooking utensils were available at clubs and churches for transport to country areas, so that seventy-two years later we know that the Commercial Travellers Club, amongst seventeen other listed categories, had three dozen large plates, Margaret Street Methodist Church had four jugs and two tea pots. Of the thirty-two such organisations surveyed ranging from the YMCA to Gentlemen's Clubs and the Trades Hall several interesting comments were added to the return. One emphasised that their items were of the very best quality, another had 150 feet of trestle table and another declined to furnish any details of what was held but gave the assurance it would co-operate if emergency required.<sup>6</sup>

Although it is likely that most of the civil population was unaware, the comprehensive nature of correspondence indicates the Civil Defence Legion was well prepared for evacuations in early 1942. The instructions to Evacuation Officers said that at the assembly points there should be facilities for feeding, sanitation and ablutions, people should bring from home rations for two meals in

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<sup>2</sup> Director Civil Evacuation – Secret – 11 May 1942 (Circular No. 2), QVMAG

<sup>3</sup> Launceston Evacuation Centres (10 Centres), QVMAG

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<sup>4</sup> City Park Evacuation Centre – Population Survey, QVMAG

<sup>5</sup> Transport – Section 7 – Newstead (Cars), QVMA

<sup>6</sup> City of Launceston to: a) The Commercial Travellers Club, QVMAG and b) The Margaret Street Methodist Church 18 April 1942 (articles on hand), QVMAG

a haversack and identity cards should be fastened to evacuees. The medical officer was instructed to segregate persons with complaints or infections and make sure sufficient lavatory facilities were available at the evacuation centres. Duties of the stock officer included compiling a 'register of all stock of all kinds in his area' and he had to 'ensure that all stock was properly branded with owners mark'.<sup>7</sup>

Volunteer organisations and their personnel were listed. At Newstead for instance a First Aid Post and at East Launceston State School a Canteen was established. The ladies of the CWA were named as were those of the Parents and Friends Association in connection with the canteen and the First Aid Post was supported by the St Johns Ambulance Brigade, St Johns Nursing Division, Voluntary Aid Division (VAD), Boy Scouts and Girl Guides. The names and addresses of all personnel were given and the writer was not really surprised to note that his future wife, Beverley BARBER, was included with the Guides and her mother with the CWA list.<sup>8</sup>

Although it later changed, an early allocation of Launceston citizens to our western municipalities read Longford 8,000, Westbury 3,500 and Deloraine 7,500. The money allocated for providing accommodation for 19,000 people was £5,400.

An early, March 1942, report on an inspection of possible Longford facilities by a representative of the Civil Defence Legion, Mr PURTON, the Council Clerk, Mr DAVIS and Mr COOPER a member of the Evacuation Committee, gives indication of what conditions of 7,000

people in that municipality may have been, if required.<sup>9</sup>

In the light of the detailed planning, seen above, for the cities it is no surprise that equally specific instructions were sent to country reception areas. Of the seven responsible persons the Billeting Officer had the longest list (11) of instructions. An example, the preparation of zone billeting lists showing the location of each house, barn, kiln etc. and the number of men, women, girls and boys that could be accommodated was required

1. for absolute maximum
2. for comfortable billeting maximum

Another item said 'he will make arrangements for securing all material necessary for billeting in barns, kilns etc. including timber, light, water, bedding etc.'

Not surprisingly, the Health Inspector was instructed to plan adequate food inspection and check the personal hygiene of evacuees and the Welfare Officer was asked 'to plan to overcome fear, panic and homesickness', and 'organise leisure time occupations' and 'establish liaison with organisations such as Rotary, YMCA, Toc H etc. with a view to purchase, loan or gift of sporting material, books etc'.<sup>10</sup>

I can imagine people of today's generation will say "Surely it wasn't taken that seriously and all these preparations are some bureaucrat's pipe dream."

It wasn't. On 4 February 1942 the Premier, Mr COSGROVE, issued a press release stating that an attack here was likely<sup>11</sup> and stock officers, those in

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<sup>7</sup> Officials in Evacuation Areas, QVMAG

<sup>8</sup> Sector 7 – Newstead, QVMAG.

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<sup>9</sup> Report on Visit to Longford, 28 March 1942 and plan showing shearing Sheds, QVMAG

<sup>10</sup> Reception Areas – instructions to seven officers, QVMAG

<sup>11</sup> *Examiner* 18 February 1942 p.4/c.6

control of the lowest priority were informed that 'in some states action had been taken to enrol local drovers and branding of cattle had been completed'.<sup>12</sup> An undated letter from Hobart says 'Every effort should be made that the absolute maximum accommodation is obtained and that bunks should be built around the walls of kilns, barns, halls etc.—three high where space will allow and that meals should be taken ... in halls or marquees'. And before mentioning private billeting should be encouraged, it said occupiers should be asked to consider all types of out-buildings and their absolute capacity. By the way of encouragement it said 'It is really surprising what accommodation can be found if facilities are stretched to the limit'.<sup>13</sup>

As early as 30 January 1942 the Federal Government had taken over the pea crop and farmers were encouraged to grow blue peas. They were harvested dry but on reaching their destination of use they were rehydrated and became diet for the troops.<sup>14</sup> One cannot believe that they were eaten with relish.

Vegetable seed production was organised and in the following spring vegetables replaced flowers in city parks and gardens.

The recycling of aluminium was in full swing in January and the 4½ tons collected in Burnie was reported to be enough to enable the building of four Wirraway Aircrafts.<sup>15</sup>

Other things collected or recycled included cameras,<sup>16</sup> for use by the air-force,

rubber and all types of cordage, rope binder twine, sewing twine and string.<sup>17</sup>

Also in January the Federal Minister for Supply and Development issued an order freezing the sale of all hand tools in Australia and all hardware shops were required to furnish a return of stock on hand. The inventory of one Launceston firm required over 800 sheets of foolscap.<sup>18</sup>

Although rationing of food and clothing was not implemented till later in the year 60,000 application cards<sup>19</sup> were distributed to Tasmanians on 4 January 1942.<sup>20</sup>

The expectation of air raids in the autumn of 1942 must have been real. Launceston City had plans for the building of 48 shelters. A newspaper report said the Premier was ready to declare the closing of schools and another announced tighter lighting restrictions.

However it appears as late 1942 approached the prospect of invasion began to recede only to be replaced with more stringent rationing of food, clothing and petrol. A press report of 11 May 1942 indicates panic buying on the last day of unrestricted clothing sales.<sup>21</sup>

Manufacturers of engagement rings were instructed to cease production and a three months delay could be expected as stocks ran low. Wedding rings were exempt.<sup>22</sup>

Under the heading 'How Time is Lost. Farmers at Sales: 31<sup>st</sup> October', the Acting Deputy Director General of Manpower in a seemingly ambiguous statement both applauded Tasmanian

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<sup>12</sup> Undated from Civil Defence Legion - Stock Officers Plan, QVMAG

<sup>13</sup> Undated from Civil Defence Legion - re Population Surveys, QVMAG

<sup>14</sup> *Examiner* 30 January 1942 p.4/c.6

<sup>15</sup> *Examiner* 24 January 1942 p.4/c.7

<sup>16</sup> *Examiner* 24 January 1942 p.4/c.3

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<sup>17</sup> *Examiner* 23 January 1942 p.4/c.6

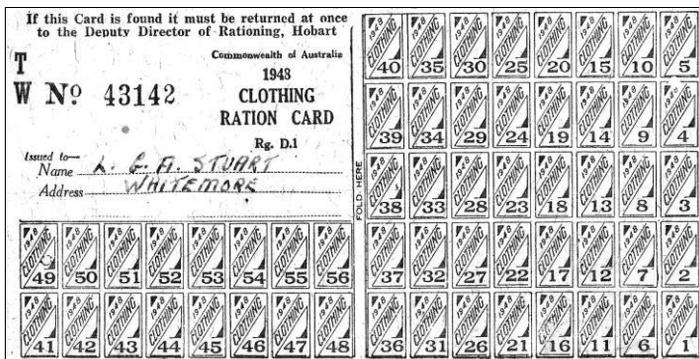
<sup>18</sup> *Examiner* 23 January 1942 p.4/c.6

<sup>19</sup> *Examiner* 23 January 1942 p.4/c.6

<sup>20</sup> Civil Defence Legion Circular No.37 QVMAG

<sup>21</sup> *Examiner* 11 May 1942 p.4/c.6

<sup>22</sup> *Examiner* 1 Jun 1942 p.4/c.6



agricultural output and criticised farmers for unnecessarily attending shows and sales.<sup>23</sup> In November of 1942 a special issue of 6 pounds of sugar for jam making would have been welcomed by many housewives.<sup>24</sup>

To my knowledge bunkers were never built in halls, or built three high, or in double rows around hop pickers huts but as witnessed above there were many built in barns. There were five known cases in my own immediate vicinity. It is also recalled that in the Longford and Deloraine Municipalities the number of evacuees that each property was expected to accommodate was displayed on the entrance gates.

In some cases those numbers remained undisturbed till they became an object of mystery requiring explanation to succeeding generations.

Preparation however did not stop there. Slit trenches, for which the specific dimensions were issued were common in both city and country. They were dug in the playground of the one teacher Whitmore School and in Launceston parks. In April Launceston planned to build forty-eight shelters in the city.

The guidelines said they were to be six feet deep, two feet wide at the bottom and five feet at the top and were to zigzag every 15 feet. I believe Whitmore examples were covered with timber and tin sheeting and one pupil recalls with pleasure the sense of adventure which weekly practice drill afforded.

On a higher level the Premier of Tasmania wrote to Westbury Council in May 1942, saying (in part) 'Large quantities of food have been imported and placed in selected areas, not only as emergency reserves but also for the purpose of meeting the needs of evacuees'. That had consequences at a very local level; the PREWERS of 'Kilburn' had, still have, an up-class barn; it was lined with tin sheeting to protect its normal contents, cereal grains from rats and mice. It was reserved for storage of sugar but never used. In contrast tons of sugar was stored in the still remaining Oaks Railway Siding Goods shed.

What eventually happened to the tons of sugar is lost in the mists of time but recollection, myth or imagination declares that some of it found its way onto local tables. Admittedly there is some logic in that scenario because the thick flooring of those sheds must have been installed with green timber decades

<sup>23</sup> Examiner 31 October 1942 p.4/c.4

<sup>24</sup> Examiner 7 April 1942 p.4/c.7

earlier, as I can recall the wide gaps between each plank. Wide enough to take a commonly used, hollow bag testing device which when pierced into hessian bags would drain the contents out. As those railway goods shed floors were three feet off the ground they invited enterprising, sweet toothed individuals to venture a minor sabotage operation.

A circular of 1 July 1942 lists the daily ration of 23 food items for adult evacuees e.g. 8 ounces of bread and potatoes, 10 of meat, one of butter, and ½ ounce each of tea and sugar were suggested.

Petrol rationing had been introduced before 1942 and gas producers became a common attachment to many vehicles, especially of those whose livelihood depended on extensive travel. Gas producers were fuelled by burning charcoal, the gas given off being a substitute for petrol. The requirement of charcoal revived an age-old craft, charcoal burning. It required billets of wood to be burned very slowly with very restricted air. The strategy was to place the timber in a pit, cover the top with sheets of tin and seal off with a layer of earth and allow several days of slow burning. The burning process completed and the charcoal allowed to cool it was then shovelled into three bushel hessian grain bags for sale.<sup>25</sup>

The PATERSONS, Ern and Max, whose property 'Moreton Oaks', now the site of *Agfest*, are remembered participants. The WEST Bros of 'Cluan Homestead' which nestles at the foot of the Cluan Tier also produced charcoal in quantity. Norman Prewer can recall accompanying his Uncle Harold West as they delivered a truck load of charcoal to various garages and service stations in the townships such

as Cressy and Campbell Town to the south east. The proprietor of Whitemore's local garage, J A H (Jim) SHAW, used to applying his innovating and inventing skills on farm machinery actually fabricated some of those gas procedures and fitted them to vehicles.

Non-essential travel was discouraged and black out regulations required the fitting of hoods over car head lights which left the motorist with only a very restricted strip of light. While I cannot recall total black-outs residents of our cities and towns were strongly encouraged to ensure that blinds were drawn, and the windows of meeting places such as halls and schools were criss-crossed with strips of cloth or hessian in order to minimise shattering should an explosion take place nearby. As an example, both the local, one teacher Whitemore Primary School and the Launceston High School class rooms acquired that precautionary installation. Those few months following the entry of Japan into the war were not of panic and alarm. Rather they were a period of planning preparations and preparedness. Fortunately some aspects of that period and the following war years such as the role of Land Army Girls and Italian Prisoners of War and the considerable production and processing of flax have been the subject of lectures and papers.

That may justify the closing of this offering with an outline of conditions that were to be provided for the hours of slumber should an emergency have occurred.

There was, as usual with such buildings, no water system attached to our barn and a pile of stones inconveniently situated near one end from 1942 was for the next 40 years a reminder of evacuation preparations.

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<sup>25</sup> *Examiner* 7 April 1942 p.4/c.7

The 1930s had seen the introduction of concrete water tanks to the district and by 1940 my father had acquired the moulds used to erect them. The practice at that time was they should be built on a base of rocks or stone. The concept was great, the large roof area of the barn would have ensured a good catchment of rain water, a concrete tank 12 feet in diameter and 9 feet high would have stored a significant amount of water. Unlike the water tank two basic double seater toilets were built. They were constructed of sawn timber framing, clad with split paling and were of course of the 'night can' or 'hole in the ground' design.

The lack of a water system is partly explained by the previous 80 year history of our Old Barn. It was built in the forgotten era when Tasmania was the bread basket of Australia and wheat production the major enterprise of our farm and indeed all areas suitable for cropping.

Built of generously proportioned pit sawn timber framing, clad externally and lined internally with split palings and originally roofed with shingles it reflected the abundance of timber available to our pioneers. A pigeon loft in the apex of the roof leaves us with a reminder of the resourcefulness of earlier generation. Pigeon meat would have afforded welcome variety to the mutton dominated diet and a source of income for the youths of the family as they could be sold to the organisers of live pigeon shooting matches.

Our barn is not unusual, there are or were numerous others with their own interesting features. The still existing example on the neighbouring farm 'Rose-lands' is more imposing, its high double doors on either side designed to allow a fully loaded wagon to drive through, or rather park for unloading, while another

in the Deloraine district is lined with the now highly valued blackwood palings.

To the discriminating, sensitive eye, the subject of this paper, the 1940s sawn timber bunks may look out of place in those historic buildings. Built of 4x3 inch uprights and 3x1 inch decking attached to existing walls they were six feet long and two feet wide, the first layer at three feet, the top at six feet, each with a railing on the outer side so that if we can assume one person slept on the floor, each six feet of wall provided for three sleepers.

However, even if emergency had demanded it, sleep may not have come easily. Even allowing for the fact that urban nostrils of seventy years ago were not as sensitive as those of the present, the evacuees would have found the air of the old barns unusual. Apart from the fact that their primary function encouraged rats and mice to live under the floor, the barns invariably had multi-purpose functions including that of shearing shed, and the pungent odour of sheep manure combined with subtle scent of lanolin which characterised long wool fleeces and the distinctive smell of the heavy jute wool sacks of the day would have been 'different'.

Although the plans and lists of materials<sup>26</sup> (down to the size and quantity of nails) and instructions relating to erection were circulated by the Clerk of Works Civil Evacuation Committee, Hobart, dated 7 April 1942, there appears to have been one glaring deficiency:

There is no mention of a ladder for climbing to the top layer of 'Bunks in Barns'. ◀

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<sup>26</sup> Civil Defence Legion 13 April 1942 (part) include diagram for bunks, QVMAG

# MY SISTER'S STORIES FROM INDIA

ELSIE CORRICK 1894–1974

Transcribed by Shirley Foster (Member No.6420)

**E**ARLY in 1907 The Corricks commenced a seven months tour of Western Australia. I was still at school in New Zealand but they sent me gifts and press-cuttings. One was about the night Alice's dress touched the foot lights and caught on fire. As well as their musical program they had a large collection of films,<sup>1</sup> a motion picture camera and developing tanks, so my brother 'Sonny' could screen his own productions.<sup>2</sup> They played to packed houses wherever they went. Two young men, Jack and Harry COULTER,<sup>3</sup> attended every show in Perth to see *Leonard Beautiful Pictures* as they were called. Then the Company toured through the Great Southern District, Eastern Goldfields and Murchison Goldfields. In fact everywhere the railways could take them. When their Advance Agent, Norman HER- RIDGE,<sup>4</sup> died suddenly Harry Coulter was engaged to take his place. He organized their tours to Sri Lanka, India, Burma, Malaya, Singapore, Java, and England.

When they opened in Colombo, petrol, or naphtha as it was called, was scarce. They were only able to use their lighting plant for the first few days of their season.

Fortunately some kind doctors obligingly sold them some from their small private stocks at 7/6 per gallon. They were down to their last gallon when the drought was broken by the arrival of the tanker. ... They carried their own piano as it was impossible to find one which was the right pitch and in a few places hoses carrying electric wires for the pictures were slashed but it was a very successful tour. *The Calcutta Statesman* reported 'Each member is star in his own right'.

Harry Coulter wrote articles for the Press in Perth titled *A Glimpse of the Orient. On Tour with the Corricks* about their tour. He was captivated by my petite auburn haired sister Ethel and proposed to her at the Taj Mahal. He wrote:-

We first saw the Taj Mahal at midday ... It glistened and shone in the sunlight so that our eyes grew weary and we were glad to enter the immense doorway and stand under the lofty cool dome ... We visited the Taj again at midnight when the moon was right behind it. 'Many will be surprised to learn that there are not over a dozen cities in India that can boast of an hotel. Travellers are accommodated in Dak bungalows or government Rest Houses, but only for 24 hours, unless of course, the room is not required by other incoming seekers of lodgings. And in these bungalows or even in hotels, excepting Calcutta and Bombay, bedding is not provided. This is because journeys almost always entail night travel, as centres are far distant from each other that those on the road must necessarily carry their own bedding. For when one purchases a ticket on the railways, it entitles the holder not merely to a seat, but to a reclining length, and so it is considered superfluous to provide bedding for travellers at houses of

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<sup>1</sup> Comedies, dramas, documentaries and travel films produced by Pathe, Itala Films, Edison, Charles Urban, American Mutoscope and Biograph, D W Griffiths, and Gaumont. Some were tinted or hand painted.

<sup>2</sup> 'Bashful Mr Brown, Street Scenes in Perth, The Day-Postle Match Sports and Party at Sea'. (Filmed on the SS *Runic* 1909.)

<sup>3</sup> Jack Coulter was subsequently the Manager of Vic's pictures and Hoyts Theatres in Perth. Harold Coulter (1886–1919).

<sup>4</sup> Norman Herridge (1885–1907)

accommodation, as they are certain to have their own with them’.

When they played in the British Military Stations at Cawnpore, Peshawar, Poona and Lucknow, the Army officers showed their delight by gently patting the back of their right hand, on the arm of their chair, with their left hand. They gave lovely gifts and jewelry. One gold ring had five sapphires. I know because I used to wear it. But my sisters met these admirers in the midst of our family and by the next day they were usually moving onto their next engagement. Although, by special request they once changed their itinerary and went to a Dak Bungalow where Alice caused a sensation by screaming and screaming and jumping through the mosquito netting over her bed. She said a native with a knife was standing on the window sill. Ethel mended the netting next day.

My sisters said they were hauled in gharries in India and when rioting broke out in Rangoon they crouched on the floor of the vehicle with their silver backed hair brushes ready to defend themselves against the mutineers. They carried Glycerin, Rose water and Sal Volatalie in case of mongoose attacks. A trombone player called Joe, who was engaged in Perth at the last minute as a luggage man, was the only one not vaccinated and got small pox in Calcutta. I guess by being in contact with the natives who handled the luggage. Amy and Ethel told him to lie down in their cooler room, but fortunately he did not accept their offer. That night Dad announced he was terribly ill and so delirious he wandered out of his own room so two extra rooms had to be fumigated. Dad paid for special King Coconut oil to keep the pock marks anointed and so he was not deeply disfigured.

Dad and Alice disembarked at Marseilles and went on to Paris to see the famous

opera teacher Madame MARCHESI. She thought Alice sang like Madame Adeline PATTI, the famous soprano but could not foster Alice’s career because she was retiring. In England they lived in a house called *Woodfield Lodge*, near Ephraim Lane in Streaton, London. One of the railway companies told Dad he would be given the privilege of having a van for his luggage and theatrical gear in St. Pancreas in London any time of the night or day so Dad continued the tours. They returned to Australia on the SS *Runic* with Mr. LEATHERLEY, an English comedian, and Bill HUNT a trombone player.

In 1912 Ethel married Harry Coulter and later Alice married Billy SADLEIR<sup>5</sup> at the ‘Rose Hotel’ Bunbury WA. Billy courted Alice with five cases of silver, beaten brass, jewelry and other treasures from India and finally persuaded her to go back to Launceston to live. I remember thinking when I first joined the group that though they sang arias from operas and played overtures from the great composers, when they wanted to make contact with one another in a crowd or in a strange place they always whistled the opening bar of *Oh listen to the Band* which was Alice’s encore in Brisbane in 1904.

After the wedding I took Alice’s place as the star. I wasn’t allowed to put my hair up as that would have made my sisters look older. ◀

#### References:

Lewis Leslie Anne, ‘The Corrick Collection. A Case Study in Asia-Pacific Itinerant Film Exhibition (1901–1914)’. *Journal of the National Film and Sound Archive Australia Vol.2 No.2, 2007*

King Barrie, ‘The Marvellous Corricks’. *Journal of the Royal Western Australian Historical Society Volume 11 Part 2, 1996*

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<sup>5</sup> William Sadleir (1873–1925). Died of Bright’s disease.

# MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL PROCEDURES

Peter Cocker Society Treasurer

**D**URING the last two years we have moved to a new method of membership renewal. It was first offered to our interstate and overseas members two years ago and for this last year was offered to all Tasmanian Branch members. From our membership database we produce a renewal invoice that is also part of the journal label. As the membership year ends on 31 March each year, this renewal invoice is the label for the December Journal and as you can see is printed on coloured paper. All your details are printed on the invoice, including your address, phone and email—please check these and amend if necessary. There is also a space to submit your research interests.

## HOW TO PAY

We have had several requests from Tasmanian members to have the facility to pay by Bank Transfer. This has been an option for Interstate and Overseas members and is now an option for ALL members.

**But PLEASE, PLEASE quote your Customer reference number (CRN), printed on the renewal notice, when making your payment.**

Currently I have two bank deposits from members that I have no idea who they are. By quoting your CRN in the reference field when making the transfer it will appear on my statement.

Payment can also be made by credit/debit card—we can only accept Visa or Master

card. To pay by this method complete your credit card details in the space provided and return by post to

**PO Box 326, Rosny Park TAS 7018**

Do not post to a branch post box as branches cannot process credit/debit card payments for membership.

If you want to pay by cheque please make the cheque out to Tasmanian Family History Society Inc. or TasFHS Inc. and NOT to *Tasmanian Ancestry*. If you are sending a cheque with your renewal to your branch, add the branch name as well.

**e.g. PAY Tas FHS Inc. Burnie Branch**

If we have not received your membership renewal by the second week of February you will get another invoice, in the same format, on your label for the March Journal. I apologise for calling this a 'second reminder' on the March 2014 label, I will change the wording next March.

You can still pay by completing the existing membership form—this will be at your branch library or you can download from the Society's web site at [www.tasfhs.org](http://www.tasfhs.org)

Membership fees will remain the same for the coming year apart from overseas members. Overseas membership will increase to \$45.00 for ordinary membership and \$55.00 for joint membership to help offset the increase in postage. ◀

# NEW MEMBERS' INTERESTS

NAME	PLACE/AREA	TIME	M'SHIP NO.
ALLEN James	Launceston/Cressy TAS AUS	1840-1858	7601
ALLEN James	Nova Scotia, North America	1830s	7601
AMBROSE Mary Ann	TAS AUS	1883-1923	7613
ARMSTRONG Lillian (Jean)	Launceston TAS AUS	c.1918	7609
ARMSTRONG W	Launceston TAS AUS	Any	7609
BAILEY Charlotte	Launceston TAS AUS	1852-1885	7613
BAILEY George	Geelong VIC AUS	1800-1883	7613
BARRETT, Maree	Hobart TAS AUS	Any	7604
BARRETT, Marie	Hobart TAS AUS	Any	7604
CHARLTON George	Launceston TAS AUS	c.1840	7610
CHARLTON Margaret	Launceston TAS AUS	c.1840s	7610
CONWAY Francis Gordon	Launceston TAS AUS	1871-1961	7611
CONWAY Francis Gordon	Donaghdee NTH IRL	prior 1871	7611
CONWAY Harry Bryan	Any	1800+	7608
CONWAY Rita	Launceston TAS AUS	1900+	7611
CREW Sarah Ann	Stanley TAS AUS	1829-1889	7592
DERMER William	London ENG	c.1800	7593
DERMER William	Hobart TAS AUS	1829-1850	7593
DOVE Mary Anne	Hobart TAS AUS	prior 1906	7596
FEARNLEY Joseph Benjamin	Hobart TAS AUS	prior 1906	7596
FENTON Edward Bennett	New Norfolk/Macquarie Plains TAS AUS	1878+	7603
FENTON Sarah Ann (née Reader)	New Norfolk/Macquarie Plains TAS AUS	1878+	7603
GARDINER Henry	Rosevears TAS AUS	1869-1879	7613
GITTOS William	Westmeadows TAS AUS	1930+	7612
GLASS Catherine	Waratah TAS AUS	prior 1970	7596
HILL Charles	Weldborough TAS AUS	Any	7609
HILL Jack	Launceston TAS AUS	c1918	7609
JACK John	Avoch SCT	1820-1920	7598
KING Ethel Maud	Hobart TAS AUS	c.1885-1967	7596
LANGE Ferdinand	Hazland Austria	1840-1850	7593
MANSER Edward Charles Gilbert	Hobart TAS AUS	Any	7604
MANSER/ROURKE Family History			7604
McCARTY William	Cascades Female Factory TAS AUS	1847+	7603
MEAD Arthur Charles	Any	1885-1965	7597
MEAD Percy William	Any	1899-2014	7597
PATTERSON Alexander	Glasgow SCT	1855-1865	7598
PEATLING Frederick John	Holbeach LIN UK	c.1842	7599
RASMUSSEN Peter Noasen	Proserpine QLD/TAS/Germany	c.1870	7599
READER Ellen	Hobart/Macquarie Plains TAS AUS	pre 1870	7603
ROBINSON Robert	Stanley TAS AUS	1829-1889	7592
ROURKE John (James)	Hobart TAS AUS	Any	7604
SCETRINE Thomas ?	Zeehan TAS AUS	Any	7596
SHORTALL John	Balfour TAS AUS	1900-1931	7613
SMITH Horatio	Any	1800+	7608
SMYTH Randolph	Launceston TAS AUS	c.1860s	7610
THOMAS Caroline	London ENG	c.1800	7593
WALTERS George Edwin	Launceston TAS AUS	1870-1851	7613
WATSON James	London ENG	1840-1850	7593
WHITE Frank Albert	Hobart TAS AUS	c.1875-1955	7596

# NEW MEMBERS' INTERESTS

NAME	PLACE/AREA	TIME	M'SHIP NO.
WILSON (née ALLEN) Henrietta	Launceston TAS AUS & Dunedin NZ	1840-1900	7601
WILSON William	Kingston upon Hull ENG	1810-1842	7601
WILSON William	Welman Street Launceston TAS AUS	1842-1869	7601
WILSON William (jnr)	Dunedin NZ	1870-1894	7601

## NEW MEMBERS

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

7592	MATFIN Mrs Margaret	32 Fowlers Road	NORTH LILYDALE	TAS	7268
7593	LANG Mr Richard	15 Berean Street rjlang1965@gmail.com	EAST LAUNCESTON	TAS	7250
7594	BERWICK Mr Barry	Not for publication			
7595	BERWICK Mrs Raylea	Not for publication			
7596	WHITE Ms Diane	10/33 Tower Road dianewhite@y7mail.com	NEW TOWN	TAS	7008
7597	MEAD Mr Grant	16 Luckman Place hme91229@bigpond.net.au	ROKEBY	TAS	7019
7598	PEATLING Mrs Bronwyn	10 Addison Street bronwyn.peatling@gmail.com	ROSETTA	TAS	7010
7599	PEATLING Mr Geoffrey	10 Addison Street bronwyn.peatling@gmail.com	ROSETTA	TAS	7010
7600	KING Miss Tania	28 Lucinda Parade tking05@hotmail.co.uk	LUTANA	TAS	7009
7601	ELLIOTT Ms Janette (Jan)	37 Mead Street janelliott@paradise.net.nz	AVONDALE AUCKLAND	NEW ZEALAND	1026
7602	McKENNA Mr John	Not for publication			
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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

In the September issue of *Tasmanian Ancestry* in Lou Daniels' article on 'Pub Signs of Old Hobart Town', page 99, he writes of Sir William Don 'Quite how an actor on tour of Australia was also a knight might make a good story'.

There is already a good article about Sir William Don written by Gillian Winter entitled 'A Baronet treads the boards: Sir William Don at the Theatre Royal, Tasmania'. This was published in THRA Papers and Proceedings vol. 51. no. 3 September 2004. It makes good reading.

Your readers may like to know this.

Thanks, Mary Ramsay

### **WAVERLY PARK FARM Homestead at Kangaroo Point and ESKDALE Homestead at Snake Banks**

A small group of volunteers have been given permission to raise funds to restore and mark the 1914 grave of Constance DICKENS (née DESAILLY). She was the wife of Edward Dickens, youngest son of Charles Dickens and is buried in the Box Hill Cemetery in Melbourne.

Constance, the daughter of Alfred Desailly and Emily STANFIELD, was born in Tasmania in 1859. We are seeking early photos of the Waverley Park Farm Homestead, Kangaroo Point and the Eskdale Homestead at Snake

Banks. These properties contribute to Constance's early life in Tasmania, and assistance to find the early Homestead photos would be most appreciated.

Please contact: Robin Adams  
phone: (03) 9830 1860 or email:  
**robinmjadams@gmail.com**

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# VOICES FROM THE ORPHAN SCHOOLS ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS

Dianne Snowden (Member No.910)

SOMETIMES actions speak louder than words and this seems to be the case for a handful of those who absconded from the Orphan Schools—or the Queen’s Asylum for Destitute Children as it was known from 1861.<sup>1</sup>

In her publication *Apprentices and Absconders from Queen’s Orphanage Hobart Town 1860–1883*, Joyce Purtscher lists about 220 absconders between 1860 and 1883; almost all were apprentices running away from their masters.<sup>2</sup> There were some, however, who absconded from the Queen’s Asylum itself.

On 12 September 1863, Thomas HILL, Dennis MONAGHAN and Edward READER absconded from the Queen’s Asylum. All three boys were prize-winners while they were in the Queen’s Asylum.<sup>3</sup> Thomas Hill won the best tailor’s prize in 1863 and Edward Reader won the prize for best shoemaker in the same year.<sup>4</sup> In 1864, Dennis Monaghan, also Roman Catholic, won the FOX’s Medal, the overall prize for boys:

His Excellency, addressing Monaghan, said that he had very great pleasure in presenting him with the medal, to which he had become entitled. He was also glad to hear that Monaghan was a soldier’s son, as he (Colonel Browne) was a soldier himself, and had very great sympathy with the profession. He trusted that Monaghan would regard the prize in its

true light as an incentive to further good conduct.<sup>5</sup>

Dennis also received £10, which was to be placed in the bank and ‘if conduct continued good until he was 21 years of age the money would be handed over to him’.<sup>6</sup> Dennis won the award after he had absconded from the Queen’s Asylum so his escapade cannot have been considered a serious breach.

Why did three well-behaved clever boys, from diverse backgrounds, choose to escape? Dennis had been in the Queen’s Asylum four years when he absconded. He had arrived with his parents from Ireland on the *Rodney* (1) in 1850. For a time the family was at Ross but hit hard times when Dennis Senior died, resulting in the admission of Dennis and his younger brothers John and William into the Orphan School in August 1859.<sup>7</sup>

Thomas Hill, a Roman Catholic, had been in the Queen’s Asylum nearly four years when he escaped.<sup>8</sup> His mother Margaret NINHAM arrived on the *Sea Queen* in 1846 when she was 17; in 1849, she married Alfred Hill, a carter.<sup>9</sup> After his death in May 1859, Margaret, ‘a respect-

<sup>1</sup> *Queen’s Asylum* (1861) 25 Victoria No.5.

<sup>2</sup> Joyce Purtscher (compiler) *Apprentices and Absconders from Queen’s Orphanage Hobart Town 1860–1883*, no date

<sup>3</sup> *The Mercury* 7 January 1863 p.2; *The Mercury* 3 February 1864 p.2

<sup>4</sup> *The Mercury* 7 January 1863 p.2

<sup>5</sup> *The Mercury* 3 February 1864 p.2

<sup>6</sup> *The Mercury* 3 February 1864 p.2

<sup>7</sup> TAHO, SWD26/1/2 p.435 [images 335–343]. See also [www.orphanschool.org.au/#](http://www.orphanschool.org.au/#) Orphan No.3873 ‘Denis’ Monaghan.

<sup>8</sup> He was probably the unnamed male child born in 1851: TAHO, RGD33/1/3/ no 2231. See also TAHO, SWD26/1/3

Thomas Hill and [www.orphanschool.org.au/#](http://www.orphanschool.org.au/#) Orphan No.2559 Thomas Hill.

<sup>9</sup> TAHO, CON41/1/10 Margaret Ninham *Sea Queen*; RGD37/1/8 1849/151 Margaret Ninham and Alfred Hill.

table well conducted woman', took in washing to support her young family of four and received Benevolent Society aid but even so was 'entirely destitute'.<sup>10</sup> She planned to go into service if the admission of her children to the Orphan School was approved. Thomas, aged nine, and two brothers, were admitted in February 1860. His mother was reconvicted in May 1873 and June 1875 (as Margaret Hill) and July 1876 (as Mary Ann Hill).<sup>11</sup>

Edward Reader was the son of Irish-born Ellen McCARTY who arrived in 1845 on the *Lloyds*. Tried at the 'Old Bailey', she was recorded as being badly behaved, using 'horrid language' and always trying to get amongst the crew.<sup>12</sup> Edward's father, William, arrived on the *Hyderabad*. He was convicted in Launceston in 1845 and reconvicted in Hobart in January 1857 for assaulting Ellen Reader, his wife, by 'kicking her upon her belly and her private parts'.<sup>13</sup> He was imprisoned for two years.

All three boys were returned to the Queen's Asylum.

On 4 May 1868, Mary PEMBROKEN absconded from the Queen's Asylum where she had been for the previous eight years. She was 16, 'round full features, rather good-looking; wore dark winsey dress, dark jacket and black hat trimmed with old purple ribbon; has been much burnt about the body'.<sup>14</sup> She was arrested shortly afterwards and returned to the

Queen's Asylum. Mary had been first admitted on 12 April 1860—but she remains an enigma: no parents' details were recorded on her admission to the institution. A child George PEMBROKE or Pembroke, son of Mary PEMBROKE *Duke of Cornwall*, died in the Orphan School in 1855; perhaps there is a family connection.<sup>15</sup> Pembroken is an unusual name. In 1872, Mary was apprenticed to James TROTTER at Perth and has not been traced beyond this.<sup>16</sup>

On 14 October 1873, Mary DAVIS, aged 15, absconded from the Queen's Asylum.<sup>17</sup> Mary was described in the Crime Reports:

*On the 4th instant, from the Queen's Asylum, New Town.*

*Mary Davis*, 15 years of age, about five feet high, thick set, dressed in brown wincey frock and check pinafore. Her parents are well known as tramps in the Country Districts.<sup>18</sup>

In June 1875, Mary, then an apprentice, again absconded:

*On the 4th instant, from the services of Mrs. Fleming, Brisbane-street.*

*Mary Davis*, an Orphan School apprentice, 18 years of age, stout build, idiotic appearance; dressed in working clothes.<sup>19</sup>

Mary was the daughter of Alice DWYER *Earl Grey* and Phillip Davis *Mt. Stuart Elphinstone* (2) and was admitted to the institution on 26 January 1861 when she was 2 years 11 months.<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> TAHO, TAHO, RGD35/1/6 Hobart 1859/1540 Alfred Hill; SWD26/1/3 Thomas Hill.

<sup>11</sup> TAHO, CON41/1/10 Margaret Ninham *Sea Queen* 1846

<sup>12</sup> TAHO, CON41/1/7 Mary McCarty *Lloyds* 1845

<sup>13</sup> TAHO, CON37/1/2 p.477 William Reader *Hyderabad*. TAHO, CON37/1/9 p.2937 William Reader *Hyderabad*.

<sup>14</sup> *Tasmania. Reports of Crime*.vol. VII Friday 8 May 1868 p.72 (Mary Pembroken).

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<sup>15</sup> TAHO, SWD6/1/1

<sup>16</sup> See [www.orphanschool.org.au/#](http://www.orphanschool.org.au/#) Orphan No.4325: Mary Ann Pembroken.

<sup>17</sup> See [www.orphanschool.org.au/#](http://www.orphanschool.org.au/#) Orphan No.1401 Mary Davis.

<sup>18</sup> *Tasmania. Reports of Crime*.vol. XII p.174 (Mary Davis).

<sup>19</sup> *Tasmania. Reports of Crime*.vol. XIV Friday 11 June 1875 (Mary Davis).

<sup>20</sup> TAHO, SWD26/1/3 p.23 Mary Davis; SWD27/1/1 No.7.

Rosannah SMITH, daughter of Bridget CUSICK *Midlothian* and John Smith, *Mayda* was admitted to the Orphan School in 1871 when she was 14.<sup>21</sup> Her father was dead and her mother was in prison, leaving Rosannah and her younger brother John destitute and in the care of the police, probably in Swansea where they had been living. Other siblings were already in the Queen's Asylum. Rosannah was apprenticed out in August 1873 but absconded from her master in Forest Road in June 1874. She was described as 16 or 17 years of age, very tall, red hair, wore a brown dress, drab jacket, and black straw hat.<sup>22</sup> Arrested by a constable of the Hobart Municipal Police, Rosannah appeared in the City Police Court on 1 July 1874:

AN ABSCONDER.—Rosannah Smith, a dirty young woman, formerly an apprentice from the Queen's Asylum, was charged with having absconded from the service of Mr. Henry Matheson, of the Old Wharf ... Mrs. Matheson gave the girl a very bad character. She was beyond any control, and was in the habit of staying out late at night.<sup>23</sup>

Her indentures were cancelled and she was sent back to the Queen's Asylum. She again escaped on 29 July 1874. She was described as '16 or 17 years old, very tall, red hair, dressed in the Asylum clothing'.<sup>24</sup> There is a discrepancy in her height: a later report noted that she was only 5'2, which is not very tall!<sup>25</sup>

In the City Police Court on 15 September 1874, Rosannah was 'brought up as an absconder from the Queen's Asylum. As she had no excuse to offer for her conduct she was sentenced to a month's imprisonment'.<sup>26</sup> She was discharged from prison in the week ending 14 October. In this report, she was described as 16, 5'2, with red hair.<sup>27</sup>

On 17 November 1874, in the City Police Court, Rosannah Smith was charged with absconding from the Female Invalid Depôt at New Town:

Mrs. Hodgins, the matron, deposed that the girl was an inmate of the institution, and was under her charge. The girl never got permission from her to be absent.

The Mayor asked what the girl was doing at the institution? She was 18 or 19 years of age, and why was she detained there?

Mr. Scott, the Superintendent, said the girl was a returned apprentice. There were six of these girls, and they were admitted into the Queen's Asylum, on account of misconduct during the time of their service, The Invalid Depôt was quite a distinct institution from the Queen's Asylum, and had no connection with it. The girl had absconded four times, and her indentures were cancelled in this court for absconding. He had given the girl an appointment as an assistant in the Asylum, and she had absconded even then.

The mayor reprimanded the girl, and sent her to gaol for 14 days, with hard labour.<sup>28</sup>

Rosannah had absconded with another girl, Elizabeth DOWDELL, also a returned apprentice. Elizabeth was described as 18 years of age, dark hair, sallow complexion.

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<sup>21</sup> TAHO, SWD26/1/12 Rosannah Smith. [images 3–12]. See also [www.orphanschool.org.au/#](http://www.orphanschool.org.au/#) Orphan No.5060: Rosannah Smith.

<sup>22</sup> *Tasmania. Reports of Crime*.vol. XIII p.7 (Rosannah Smith).

<sup>23</sup> *The Mercury* (Hobart) 2 July 1874 p.2.

<sup>24</sup> *Tasmania. Reports of Crime*.vol. XIII 7 August 1874 p.130 (Rosannah Smith).

<sup>25</sup> *Tasmania. Reports of Crime*.vol. XIII 16 October 1874 p.169 (Rosannah Smith).

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<sup>26</sup> *The Mercury* (Hobart) 16 September 1874 p.2.

<sup>27</sup> *Tasmania. Reports of Crime*.vol. XIII 16 October 1874 p.169 (Rosannah Smith).

<sup>28</sup> *The Mercury* (Hobart) 18 November 1874 p.2.

ion, dark eyes, rather short for her age, good-looking. She was supposed to be in Hobart Town.<sup>29</sup> Elizabeth was also sent to gaol for a month.<sup>30</sup>

Three boys—Edward JONES, Alfred RIGNEY and William GURNIN—absconded on 6 February 1878 in the year before the institution closed. Alfred Rigney was 11 years 6 months, ‘about 4 feet 6 inches high, dark hair; his mother resides at Glenorchy’.<sup>31</sup> William Gurnin was 12 years nine months, ‘about 4 feet 6 inches high, dark hair’.<sup>32</sup> Edward Jones was 12 years and 6 months, ‘about 4 feet 6 inches high, dark hair’.<sup>33</sup> All boys were dressed in Asylum clothing when they escaped. Alfred Rigney and William Gurnin were arrested on 8 March 1878 and returned to the Asylum. Edward Jones has not been traced.

William Gurnin, the son of Margaret DWYER *Lord Auckland* and Daniel Gurnin or ENNIS *London* was admitted to the Queen’s Asylum in February 1871. His father was serving a long sentence for manslaughter and his mother had no work. William was a prize-winner in 1873 and 1875. He remained at the Queen’s Asylum until June 1878.<sup>34</sup> William was then apprenticed out but escaped from his

master in February 1879. He was described as 14 years of age, ‘4 feet 6 inches high, light hair, dark eyes, broad features, dressed in black wide-awake hat, dark jumper, light cord trousers, old Blucher boots’. He was supposed to have gone to New Norfolk hop-picking.<sup>35</sup>

Alfred Rigney was the son of Mary STRIPP and Thomas Rigney, a labourer, and was born in Westbury district in 1866.<sup>36</sup> His mother, Mary Ann Stripp, arrived in the colony in 1857.<sup>37</sup> Alfred, aged four, and his older sister Jane, aged seven, were admitted to the Orphan School on 27 April 1870. Alfred won the Infant School prize in 1872 and 1872.<sup>38</sup> On 7 July 1879, Alfred was apprenticed to James Lord, *Hobartville*.<sup>39</sup>

What were the absconders from the Queen’s Asylum hoping to achieve? For some of the boys, it seems to have been nothing more than an escapade shared with their comrades. For the older girls, it may be that they had outgrown the confines of the institution. No evidence, however, survives to suggest their motives: once again the voices are silent. ◀

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## Friends of the Orphan Schools, St John’s Park Precinct: [www.orphanschool.org.au](http://www.orphanschool.org.au)

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<sup>29</sup> *Tasmania. Reports of Crime*. vol. XIII 27 November 1874 p.192 (Rosannah Smith and Elizabeth Dowdell).

<sup>30</sup> *Tasmania. Reports of Crime*. vol. XIV 8 January 1875 p.4 (Elizabeth Dowdell).

<sup>31</sup> *Tasmania. Reports of Crime*. vol. XVII 8 February 1878 p.22 (Alfred Rigney).

<sup>32</sup> *Tasmania. Reports of Crime*. vol. XVII 8 February 1878 p.22 (William Gurnin).

<sup>33</sup> *Tasmania. Reports of Crime*. vol. XVII 8 February 1878 p.22 (Edward Jones).

<sup>34</sup> TAHO, SWD26/1/12 William Gurnin [image 75–87] See [www.orphanschool.org.au/#](http://www.orphanschool.org.au/#) Orphan No.2264 William Gurnin, which has additional information submitted by Robert Bellenger.

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<sup>35</sup> *Tasmania. Reports of Crime*. vol. XVIII 7 February 1879 p.23 (William Gurnie).

<sup>36</sup> TAHO, RGD33/1/44 Westbury 1866/1613 Alfred Rigney.

<sup>37</sup> *Launceston Examiner* 3 February 1857 p.2

<sup>38</sup> *The Mercury* (Hobart) 28 December 1872 p.2 (‘Albert’ Rigney); *The Mercury* (Hobart) 9 January 1874 p.2 (Albert Rigney).

<sup>39</sup> [www.orphanschool.org.au/#](http://www.orphanschool.org.au/#) Orphan No.4634 Alfred Rigney

# THE HAMILTON INN SOFA ORIGIN AND OWNERSHIP?

Judith Carter and Don Bradmore (Member No.6756)



**T**HOSE of us who love family history know how addictive it can be! It gets into the blood. It gobbles up hours of time. It interferes with sleep as the subconscious mind grapples with problems of kinship for which solutions are yet to be found. And it makes it impossible to look at anything from the past—a gracious old home, a leather-bound volume of poems or a charming antique picture frame, perhaps—without wondering about the lives of the people who once owned it.

Thoughts of this kind came to mind recently when, while trawling the internet for information about the original owners of public-houses in the Hamilton district of Tasmania, we came across an article about a rare and beautiful piece of furniture (pictured) which has become known as ‘The Hamilton Inn Sofa’.

Purchased at auction by the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery (TMAG) in 2006 and now on permanent display there, the piece is described formally as

a double-ended Regency style sofa with tablet and scrolled back, reeded and

panelled arms and sabre legs. Upholstered in black horsehair, it is believed to be one of the earliest pieces of Tasmanian-made furniture in existence. The sophisticated design and high standard of workmanship make it unique among early colonial Tasmanian furniture.<sup>1</sup>

The price paid for it by TMAG was \$280,000, the second highest sum ever paid for a piece of colonial furniture at that time. Its value was enhanced by the fact it was in entirely original condition when offered for sale; it had never been altered, restored or repaired in any way.<sup>2</sup>

There is still some doubt about where and when it was manufactured. Although not everyone agrees, most experts believe it was made in Van Diemens Land (VDL) around 1825. They base their opinion on the fact its design, typical of the Greek-

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<sup>1</sup> Description, age: <http://www.icssydney.com.au/index.php?id=300>

<sup>2</sup> Auction price quoted by TMAG Director, Mr Bill Beathman, <http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/scienceshow/tasmanian-museum-and-art-gallery/3284444>

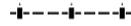
revival style, was the height of fashion in England in the first decade of the nineteenth century. They believe it likely pattern books featuring such designs were making their way to the Australian colonies from the early years of settlement. Such books had become increasingly important as sources of ideas for home-makers and had been setting trends in fashion from the late eighteenth century onwards.<sup>3</sup>

But, the most intriguing question of all is this: *For whom* was this beautiful piece of furniture made?

Little is known about it before the 1890s when it came into the possession of the SONNERS family, residents of the old 'Hamilton Inn' from 1912 until the 1990s. Its earliest confirmed owner was Albert Sonners (1860–1935). But many observers think it unlikely such an elegant and expensive piece of furniture would have been crafted to adorn an inn. While its considerable size—38½ inches (98 centimetres) high, 111½ inches (283 centimetres) wide and 28¾ inches (73 centimetres) deep—does suggest it was made for a building of inn-like proportions, they think it is more probable the sofa started out as a treasured display piece in one of the fine houses built by early settlers.<sup>4</sup>

But in whose house? We know, of course, it is unlikely that the name of the first owner of the beautiful old sofa will *ever* be known—but it is interesting to speculate about who it *might* have been. Although there are many, many possibilities, we are going to assume—because it had been in the Hamilton district for more than a century before it

was bought by TMAG—it was originally crafted for someone in that region.



As more and more free emigrants with entitlements for land grants arrived in VDL between 1810 and 1820, new areas for settlement had to be found. In December 1820, Lieutenant-Governor William SORELL accompanied a party led by surveyor and explorer George William EVANS to the Hamilton district (then known as the Macquarie Plains) to assess its potential for this purpose.<sup>5</sup>

As a consequence, dozens of men and women from wealthy families, as well as a lucky few (including some ex-convicts) who had prospered since arrival in VDL, took up land in the Hamilton area during the 1820s. Some worked their estates with great success, built fine homes and managed to preserve their assets, passing them down through their families for generations.

Others who settled there were less fortunate. In some cases, their endeavours failed through their own mismanagement, in others through sheer misfortune. Some returned to England, others went to live elsewhere in the Australian colonies. Usually, they had to sell their homes and household treasures to repay outstanding debts.

What follows are the stories of just a few from the less fortunate group: Thomas WELLS, a ex-convict who prospered initially but whose luck eventually ran out; Dr Edward Foord BROMLEY, the colonial treasurer who was thrown out of office and stripped of his assets when charged with embezzlement; Sarah

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<sup>3</sup> See [www.abc.net.au/local/photos/2013/02/15/3691546.htm](http://www.abc.net.au/local/photos/2013/02/15/3691546.htm)

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*

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<sup>5</sup> Hudspeth, A, Scripps, L & Clark, J, (1991). *Hamilton: The Way to the West: A History of the Hamilton District*, Hobart: Public History Partners

Bromley, the treasurer's wife, against whom convict servants made sensational claims of 'improper behaviour' with her son-in-law; Henry Boden TORLESSE, an ex-Royal Navy officer, described as 'hospitable' but 'a dear lover of his grog' whose self-indulgence might have caused his downfall; Maria RAMUS, whose illicit affairs earned her the reputation of a 'seductive strumpet'; and Jacobina BURN, the first woman in the colony to be granted land but whose considerable fortune seems to have been dissipated, partly at least, in defending her only son in a costly court battle.

All of these people had the taste and refinement to desire such a fine piece of furniture, the money to have it crafted and, for a time, a house grand enough to accommodate it.



Thomas Wells (1782–1833), a clerk, was convicted of embezzlement at the Old Bailey, London, in 1816. Sentenced to transportation for fourteen years, he arrived in New South Wales in March 1817.<sup>6</sup> In Sydney, he met William Sorell who was on the way to VDL to take up his appointment as Lieutenant-Governor. Knowing there were very few well-educated men in the colony, Sorell was pleased to take Wells with him as his clerk, a position which he retained throughout that governorship.<sup>7</sup>

At Hobart Town, Wells was treated with considerable favour. Upon arrival, he received a grant of 65 acres (26 hectares) at New Town and soon acquired more land. 'Allenvale', his main property, was

in the Hamilton area, and there he built a fine house. For the next few years, his business dealings prospered. He quickly improved his merino stock and was soon exporting fine quality wool in large quantity. He also had a lucrative contract to sell meat to the government.<sup>8</sup>

But, when his wool failed to sell in England in 1823 he found himself in financial difficulty. Insolvent at the end of that year, he was sent to the debtors' prison in Hobart Town where he spent the next five years.<sup>9</sup> In April 1825, when his properties were being sold off to help clear his debts, the following notice appeared in the newspapers:

At Mr. A. W. FRYETT's, Hobart Town, on Friday next, the 15th Instant, at 12 o'clock, A Farm of 1200 Acres of Land, known by the Name of Allenvale with a very handsome Dwelling House, containing 8 Apartments, a Barn, and a 6-stall Stable erected thereon ...

A week earlier the same newspaper had carried this notice:

On the Premises, at Allenvale on Wednesday, the 13th April, at 12 o'clock, about Twenty Head of Horned Cattle, a Quantity of Household Furniture, consisting of handsome Chairs, Tables, Sofas, Carpets, Bedsteads, Beds, &c. Also, a Quantity of Pigs, and Farming Utensils.<sup>10</sup>

Could the elegant old sofa have been one of those listed for sale? In an obituary following his death on 10 June 1833, Wells was described as 'industrious' and 'reserved' but also as 'haughty' and 'extravagant'. Might he have acquired

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<sup>6</sup> See *Old Bailey Online* at <http://www.oldbaileyonline.org/> (Case Ref: t18160403-87)

<sup>7</sup> *Australian Dictionary of Biography*: <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/wells-thomas-2779>

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<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>10</sup> *Hobart Town Gazette and VDL Advertiser*, 1 April 1825, p.1 and 8 April 1825, p.4

the sofa for his ‘handsome dwelling house’ during his years of prosperity?<sup>11</sup>



Dr Edward Foord Bromley (1776–1836), was born into a well-to-do English family and served with distinction as a surgeon in the British Navy during the long war against France, 1793–1815, and afterwards on convict ships. During visits to Sydney between 1816 and 1819, he expressed an interest in a colonial appointment and was offered the post of ‘Naval Officer’ at Hobart Town. It was an important role because he was, in effect, the Colonial Treasurer.<sup>12</sup>

He took up the appointment in March 1820 and, for three and a half years, all went well. Good-natured and generous, he was soon a popular figure in Hobart Town society. A widower when he arrived, he had re-married and his young wife, Sarah (née GREENNOW), had given him two fine children. He owned a large home in New Town, Hobart Town, which he had splendidly furnished. He was granted farming land and had acquired more property through wise investments. He was on his way to becoming a wealthy man.<sup>13</sup>

But, in 1824, things went terribly wrong! In that year, it was discovered £8,500—a staggering sum in those days—was missing from the Treasury coffers. Accused of embezzlement, Bromley was immediately removed from office. Although a series of enquires subsequently cleared him of theft, he was held responsible for the loss because it had been his job to safeguard the money. He was ordered to forfeit everything he

owned—land, livestock, houses, money, shares and all else—to be sold at public auction to recoup the losses. He was left penniless.<sup>14</sup>

Might the charming old sofa been among the property he had had to forfeit?

Fortunately, a group of Bromley’s friends banded together to purchase one of his properties—‘Montford Farm’ at Hamilton—at auction, and this they returned to him as a mark of their respect. But even when all his assets had been sold, he still owed over £4,000. Repeatedly, he begged the authorities to allow him to return to England, where he hoped to be able to borrow the money to repay the balance, but permission was steadfastly refused. Finally, in 1829, he was permitted to leave. Sadly, he had to leave Sarah and the children, as well two adult daughters from a previous marriage behind. He never saw them again.<sup>15</sup>

Back in England, he soon learnt his once-wealthy family had fallen on hard times and were unable to help him. For a short time, he went back to sea as a surgeon-superintendent on convict ships, remitting small amounts from his salary annually to reduce the debt. But, the affair had taken a severe toll on his health. He died in England, a sick and broken man, in 1836.<sup>16</sup>



Left without support when her husband returned to England in disgrace in 1829, Sarah Bromley (c.1797–1841) struggled to maintain herself and her family at

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<sup>11</sup> Obituary: *Colonist*, 18 June 1833

<sup>12</sup> *Australian Dictionary of Biography*: online at <http://adb.anu.edu.au/>

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid.*

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

<sup>15</sup> *Ibid.* Bromley’s biographer is incorrect in saying that he made a brief visit to Sarah and the children before he died; see Bradmore, D J, (2012). *Dr. Edward Foord Bromley, R.N.*. Maldon (Vic.): Published by the author.

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid.*

‘Montford Farm’. She hired George STEELE, a recently-arrived free settler, as her farm manager—a costly mistake!<sup>17</sup> Only twenty years of age, Steele had a dubious reputation and, within a short time, rumours were circulating about the ‘ambiguous’ nature of his position at the property. Was he only the ‘hired hand’ or was he the ‘master’? Even after he had married Eliza Henrietta, one of Dr Bromley’s adult daughters, in 1830—and had thus become Sarah’s son-in-law—the rumours persisted.<sup>18</sup>

Matters came to a head in 1832, when two convict servants assigned to Sarah claimed to have witnessed instances of improper behaviour between their mistress and Steele. In a statement to the authorities, convict Sarah BENNETT said:

I have more than once seen Mr. Steele lying on the sofa with Mrs. Bromley at the same time as Mr. Steele’s wife and children were in the same room.

Although these claims were never proven, the authorities withdrew Sarah’s right to have assigned servants while Steele remained in the house.<sup>19</sup>

It is a fanciful idea, but might the sofa to which Sarah Bennett referred have been the very sofa we now know as the ‘Hamilton Inn sofa’?

Sarah Bromley died in 1843. Shortly afterwards, her property and possessions were sold and passed out of the hands of her family.<sup>20</sup>



Henry Boden TORLESSE (1793–1843) joined the Royal Navy in 1806. In 1815,

<sup>17</sup> Bradmore, *op. cit.*

<sup>18</sup> Sarah Bromley file TAHO, Ref. #28803—‘Irregularities at Montford Cottage’

<sup>19</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>20</sup> Sarah Bromley’s death: 17 July 1843 – Reg: 49/1843/35, Hamilton

he was promoted to the rank of lieutenant, but when the Napoleonic Wars ended shortly afterwards, he decided to migrate to VDL. He arrived at Hobart Town in 1828.<sup>21</sup>

On his land grant at Hollowtree, 2½ miles (about 4 kilometres) from Hamilton, he built ‘Rathmore’, later described as

an extensive country house, verandah, stable, etc., in the English fashion’, one which ‘embraced all the appurtenances of an English Farm.’<sup>22</sup>

Might the beautiful old sofa have graced Torlesse’s ‘extensive country house’?

In 1829, he had married Frances HAWTHORNE, the daughter of a wealthy Irish family. Both were renowned for their hospitality. At the time, one writer described him as being ‘of bulky make and shape’ and Frances as ‘possessing a full share of *en bon point*’—a polite way of saying that both were considerably overweight. It was also said that they entertained beyond their means.<sup>23</sup>

In the mid-1830s, Torlesse was forced to mortgage ‘Rathmore’ and, later, to sell it. In 1838, he and Frances moved to Campbell Town to live with relatives. There, he served as Police Magistrate before becoming ill.<sup>24</sup>

He died at Hobart Town in October 1843.<sup>25</sup>



<sup>21</sup> <http://www.thekingscandlesticks.com/webs/pedigrees/1622.html>

<sup>22</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>23</sup> *Ibid.* For descriptions of the Torlesses see Henry Savery, *The Hermit in Van Diemen’s Land*. Brisbane: University of Queensland Press. (1964 reprint edition).

<sup>24</sup> As for Note 21, above

<sup>25</sup> *Ibid.*

Born Mary Ann Maria BELLINGER, Maria RAMUS (c.1806–c.1896), described as ‘a beauty’, was still a minor when she married 32-year old Henry Ramus in London in 1825. Soon afterwards the couple decided to emigrate, arriving in VDL in December 1827. Entitled to a land grant, Henry chose 2560 acres (1035 ha.) near Hamilton, built a substantial home there, and called the estate ‘Leintwardine’.<sup>26</sup>

But the marriage was not a success. By mid-1829, when the couple left VDL, supposedly for a brief visit to England, Henry had decided he was not coming back. Before departing, he signed ‘Leintwardine’ over to Maria and when she returned alone to VDL, he went off alone to the island of Terceira in the Azores where he died in 1834. According to one source, he was ‘pleased to be far away from the fickle wife who had evidently led him quite a dance’.<sup>27</sup>

Meanwhile, back at ‘Leintwardine’, Maria, was continuing to attract gentlemen friends. In 1834, young Frederick ARTHUR, the son of Lieutenant-Governor George Arthur, was said to be so ‘calfishly interested in the seductive Mrs. Ramus ... he had to be bundled off post-haste to New South Wales’.<sup>28</sup>

About that time, she met Thomas FOWLER, a young surgeon who had arrived in the colony in 1832. Shortly afterwards, Fowler introduced her to his friend, the wealthy Thomas Potter MacQUEEN, who was passing through Hobart Town on his way to his property,

‘Segenhoe’, near Scone in New South Wales. When Fowler decided to go with MacQueen to ‘Segenhoe’ in late 1834, Maria left ‘Leintwardine’ in the hands of her brother, Thomas Bellinger, and followed the pair of them, observers unsure of who she most favoured.<sup>29</sup>

For the next two years, she remained at ‘Segenhoe’, where MacQueen is said to have lavished her with expensive gifts. However, to the surprise of many, she left and went with Fowler to Sydney where they married in December 1837.<sup>30</sup>

During the next two years, Thomas and Maria Fowler made frequent trips from Sydney to VDL, most made necessary by litigation involving ‘Leintwardine’. It seems that during the years Maria was away, she had mortgaged the property to a William MURRAY who was now claiming ownership of it because she had defaulted on repayments. After a long court battle, Murray’s claims were successful and, in July 1842, ‘Leintwardine’ passed out of Maria’s hands forever.<sup>31</sup>

Maria’s marriage to Fowler did not last long after that. For the next few years, her name occasionally appeared in the newspapers, one report in 1850, describing her—perhaps mockingly—as ‘plump as a partridge and of a beauty that would make you crazy’ and as ‘a big fat girl’.<sup>32</sup> Fowler went back to practice medicine at Scone where he developed a chronic drinking problem and died in 1858.<sup>33</sup>

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<sup>26</sup> <http://www.heavenandhelltogether.com/>

<sup>27</sup> Von Stieglitz, K R (1963), *A History of Hamilton, Ouse and Gretna*. Launceston: Published by the author.

<sup>28</sup> Levy, M.C.I. (1953). *Governor George Arthur, a colonial benevolent despot*. Melbourne: Georgian House.

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<sup>29</sup> Personal communication with family member, Mrs V Bellinger, June 2012

<sup>30</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>31</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>32</sup> *Bell's Life in Sydney and Sporting Reviewer*, 7 September 1850, p.2

<sup>33</sup> Fowler’s death: NSW Reg: 5380/1858, Scone

What happened to Maria after 1850 is somewhat of a mystery. Unconfirmed reports say that she went to New Zealand, where she lived in quite straitened circumstances, and died at 91 in 1896.<sup>34</sup>

Might she have sat with her lovers on the gracious old sofa in her heyday at 'Leintwardine'?



Mrs Jacobina BURN (1763–1851) arrived in Hobart Town in 1821 and was the first woman to receive a land grant in the colony.<sup>35</sup>

Born in Scotland, the daughter of a wealthy brewer, she married David Burn, a stone-mason, in 1797. After the death of her husband, she migrated to VDL, in May 1821 aboard the *Westmoreland*. The parcel of land she chose was in the recently opened up area near Hamilton. Calling her property 'Ellengowan', she added to it by grant and purchase so by 1829 she had 2000 acres and was running 2000 sheep and 150 cattle. In 1826, Jacobina was joined in VDL by her son, David (1799–1875), who acquired a property which he called 'Rotherwood' close to 'Ellengowan'.<sup>36</sup>

For a time, mother and son enjoyed considerable success but in 1843 both were declared insolvent and their properties sold. The exact cause of their financial difficulties is unknown but it seems certain that their problems were exacerbated by a long-running and convoluted legal battle with Michael FENTON, the brother of Catherine, David Burn's second wife. Anxious to protect his sister's interests, Fenton had

challenged the legality of Burn's Scottish divorce from his first wife.<sup>37</sup>

Of Jacobina's 'Ellengowan', the auction notice said:

There is a spacious stone mansion, finished in the first style. The men's dwellings, stables, coach-house, barn, &c., &c., are all of solid masonry. In short, the entire establishment is perfect.<sup>38</sup>

Afterwards, Jacobina went to live with her sister and died at Bothwell, aged 88, in 1851.<sup>39</sup>

Might the lovely old sofa have stood in the entrance hall of her 'spacious stone mansion'?



After its purchase by TMAG, the rare and beautiful piece of furniture was sent to Sydney for refurbishment. Before anything was done, a number of options for its conservation were considered, from complete restoration to doing very little. Ultimately, it was decided that a middle road was the most appropriate.<sup>40</sup>

Thus, today, while enough work has been done on it to allow visitors to appreciate what it would have looked like when new, the remarkable old sofa has not been fully restored. One of its legs is broken and will not be replaced. Some of the sofa's upholstery has been repaired, mended but it has not been recovered.<sup>41</sup>

Undoubtedly, many of the thousands who see it annually will continue to wonder, as we have done, about whose home it once graced. ◀

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<sup>34</sup> As for Note 29, above  
<sup>35</sup> See David Burn in *Australian Dictionary of Biography Online*: [www.adb.anu.edu.au](http://www.adb.anu.edu.au)  
<sup>36</sup> *Ibid.*

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<sup>37</sup> See biography David Burn: <http://www.austlit.edu.au/austlit/page/A12576>

<sup>38</sup> Auction: *The Courier*, 10 February 1843, p.1; death: As for Note 36, above

<sup>39</sup> As for Note 37, above

<sup>40</sup> Conservation: <http://www.icssydney.com.au/index.php?id=300>

<sup>41</sup> *Ibid.*

# BOOK REVIEW

Alice Meredith Hodgson, *Miss Leake's Journal, Research Tasmania, 2014, 187 pp., annotations, endnotes, bibliography, index.*

This monograph is based on the diary kept between April 1854 and May 1855 by Sarah Elizabeth, daughter of John Leake of 'Rosedale', at Campbell Town. The Leakes belonged to the colony's rural elite, and it is appropriate the diary should begin with Elizabeth a guest at Government House, a fellow sojourner being Lord Alfred Churchill of the famed Marlborough family. However by far the greater part of the journal concerns life at 'Rosedale' itself. There Sarah lived with a widowed father and several brothers, her dominant role being management of the domestic economy. Servant problems had the sharper edge in that convicts and ex-convicts were numerous among employees. A standing practice was for there always to be one of the family in or around the house. Sarah returned her maid to the female factory at Ross—although, it is interesting to note, paying her wages on departure. 'Counting the laundry' was a regular task for Sarah, perhaps done all the more assiduously lest underlings snitch from it.

The local gentry kept up social network. Upper-class ladies visited busily, while in early 1855 Sarah found the incidence of picnics rather too much. Her story is not one of universal goodwill, tensions between some local families getting discrete mention. Church-going was a constant, with the local Anglican minister, William Brickwood, and his wife apparently becoming close to Sarah. 'Rosedale' offered generous hospitality. Just as Sarah had been a guest at Government House, so Sir William Denison stayed with the Leakes on a journey north.

Especially on such occasions Sarah had to be active in the kitchen. Hodgson offers a long excursus—'Miss Leake in the Kitchen'—going beyond the diary to give pertinent detail about *Rosedale's* equipment and staff, with recipes that might have been followed.

That still left many hours in Sarah's day. She spent considerable time reading. Authors mentioned are Charles Dickens (especially *Bleak House*), TB Macaulay (the early volumes of his *History of England*), and Caroline Leakey (*Lyra Australis: Attempts to Sing in a Strange Land*). *Punch* and the *Illustrated London News* were welcome fare. Sarah was a busy client of the local lending library. The piano was another source of pleasure for her, although little evidence emerges of her taste; the only item specified is 'Home Sweet Home'. Sarah also tells of enjoying a Launceston concert by two visiting musicians.

While all this material is interesting enough, one cannot make great claims for the diary and its author. Sarah does not probe into her own consciousness let alone that of others. She generally gives just the bare facts, and her life was mundane. Closest to an exception from this pattern was her report of a brother arriving from the mainland with a wife suffering mental troubles; Sarah welcomed a report that the woman already had a living husband, presumably hoping for a consequent end to the second liaison—but that did not happen, and the diary returns to its usual modest track. Readers might be surprised to find it occupies only 53 of the book's pages. The excursus on 'Miss Leake in the Kitchen' takes twenty more, while the remainder are spent on editorial elaboration. This is marked with competence of highest order, the biographical notes on cited individuals being especially notable.

Michael Roe ◀

# CLARA, COURT CASES TO HEROES

Georgina Dooley (Member No.5423)

**M**Y great grandmother, Clara Adelaide CLEAVER, was born in Brighton, Tasmania on 19 January 1868.<sup>1</sup> Her parents were Llewellyn Cleaver and Bridget BRISCOE who married on 28 November 1850 at the District Church, Broadmarsh.

Born in 1826, Llewellyn was a native of Tetbury, Gloucester, England,<sup>2</sup> as were his family for many generations before him. On 4 January 1842, Llewellyn was charged at the Assizes Court in Wiltshire with sheep stealing. This being his second offence, he received the long sentence of ten years' transportation. Llewellyn set sail on the convict ship, *Earl Grey* on 26 September 1842, arriving in Hobart Town 14 January 1843. After being pardoned in 1850,<sup>3</sup> he settled in Brighton, working as a labourer.

Bridget Briscoe was born in Ireland around 1832. She arrived in Hobart Town, (apparently alone) about 1847. Bridget died in Hobart in 1918 and is buried in Cornelian Bay Cemetery.<sup>4</sup>

No doubt lured by the opportunities offered by the gold rush, Llewellyn and Bridget spent a decade in the Castlemaine area of Victoria before they settled back in Brighton where they lived until Llewellyn's death in 1901. Clara was ninth of their twelve children and seems to be the only one given a second Christian name.<sup>5</sup>

Growing up in 1870s Tasmania would have been a simple existence by today's standards but one that offered challenges and difficulties we would struggle to imagine. Clara would never have been lonely with so many siblings. Hopscotch, skipping rope and cat's cradle would have been popular past times. Her clothing would likely have consisted of two or three mid calf calico dresses with perhaps a muslin pinafore for school and chores. A coat would be worn over these in winter with ankle height black lace up boots. In summer, Clara may have gone bare foot, perhaps wearing a bonnet. Coming from a large family, she would have been given many tasks by her mother including collecting water and mending clothes. With washing clothes at that time taking most of the day, being kept at home from school to help would not have been unusual.

Education became compulsory in Tasmania in 1868 (the year of Clara's birth). She obviously received some schooling, as she was later able to sign her wedding certificate and register her children's births. Clara's life was to take a dramatic turn when she was seventeen leading to a sad outcome and leaving many unanswered questions.

Tuesday 14 December 1886 was as usual a busy day at the Supreme Court in

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<sup>1</sup> Tasmania BDM – Reg. No. 40

<sup>2</sup> Llewellyn's convict record.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Tasmania BDM – Reg. No. 1708.  
Cornelian Bay Cemetery website.

<sup>5</sup> Llewellyn and Bridget's other children were Jane, born Brighton RGD No.

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595/1850, Frederick, born Tas. 1851,  
Henry, born Victoria, 1853, Ann, born  
Vic. 1854, Ellen, born Vic. 1855,  
Timothy, born Vic. 1856, Llewellyn, born  
Vic. 1861, James, born Hamilton RGD  
No.739/1865, Emma, born Brighton RGD  
No. 46/1870, George, born Brighton RGD  
No. 62/1872, Alice, born Tas. 1875

Hobart with a full list of cases to be heard. No. 1 court opened at 10a.m. before the Chief Justice, Sir William Lambert DOBSON, with criminal sittings finally suspended for the day at 7p.m. Among the proceedings to be decided this day, were men charged with crimes such as wounding with intent to do grievous bodily harm, rape, larceny and murder.

The only woman appearing was Clara Adelaide Cleaver.<sup>6</sup> Her crime was concealment of birth of her male child. The date and place of her offence was 20 November 1886, Bothwell. The term concealment of birth is most often used when authorities have not been informed about a stillbirth or the death of a new born. Transcripts of the trials from that day were not kept, so only the bare facts are available.

Clara's case was the fifth listed and second last to be heard. She pleaded non-cul (not guilty) and was represented by Mr MUGLISTON. The jury consisted of twelve men: George DERRINGER, William WATSON, John FITZGERALD, Bannerman C DAWSON, William GREENLAW, John LATHAM, William REYNOLDS, Robert ROSE, Robert THORP, James YOUNG, Henry NICHOLLS and Henry TOLLARD. The

jury found her guilty, but recommended mercy on the grounds of her previous good character and the state of her mind at the time of the offence.

Sir William Lambert Dobson was considered an extremely sound Judge with no decision of his ever being reversed in the Supreme Court. He passed the following

sentence on Clara: 'To be imprisoned until the rising of the court this day.' The type of cell in which Clara would have been kept, was described as follows by a visitor to the gaol in 1882:

They are dark, ill ventilated and stuffy and intended for the use of convicts awaiting shipment to Port Arthur.<sup>7</sup>

The *Launceston Examiner* and *Mercury* newspapers made brief mentions of Clara's case, but neither went into great detail.

Within a year of her trial, Clara was to marry. Her husband was Edward HALE and they married in the Parish Church, Bothwell on 4 October 1887. Alfred BERESFORD officiated and Elsie Hale and Louisa HASTIE were witnesses.<sup>8</sup>

Edward was born in Bothwell on 10 August 1866. He was also the son of a former convict, Thomas Hale and his



Clara's son, Edward Godfrey Hale

<sup>7</sup> *Mercury* Newspaper, 8 July 1882

<sup>8</sup> Tasmania Marriages Bothwell RGD No. 18/1887

<sup>6</sup> S.C. 32-1-9, S.C. 41-1-7, A.B. 693-1-1

wife Jane REID. Thomas Hale was transported in 1832 for theft<sup>9</sup> and worked as a farmer. Hence, both Clara's father and father in law were convicts. Edward and Clara settled in Bothwell, where Edward worked as a shoemaker. It was probably around this time Clara's health began to fail as she had contracted consumption.<sup>10</sup>

Eight weeks after her marriage, Clara gave birth to a son. Edward Godfrey Hale was born on 23 November 1887.<sup>11</sup> Sixteen months later, a second child was born to Clara and Edward. Alma Mildred (Millie), on 29 May 1889. On 20 June 1889 Clara registered her daughter's birth.<sup>12</sup> Two months later, on 25 August 1889, 21 year-old Clara died of consumption.<sup>13</sup> She left her 22 year-old husband and two children aged 19 months and 3 months. Edward must have relied on family support to care for his children.

In 1896, he married for the second time. His bride was a local girl, sixteen year-old Emma HOSKINSON. Interestingly, on his marriage certificate, Edward stated he had two children living and none deceased.<sup>14</sup> Does this mean he was not the father of Clara's deceased son? As well as caring for Edward and Millie, Edward and Emma had seven children of

their own. Edward Hale lived all his life in Bothwell, dying in 1950 aged 84.<sup>15</sup>

Clara's son, Edward Godfrey, lived in Bothwell working as a labourer. On 4 January 1915, he enlisted in the AIF, becoming a Private in the 7<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance, where he worked as an ambulance driver. On 25 October 1915, Edward was killed by shrapnel at Gallipoli. He died aged 27 and single with his father named as next of kin.<sup>16</sup>

Clara's daughter, Millie worked as a domestic in Bothwell until 1912 when she moved to Victoria where, on 1 April 1912, she married Claude AHEARNE.<sup>17</sup> They remained in Victoria and had four children, James in 1912, George in 1913, Myrtle born in 1916 and Edward born 1919. Twelve years to the day after her marriage, on 1 April 1924, Millie died aged 34 from consumption, the same terrible disease that had claimed her mother.<sup>18</sup> At age 18, Millie's son James also contracted consumption. After three months in Heatherton Sanatorium, James thankfully recovered. He was later to become my father. ◀

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<sup>9</sup> Thomas Hale's convict record

<sup>10</sup> Consumption (now called tuberculosis) is an infectious disease that attacks the lungs. Its symptoms are chronic cough, fever, night sweats, weight loss and chest pain. It is commonly found amongst the poor and malnourished and can be passed to the unborn child during pregnancy.

<sup>11</sup> Tasmanian Birth RGD No.897/1887 Bothwell

<sup>12</sup> Tasmanian Birth RGD No.843/1889 Bothwell

<sup>13</sup> Tasmanian Death RGD No.552/2889 Bothwell

<sup>14</sup> Tasmania BDM Reg. No. 26

Note: Ahearne family on front cover [Ed.]

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<sup>15</sup> Tasmania BDM Reg. No. 25

<sup>16</sup> Edward Godfrey Hale's service record.

<sup>17</sup> Victoria BDM Reg. No. 1

<sup>18</sup> Victoria BDM Reg. No. 5272

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# CHARLES BAKER

James M Gray

**C**HARLES BAKER was born in 1847 in Sub-District of North Moels Parish in Lancashire County, England, his birth registered at North Sefton. Charles was the son of John Baker an English boot-maker who married Miss Catherine YATES in 1840 at St Andrews Church Leyland. According Charles' grandson Reginald Baker, the family later migrated to the east coast of the United States; presumably to Boston, Massachusetts.

After migrating with his family, at the age of ten, Charles Baker ran away from home and went to sea as a cabin boy. His grandson Reginald said Charles sailed the seas for some six years and then travelled to California where he joined the California gold rush.

At the age of about seventeen, Charles returned to the east coast to enlist in the Union Army, as the American Civil War was well under way. Reginald said his grandfather Charles related to him that once during the war when he was delivering a dispatch to a Union unit some distance away, a Confederate soldier confronted him from a depression in the ground and thrust at him with a bayonet; leaving him with a long white scar on the inside of his right arm. Charles said he was able to bring the butt of his rifle down on the Confederate's skull and make his escape.

There were four Union soldiers who served from Connecticut by the name of Charles Baker—plus one with the name of Charles C Baker and another named Charles E Baker. One of the four Charles Bakers died in the service.



Union Medal

- Charles Baker, Greenwich, 24th Connecticut Infantry, enl. 22 Feb '64, wounded, died 6 Oct '64.
- Charles Baker, Hartford, 6th Connecticut Infantry, enl. 7 Mar '64, deserted 9 Nov '64
- Charles Baker, Farmington, 7th Connecticut Infantry, enl. 10 Sep '64, m.o. 20 Jul '65
- Charles Baker, Hartford, 8th Connecticut Infantry, enl. 22 Jun '64, disability discharge 23 Feb '65
- Charles C. Baker, Middletown, 16th Connecticut Infantry, enl. 8 Sep '62, m.o. 30 Sep '63
- Charles E. Baker, Stafford, 16th Connecticut Infantry, enl. 11 Aug '62, m.o. 24 Jun '65

There was also a Charles Baker in the 20th Infantry who served as a drummer boy at age 16 when he enlisted in the Massachusetts Infantry on 9 December 1861, so he would have been born around 1845. He was mustered out on 16 July 1865. There was also a Charles Baker in the 32nd Infantry who was discharged for disability on 14 March at about twenty years of age.

## Charles Baker

Residence was not listed; 26 years old.  
Enlisted on 9/2/1863 as a Private.

On 9/2/1863 he mustered as a substitute into "G" Co. NH 13th Infantry  
He deserted on 11/3/1863 at Portsmouth, VA

Other Information:  
born in England

Sources used by Historical Data Systems, Inc.:

- Register of Soldiers and Sailors of New Hampshire 1861-65

### Service record for Charles Baker

There was one Charles Baker, however, born in 1847, who fits all the criteria for Charles Baker the veteran. He enrolled in Co. 'G' of the Thirteenth Regiment of New Hampshire Volunteers. He was listed as born in England, and age 26 in September 1863 when he enlisted as a substitute. He was from the town of Weare, N.H. but deserted from the ranks on 3 November 1863 at Portsmouth, Virginia.

After the war, 'Charles stated' he and other Union forces were awarded grants of free land, and by virtue of his seafaring experiences, he was given an appointment as a Warrant Officer Instructor in the US Navy; which may or may not have been true. There is, however, a Charles Baker in the official *List of Officers of the Navy of the United States and Marine Corps from 1774 to 1900*. He was listed as a Mate and dismissed from service on 23 July 1862.

Charles had two brothers, one a midshipman, also in the Navy, with senior rank to his own aboard his own ship, and another brother who was also a seaman, sailing a ketch in the harbour. After a confrontation while ashore on leave, Charles struck his younger brother, the midshipman with senior rank. Charles was charged with the encounter, and being found guilty was confined to his

ship for a period of time, which angered him. Charles decided his brother was due a 'hiding' for his actions against him, so after his period of confinement Charles figured out when their shore leave would coincide and set about locating an overseas ship that would be clearing port about the same time. Charles arranged with his second brother to pick him up from the warship in his ketch and transport him to his selected overseas ship; which he could join as a crew-member. Charles at that point had decided to leave the US Navy.

Charles set his plan into action, his brother the midshipman suffered a severe beating from Charles, his other brother picked Charles up and he boarded a Merchantman, never to set foot on American soil again. He left the Navy behind and joined the Mercantile Marines. Unfortunately though, Charles in order to escape being caught, had to leave all his personal possessions behind; except what he could carry in his sailors handkerchief.

During his seafaring experiences Charles survived three separate ship wrecks. After one, he related that the ships cook placed them on a diet of turnips for weeks; having nothing else to serve them. On the occasion of another shipwreck he survived off the south coast of Spain, he

stated his tattoo of Christ on his forearm provided him with an abundance of good will and assistance after being rescued.

Little is known of Charles' experiences following his departure from the United States in 1867 (two years after the war had ended), aboard a ship conducting trade from England to Australia. He was then Boatswain and on one occasion after spotting a nasty squall approaching, he gave the order to 'shorten the sail'. However, he had over stepped his authority, his duty being to relay orders; not to give them. In doing so, he was taken below deck for detention and in the process was struck by a ship's officer. As a result, with the storm closing in, the crew refused to man the ship unless Charles was released. After the squall struck, which badly damaged the sails and rigging, Charles was finally released.

When the ship made port in Melbourne, Charles lodged charges in a Melbourne court that the officer had struck him; the offence was for 'striking a man on high seas.' The officer was found guilty and fined £5; but Charles decided he had had enough and left the ship; and travelled to the goldfields, with hundreds of other would be prospectors.

While prospecting in the Diamond Creek gold field, Charles Baker married Sara Anne HARMON, born in Dorset, England in 1848, in 1871. She was the daughter of an architect in southern England and upon the death of her mother, her father married again. Sara refused to accept her father's new bride, and soon ran away; setting sail for Australia. Accompanying her was a maid of her father's home. Sara had made the decision because two of her brothers had earlier migrated to Australia; one being a doctor in Queensland, the other, Edmund, was living in Victoria. Sara Anne

migrated to Australia to join her brother in Queensland, and upon his death Sara decided to go to Victoria and live with friends.

Charles and Sara were married at Diamond Creek, on the Victorian gold fields where they met. They had six children; William Ernest (Ern) born 1869, in Melbourne; Charles; Susan May born in Susan Creek, Victoria in 1876; Alice; Ada Mable born in Launceston, Tasmania in 1880 and William Thomas (Will) Baker 1874. At least two of the children died at an early age of typhoid fever.

A miner in the Bendigo area in the 1880s, nine years after he married Sara, Charles moved his family for better diggings in the alluvial fields of Golconda in northeastern Tasmania; where he prospected around Liske, near Scottsdale. Their luck was no better, so moved on to Bangor where they tried unsuccessfully to become farmers but relocated to Lefroy to again try their luck at mining. Having no luck at striking it rich, in the 1890s Charles and Sara moved on to Beaconsfield, where he established a 'boot and repair' shop at the south end of Weld Street. His luck at mining was not spectacular, but on occasions he did make moderately successful strikes; using the profits wisely.

William Ernest Baker married Eva LEE in Beaconsfield in 1898 and they had one child, Reginald Ernest Charles, born in 1899. Susan May Baker married George John MACHEN in Lefroy in 1897 and had two children, Eva Isabel born in 1897 and George Albert in 1898.

Charles Baker, according to Tasmanian government records, died on 9 September 1906 at Beaconsfield, and was buried 20 September 1906 in the Methodist section of Beaconsfield General Cemetery; plot MB79. Charles Baker was remembered

and described as a tall, trim, bearded man with a long white scar on his inner right arm, a result of his war experience, and a tattoo on each forearm; one of Christ on the cross with realistic drops of blood flowing and on the other a dancing girl; probably acquired during his days on the sea. The West Tamar Council provided documentation on the grave site of Mr Charles Baker, and a Tamar Council staffer documented he had long known Baker and had long known that Charles Baker definitely served in the Union army before migrating to Australia.

After Charles's death Sara Anne remained in Beaconsfield, living in a cottage behind the shop on Weld Street, until 1920, when her son William Ernest Baker, the father of Reginald Baker, moved to Hobart in 1919. He was in charge of the Methodist Home Mission Circuit in Evandale. Eventually her son moved to Macquarie Plains, and Sara Anne went with him. From then until 1922 Sarah Anne Baker lived with her daughter Mrs G BAYLISS, and daughter-in-laws in Launceston.

Sara was remembered by her grandson as a gentle, little old lady, always dressed in black and wearing a lace bonnet. Being a determined lady, as seen by her leaving England and migrating to Australia on her own, she always wanted a son named 'Will'. When her first born son, William Ernest, became known as 'Ern', Sara took matters into her own hands, and named another son William Thomas.

Sara Anne Baker died at 84 years of age at the residence of her daughter, in South Launceston on 26 July 1922. She was survived by Messrs W E Baker of Hobart, C B Baker of New South Wales, W T Baker of Macquarie Plains, Tasmania, Mesdames Susan May Machen of Derby, Tasmania, Mesdame FINCH of Waratah,

Tasmania, and Mesdame G Bayliss of South Launceston, Tasmania.

By law, the American Veterans Administration requires every American military veteran, no matter on what side he participated, who is buried anywhere in the world in an unmarked grave is deserving of a headstone or a bronze memorial plaque; made and delivered to his cemetery without charge. The problem is that acquiring documentation of his Civil War Regiment is difficult; due to the large number of Charles Bakers who served during the war. There is little doubt, however, that Charles Baker served, as he related many of his war time experiences to his children and grandchildren; and the Charles Baker, who was recorded as being born in 1847, enrolled in the Thirteenth Regiment, New Hampshire Volunteers and was mustered into Co. 'G', is the same Charles Baker buried the Beaconsfield General Cemetery. ◀

#### Sources:

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Archives Office of Tasmania  
Beaconsfield General Cemetery Records, Tasmania  
BMD Records, England  
Bruce Christie, Tasmania  
*Descendants of Charles and Sara Baker*,  
Reginald Baker, grandson  
Diana McCain, The Connecticut Historical Society  
Evette Gale, West Tamar Council, Tasmania  
Frederick C Hart, FASG, Guilford Connecticut  
Hilda Rawcliffe, Lancashire Family History and Heraldry Society.  
Howard Baker, son of Stanley Baker, descendant, 1986  
James Brady, Tasmania  
Joan Austerberry

Continued on page 181, column 2

# GENES ON SCREEN

Vee Maddock (Member No.1875)

**W**HEN you sit down at your computer, who is in control? Are you allowing a machine to make important decisions about your files, your photos, your documents and your family tree? When you create a document or spreadsheet, download a photo, save a page or picture from the internet, open a new family tree, keep an emailed attachment, edit an image, or download a file you have a choice. You can blindly click OK and let the computer save it wherever (and often as whatever) it wants, or you can navigate through the file directory, name and save it where you want it (and can easily find it later).

Why does it matter where things are saved? For a lot of people it doesn't matter, until they are lost forever. A lot of computers these days have more than one hard drive. You want to know which one contains your data, especially when one dies. Backing up can be as easy as copying one or two locations to an external drive, or it can involve navigating through all your drives and deep into the program folders to find your data. If someone else (e.g. a computer tech) is backing up your data before a reformat for example, are they going to dig for your family tree or just copy what they can see easily? When you want to access an older file, does it take hours of searching, or can you find it fairly easily?

File management is easy. Think of your computer as your study/office. There are several ways to view your computer files. (My) Computer or Windows Explorer are the usual. If when you go to My Computer (usually found on the desktop or start button) or to Windows Explorer (that's the file manager program, not

Internet Explorer which is a web browser), you don't see a list of drives and folders down the left hand side you need to go to layout/view and turn on the Navigation Pane.

Now, on the left you should see some categories like Favourites, Desktop, Libraries and Computer. When you highlight or click on the various heading the contents of the right hand pane will change to show the content of that link.

When you go to computer you will see a list of disks or drives, usually C, D, E etc. Sometimes a physical hard disk drive (HDD) is split into several partitions, each with a different letter, which explains how you can have a computer with one HDD, but have several disks listed. These disks are your 'file cabinets'. When you click on a disk you will see the folders and maybe even loose files that it contains. If you think you may have partitions it is worth finding out which ones belong to what. Say I have C, D, E and F drives showing. C usually has all the programs and stuff that make a computer run. If I can avoid it, I'll want to save all my data files anywhere other than C (and hopefully My Documents etc., has been set to another drive. My docs/pics/music/videos locations can be changed fairly easily.) That way if something goes wrong with the computer, windows can be reinstalled easily without disrupting my files. Now D and E may be partitions of the same physical drive, so if I store my files on D, I don't want to back them up onto E, because if that drive goes up in flames I'll have lost both. However in this case F is a separate drive so backing up to that is a good idea. Note—when you add in more drives it is pos-

sible the letters will change. You can go in and set a permanent letter for drives, but just be alert when adding new drives.

Now, in each disk, drive or 'cabinet' in your computer you can create multiple folders also called directories. These folders, just like a manila folder can hold files, or hold other folders.

Most people are familiar with the idea of My Documents, My Pictures, My Music and My Videos folders, which are often the default save location for Windows software like Word. However when you look at your folders on your computer you may have trouble finding My Documents. It can be buried in a user name folder and may be several folders deep. This is fine because there are shortcuts to get to these folders.

When saving a new document, your family tree or any other type of file your document and picture folders are a good place to keep everything together. To prevent a huge mess of files, create folders. For example save your family tree file in a folder called Family Tree, in My Documents. Save old photos under family name folders in My Pictures. If you ensure everything is in a central folder like this then backing up becomes a matter of copy My Docs and My Pics and save emails. If you want to keep things in folders elsewhere on your computer, then use libraries to keep them together (see below).

Note—I'm talking about saving files you create, not programs you install. The majority of programs and updates should be allowed to install where they think they should go (usually a Programs folder). Remember, when backing up you only need to save your files, your creations (docs, pics etc), music, and emails (and bookmarks/favourites for browsers), not the programs that create them, they will have to be reinstalled if

the worst happens, but your creations can't be recreated as easily. Once they are installed, make sure you take control over where they save your work. If you've already used a program and have no idea where your work is saved, open it and do a Save As. The first location shown is usually where it is saved— save it to your choice of location. Then close, and reopen the program. You may have to go to Open file and go to your location and find the file the first time, after which it should simply work from there.

For more advanced computing convenience you may have noticed 'Libraries' listed in the Navigation pane. Libraries are a virtual file drawer. That is, you can add folders to a library, but they are still located in their original location, they aren't copied across. If you save a file to the Documents library without opening a folder in it, then it will simply be saved into the first linked area (usually My documents). Libraries default to the Docs, Pics, Music, Videos, but you can create new ones. For example I could make a Family Tree Library. (Right click on libraries>New>Library). Double click on the new library heading and it will ask to include a folder. I navigate to My Docs and select My 'Family Tree' folder. This then becomes the default save location for anything dropped into the Family Tree Library. Now I can go to all my other folders related to family tree and include them by right clicking on them and selecting include in library >Family tree. From My pictures folder I'll select 'History pics', 'scanned slides', from my J drive I'll select 'Asylum records' and 'Smith book'. From My videos I'll add the folder containing converted video and audio of relatives twenty years ago. Now when I click on the family history library I have instant access to all those locations at a glance—one click and I'm there. ◀

# TASMANIAN NAMES INDEX ONLINE

## LINKED TO IMAGES

**G**O to the Linc Tasmania home page: Tasmania's Heritage and find Tasmanian Names Index or enter [http://linctas.ent.sirsidynix.net.au/client/en\\_AU/names](http://linctas.ent.sirsidynix.net.au/client/en_AU/names)

Enter a person's name in the search box and find all kinds of records that you can view then and there! This is the first time such a variety of Tasmanian records are available online, all from the same search, including Tasmanian Birth, Death and Marriage records.

### Tasmanian Names Index

- Arrivals (19th Century). Passengers and ships arriving, mainly in Hobart.
- Births (1803–1933). People born in Tasmania including some baptisms collected by the Registrar General (1900–1933 baptisms only).
- Census (1837–1857). Householders in the 1840s and 1850s, not complete for all districts.
- Deaths (1803–1933). People who died in Tasmania including some burial records collected by the Registrar General (1900–1933 burials only).
- Convict permissions to marry (1829–1857). Convicts applying to marry free people or other convicts.
- Convicts (1803–1893). Convicts transported to Tasmania and those convicted locally through the convict system.
- Departures (1817–1867). People leaving Tasmanian ports, mainly Launceston.
- Divorces (1861–1920). Petitions for divorce in the Tasmanian Supreme Court.
- General Index (1818–1934). A range of records, including people's names and subjects.
- Inquests (1828–1930). Inquests into people's deaths.
- Marriages (1803–1899). People who married in Tasmania.
- Naturalisations (1835–1905). People applying to become citizens.
- Wills (1824–1989). Wills and letters of administration of estates registered for probate. ◀



### Continued from page 178

- Lancashire Archives, Lancashire UK
- Lancashire County, England Birth Records Archives
- List of Officers of the Navy of the United States and Marine Corps from 1774 to 1900*, US Navy
- Massachusetts in the Army and Navy 1861–65*
- Massachusetts Soldiers, Sailors and Marines in the Civil War*
- North Moels Parish, Lancashire, England
- Census Records, 1851–61, 81
- Peter A Wallner, New Hampshire Historical Society
- Rick Franklin, Records Officer, Tas. Govt.
- Rose and Bill Tanner, Launceston. Tasmania
- Sharon Verhulst, Beaconsfield Heritage Centre
- Sue Guinan, *Graves of Tasmania*
- Stephen T Benson, Lancashire Family History & Heraldry Society, Lancashire, England
- Tasmania Post Office Directory, 1903
- The Mercury*, Hobart, Tasmania, 31 July 1922
- Organization Index to Pension Files of Veterans Who Served Between 1861 and 1900*, U. S. National Archives, Washington, DC
- Reg Watson, journalist and researcher, Lindisfarne, Tasmania, Australia
- West Tamar Council, Tasmania ◀

# WHAT IS THAT PUBLICATION ABOUT?

Maurice Appleyard (Member No.4093)

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

**Perhaps the publication may also be held in your local library?**

## **THE BAY BOYS—WW1 Tasmanian East Coast Volunteers: Triabunna, Orford, Wielangta, Buckland, Runnymede**

An A4 book of 227pp, was published in 2014 by Fran Read. *This book is about the spirit and ideals that drove rural Tasmanian communities during the First World War. It is about the young and not-so-young East Coast Tasmanians who left their families, their jobs and their home comforts to travel halfway across the world to serve their King and country.*

The pre-war occupation, district location and family connections of each volunteer is given; their war service and ultimate fate; and, where applicable, their family life, on return, is described.

Many researchers will find family connections to the men featured in the book. Family names listed are:

ARNOL; BARING; BELLETTE; BLACKLOW; BRESNEHAN; BROOKS; BURGESS; CAHILL; CASTLE; CLARIDGE; CLEMENTS; COLE; CUSICK; DAVIDSON; EWART; FORD; FOX; FRENCH; GARITY; GELLIE; GOULD;

HOWELLS; HOWLETT; JOHNSON; JONES; MACE; McNEILL; McRAE; MONTGOMERY; MOREY; PITT; PYKE; REARDON; ROBINSON; RUDD; SKEGGS; SMITH; SUTTON; SWAN; TAPNER; TURVEY; WAGNER; YOUNG.

## **OTWAY MEMORIES**

This A5 booklet was published in 1979 by J K Loney.

It refers to the general area in Victoria that encompasses: Cape Otway; Apollo Bay; Beech Forest; Carlisle River; Forrest; Gellibrand; Lavers Hill; Lorne; Princetown; Wye River and the surrounding areas.

## **GUMERACHA 1839–1939**

### **A history of Gumeracha and District, South Australia**

This facsimile edition of the 1939 work, edited by J E Monfries, was published in 1978 by Lynton Publications Pty Ltd.

It is well indexed with family names and contains many photographs of the early pioneers.

## **RAILWAYS, MINES, PUBS AND PEOPLE and other historical research**

This book by Lindsay Whitham, of 264pp, was published in 2002.

It contains a series of eighteen historical papers covering:

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- 1 The Railways and Tramways of Zeehan.
- 2 Zeehan's Twenty-six Hotels—Fact or Fiction?

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- 5 The Sandfly Coal Mine and Tramway.
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- 8 The Needle in the Haystack, or T-Rail in Tasmania.
- 9 The Latrobe Wharf Railway.
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- 11 The Red Gate Tramway to Waddamana.

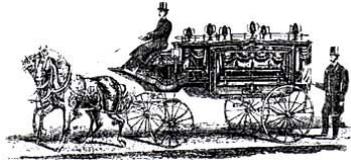
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- 12 An Unusual Horse-Driven Pump.
- 13 Restoring a Historic Clinometer.
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- 15 R W Lord—First Manager of Tas Govt Railways.
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- 17 Charles Whitham's *Eight from Hindustan*.
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- \*BARSTOW, Harold G, *1332 & 1464 Records of Bishops Waltham Manors.*
- \*BARSTOW, Harold G, *1550 Records of Bishops Waltham Manors. Part 1.*
- BISSETT, Muriel & Betty, *The Weekly Courier Index to Photographs, Birth Death & Marriage Notices Historians Volume 11 1927–29*
- BISSETT, Muriel & Betty, *The Weekly Courier Index to Photographs, Birth Death & Marriage Notices Historians Volume 13 1922–23*
- \*BLISS, Georgina, *Deaths from the South Australian Government Gazettes 1845–1941 Including the Northern Territory until December 1910*
- \*CHAM, Gabrielle, *War on Our Doorstep*
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- \*NEWITT, Lyn, *Convicts of Carriageways*
- \*NICHOLLS, F F, *Honest Thieves The Violent Heyday of English Smuggling*
- OSBOURNE, Helen J, *From Jerusalem to Colebrook A History of Colebrook and Surrounding Area and its Pioneers*
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- SCHNACKENBERG, Sally, *Kate Weindorfer The Woman Behind The Man And The Mountain*
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- TFHS Inc. Hobart Branch, *Undertakers of Hobart Vol IV*
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- TFHS Inc. Hobart Branch, *Church Records of Tasmania Volume 1 Index to Miscellaneous Catholic Deaths L-Z*
- TFHS Inc. Hobart Branch, *Church Records of Tasmania Volume 1 Index to Miscellaneous Catholic Deaths A-K*
- TFHS Inc. Launceston Branch, *The Tasmanian Mail A Photographic Index Vol 14 1934*

- TFHS Inc. Launceston Branch, *Index to Births, Deaths & Marriages Volume 17 1961–1965 Deaths*
- TFHS Inc. Mersey Branch, *Devonport Cemeteries Monumental Inscriptions of Devonport District Cemeteries North-West Tasmania*
- TFHS Inc. Mersey Branch, *Devonport Cemeteries Monumental Inscriptions of Devonport District Cemeteries North-West Tasmania Book 1 Second Edition*
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- TFHS Inc., Mersey Branch, *An Index to The Advocate Personal Announcements 1980*
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- \*VILLERS, Alan, *Vanished Fleets Sea Stories from Old Van Diemens Land*
- \*Wynyard Historical Society, *Wynyard A Pictorial History*

### **ACCESSIONS—Maps**

- \*GODFREY, Alan, *Old Ordnance Survey Maps Southport (North) 1909*
- \*GODFREY, Alan, *Old Ordnance Survey Maps Southport (East) 1909*
- \* Indicates donated item

## **HOBART BRANCH**

### **ACCESSIONS—Books**

- \*Beasley, B; *River Yarra Sketchbook*. [994.52 BEA]
- \*Beidler J M; *The Family Tree GERMAN GENEALOGY GUIDE—How to trace your Germanic Ancestry in Europe*.
- \*Bradmore, D & J Carter; *The Remarkable Edward Myers—Convict, Artist, Musician, Linguist, Soldier-of-Fortune, Doctor of Medicine and Newspaper Publisher*. [Q 929.2 MYE]
- \*Few, J; *Putting Your Ancestors In Their Place—A guide to One Place Studies*.
- \*Jaunay, Graham; *A Parish Finder for England*. [914.1 JAU2]
- \*Loney, J K; *Otway Memories* [994.5 LON]
- \*Loney, J K; *Twelve Decades—A short history of Apollo Bay, 1850–1969* [994.57 LON]
- \*Maxwell-Stewart, Hamish & Susan Hood; *Pack of Thieves?—52 Port Arthur Lives*.
- \*Monfreis, J E; *Gumeracha 1839–1939*. [994.232 MON]
- \*Mott, Winifred; *Rodda, Botheras of Cornish Heritage*.
- \*National Trust of Australia (Tas); *Prints from the Past—Latrobe Photograph Collection*. [994.65 NAT]
- \*Pawley White, G; *A Handbook of Cornish Surnames*. [929.4 PAW3]
- Read, F; *The Bay Boys*. [Q 940.40994 REA]
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- Tasman Peninsula Historical Society; *Tasman Peninsula Chronicle—No. 14, December 2011*. [P 994.64 TAS]

Tasman Peninsula Historical Society; *Tasman Peninsula Chronicle*—No. 15, December 2011. [P 994.64 TAS]

\*Whitham, Lindsay; *Railways, Mines, Pubs and People and other historical research.*

\*White, V; *Canberra Sketchbook.* [994.71 WHI]

### Computer Disks

\*TFHS Inc; *Tasmanian Ancestry, Vols 1–20, June 1980 to March 2000.*

\* Denotes complimentary or donated item.

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### ACCESSIONS—Books

Blatchford, Robert & Elizabeth, *The Irish Family and Local History Handbook*

Blatchford, Robert & Elizabeth, *The Family and Local History Handbook 13*

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Coultard, Ross, *The Lost Diggers*

\*Dent, John & Gill, Jenny, *Introduction to the Sharland Map 1826*

\*Dieppe, Clive, *As It Was 1916–1918*

Female Convict Research Centre, *Convict Lives at the George Town Female Factory*

Female Convict Research Centre, *Convict Lives at the Launceston Female Factory*

Female Factory Research Centre, *Convict Lives Women at the Cascades Female Factory*

\*Gee, Lucille, *Relbia Yesterday and Today 1806–2014*

Holloway, Kerry E, *The Light on the Hill, A History of the Anglican Church in South Launceston 1924–2010*

\*Marsh, David, *My Convict Past*

Port Arthur Historic Site Management Authority, *Pack of Thieves? 52 Female Factory Lives*

Purtscher, Joyce, *Deaths in the New Town Charitable Institution July 1895 – December 1912*

Robson, D, *Fred Collis Diaries 1905, 1908, 1909, 1924/25*

\*Sims, Peter C OAM, *The Sims Family of England (Somerset) and Australia*

Smith, Neil, C, *That Elusive Digger, Tracing your Australian Military Ancestor*

TFHS Inc. Hobart Branch, *Undertakers of Hobart Volume 5 Part 4*

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TFHS Inc. Launceston Branch, *Index to The Examiner, New combined edition BDMs 1900–1910*

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TFHS Inc. Mersey Branch, *In Loving Memory Series, Monumental Inscriptions of Ulverstone District Book 2*

TFHS Inc. Mersey Branch, *Index to The Advocate Personal Announcements 2009*

TFHS Inc. Mersey Branch, *Index to The Advocate Personal Announcements 1980*

\*Watters, Leslie Francis *Elizabeth Rafferty in Sydney's the Rocks. Convict, Settler, Shopkeeper 1797–1822*

\*Wood, Robin, *Woodchips and other Splinters*

Wyatt, Douglas Morris OAM, *Launceston Regiment 1860–1960*

\* Indicates donated item

## MERSEY BRANCH

### ACCESSIONS—Books

\*Bennett M, Williams D, & Williams H; *Forty Years on the Hill - St Brendan-Shaw College*

\*Coss, Ros [Comp.]; *World War I Service Personnel Book 1 A-C*

\*Coss, Ros [Comp.]; *World War I Service Personnel Book 2 D-L*

\*Coss, Ros [Comp.]; *World War I Service Personnel Book 3 N-Z*

\*Devonport Council; *Mersey Vale Memorial Park - Index to Burials & Crematorium 1968–2012*

Jones, Betty & Smedley, Sue; *In the Shadow of the Nut*

TFHS Inc. Hobart Branch; *Undertakers of Hobart Vol. IV I Index to H C Millington Pty Ltd Funeral Records, Part 5 - November 1955 - November 1960*

TFHS Inc. Launceston Branch; *The Tasmanian Mail A Photographic Index Vol. 15 1935*

\*TFHS Inc. Mersey Branch; *Index to Undertakers Ledger 1924–1939 F E Watts & Sons Pty Ltd Funeral Directors Latrobe*

### ACCESSIONS—Computer Disks

\*TFHS Inc. Mersey Branch; *The Advocate - Births, Deaths & Marriages 1980–2009 & 2012*

\*TFHS Inc. Mersey Branch; *Combined Index of all Cemetery Publications Deloraine Books 1,2 & 3, Kentish, Latrobe Books 1 & 2, Devonport Books 1,2 & 3, Ulverstone Books 1,2 & 3*

\* Indicates donated item

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

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

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

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

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**LAUNCESTON** Phone: Branch Secretary (03) 6344 4034  
Library 45–55 Tamar Street Launceston (next door to Albert Hall)  
Tuesday 10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.  
Monday to Friday by appointment only (03) 6344 4034  
Workshops Held on Wednesday 18 June and Wednesday 17 September  
Check the Branch News and the website  
<http://www.launceston.tasfhs.org> for locations and times.

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**MERSEY** Phone: Branch Secretary (03) 6428 6328 Library (03) 6426 2257  
Library 117 Gilbert Street Latrobe (behind State Library)  
Tuesday & Friday 11:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.  
Saturday opening has ceased and is now by advance appointment only.  
Meetings Held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month at Branch Library in Latrobe at 1:00 p.m. or sometimes for lunch at 12:00. Please check the website at [www.tfhsdev.com](http://www.tfhsdev.com) or contact the Secretary for updates.

# MEMBERSHIP OF THE TASMANIAN FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.

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

**Dues are payable annually by 1 April.** Membership Subscriptions for 2014–15:-

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

**Overseas:** Individual member: A\$40.00: Joint members: A\$50.00 (inc. airmail postage).

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

## Membership Entitlements:

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

## Application for Membership:

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

## Donations:

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

## Research Queries:

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

## Reciprocal Rights:

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

## Advertising:

Advertising for *Tasmanian Ancestry* is accepted with pre-payment of \$27.50 per quarter page in one issue or \$82.50 for four issues. Further information can be obtained by writing to the journal editor at PO Box 326 Rosny Park Tasmania 7018.

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