

Tasmanian Ancestry



**TASMANIAN FAMILY HISTORY
SOCIETY INC.**

Volume 41 Number 2—September 2020

TASMANIAN FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.
PO Box 326 Rosny Park Tasmania 7018

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Tasmanian Ancestry

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

From the Editor

I find writing ‘From the Editor’ the most difficult part of putting the journal together—I always leave it until last.

In some ways the past three months have passed quickly and yet I haven’t done any of the tasks I planned to undertake. The house is disorganised and I shut my eyes when I go outside as the weeds are taking over.

There are some interesting titles in this issue. I spent hours reading Leonie Fretwell’s web page, *Bond of Friendship*, (See <http://fretwelliana.com>) One name in particular caught my attention, that of Harriett Neat amongst the ‘Bristol Girls’. It took me back to 1996 when I was editing my second issue of *Tasmanian Ancestry* and searching for two of Harriet’s husbands—William Davis and Robert Jones!

It is always a pleasure to include an article from Alison Alexander and Don Bradmore’s submissions never disappoint. He continues to provide us with a supply of contributions. Thank you to all our current regulars—Betty, Dianne and Leonie for their continued support. Karen Mather is also building up a collection and has enabled us to have royalty on the cover.

Perhaps the cold weather and continuous presence of COVID-19 will encourage more people to ‘put pen to paper’, or preferably fingers to the keyboard and keep us well-supplied for future issues.

Rosemary Davidson

Journal address

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

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

Deadline dates are:

1 January, 1 April, 1 July and 1 October

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

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

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Cover: John and Emily Dwyer at his KCMG Investiture, Perth 1949, with the Duke and Duchess of Gloucestershire and the Lord Mayor of Perth, Mr J Totterdell.

Collection of the Old Court House Law Museum, Perth, Western Australia.
Also in *Western Australian* newspaper, see TROVE

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2019/2020

NORMALLY, this report would have been presented at our Annual Conference on the third Saturday in June. However, as you are all aware, the AGM has been postponed for an indefinite period. COVID-19 restrictions have made it extremely difficult, if not illegal to conduct the type of conference that we have enjoyed in the past.

Branches have been completely closed since late March and the society has been managed in a caretaker role by the executive officers: President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer with support from Branch Executives. Current office holders: Maurice Appleyard, Judy Cocker, Eddy Steenbergen, and Ross Warren, have indicated their willingness to continue in their role for another year and no other nominations were received by the closing date.

A financial report and the auditor's report, normally presented at the AGM will continue to be reported in the following pages of this journal.

A number of officers holding appointed positions in the society have also willingly continued in their roles and continue to provide the services we enjoy. They are: Rosie Davidson, Journal Editor; Clint Ayers, Journal Distribution; Lyndal Ayers, Membership Registrar; Leonie Mickleborough, LWFHA Coordinator; Robert Tanner, Web Manager; Beverley Richardson, Rosie Davidson and Beryl Dix, Publications Committee.

Although our branches have been closed to members and the general public in recent months, some officers have monitored requests for products or assistance. Hobart has reported strong on-line book sales

during the closure period and I believe Launceston has also achieved a number of sales.

During the year, some branches continued producing and publishing indexes and other reference material for the benefit of all researchers and to raise funds.

As reported in *Tasmanian Ancestry* at various times: Hobart Branch has published more books in their *Undertakers of Hobart* series: *Vol. II Index to Alex Clark & Son Funeral Records, Part 3 November 1907–December 1920 and Part 4 January 1921–December 1943.*

With the advent of July, some branches are considering how to conduct their AGMs in a manner permitted by current restrictions. Movement within their regional area is now possible, providing a suitable size area is affordable. On-line meetings via the program ZOOM appear to be a possibility but not all members have suitable internet connections.

Closed state borders remove the possibility of many members attending a Society AGM. Non-Tasmanian residents would find it impossible under current conditions. Again, not all members have suitable internet connections for an on-line meeting.

However, I am advised both Mersey and Hobart Branches are considering limited access opening in the near future. Access by appointment, with limited assistance from duty staff is contemplated.

Hopefully, by the time this journal is published, all branches will be able to operate in the manner we have become used to.

August is Family History Month and normally Family History Societies and other bodies like Libraries Tasmania organize

special events and lectures for interested researchers. It would appear the major event we can look forward to is the opening of our libraries, without restrictions, by the end of the month.

Our society continues to maintain a presence and contributes to the efforts of a number of organizations during the year. We were represented on the board of the Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations; the Joint Tasmanian Archive Consultative Forum, and the Digital Information Group (Tasmanian organizations involved in the collection of historical data).

Maurice Appleyard ◀

Tasmanian Family History Society Inc.

2020 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 2020**

Further information and entry forms available from TFHS Inc. Branch Libraries or
www.tasfhs.org or
The Secretary PO Box 326
ROSNY PARK TAS 7018
email: **secretary@tasfhs.org**

TWO NEW PUBLICATIONS

TFHS Inc. Hobart Branch



UNDERTAKERS OF HOBART

Vol. II

Index to

**Alex Clark & Son
Funeral Records**

Part 3

**Nov 1907 – Dec 1920
and**

Part 4

Jan 1921 – Dec 1943

These two volumes follow on from Parts 1 & 2 of Alex Clark burial records, and often include name of spouse and/or parents, place of birth, cause of death and cemetery where buried.

An Index 1944–1961 will be published later this year.

Prices: \$25.00 + \$6.85 p.&p. each

Members are entitled to 10% discount.

Write to
TFHS Inc. Hobart Branch
PO Box 326 ROSNY PARK
TASMANIA 7018
or
email **library@hobart.tasfhs.org**

2020 INDEPENDENT AUDITORS REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF
TASMANIAN FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.

I have audited the accompanying accounts for Tasmanian Family History Society Incorporated for the year ended 31 March 2020 in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards.

Included in income were amounts received from memberships, collections, sales, fund-raising and sundry income. Examination of these income items was limited to a review of cash transactions and amounts received as recorded by the books and receipting records of the Society.

Subject to the effect of the above statement on the accompanying accounts I am of the opinion that:

- a) The Society has kept proper accounting records and other books during the period covered by the accounts.
- b) The accompanying accounts are properly drawn up and in accordance with the Associations Incorporation Act (1964) so as to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs as at 31 March 2020 and of the results for the period ended on that date according to the information given to me, the books of the Society and the explanations given.
- c) The accounts are properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the Society's financial position according to the information at my disposal and the explanations given to me.
- d) The rules relating to the administration of the Society's funds have been observed.
- e) I have obtained all the information required.

Devonport

15 May 2020



NEIL WILKINSON
Registered Company Auditor

Tasmanian Family History Society Inc.

Statement of Consolidated Cash Flow for the year ended 31 March 2020

	Burnie	Hobart	Huon	L'ton	Mersey	Society	Consolidated Totals
Opening Balance	7,775	16,101	830	2,841	4,373	4,396	36,317
Add Receipts							
Membership Subscriptions	1,569	7,954	438	3,327	2,351	28,937	32,763
Donations	427	928	213	478	238	696	2,190
Fund Raising	1,061	3,053	0	1,865	1,040	0	7,019
Research	108	85	0	965	666	0	1,824
Sales	218	3,930	0	791	2,300	394	6,970
Interest	7	9	1	2	0	9	28
Library Revenue	1,035	1,249	21	321	1,671	0	4,297
Sundries	0	425	1,750	352	0	40	2,567
Journal (Tas Ancestry)						1,460	1,460
Total receipts	4,425	17,633	2,423	8,101	8,266	31,536	59,117
Transfers from term loan a/c	0	0	0	1,500	2,200	0	3,700
Total funds available	12,200	33,734	3,254	12,442	14,839	35,932	99,134
Less Payments							
Membership Subscriptions	727	2,540	190	1,444	870	0	0
Insurance	0	0	0	0	0	5,383	5,383
Fund Raising	0	646	0	892	321	0	1,859
Research	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Items for re-sale	120	491	0	359	1,676	29	2,012
Bank Fees	0	36	0	0	0	407	443
Library Payments	4,610	7,742	744	5,118	4,745	0	22,959
Sundries	121	9,970	1,365	176	0	1,445	12,287
Journal (Tas Ancestry)						14,021	14,021
Assets/Capital	77	1,525	0	1,776	2,200	0	5,578
Administration Payments	486	2,406	134	728	631	8,488	6,830
Total Payments	6,141	25,356	2,433	10,493	10,443	29,773	71,372
Transfers to term loan a/c	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Closing Balance	\$6,059	\$8,378	\$821	\$1,949	\$4,396	\$6,159	\$27,762
Term Loans, Float etc	\$6,450	\$30,683	\$2,813	\$7,726	\$11,263	\$0	\$58,935
Total Cash Reserves	\$12,509	\$39,061	\$3,634	\$9,675	\$15,659	\$6,159	\$86,697
Value of Assets	\$83,400	\$166,761	\$14,221	\$71,600	\$25,660	\$0	\$361,642

TASMANIAN FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.

ABN 87 627 274 157

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

For the Year Ended 31st March 2020

	2020	2019
<u>INCOME</u>		
Donations	380	760
Collection Branch Membership	6,695	5,362
Collection Branch Donation	315	290
Journal - Advertising/Sales	65	165
Journal - Subscriptions	1,395	1,485
Membership Subs - Interstate	15,329	16,761
Membership Subs - Branch	6,915	8,204
State Sales - Books, CD's, Fiche	365	325
State Sales - TAMIOT Sales	--	116
AGM Registrations	40	960
Interest Received	9	8
	-----	-----
	31,508	34,436
	-----	-----
TOTAL INCOME	31,508	34,436
<u>LESS EXPENSES INCURRED</u>		
AGM Expenses	158	1,108
Audit Fees	165	176
Bank Charges	407	447
Executive Travel	1,072	1,105
Filing Fee	62	62
Insurance	5,383	4,619
Journal Postage/Printing	14,021	17,465
Lilian Watson & other awards	200	200
Postage, PO Box, Phone, Internet	1,055	1,325
Printing and Stationery	48	212
Room Hire/Meetings	106	331
Subscriptions (AFFHO & FFHS)	297	94
Tfer collection Branch Membership	6,043	6,488
Tfer collection Branch Donations	790	422
	-----	-----
TOTAL EXPENSES INCURRED	29,807	34,054
	-----	-----
<u>SURPLUS FOR YEAR</u>	1,701	382

BRANCH REPORTS

Burnie

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

President: Peter Cocker (03) 6435 4103
Secretary: Sue Hutton 0473 771 958
PO Box 748 Burnie Tasmania 7320
email: petjud@bigpond.com



The last three months has been unprecedented in the history of our branch. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused a complete shutdown of activities within our Library. We have not had any meetings, nor have we been open for research or other events.

At the time of writing the restrictions are being lifted by degrees and we are looking at a process whereby we can reopen our library and be compliant with Tasmanian workplace health and safety requirements. By the time you read this report we trust the Burnie Branch Library will be open and that members are able to use our facilities for their research.

At the beginning of the year we had planned to run a workshop on *Family Tree Maker 2019*. As soon as we are open again, we will timetable in a date to run this workshop. We will keep members advised.

I trust that everyone has made productive use of the lockdown period and perhaps cleaned up your charts and added those missing dates and other vital information.

Peter Cocker **President**

Hobart

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

President: Louise Rainbow
email: president@hobart.tasfhs.org
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PO Box 326 Rosny Park Tasmania 7018
email: secretary@hobart.tasfhs.org
All telephone enquiries to (03) 6244 4527



At the time of writing we are already in the middle of winter and wondering where the year has gone, but once again there has been much activity within the branch.

The number of members using the library will be limited and members will be required to book a limited number of places to fulfill the social distancing guidelines. Given that age makes us a vulnerable group, library assistants will be given the choice of assisting or not.

Future plans for meetings and activities are contingent on containment of the virus. Two observations have emerged. On-line meetings, committee and general, re possible and viable; and the on-line general meetings have been 'attended' by many members who do not normally attend the face-to-face meetings.

General meetings

As a result of the restrictions brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, the April general meeting was cancelled.

We ventured into the world of Zoom meetings to hold the May general meeting. The on-line meeting was 'attended' by 30 members and guests, at least a third of whom do not regularly attend our monthly face-to-face meetings. Food for

thought about our winter meetings in future years.

The presenter for the May meeting was Ros Escott speaking on the topic *A Double Brickwall: Solving a DNA Mystery*. The essence of the talk was Ros' involvement in the challenges associated with identifying both birth parents of a now 62 year-old woman, Mary (not her real name), with no information other than DNA matches. To complicate matters, the birth mother gave a false name and background information at the time of Mary's birth in New Zealand. The father was not named and was said to also be from New Zealand—but all Mary's DNA matches were in Australia.

Ros explained the techniques she used in the search. Starting with Mary's DNA results, she identified a cluster of people whose ancestors had two surnames in common, who had all lived in a town in country NSW—dubbed the 'town of interest'. Various tools were used, including coding groups of matches with coloured dots, Blaine Bettinger's Shared DNA chart (suggests the nature of relationships based on centiMorgans in common), *Ancestry* 'ThruLines' and 'quick and dirty' family trees (private and non-searchable ad hoc trees constructed using *Ancestry* suggestions and conjectures and following where this leads). Using *White Pages*, a cold call was made to a person with one of the 'surnames of interest' who still lived in the 'town of interest'. This gathered very useful information.

The problem was eventually solved with both parents being identified. It does not always work out so well, but Mary's mother was thrilled to have been found, having long given up hope. Mary's late father's family did not want to be contacted, but several close family

members are known to have had an aggressive cancer, as has Mary. At what point does the need for health information take precedence over respecting privacy?

The guest speaker at the Hobart Branch's June general meeting, the second Zoom monthly meeting during the COVID-19 restrictions, was Chris Booth, Southern Group President of the Country Women's Association. Her presentation was titled *The Story of the CWA in Tasmania*. The association has three divisions in Tasmania corresponding to the telephone districts—North, South and North West—and each has a president.

In Tasmania, the first meeting was held in Launceston on 14 February 1936. It was convened by Lady Clark, wife of Governor Clark. Eighty women attended and a donation of 10 guineas (£10/10/-) was received from the Victorian CWA group. The Hobart group formed two weeks later and CWA Tasmania was formed in 1937 at a meeting held in Tunbridge. Chapters were formed in NSW and Queensland in 1922, followed by SA in 1926.

CWA is a non-party political, non-sectarian organisation and it grew quite dramatically with more than 2500 members by 1940, and nationally up to 44,000 in 1855 branches by 2004. The original CWA shop in Tasmania was at 44 Murray Street in Hobart and it is presently located in Elizabeth Street, Hobart. The only other operating CWA shop in the state is at Lindisfarne.

The organisation holds an annual state conference and the aims remain to improve the lives of women—country and metropolitan—in fields as diverse as law, agriculture and societal/cultural issues. CWA has been an organization that has changed its activities to suit the times. During WW2 members made

camouflage nets, made slippers and assembled and distributed food parcels. In terms of lobbying state and federal politicians the CWA has had 'successes' in legislation being passed to require bars rolls on quad bikes; country of origin labelling on products; and audio signals at light-controlled pedestrian crossings. The CWA is not just about tea and scones at shows where many CWA ladies are involved in judging. It still is involved in child care health centres; operates rest rooms in shopping centres; provides scholarships for rural students to undertake university courses in nursing and agriculture; has links with Migrant Education in assisting migrants with the grocery shopping and meal preparations using Australian ingredients; providing accommodation for rural people visiting hospitals; Cancer Council support with gifts bags etc for patients and many more activities.

The diversity and extent of the list of activities (only part of which is in this report) prompted the question from one participant ... *What do you do in your spare time?*

Future meetings

General meetings will continue to be held on the third Tuesday evening of the month at 7.30 p.m. The format of these meetings—on-line or face-to-face—will depend on COVID-19 restrictions in place at the time. Some speakers scheduled for meetings prefer to present in the face-to-face format so the program is fluid. Please refer to the Hobart Branch website and newsletter for the latest information about dates, speakers, meeting format and indeed library reopening.

Launceston

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

President: Helen Stuart 0427 847 000

Secretary: Marette Lawson

PO Box 1290 Launceston Tasmania 7250

library: ltntasfh@bigpond.com

All telephone enquiries to 0438 465 121



We closed the Launceston Branch Library on Tuesday 17 March, due to the COVID-19 virus.

The Branch Research Service has continued over this period and members have been working on our Indexing Projects.

We are pleased with the response we have had from our members renewing their memberships, which is on a par with last year at this stage, and wish to thank those who have generously made donations to our library fund, which is very much appreciated at this difficult time.

Robyn Gibson has been speaking on City Park Radio each month on topics related to Family History and any upcoming events we have organised. We hope this will alert listeners to our existence, and our activities.

We are grateful to the Launceston City Council for the rental relief they have given us for a period of six months.

Check the website for the detailed list of publications available from Launceston Branch, and any upcoming events.

Huon

President: Shirley Fletcher (03) 6264 1546

Secretary: Libby Gillham (03) 6239 6529

PO Box 117 Huonville Tasmania 7109

email: vsbtas@bigpond.com

No report received

Mersey

www.tfhsdev.com

President: Gary Bryant

Secretary: Sue-Ellen McCreghan
(03) 6428 6328

Library (03) 6426 2257

PO Box 267 Latrobe Tasmania 7307

email: secretary@tfhsdev.com



Mersey Branch welcomed back members and visitors on Friday 3 July.

We have COVID-19 safety measures in place.

These include a bell at

the entrance to our locked security door through which the questions are asked, then temperature and contact details taken.

There is a limit of five people at a time. Sanitiser, rubber gloves and social distancing will be implemented. Our computers and books are to be used wearing gloves and all surfaces will be sanitised after each use.

So we are doing our very best to keep each other safe. We welcome back members and visitors and hope they will feel confident using the library.

Mersey Branch Annual General Meeting was postponed due to COVID-19. The consensus of the committee is to delay the meeting and reconsider in 2021. The committee has agreed to stay as is.

Our branch is due to host the State Annual General Meeting in 2021 this has to be reconsidered.

Research enquiries are still coming in. An interesting enquiry regarding bell ringers, no, not church bells—a family called Walker had a group of entertainers who travelled Tasmania and Victoria in the 1880s.

There's also been the 'hit a brickwall' enquiries—arrival of William Anderson to Tasmania and the complicated Gower family of Northern Tasmania—oh dear!

So even though the branch hasn't been open there's still been enquiries to keep the mind active, or should I say mind boggling. ◀

HELP WANTED

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

Special Interest Groups are subject to advertising rates.

Members are entitled to three free entries per year.

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

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

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

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

ANCESTRAL HISTORY VIRUS

Robin Flannery (Member 5263) with Scarlett Beukes

MY first Tasmanian ancestors arrived from Norfolk Island aboard *City of Edinburgh* in 1808. The last was my mother who was born at Linda in 1910 and taken to Melbourne as a child. Details are contained in *Pros & Cons AND Cops & Robbers*, a study through my ancestry. I compiled it in 2003 and a copy is held by TFHS.

For future generations, during the recent virus restrictions I am writing about my life. Quite unexpectedly, I received a copy of a letter written by my Australian-born great granddaughter who lives in England. As a school project she wrote herself the following letter:

Dear Scarlett,

You might not remember this but when you were seven you had an unusual year. This is about corona virus at the time you used to live at 45 Oakley Court. The virus started in Wuhan and it happened to come from bats and it spread very quickly around the world.

Lock up started on March 23rd 2020 because a lot of people were dying. During the lock down schools are closed, Oma and Opa are stuck in Capetown, dad has work at home and McDonald's is closed.

The good things about lock down is that we went for bike rides, baked with mummy and I built lots of legos. The best part was raising hedgehogs and their names were Tom and Winston. Winston was a big hedgehog and he tried to pick a fight with the dogs. Tom had lots of ticks so we had to take him to a doctor and

when we got him back he was swimming in the water.

I hope you've made a family that loves you so much. Have you become a vet yet because when you were seven you loved animals. My hope for you is that you'll keep being happy for the rest of your life.

After the lock down I am looking forward to having a family.

Love Scarlett

As with the rest of her class, Scarlett has been asked to seal the letter in an envelope and put it away in the back of her cupboard for 30 years.

Not only is it a splendid school project for one so young, but she has written what will be the concluding chapter of my project. In thirty years, I hope she catches the ancestral history virus and my closing words are the preface to her generation's story. ◀

Another article by Robin Flannery may be found in *Tasmanian Ancestry*, Vol. 29 No. 3, p. 159—*Arthur Gordan Jackson: my maternal grandfather*.

Robin also contributed to the publication by the TFHS Inc. Hobart Branch Writers Group—*Pros and Cons of Transportation, a collection of convict stories*, published in 2004. Robin's story was titled *The Potter and the Prostitute*, two of his great-great-grandparents.

This publication is available for sale from TFHS Inc. Hobart Branch Library.[Ed.]

THE FATE OF A FEISTY DRUNKARD, CONVICT MARY ANN DRANE

Alison Alexander (Member 6611)

BECAUSE we are interested in family history, many of the stories we tell about women convicts follow a similar pattern: women committed crimes in Britain or Ireland, were transported to Van Diemens Land, served out their sentences, usually committing various offences, then when they were free, married and brought up a family or had illegitimate children. Alcohol often enters the story, but such women were not usually incorrigible drunkards. What happened to those who were?

Mary Ann DRANE's family background sounds stable enough. She was born about 1802 in the village of Heckingham in Norfolk, England.¹ Her parents, James and Elizabeth, married in August 1790. To be sure, their first child was born only three months later, but that was not unusual at the time. Elizabeth bore a total of eleven children, all baptised in the local church in the small village of Heckingham. Only two died young, a fair record at the time.² James was probably an agricultural labourer, the main occupation of rural men. The reasonable record in child-rearing and the respectable baptisms hint at a settled family. In Van Diemens Land Mary Ann's trade was given as farm servant and dairy maid, and possibly she worked at these jobs in her early teens.

Something went wrong, and at the age of fifteen or sixteen, Mary Ann went 'on the town'—became a prostitute.³ She was known as Blue Ribbons, perhaps wearing

them to encourage custom.⁴ She sounds pretty, with grey eyes, dark brown hair, generous wide mouth and dashing ribbons, but reality was grim. Over the following years Mary Ann was several times found guilty of vagrancy, so she had left the family residence; and as a prostitute she faced the possibility of disease or violence from her customers. By the age of thirty she was missing several front teeth and had scars on her chin and arm.⁵

Perhaps poverty made Mary Ann resort to theft. In May 1831 aged about thirty, she was found guilty of stealing three sovereigns and sentenced to seven years' transportation. After the sentence was read, she held out her arm and called to the judge:

I pray God Almighty you may sit here till I come back, and then I'll tell you how I like it.⁶

Was this feistiness a reason for leaving home, refusing to submit to a life of drudgery in a house or farm, hoping that there were more opportunities elsewhere?

Mary Ann left England the next month, June 1831, on board the ship *Mary*. The voyage took four months, during which the surgeon reported Mary Ann ill on three occasions: twice from hysteria, and once from a fever.⁷ She recovered well enough to land with the other convicts at Hobart Town in October 1831. Like almost all women convicts, she was assigned as a domestic servant. From Mary Ann's past history—violence, vag-

¹ CON19-1-13, image 508, police no. 128
ancestry.co.uk; FMP

² CON40-1-3, image 70, police no. 128

⁴ *Durham County Advertiser* 6 May 1831

⁵ CON40-1-3, image 70, police no. 128;
CON19-1-13, image 508, police no. 128

⁶ *Durham County Advertiser* 6 May 1831

⁷ Adm. 101/51 Reel 3204

rancy, prostitution, no settled dwelling in which to practise housework, as well as the hysteria—she does not sound suited to this occupation.

She was not, and the seven years of her sentence saw her move from employer to employer—at least 14—and be found guilty of 21 offences. A month after she landed, her employer complained that she was insolent. She was punished—four days in a cell on bread and water at the Cascades Female Factory—and assigned to someone else, but after only a month her new employer complained she was absent from her service. It was back to the Cascades, where doctors decided she was ‘not of sound mind’.⁸ This vague diagnosis could have meant either that she was of low intelligence or that she was mentally unsound.

No action was taken; there was no system for assisting such people, and Mary Ann continued to be assigned as a servant. She committed more offences. Two-thirds involved being absent—out after hours, absent without leave. In twelve of these fourteen offences she was not punished, only reprimanded or returned to the Factory.⁹ This was unusually lenient, and perhaps the magistrates felt sorry for her, suffering from some sort of disability.

Once Mary Ann was punished by being assigned in the interior and was sent to John VINCENT at Oatlands. A free settler, Vincent was a publican and miller. Mary Ann arrived at his house in July 1833, but within a fortnight she was in trouble again. Vincent accused her of

assaulting divers people, filling his House with uproar, using obscene & blasphemous Expressions & constantly neglecting her Duty.

On one other occasion she was accused of a moderately serious offence, ‘falsely accusing her master of striking her and spitting in her face’. Her master was believed, of course, and Mary Ann served three months in the crime class. In all she served eleven months in crime class and thirty days in solitary confinement. However, finally in April 1838 she became free by servitude.¹⁰

Later that year Mary Ann married James SPICER, a convict who arrived in 1830 aged 22 and heavily tattooed, serving fourteen years for robbery. Like Mary Ann, James had a long list of offences in the colony—he received more serious punishments—hard labour, dozens of lashes. He gained his ticket of leave in 1835, lost it when suspected of sheep stealing but regained it in 1838. When he married Mary Ann, she was 38 and he was 30, described as a brickmaker.¹¹

On marrying, some convicts settled down, earned a living and raised families, but Mary was unlikely to do this. With her history of vagrancy, prostitution, disability and drunkenness, it would have been hard for her to become an even moderately dutiful housewife. In any case, her time with James was brief. In 1840, only two years after the marriage, he was sentenced to twelve months’ hard labour at Port Arthur for suspected sheep stealing.¹² There is no further mention of James being with Mary Ann.

With James in prison, Mary Ann had to support herself, and later that year she was charged with stealing a glass and a spoon from an hotel. The publican stated she was in the habit of coming to his house, and on this day arrived tipsy at

⁸ CON40-1-3, image 70, police no. 128
⁹ *ibid*, image 70, police no. 128

¹⁰ *ibid*, image 70, police number no. 128

¹¹ CON52/1/1 p.185; RGD37/1/1 no. 107;
CON31-1-39, image 52, police no. 1177

¹² *ibid*.

midday and drank some rum before stealing the glass. The evidence was incontrovertible. The magistrate described Mary as an incorrigible drunkard for many years and sentenced her to a year in prison with hard labour—a severe punishment for a minor theft.¹³

Over the next two decades Mary Ann descended further into drunkenness. She was frequently in court, charged with being an idle and disorderly person, disturbing the peace, and being drunk. She was sentenced to periods in gaol or in the Cascades but, in many cases, no sooner was she freed than she committed more offences and was sent back.¹⁴

She continued the feistiness of her youth, giving enthusiastic performances in court that one suspects she enjoyed. In 1846 she was freed from gaol one Saturday and at once went to a public house, smashed the windows and assaulted an old woman who happened to be passing. She was arrested and charged with ‘most violent and outrageous conduct’, and was so excited in court that she let fly ‘a volley of the most disgusting language’ against the magistrate, the police and the public, clutched one man by the hair and ‘kicked up such a rumpus’ that she was taken away until she had calmed down. She was sent back to gaol for six months.¹⁵

In court in February 1850 she claimed constables ‘would swear away one’s reputation and even life for a shilling’, and told one of them, ‘Don’t shove me if you please, or knock my shoes off my

feet!’¹⁶ The next year she gave another ‘exhibition of oratory’ to the court and boxed a constable’s ear with a closed fist.¹⁷ Later that year she came into court ‘in her bouncing way’, and when merchant Robert MATHER accused her of being an intolerable nuisance and disturber of the peace, threatened to knock out his eye and called him a ‘scaly old fellow’. A second merchant accused her of lying in front of his shop door at full length and refusing to move, swearing horribly. She roared out,

Tie me up for the night, and I’ll get a lawyer tomorrow; the lawyers are all my friends,

to roars of laughter from the court.¹⁸ She often had to be dragged screaming from the court, sometimes by ‘a posse of constables’. Well-known around Hobart, she was often called ‘notorious’.¹⁹

Both courts and journalists found all this entertaining, and Mary Ann was treated surprisingly leniently, not punished for boxing the unfortunate constable’s ear, or for her slanderous statements. One journalist regretted people encouraged Mary Ann by laughing at her:

She is, hereby, led to make a show, thinking, no doubt that her conduct is very amusing. It is a pity that she cannot be reclaimed from her abandoned courses, by other means than punishment; which, in her present case, only appears to render her more hardened.²⁰

Some people tried to reform her. In 1854 the Rev. Kerr JOHNSTONE, a Baptist minister who organised a total abstinence society, persuaded Mary Ann to sign the pledge, not to drink alcohol for three

¹³ *Colonial Times (CT)*, 18 August 1840

¹⁴ Tasmanian newspapers passim, 1840–1860, e.g. *CT*, 31 October 1845, 13 Jan 1846, 3 January 1856; *Britannia (Brit.)*, 7 February 1850, 3 February 1851; *Hobart Guardian (HG)*, 27 April 1850; *Courier*, 8 June 1853

¹⁵ *CT*, 13 January 1846

¹⁶ *Brit.* 7 Feb. 1850; *HG*, 9 February 1850

¹⁷ *Brit.* 3 February 1851

¹⁸ *Tasmanian*, 6 November 1851

¹⁹ *CT*, 3 January 1856; *Brit.*, 3 Feb 1851;

Hobart Town Mercury, 20 March 1857

²⁰ *HG*, 27 August 1851

months.²¹ She strictly kept it for the three months, but that was enough. Conscientiously, she returned the paper to Johnstone, then drank three pints of beer and was soon back in court, charged with ‘conduct of a very reprehensible character’. She was a deplorable-looking object, newspapers reported, with one hand wrapped in old newspaper. She offered to take the pledge again, and a constable was ordered to take her to a minister to do so.²²

But it was difficult for an habitual drunkard fourteen years earlier and often drunk since to give up alcohol for good. In 1856 Mary Ann was back in court and prison,²³ and the following year yet another appearance was graphically described. Wearing ‘some half-dozen flounces and tattered white silk bonnet’, she entered court holding a piece of meat and a loaf of bread, which she kept nibbling.

Considerable force was required to make her give up her breakfast and attend to the charge.

This time she was fined.²⁴

By the mid-1850s there were echoes of that first diagnosis in 1831 that Mary Ann was of unsound mind. In 1851, during a court appearance, she exclaimed, ‘Why don’t you send me to New Norfolk, where I will be well fed and have no work’.²⁵ Was this a facetious suggestion, or had she already spent time at the Asylum and found conditions better than in gaol or the Female Factory? She did spend some time at New Norfolk in the early 1850s.²⁶ After she behaved violently

in court in 1856, using ‘disgusting’ language, the magistrate ‘unhesitatingly pronounced her mad’ and asked for a doctor to examine her. She was sent to gaol for a fortnight.²⁷

In July 1857, Mary Ann Spicer was charged with being a lunatic. Dr BENSON diagnosed her as being of unsound mind, incapable of taking care of herself and unfit to be at large. She had been under his observation at the Cascades Factory for some time and had several times been under treatment at New Norfolk (this is not recorded elsewhere). She was admitted to the asylum.²⁸

In 1861 Mary Ann ran away from New Norfolk. She was recaptured within a few days. The admission document stated her age, conjugal status, religion, and address were all unknown. Did Mary Ann refuse to answer questions, or was she by now too insane to do so? The doctor stated she was incoherent, imagined her father and other relations were in her apartment, and was violent if anyone approached, throwing anything in her reach at them.²⁹

Possibly Mary Ann gained some happiness from her dreams of family members being with her, uniting what home life she had experienced in Norfolk, England, with her sad life in an asylum in New Norfolk on the other side of the world. A pauper, she died of bronchitis in June 1871 in the asylum, her age given as 69. Two days later she was buried at St Matthews church at New Norfolk, under her maiden name, Mary Ann Drane.³⁰ ◀

²¹ *Tasmanian Colonist*, TC, 14 July 1853; CT, 2 March 1854

²² *Courier*, 17 May 1854; TC, 18 May 1854

²³ CT, 3 January 1856

²⁴ *Courier*, 11 March 1857

²⁵ *Tasmanian*, 6 November 1851

²⁶ Tasmanian Archives, (TA) HSD 285-1-2768, 18 July 1857, report by Dr Benson

²⁷ CT, 3 January 1856

²⁸ TA, HSD 285-1-2768, file 18 July 1857

²⁹ *Cornwall Chronicle*, 27 April 1861;

TA, HSD285-2-236, admission Mary Ann Spicer, 8 May 1861

³⁰ RGD35/1/40 no. 342; ref. to burial in database just says Cordwell.

‘DISGUSTING, DISGRACEFUL AND DEMORALISING’ THE ABOLITION OF PUBLIC EXECUTIONS IN TASMANIA

Don Bradmore (Member 6756)



IT was Tuesday, 30 September 1845, and a large crowd had gathered at an early hour outside the gates of the city gaol in Campbell Street, Hobart (pictured). There was great excitement in the air for the public execution of a person convicted of a horrific murder was about to take place.

Although public executions were commonplace in Van Diemens Land at the time, this was to be no ordinary occurrence. The poor wretch who was about to undergo ‘the last penalty of the

law’ was a middle-aged woman by the name of Eliza BENWELL.¹

Earlier that year, she had been found guilty of aiding and abetting Thomas GOMM, William TAYLOR and Isaac LOCKWOOD in the ghastly murder of Jane SAUNDERS, a seventeen-year-old housemaid in the service of Mr Elisha HATHAWAY, the American Consul at Hobart Town. At the time of their awful crime, all four of the perpetrators were employed at the *Derwent Hotel*, New Norfolk, to which Mr Hathaway had

¹ *Launceston Advertiser*, 2 October 1845, p. 3

taken his family and their servant for a short holiday visit.²

At the trial, witnesses told of Lockwood, a waiter at the hotel, asking Saunders to go out the back with him for sex. She refused, but later, when she left the kitchen to go outside to the privy in the dark, Lockwood followed her. There he was joined by Gomm, a cook, and Taylor, an ostler. All three attacked her, and in the struggle that ensued she was struck violently on the head and then suffocated with her own clothing. Afterwards, her lifeless body was flung into the river at the rear of the hotel. Evidence was given that Benwell, who had witnessed the crime, had done nothing to prevent it.³

In her defence, Benwell claimed that one of the men had forced her to her knees and threatened to kill her if she spoke out against them. However, the jury had no sympathy for her story, especially when told that she was ‘a licentious woman of the worst sort’ who was known to be in a relationship with Gomm and, in fact, on intimate terms with all three of the men.⁴

On 16 September—a week before the day of Benwell’s execution—Gomm, Taylor and Lockwood had been hanged. That event, too, had attracted a large crowd:

There was a very large concourse of people assembled to witness the Executions, the largest, indeed, we have ever witnessed in this Colony, and at seven o’clock we observed a number of females, several of whom had black eyes and broken noses, with other indications of colonial gentility. Several respectably dressed little boys had also placed themselves against the railing in front of the public offices, who, as well as the women, seemed to look forward to the

awful scene with much the same kind of curiosity as they would look forward to the rising of the curtain in a theatre. Indeed, this kind of feeling seemed to pervade the dense crowd which had assembled at eight o’clock, and some young girls not more than 12 years of age, expressed a great anxiety to procure a ‘good place’ to see the prisoners.⁵

A week later, Eliza Benwell became only the second female to be hanged in Van Diemens Land—and the first since a young woman by the name of Mary McLAUHLAN had been executed for the murder of her infant son fifteen years earlier.⁶

According to one contemporary newspaper, the dense mass of human beings which had gathered to see Benwell die ...

... exceeded that which was ever collected on any similar occasion. All classes, all sexes, ages, characters, mingled together ... The female form divine was a prominent ingredient and the sweet playful innocence of childhood had not been left to its gambols at home. Mothers, fond mothers, brought their tender offspring and fathers exhibited the pride of parentage, or rewarded their more advanced children, by taking them to the spectacle.⁷

For a time, there was nothing for the crush of spectators to do except gaze at the still-empty scaffold, throw impatient glances at the clock of St Davids and jostle each other as they tried to find a better place from which to watch the

² *Observer* (Hobart), 29 July 1845, p. 2

³ *Colonial Times*, 12 September 1845, p. 3

⁴ *Colonial Times*, 12 September 1845, p. 2

⁵ *Observer*, 19 September 1845, p. 3; *The Cornwall Chronicle*, 24 September 1845, p. 185

⁶ *The Companion to Tasmanian History*, 2006, Centre for Tasmanian Studies, online at http://www.utas.edu.au/library/companion_to_tasmanian_history/P/Public%20executions.htm

⁷ *Observer*, 3 October 1845, p. 3

proceedings. Occasionally, there was an interchange of angry words as one spectator stood in the way of another, or as mothers chided their children to have patience. Small boys, who were there in abundance, amused themselves, if they could find room to do so, by playing leap-frog, marbles and other juvenile games.⁸

[But] ... at about ten minutes before eight o'clock the death-bell of St. David's Church began to toll its minute knells, which were continued until eight o'clock, when Mr. CROUCH, the under-sheriff, made his appearance on the scaffold, followed by the Rev. Dr. BEDFORD, and the wretched woman, who was led up by the executioner and placed under the fatal beam; the rope was then put round her neck, the cap over her head, and her clothes adjusted ... The miserable creature appeared nearly insensible, or else so deeply absorbed in thought as to render her almost unconscious of her situation. She was dressed, as far as we could discern, in the same manner as at her trial. She uttered not a word nor did the Rev. Dr. Bedford address the spectators, who, we must say, when the criminal appeared on the scaffold, behaved with the utmost decorum.⁹

Now, according to the same report, every eye was directed to the gallows, where the experienced executioner was making the final adjustment to the rope. Little children were being held aloft so that they might catch a glimpse of what was happening. The final act of the performance was awaited with breathlessness. Suddenly, preceded only by the very slightest of noise, the drop fell and the woman disappeared from the general gaze. Only

the stretched rope, still visible, testified that human justice had been satisfied:

When the drop fell, some females near the Court-house uttered loud screams, while several in the crowd were sobbing and weeping; with these exceptions, no sound was audible. The military guard and the police brigade were as usual in attendance; and by a quarter-past eight the large crowd had departed from the spot on which they had been so densely congregated.¹⁰

* * * * *

As it happened, however, in little more than ten years after the hanging of Eliza Benwell, public executions had been abolished in Tasmania.

Following their abandonment in New South Wales in 1853 and Victoria in 1854, public hangings ceased in Tasmania in 1856.¹¹ The tide of public opinion had turned against them. They had come to be seen as 'demoralizing in the extreme', as 'horrid ceremonies', 'barbarous spectacles' and 'disgusting, disgraceful and degrading' rituals, attended mainly by 'idlers, vagabonds and ruffians.'¹²

At the time of Eliza Benwell's hanging, the arguments in favour of public executions could be summarised as follows: first, that the shame and humiliation of being put to death in the presence of a large gathering of one's

⁸ *Launceston Advertiser*, 2 October 1845, p. 3; *Observer*, 3 October 1845, p. 3

⁹ *Launceston Advertiser*, 2 October 1845, p. 3

¹⁰ *Launceston Advertiser*, 2 October 1845, p. 3

¹¹ *The Companion to Tasmanian History*, 2006, Centre for Tasmanian Studies, online at http://www.utas.edu.au/library/companion_to_tasmanian_history/P/Public%20executions.htm

¹² *Launceston Advertiser*, 2 October 1845, p. 3; *Tasmanian Daily News* (Hobart), 25 July 1855, p. 3; *Hobart Guardian*, 5 April 1854, p. 3

fellow citizens were sufficient to deter a person tempted to commit a capital crime and, second, that the spectacle of a public execution would create a wholesome dread of crime and its consequences in the minds of beholders.¹³

However, for some decades prior to Benwell's death, voices were being raised, in both England and the colonies, in opposition to these arguments.

In Van Diemen's Land, for instance, considerable debate about the value of public executions had been generated by the publication in 1828 of a letter written by a Dr Peter CUNNINGHAM who, between in 1819 and 1828, had made five trips to Sydney as surgeon-superintendent aboard convict ships. Arguing that it had long been acknowledged that public executions had no power to deter people from committing crime, he maintained that, on the contrary, they outraged the best feelings of the community and actually hardened and debased the feelings of individuals, making them value such punishments less because of their familiarity with them.¹⁴

As the debate continued, the *Colonial Times* (Hobart) of 27 August 1830 reported that the Lieutenant-Governor, Sir George ARTHUR, had seen fit to remit the death sentence of twenty-five-year-old Mary Ann EDWARDS who had been condemned to death for 'cutting and maiming' her husband with intent to kill earlier that year. She had been due for execution two days earlier.¹⁵ The report concluded with the editorial opinion that there was 'nothing so revolting to humanity, under any circumstances, as

the spectacle of a public execution, especially when a female is the object.'¹⁶

Not surprisingly, those who professed to be Christians were particularly keen to see the end of the practice:

Public executions may be regarded as the most solemn of murders. Without the gratification of revenge, the impulse of passion, or the madness of drunkenness, one man is employed to strangle in cool blood, another man, boy, woman or girl. Thousands are invited to witness the murder. If no wretch sufficiently destitute of feeling can be found to commit the homicide, the Sheriff himself (one of the leading men of the county) must become the murderer. The Clergy are brought forward in the tragedy ... [because] the criminal is believed to be one for whom there is hope in eternity. So then, one Christian (for the hangman is also acknowledged as a Christian) is employed for a few shillings to strangle a Christian brother or sister in the midst of many thousand Christian brothers and sisters. A guard of Christian soldiers is arrayed to prevent any possibility of aid from without, whilst sometimes the Christian crowds shout with savage delight, when the body of the dying Christian is convulsed with the pangs of expiring nature.¹⁷

And those who opposed public executions were greatly encouraged when Charles DICKENS, perhaps the most celebrated novelist of the day, put his considerable weight behind their side of the debate. In a letter to the editor of *The Times* (London), dated 13 November 1849, and reproduced later in the *Argus* (Melbourne), he described his feelings at having witnessed the public execution of a criminal the preceding day:

¹³ *Hobart Guardian*, 5 April 1854, p. 3

¹⁴ *Hobart Town Courier*, 12 January 1828, p. 4

¹⁵ *The Tasmanian*, 28 June 1833, p. 7

¹⁶ *Colonial Times*, 27 August 1830, p. 2

¹⁷ *Tasmanian Weekly Dispatch*, 31 January 1840, p. 7

I believe that a sight so inconceivably awful as the wickedness and levity of the immense crowd collected at that execution this morning could be imagined by no man ... The horrors of the gibbet, and of the crime which brought the unhappy murderers to it, faded in my mind before the atrocious bearing, looks, and language of the assembled spectators. When I came upon the scene at midnight, the shrillness of the cries and howls that were raised from time to time, denoting that they came from a concourse of boys and girls already assembled in the best places, made my blood run cold.¹⁸

These, of course, are just a few of the many expressions of disgust at the continuation of public executions in Van Diemens Land which appeared in newspapers in the 1830s, 1840s and 1850s. Together they provide ample evidence of the growing revulsion of most citizens towards the practice. Public executions were now seen as 'horrid spectacles' which served only to corrupt 'the feelings and harden the heart'; they toughened the feelings of the 'degraded spectators' turning them into 'a brutal insensibility'; more often than not, they served only 'to elevate the murderer into a hero'; and 'repeated visits to the scaffold made a man more of a ruffian than before'.¹⁹

As the *Cornwall Chronicle* of 29 October 1845 put it:

The season has passed away for the exhibition of a human being suspended on the Gallows to furnish gratification for the public; nor do we believe that at any other time so degrading a spectacle afforded any other feeling than disgust in

the mind of the least civilized of our species.²⁰

In July 1855, a series of bills for the revision of the Criminal Code was introduced into the Legislative Council of Tasmania, the main object of which was to discontinue the practice of executing criminals publicly. The last public execution took place in 1856.²¹

That is not to say that those who favoured the abolition of public executions were also in favour of the abolition of the death penalty *per se*. It was simply the idea of making a public spectacle of the execution that the majority of citizens had come to abhor. As *The Tasmanian Daily News* of 25 July 1855 put it:

The question, then, is not whether for the crime of murder, and perhaps for some other crimes of aggravated enormity, the punishment of death should be erased from the statute-book, but whether the criminal should be executed publicly. We have no hesitation in expressing an opinion, which we have long entertained, that like other punishments, this also should be inflicted within the prison walls. Recent events have strengthened this opinion, and we are pleased to find that the attention of Government has been drawn to the subject. Should the bill now before the Council pass into law, the scaffold will no longer furnish, as heretofore, a holiday diversion to the lower classes of the people, but will be enveloped in the mystery of a secret, and solemn rite. Constituted as human nature is, the awful and the mysterious will

¹⁸ *Argus* (Melbourne), 27 February 1850, p. 4

¹⁹ *Tasmanian Daily News*, 25 July 1855, p. 3; *Courier*, 3 August 1855, p. 2

²⁰ *Cornwall Chronicle*, 29 October 1845, p. 283

²¹ *Cornwall Chronicle*, 28 July, p. 4; *The Companion to Tasmanian History*, 2006, Centre for Tasmanian Studies, online at http://www.utas.edu.au/library/companion_to_tasmanian_history/P/Public%20executions.htm

always impress the masses with a wholesome dread, whereas the mere parade of death only excites their curiosity, and thus private executions will do more to suppress crime than the utmost severity of public punishment.²²

Similar sentiments were expressed by the *Courier* (Hobart) of 3 August 1855:

It is a Divine order, and one which in our opinion never has been repealed, that who so sheds man's blood by man shall his blood be shed. And we strongly protest against the sentimental cant too prevalent in the present day, which, under the plea of religious enlightenment, would manifest every sympathy towards the offender and none to the injured person. We affirm that death should follow upon wilful murder. Such is the Law, the practice of nations, and the voice of reason ...²³

Slowly, however, attitudes changed and capital punishment was finally abolished in Tasmania in 1968. The last person to suffer the death penalty in the state was the serial rapist and killer Frederick THOMPSON who was hanged in Hobart on 14 February 1946 for the murder of eight-year-old Evelyn MAUGHAN.²⁴

Between 1803, the year of first settlement of the colony, and 1968, almost 450 convicted criminals had been executed. The crimes for which they suffered the 'last dreadful sentence of the law' included murder and attempted murder, rape, wounding with intent to kill, arson, robbery, burglary, bush-ranging, sheep

and cattle stealing, sodomy and other 'unnatural' crimes.²⁵

Interestingly, Eliza Benwell was not the last woman to be publicly executed in Tasmania. On 5 August 1852, Mary SULLIVAN, a sixteen-year-old convict, became the third woman to be legally—and publicly—executed there. Assigned as a 'nurse girl' to Mrs Emma LANGLEY of Campbell Street, Hobart, she went to the gallows for the murder of two-year-old Clara Adeline Blackburn FRAZER of whom she had been left in charge.²⁶ According to newspaper reports, a large number of females 'the worst class in Hobart Town' as well as 'a great concourse of the male population' assembled outside the gaol gates to witness the execution.²⁷

By the time the fourth—and last—woman was hanged in Tasmania, public executions had been abolished. The unfortunate woman was Margaret COGHLAN (née GALVIN), a forty-five-year-old former convict, then free by servitude. On 18 February 1862, she was hanged for the murder of her husband, John Coghlan, whom she had struck with an iron bar during an angry quarrel following a night of heavy drinking by the pair. She was hanged within the walls of the gaol, well away from the gaze of the morbidly curious.²⁸ ◀

²² *Tasmanian Daily News*, 25 July 1855, p. 2

²³ *Courier* (Hobart) of 3 August 1855, p. 2

²⁴ *The Companion to Tasmanian History*, 2006, Centre for Tasmanian Studies, online at http://www.utas.edu.au/library/companion_to_tasmanian_history/P/Public%20executions.htm.

²⁵ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_people_legally_executed_in_Australia
²⁶ <http://classic.austlii.edu.au/au/journals/UTasLawRw/2014/5.html>

²⁷ *Hobarton Guardian*, 7 August 1852, p. 3

²⁸ 'COGHLAN' also seen as 'COUGHLIN'; *The Mercury* (Hobart), 19 February 1862, p. 2.

ISLAND EDUCATION

THE SCHOOL ON ROBBINS ISLAND

1934–1958

Betty Jones (Member 6032)

Background

Robbins Island, situated in Bass Strait off the far North-West Coast, is the seventh largest island in Tasmania. It was part of the Van Diemens Land (VDL) Company's original land grant in 1826, but following the failure of the Company's farming ventures, the Island was leased to various people between the 1850s and 1916. Some of the lessees included David HOWIE and his extended family, including the WILSONs (1851–1865), Dr James SMITH (1866–1870), Hugh Donald MACLAINE and his executors (1870–1873) and the REID family (1873–1916).

THE ISLAND was purchased in 1916 from the VDL Company by Devonport-born Captain James HOLYMAN (1862–1944), the youngest of three sons of Captain William Holyman and his wife Mary Ann (née SAYER). The latter Captain Holyman established the company of William Holyman and Sons Pty Ltd after his arrival in VDL in 1850, starting with three small ketches running from Devonport along the coast. By 1870 they were sending larger vessels to the mainland.¹ The Holymans established a ship-



ping presence at Stanley by 1907 through their *White Star Line* operation which, weather permitting, made weekly sailings per the *Marrawah* for Melbourne via King Island, and similar for Burnie and Devonport. The company, *King Island Steamers*, was formed by 1910.

They also started acquiring Bass Strait Island grazing properties from 1907. Waterhouse Island and Twenty Day Island were the first, followed by Robbins Island and adjacent Walker Island in 1916. Son James, who had retired from the sea in 1913, oversaw the management of Robbins Island for some time, along with his second wife Mary Isabel (née CAMERON), 1873–1970.² Raising Shorthorn cattle and dairies was the original focus, with sheep, pigs and snaring for wallaby and kangaroo skins rounding out other enterprises. A cheese factory operated from 1932 to 1948.³

² *Australian Dictionary of Biography*

³ Thanks to John Hammond

¹ *The Advocate*, 10 April 1944



Captain James Holyman and his wife Mary in her Tasmanian kangaroo skin coat
Courtesy of John Hammond Collection

In 1921, James took over leadership of the entire Holyman business, and by 1931 nine steamers were plying the waters between Tasmanian ports, Bass Strait islands, Melbourne and Adelaide. Robert Solomon (Bob) WAINWRIGHT (1895–1985) was employed as manager of Robbins Island from 1925–1942. Born at Woolnorth, son of George Wainwright and his wife Matilda Maria (née CAREY), Mr Wainwright married Lily CANNING (1906–1977) at Stanley in 1925. They had eight children during their time on the Island.

In 1933, another member of the Holyman family took up long-term residence on the Island and assumed management with Mr Wainwright. William (Willie) Holyman (1907–1976) was born at Devonport, son of Arthur Albert FINNEARTY and his wife Mary Ann Holyman, who died six weeks after his birth. Willie was subsequently raised by his grandparents, William Holyman (brother of Captain James) and his wife Honora (née BALLARD). Willie married in 1933 at Burnie to Nora Annie CHAMBERLEN

(1906–1976), youngest daughter of Edward Lawrence Chamberlen and his wife Annie Charlotte Elizabeth (née THORPE). They raised four children on the Island: Billy, Clemency, Clive and Christine.

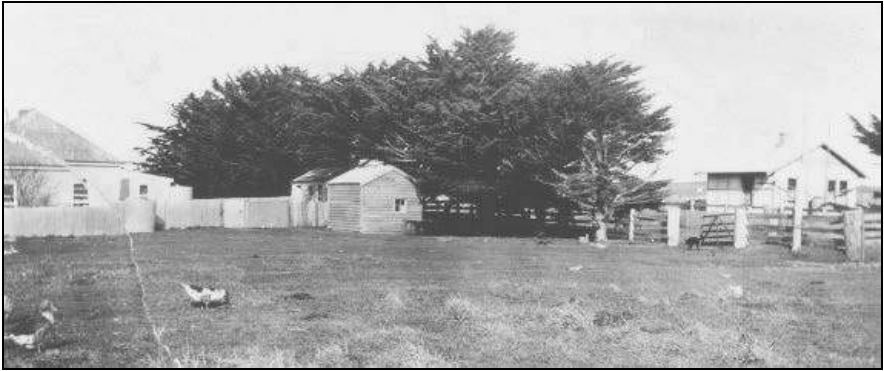
Formation of a school

Prior to 1934, children on the Island had received their education either through the Correspondence School or when sent to stay with relatives or friends on the ‘mainland’ where a school was established.

The first application to the Education Department for the establishment of a school was made in March 1934 by Mr Ivan N Holyman on behalf of Holyman Bros Pty Ltd. Mr Holyman explained there were about twelve children of school age on the Island and the Company was prepared to erect school premises in a suitable position, arrange accommodation and board for a teacher, and also provide the necessary transport for taking the children from the various parts of the island to school as in some cases the children were located two and a half to three miles away from where the school would be erected. At that time there were six families living on the Island.

The Department agreed to provide a teacher and arranged for surplus furniture at Hampshire State School to be sent to the Island. The school building was ready for occupation by early May. A bed-sitting room was erected for the accommodation of the teacher alongside the school, which was within a few yards of the foreman’s residence (a married man with five children). All meals were to be provided at the foreman’s residence by his wife, Mrs Wainwright.⁴

⁴ TAHO: ED10/1/980



1930s: School house is on the right; foreman's cottage (Bluff House) is on the left
Courtesy of John Hammond Collection

The teachers and their times

Mr David H McQUESTIN

May 1934–December 1934

Born 1915, Gladstone, elder son of John Purcell McQuestin and his wife Eva May (née WARE), he was educated at Glen Dhu State School before attending Launceston High School, having been awarded a Junior City Bursary at the end of Grade VI. In 1938 at Chudleigh, he married Vivienne Jean SKIPPER. Mr McQuestin enlisted for WWII and served as an Army Corporal.

Mr McQuestin had just four months' experience as a Junior Teacher at Charles Street State School when he took up his duties in charge of the school, having not then been trained at the Teachers' College. Soon after Mr McQuestin arrived on the Island, he sought permission from the Department to reduce the length of dinner-recess to one hour, 12.30–1.30.

In August, a complaint to his employer from a parent, Mrs A QUIGLEY, concerning Mr McQuestin's treatment of her daughter, Betty, by pulling her nose when she did not answer questions quickly enough, led to the Department's counsel to the then very inexperienced Mr McQuestin that he should be very careful

to avoid giving cause for offence.¹ That early advice obviously was heeded well as Mr McQuestin went on to have a long and very successful career with the Department up to his age of retirement.

Miss Daisy C PITHOUSE

January 1935–30 June 1935

Born 30 August 1906, Smithton, she was the third daughter of Horace Bond Pithouse and his wife Christina Daisy (née BRUMBY). Miss Pithouse joined the Department in 1923 and attended Teachers' College in 1926, followed by appointments to Forest, Ulverstone, Preolenna, Lefroy, Mawbanna, and Nietta prior to undertaking her role at Robbins Island. In 1928 at Forest, the Inspector recorded that Miss Pithouse was a frail-looking girl who wore herself out at her work. She was thought to have considerable teaching ability, her manner alert and professional.² Miss Pithouse married John (Jack) Alfred EVANS at Stanley in 1935 and the couple initially made their home at Mawbanna. They had three children. Mrs Evans died at Burnie in 1982.

¹ TAHO: ED10/1/980

² TAHO: ED31/1/33



CLASS of 1935 Back, from left: Bernard Enniss, May Wainwright, Dorothy Davern, Bernard Davern, Laurel Wainwright, Teacher Joan Eustace
 Front: Dorothy and Betty Wainwright, Trevor and Allan Davey, Geoff Enniss, Cyril Wainwright



CLASS of 1939 Back, from left: Betty King, May and Laurel Wainwright
 Teacher Miss Delma Stanley
 Middle: Mervyn Stonehouse, Stan Davey, Lindsay Stonehouse, Peter Davern, Trevor King, Cyril Wainwright, Allan Davey
 Front: Betty Wainwright, Shirley Stonehouse
 Courtesy of John Hammond Collection



CLASS of 1943 Back, from left: Betty Wainwright, Lindsay Stonehouse,
Peter Davern, Shirley Stonehouse, Miss Pat Truman

Front: Billy Holyman Jr, Joan Wainwright, Russell Wainwright, Valma Stonehouse, unknown
Courtesy of John Hammond Collection

Miss Joan M EUSTACE

July 1935–1938

Born 30 March 1916, Ulverstone, daughter of George Edward Eustace and his wife Jesse Milner (née SMITH), she grew up at Gawler and was educated at Abbotsham State School. Miss Eustace later trained as a nurse in Hobart and in 1950 registered as a mid-wife in New South Wales (NSW). In 1951, at Wellington, NSW, she married John PATERSON. Mrs Paterson died there in 1981. The end-of-year break up in 1935 was held in the shearing shed with Mr W Holyman providing the prizes.¹

A pleasant time was spent in 1937 at a social to raise funds for the school. Names of people involved in presenting items included: Dadson, Davern, Davey, Enniss, King and Wainwright.²

¹ *The Advocate*, 27 December 1935

² *The Advocate*, 11 October 1937

Miss Winifred E RADFORD

1939–August 1939

Born 23 August 1919 at Romaine, she was the daughter of Charles Stephen Radford and his wife Rachel Mary (née SAWARD). Miss Radford was educated at Highclere State School where she was awarded the Merit Certificate in 1932 and again in 1933. Miss Radford commenced her teaching career as a Monitor at Highclere in 1934. She next gained more experience at South Road, near Penguin, prior to her appointment to Robbins Island. She resigned her position on the Island in August 1939. During the War years when there was a great shortage of teachers, Miss Radford had a number of short-term appointments to small schools including Coocoe, Oonah, West Zeehan, Oldina, Hampshire and Lowana. In 1948, at Burnie, she married Jack Maxwell NOBLE and had five children. Mrs Noble died in 2006 and was buried at Wynyard.

Miss Delma M STANLEY

August 1939–1942

Born 4 November 1922, Nietta, she was the daughter of Charles Victor Stanley and his wife Ruby (née BURR). Miss Stanley was educated at Nietta State School before gaining a Merit Certificate at South Nietta in 1936. Prior to taking up her appointment on the Island, she had been Monitor at her home school since 1937. By 1946, Miss Stanley had moved to Cooranbong, New South Wales, where she was a student at the Australian Missionary College. She married Sydney Edward GOULD and their first child was born at Ulverstone in 1949. Mrs Gould died at Forest Hill, Victoria in 2013.

Miss Emily P (Pat) TRUMAN

1943

Born c.1925, she was raised on Flinders Island, daughter of Frederick Truman and his wife Dorothy (née FERGUSON). She was a pupil at the school at Whitemark up to 1939, having passed the High School Entrance Examination there in 1937. After her year's teaching experience on the Island, Miss Truman trained as a nurse and passed the registration examination in 1946. In December 1947, she married William Gibson STENNING of Wynyard.

Miss Elaine McGRATH

1944

Miss Valma M MOORE

1945–December 1947

Born 7 January 1920, Waratah, she was the only daughter of Reuben Richard George Moore and his wife Rubina Ellen Maud (née SAWARD). Orphaned in 1922, Miss Moore was raised by relatives at Montagu and educated at the local school. She started her teaching career as

a Monitor in the district and remained in the role for about the next ten years. Her appointment to Robbins Island for three years was followed by the Emergency Teacher Training course in Launceston in 1948 that led to a placement at West Zeehan in 1949. Miss Moore married local miner, Noel John HILL, at Hobart in January 1950. She died at Hobart in 2000.

Miss Nancy MARSHALL

April 1948–December 1948

Miss Dora Emily STEVENSON

1949–19 September 1952

Born 26 July 1927, Deloraine, daughter of Charles Syndal Stevenson and his wife Emily Ruth (née MILLER), she grew up at Exton and attended the school there. In 1952, she married Geoffrey Ronald ENNISS who had received some of his education at the local school and later was a stockman and farm labourer on Robbins Island. The couple then moved to the north of the State. Mrs Ennis died in 2009 at Epping Forest.

In March 1954, application by Mrs J MAYNE was made to re-open the school. A month later, Mr WILSON, Head Teacher at Montagu, made a request for the eight children of school age to be brought over daily by ferry-boat and conducted thence by bus or other conveyance to Montagu School. The Inspector responded that the suggestion would be quite impracticable.³ There were reportedly twelve children of school age still without a teacher in June 1954.⁴

³ TAHO: ED183/1/4348

⁴ *The Advocate*, 3 June 1954



CLASS of 1949

Back, from left: John Shackcloth, Clemency Holyman, Graeme Stonehouse

Front: Mary Saward, Patricia Shackcloth, Leonie Stonehouse, Harvey Marthick

Courtesy of John Hammond Collection



1950s

Mrs Wilson's class

Mrs Gwendolen Mary WILSON

1955–1958

Mrs Wilson went to the Island as an experienced teacher, having previously been in charge of the Montagu School for a term the previous year. She became the last teacher following the transfer of ownership of the Island in 1958 from the Holyman family to H E (Gene) and Mary HAMMOND. Mr Hammond was an American who married Mary Holyman from Launceston after WWII. Mary was a grand-daughter of the original owners, Captain James and Mary Holyman.

There were 35 people on the Island in August 1960 with seven homesteads identified; five were occupied, one was vacant and another was soon to be vacated. In July 1960, Mr Hammond wrote to the Department suggesting that Mrs Dora BURTON, a member of his staff, was available for appointment as teacher of the school for the eight children of school age. The school building and furniture were still set up there. However, the Minister for Education replied that as there were only four children over the age of 6 actually living on the Island, the number was too small for a subsidised school (minimum of eight required).⁵

In conclusion

The school operated on a fairly continuous basis, except for a two-year gap from the end of 1952 to the beginning of 1955. The Education Department's Correspondence School was possibly used by some families during that time.

In retrospect, life for the six or so families and single men who lived on the Island at any one time looks fairly idyllic, despite aspects of semi-isolation. Residents, including teachers, seemed to be at ease

⁵ TAHO: ED183/1/4348

with the regular use of horses and drays as their main means of transport, only the odd motor vehicle being in sight in photographs during the school's era. According to John Hammond, son of Gene and Mary Hammond and now one of the owners of the Island, the mail was collected once a week by a rider or sometimes by cart, crossing off the Island at low tide and going to the Montagu post office and back on the same low tide.



Robbins Island School House – late 1950s
Courtesy of Clemency Kay (née Holyman)

It seems the inhabitants treated the teachers well and included them in social activities such as dances in shearing sheds, mutton birding expeditions and sheep shearing events. There were also additional out buildings to be visited to add variety to the routine of life at home, including a boat shed, chaff shed, stables, workshop, blacksmith shop and dairy sheds. Most teachers stayed for less than twelve months but four of the women were prepared to extend their stay over a couple of years or more. Only one, Dora Stevenson, married a local man. The original schoolroom still stands, well-maintained, on the Island. ◀

BURNIE BRANCH PUBLICATIONS

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The Zeehan & Dundas Herald, Births
Deaths & Marriages Index
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PUPILS ATTENDING ROBBINS ISLAND SCHOOL

No Robbins Island School registers have survived but the names of over 70 pupils have been found from a number of sources and compiled by Betty Jones. They include:

BRANTJES Allie	1949–1950	SHACKCLOTH John	May 1947
BRANTJES Jantje	1950		September 1947–1949
BRANTJES Tjaarkje	1950	SHACKCLOTH Patricia	–September 1948
DAVERN Bernard	1934–1936		January 1949–
DAVERN Dorothy	1934–1936	SMITH Margaret Isabel	–February 1947
DAVERN Peter Leslie	1937–June 1939	STONEHOUSE Graeme	1939–May 1949
	October 1939–1943	STONEHOUSE Kevin	–March 1958
DAVEY Allan	1934–May 1940	STONEHOUSE Leonie	1949–May 1949
DAVEY Trevor	1934–1937	STONEHOUSE Lindsay	1937–1943
DAVEY Stanley	1937–May 1940	STONEHOUSE Mervyn	1937–December 1942
ENNISS Bernard	July 1935–September 1935	STONEHOUSE Noelene	–March 1958
ENNISS Geoffrey Ronald	1934–September 1935	STONEHOUSE Shirley	1937–
	January 1937–	STONEHOUSE Valma	1939–1943
	January 1941–	STONEHOUSE Vaughn	–March 1958
HARDSTAFF Annette	May 1954–May 1956	THOW Colin James	Sept. 1944–March 1946
HARDSTAFF Delma	May 1954–May 1956	THOW Harvey	–March 1946
HOLYMAN Christine Edith	1947–December 1950	THOW Leo F	September 1944–March 1946
HOLYMAN Clemency Norah	–December 1947	VINIY Beverley Jean	June 1950
	April 1948–December 1950	VINIY Geoffrey John	June 1950
HOLYMAN Clive	1944	VINIY Keith Lawrence	June 1950
HOLYMAN William (Billy)	1943	VINIY Trevor Charles	June 1950
KING Betty	1936–1939	WAINWRIGHT Betty	1934–February 1944
KING Trevor	1937–1939	WAINWRIGHT Cyril	1934–1939
LYNE Lorraine Nita	July 1956–	WAINWRIGHT Dorothy E	1934–December 1941
MARTHICK Harvey E	December 1947	WAINWRIGHT Joan	1943–February 1944
	May 1948–August 1950	WAINWRIGHT Laurel Maud	1934–December 1939
	July 1952–September 1952	WAINWRIGHT May	1934–December 1939
	–August 1953	WAINWRIGHT Russell	1943–February 1944
MARTHICK Robert	July 1952–September 1952	WATLING Gloria	July 1934–September 1934
MAYNE Christine Gladys	?1955	WILLIAMS Cynthia	Feb. 1952–November 1954
McDONALD Barry William	1947–April 1950	WILLIAMS David	–July 1952
McDONALD Christina G	–April 1950	WILLIAMS Leatrice	Oct. 1934–December 1934
McDONALD Dawn	1947–1948	WILLIAMS Lillian	–July 1952
McDONALD Lois Denise	1947–April 1950	WILLIAMS Lola	–July 1952
O'CONNOR Rhonda	1947–July 1949	WILLIAMS Lorna	–July 1952
	October 1949–December 1949	WILLIAMS Maureen	–July 1952
QUIGLEY Betty	1934	WILLIAMS Patricia	–July 1952
QUILLIAM Daphne Eleanor	Mar. 1946–April 1946	WILLIAMS Stanley	–July 1952
	–February 1948	WILSON Christine Mary Ward	January 1955–
	March 1948	YOUATT–WOOLCOTT Suzanne	1950
SAWARD Mary Eileen	September 1947–1949	YOUATT–WOOLCOTT Marjoyne	1950



THE ROBERTS AND DE MONT/DUMONT FAMILIES

Oianah Ellison (Member 8062)

Number	When married, and where	Name and Surname	Age	Rank	Signature and Description of Parties	Name of Clergyman, Officiating Minister, or Deputy Registrar	When registered	Signature of Deputy Registrar or Officiating Minister
538	April 1856 Independent Chapel Hobart	Richard Lewis Roberts Annie Maria Demont	27 full 21 years	Captain	R. L. Roberts A. S. Demont	R. S. Miller	April 1856	R. S. Miller

Married in the Independent Chapel, officiated according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Reformed Church, by license by

This Marriage was solemnized by
Richard Lewis Roberts
Minister to
Annie Maria Demont

{ 2 to Present }
R. S. Miller
Deputy Registrar
Hobart

I am hoping there are descendants living in Hobart or other parts of Tasmania who could help me further my research.

Richard ROBERTS, builder, was born Shropshire 1803, died 17 September 1853 and Hannah PEARSON born 24 October 1899, died 3 June 1873, married Spitalfields Christ Church 4 October 1829. Both buried in Congregational Church graveyard, New Town, Hobart.

Departed London *Thomas Laurie* 1 July 1832 arriving Hobart 12 November 1832.

Son Richard Lewis Roberts born aboard *Thomas Laurie* 13 September 1832.

Richard Lewis Roberts married Annie Maria DEMONT born about 1840, Hobart, died 2 December 1897, on 22 April 1856 in Independent Chapel, Brisbane Street, Hobart.¹ Richard married Sarah GRAHAM 6 March 1899 in Hobart. Richard is buried Cornelian Bay Cemetery, Hobart with Annie. Sarah is buried elsewhere.

¹ Tasmanian Archives: RGD37/1/15 no. 523, Marriages Hobart 1856, Richard Lewis Roberts and Annie Demont.

Information found stating Annie's parents were Joseph DUMONT and Catherine CONNOLLY, born 1812, died 1847. Married Roman Catholic Church Hobart 29 September 1834.

Eliza Maria Roberts born to Richard and Annie in Hobart 19 October 1856, baptised Davey Street Congregational Church, Hobart 20 October 1856.

I have been unable to find when my great grandmother, Eliza Maria Roberts, travelled to New Zealand or why. By 24 May 1879 Eliza was residing in Christchurch, NZ when she married James MCGREGOR. Eliza, widowed, married Gabriel ODMAN May 1902 Chatham Islands, died May 1908 and is buried in the Te One Cemetery there.

Eliza's brother Richard Lewis Roberts married Hannah BAMFORD 11 February 1884 Christchurch NZ, died 26 September 1922, buried Christchurch NZ. Her sister Jane Alexandria married Arthur Ernest BEAN in Ashburton NZ in 1892, Eliza and James hosted the wedding. Jane died 13 July 1944 buried Christchurch. Their uncle Charles Pearson Roberts who also attended the wedding, died 1907 and is buried in Dunedin NZ.

Thank you, Napier, New Zealand ◀

NEW MEMBERS' INTERESTS

NAME	PLACE/AREA	TIME	M'SHIP NO.
ACHESON George	Smithton TAS AUS	1857-1940	8123
ANDERS Curzona Frances	Hobart TAS AUS	c.1895	8122
BRYDGES Thomas	Trowatta TAS AUS	d.1935	8123
EISZELE Albert	New Norfolk TAS AUS	c.1870	8122
GRIFFITHS Henry	Hobart TAS AUS	1850-1860	8125
HAWLEY Harry	Longford TAS AUS	d.1947	8123
INGAMELLS Christopher Robert	Westbury TAS AUS	c.1900	8123
JONES Auber	Hobart TAS AUS	c.1900	8122
McLEAN Edward	Longford TAS AUS	1812-1881	8123
MORRIS Jane	Westbury/New Ground/Riana TAS AUS	1830-1890	8121
MUNDY Henry Edward	ENG/TAS AUS	1824-1904	7044
NEWAY Basil Scott	Launceston TAS AUS	1886-1962	8123
RADFORD Charles	Westbury/New Ground/Don/Burnie TAS AUS	1843-1900	8121
RADFORD Henry	Westbury/Sulphur Creek TAS/Goldfields VIC	1847-1900	8121
RADFORD Stephen	Hobart/Westbury TAS/Goldfields VIC	1820-1860	8121
RUMPF Carl, Justus & Susette	Launceston TAS AUS	1850-1900	8125
SLEVIN Patrick	Hobart TAS AUS	c.1834	8122
STONE John	New Ground/Riana TAS AUS	1820-1880	8121
STUBBINGS William Charles	Franklin/Sandfly TAS AUS	1840-1898	8120
SULLOCK Thomas S	ENG/Goldfields CA & VIC/Sulphur Ck/Penguin TAS AUS	1800-1900	8121

NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome is extended to the following new members

7044	EDWARDS Ms Tammara	78 Panubra St Tammy.tas@gmail.com	KINGS MEADOWS	TAS	7249
The above member has re-joined after a break and has been allocated their original number					
8120	STUBBINGS Ms Sandra	19 Brooker Drive sdstubbings@icloud.com	GOONELLABAH	NSW	2480
8121	BRACKEN Mrs Carol	43 Turkey Farm Road carol.bracken@internode.on.net	GLENGARRY	TAS	7275
8122	SLEVIN Mr John	7 Ilawong Cres john.slevin34@gmail.com	TAROONA	TAS	7053
8123	FRAZER-ALLEN Ms Janette	PO Box 1665 janettefa@bigpond.com	TOOMBUL	QLD	4012
8124	BRICKHILL Mr Lew	PO BOX 575	LOBETHAL	SA	5241
8125	RUMPF Mr Michael	82 Barkly St mrumpff@optusnet.com.au	FITZROY NORTH	VIC	3068

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TASMANIAN ANCESTRY

THE FIRST TEN YEARS

Leonie Mickleborough (Member 20)



Tasmanian Ancestry production team 29 November 1985.

L-R: Leonie Mickleborough, Jenny Bugg, Robyn Manser, Audrey Hudspeth, Carol Hook and Jean McKenzie

THE completion of forty years' publication of *Tasmanian Ancestry* is a time to reflect on the foundation of the Tasmanian Family History Society Inc. (TFHS) of which I have been a member since the establishment of the society's forerunner, the Genealogical Society of Tasmania (GST).

The origin of the society was early 1978 when Lilian WATSON, Neil CHICK, Jim WALL and Audrey HUDSPETH were members of the Victorian branch of the Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies (AIGS) based in Melbourne. In March 1978 the AIGS president Don GRANT encouraged the formation of a Tasmanian group and selected Lilian as the official representative in the state. The inaugural meeting was held at Rosny College on 4 April 1978, when the office bearers and committee of the Tasmanian

chapter were elected: Lilian Watson; Neil Chick; Frances TRAVERS; Paul KREGOR; Georgina Chick; Audrey Hudspeth; Stephen WOOLLEY and James WALL. Both executive and monthly general meetings followed for almost two years, and following publicity, 44 Tasmanian members joined, meet-monthly at Rosny College. Average attendance at these meetings was 33, with the maximum attendance being 50.

I joined the Tasmanian group of the AIGS and attended the meetings as I became more advanced in my third pregnancy. I then attended with my baby daughter in a cane carry basket—being before the days of baby capsules. After two years it was decided to form an independent Tasmanian Society, and the inaugural meeting of the Genealogical Society of Tasmania (GST) was held on 4 April 1980. Word

quickly spread about the forthcoming GST, and over 100 people became foundation members. Within a year branches formed at Burnie and Launceston, and in July 1981 meetings began in Devonport. By May the following year, word had spread even further, and the society had over 400 members. The society remained the GST until 2000 when, to avoid confusion following the government's introduction of the goods and services tax (GST), the name was changed to the Tasmanian Family History Society.

The pioneers who started and produced the first five issues of *Tasmanian Ancestry* (from June 1980), were Pamela CLARK (editor for two issues), Neil Chick (editor for four issues), Sue WATERS and Janice DALEY. At a meeting at Rosny College in mid-1981, Jenny BUGG, Robyn MANSER and I 'were volunteered' to 'proofread a few articles' for the journal, and before we knew it, the 'volunteering' of Jenny, Robyn and I extended to producing the journal, which lasted for the next ten years, as we produced forty issues. Other people joined and left our group through the years, and after ten years toddlers who attended early meetings and journal production, were in high school.

Between 1981 and 1991 our main method of production was to type the articles (on a typewriter). We then cut up the articles to fit our pages and glued them on consecutively numbered pages, all the time hoping the appearance of the page was straight! Our next move was to total the number of pages of the proposed articles and decide which ones would fit the number of pages we had allowed for the next issue of the journal.

A small mock-up of folded A4 pages of the journal followed, with numbered pages and a pencil note of what might be

on each page. Once this was decided, the next task was to lay out the full-sized pages with the attached articles on a large table and arrange our typed articles following our small mock-up. Once these were settled, articles were glued on the page along with prepared 'Letraset' headings, hopefully also straight, a task which usually fell to me! All this required a large table in someone's home, with plenty of space surrounding it to enable us to shuffle the articles and any last-minute 'fill-ins'.

Producing the journal was a learning and sometimes worrying undertaking at first, as we wondered if we would receive any articles, and there was usually a final frantic rummaging to fill pages, with afterthoughts being typed and stuck on like band-aids, and then checking we had the correct page and volume numbers. We continually tried to improve our presentation of the journal and loved our clumsy infant with all its faults. We were such a happy team.

The typing was generally a job for Jenny Bugg who, over time typed up millions of words, columns of names, cemetery lists, poems, reunions, notes, queries, office bearers etc. etc. and who lived through her old typewriter, a new electric typewriter, photo reduction procedures, adjustment to computers, then a new printer. My duties included fitting in graphics, headings, condensing three-page letters into standard three-line queries, and generally being blamed for any crooked or misplaced pages and headings—even if, following the compilation of each issue any articles or headings had become unglued on the way to the printer in Watchorn Street where the journals were photocopied ready for posting! Posting out what seemed, at that time, a large number of journals was another issue—as we struggled with post-

codes and striving to comply with the regimented approach of the post office.

Luckily, the society introduced a wonderful position—a publications co-ordinator, who oversaw the production and worked with us. These angels, ranging from the early Val WATSON through to Jean McKENZIE, Frances Travers, Thelma McKay, and later David HODGSON, David FREESTON and Leo PRIOR, who all looked after the nuts and bolts: financial matters, mailing lists and posting-out sessions. Over time, an amazing cornucopia of unsolicited contributions began to rain down upon us, perhaps because we had succeeded in being user-friendly. We acquired a cartoonist, Carol HOOK, who stayed for several years, and modern technology appeared in the form of Jenny Bugg's computer, and, at the same time, we acquired another person with a computer, Hugh CAMPBELL. Not only did Hugh professionalise our book reviews but formatted the journal on the daisy wheel printer provided for us by the society. Irene SCHAFFER was recruited at this time as a research and liaison officer and did this and much more.

Few criticisms were ever heard. We believed it was feared if we took offense, the journal might be left high and dry, and it didn't seem as if any other takers would emerge, and we continued to enjoy our quarterly quota of sessions, added to by lunch and many cups of coffee!!

After ten years of publishing the journal, in September 1991 (Vol. 12, no. 2), our happy team handed the publication to a team from Launceston Branch. They produced the next twenty issues, until in September 1996 (Vol. 17, no. 1) it moved back south, to where Rosie Davidson began her first stint as editor, which lasted until June 2002.

My contact with *Tasmanian Ancestry* did not end in 1991. I had three years as editor, and I'm still involved with 'proof-reading' for the current editor Rosemary Davidson, who has been in this volunteer position since June 2009 (Vol. 30 no. 1), which demonstrates her massive dedication to the society. Hopefully, Rosie will continue for many more years, as will *Tasmanian Ancestry* and the society. ◀

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BOND of FRIENDSHIP

Leonie Fretwell (Member 7938)

WITH the ‘Bond of Friendship’ project I set out to account for the 101 female convicts who embarked on the ship *Friendship* in July 1817 bound for the New South Wales penal colony. It was soon evident that achieving this objective was not only highly ambitious, but quite unrealistic. I have found particular difficulty in tracing these women prior to the first time they had come into public focus—when they came before the Courts, were tried, found guilty and sentenced to be ‘transported beyond the seas for the Terms in their several sentences mentioned’. Having arrived in the colony to serve out their severally mentioned sentences, some of the women did leave a documentary legacy, however scant, upon which I have been able to draw to try and reconstruct their stories. Others, however, for whatever reason, seem to have made little or no impression on the colonial scene—they have simply vanished into a disinterested historical void—unrecorded and unnoticed, but hopefully of some significance to their immediate families, either in the colony or ‘back home’.

My interest in the *Friendship* was sparked by a chance reading of an item on page three of the *Bristol Mirror* of 7 June 1817, which advised its readers that

On Friday se’nnight, the ten under-mentioned female convicts were removed from Newgate in this city, to the transport ship *Friendship*, lying at Deptford, viz.



Elizabeth Perkins, Sarah North, Eliza Patrick, Harriot Neat, Hester Wright, Sarah Ann Cox, Ann Kennicott, Lucy Meares, Sophia Richards, and Sarah Hopkins.

Who were they? What crimes had they committed? What sentences had been meted out to them? What happened

to them on arrival at the other end of the world? Over the past year or so I have researched and written up the stories of the mixed fortunes of these ‘Bristol Girls’. My proof-reader-in-chief (husband) suggested I should undertake research on the rest of the *Friendship* girls—a challenge I initially resisted—but not for too long!

This project is divided into two parts.

Part 1 covers the chartering and the preparation of the convict vessel, the voyage and the arrival at Port Jackson. It then looks at the ‘disposal’ of the women who on their arrival at Port Jackson were split into two groups—one being retained in New South Wales and the other transhipped to Van Diemens Land. Part 1 concludes with a statistical overview of the women—where and when had they been tried; their crimes and the sentences meted out to them; how long they had spent in gaol prior to being transferred to the vessel destined for New South Wales; their ages on arrival and their declared trade or occupation.

Part 2 presents the individual profiles of the *Friendship* women—the New South Wales (NSW) Contingent and the Van Diemens Land (VDL) Contingent—and

those who did not survive the voyage—the Non Arrivals.

Inherently, this project is a work in progress—and what follows represents in essence a first draft. Geographical and mobility factors have meant that I have relied principally on online and secondary sources. As noted above, for some of ‘Our Girls’ quite a bit has been unearthed. For others, for whom the records no longer exist or who did little to attract attention to themselves, there is much less to go on. In some cases something can be gleaned about them vicariously, through the men with whom they chose to associate. Sometimes, finding out something about them leads to more questions, at this stage unanswered, about their lives. I should say I am not related to any of them but I now feel a very strong bond with them.

The generous input from those who unlike me—an interloper—can claim descent, has been invaluable, and this is duly acknowledged. I would be delighted to hear from anyone who shares my interest in the ‘*Friendship* Girls’, who may be able to add to the account of their lives, confirm or otherwise where I have made assumptions, and most importantly, draw attention to any errors, and thereby contribute to a possible second edition!

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Please visit Leonie’s web page for more information.

<http://fretwelliana.com/friendship-female-convicts/>

THE VAN DIEMENS LAND CONTINGENT

Mary Adcock	Ann Atkinson
Eliza Brady	Elizabeth Burrell
Mary Ann Caffry	Maria Carter
Mercy Cotsworth	Susan Courtney
Sarah Ann Cox	Mary Davis
Mary Fincham	Sarah Gilbert
Sarah Griffin	Emma Groom
Ruth Guest	Elizabeth Gunton
Sarah Hassall	Rebecca Hooper
Ann Horton	Ann Jackson
Hannah Jarvis	Ann Jennison
Mary Jones	Ann Kennicott
Harriett Neat	Jean Lang (Snr)
Jean Lang (Jnr)	Elizabeth Leggett
Amelia Lightharness	Ann Morgan
Frances Nowland	Catherine Osborne
Elizabeth Perkins	Sarah Plummer
Elizabeth Quantrell	Sarah Randall
Elizabeth Roberts	Sarah Robinson
Mary Sharpe	Mary Sheen
Frances Sibley	Ellen Simkin
Mary Smith	Helen Stewart
Mary Stockham	Mary Thompson
Isabella Thurkill	Ann Tilling
Hannah Vallance	Maria Walker
Ann Wheldon	Mary Williams
Frances Wilson	Hester Wright
Margaret Yates	



INTERCOLONIAL CONVICT FAMILIES: BERNARD GALLAGHER

Dianne Snowden (Member 910)

WHEN 84-year-old Bernard GALLAGHER, known as Barney, died at Glen Innes in northern New South Wales in 1907, his convict background was well-hidden.¹

Bernard Gallagher, a labourer and shoemaker aged 18, was tried in County Sligo, Ireland, on 6 March 1845 and sentenced to transportation for ten years for stealing four cows. He had been imprisoned for 48 hours for breaking a window but he denied having been convicted three times previously. He was Roman Catholic and literate. He had a fresh complexion, dark brown hair, no whiskers, dark brown eyebrows, hazel eyes, a wide mouth, and a medium size 'double dimpled' chin. He was pock-marked and had a scar on the back of his right hand and two scars on his right elbow.²

Bernard was not the only convict in his family: his indent noted that his father, Patrick Gallagher, and mother, Bridget DOHERTY, had been transported to New South Wales.³ Bridget's indent noted that her husband, Patrick Gallagher, had been transported about three years previously.⁴

Bridget, my great-great-great-grandmother, was transported on the *Pyramus* in 1836.⁵ She had more children in the Snowy Mountains region of New South Wales. Her daughter, and Bernard's half-sister, Margaret McINTYRE, married William BUTLER, who arrived in Van Diemens Land with his Irish convict mother and was admitted to the Queens Orphan School.⁶ There is no evidence to suggest that Bernard and his mother were ever reunited.

Bernard arrived in Van Diemens Land on the *Ratcliffe* on 30 August 1845 and was initially stationed at Port Cygnet. On 25 July 1846, he was charged with larceny under £5 and his existing sentence of transportation was extended eighteen months. He had several more colonial offences including one in February 1847 when he was reprimanded for 'misconduct in playing at draughts during the hours of labor'.⁷ From this time, he appears to have lived and worked on the East Coast.

On 17 September 1847, while assigned to HEPBURN at Swanport, he was charged with misconduct in falsely representing himself to be a ploughman and refusing

¹ NSW Death Certificate District of Glenn Innes 1907/4777 Bernard Gallagher; *Clarence and Richmond Examiner* 15 June 1907 p. 2

² TA, CON33/1/69 Bernard Gallagher *Ratcliffe* (1) 1845 No. 16174

³ TA, CON14/1/20 Bernard Gallagher *Ratcliffe* (1) 1845 No. 16174

⁴ NSWSA, Series: NRS 12189; Item: [X639]; Microfiche: 720 Printed Indents. Patrick Gallagher was most likely the

convict of that name who arrived on the *City of Edinburgh* in 1832. He was executed in 1834.

⁵ NSWSA, [41/4155; Reel 941]; [4/4404; Reel 1022]

⁶ See Joan Kavanagh and Dianne Snowden, *Van Diemen's Women. A History of Transportation to Van Diemen's Land*, The History Press, Dublin, 2015.

⁷ TA, CON33/1/69 Bernard Gallagher *Ratcliffe* (1) 1845 No. 16174.

to do what he was instructed. For this, he received one month in prison with hard labour.⁸

On 9 April 1850, Bernard was granted a ticket-of-leave. On 30 March 1852, his Conditional Pardon was approved. He received his Free Certificate on 29 April 1857.⁹

In 1851, Bernard Gallagher successfully applied to marry fellow-Irish convict, Ann CORRY, who was assigned to him.¹⁰ They married in St Josephs Roman Catholic Church, Hobart, on 7 April 1851.¹¹

Ann, aged 16, and her mother, Bridget Butler, had been tried in County Clare on 27 February 1849 for burning a house and were transported on the *Australasia*. Bridget Butler died on 28 September 1849, the day before the *Australasia* arrived in Hobart Town.¹²

Ann had an older sister in the colony: transported as Margaret QUEALEY, she arrived on the *Kinnear* (2) in October 1848, to serve a 10 year sentence for stealing sheep.¹³ According to her indent, Ann also had two brothers John and Pat, transported '12 months since'.¹⁴ Marg-

aret's indent stated that her brothers Pat and John were transported 'at the same time with myself'.¹⁵ Margaret, Pat and John were all transported for sheep-stealing and Ann had previously served six months in prison for the same offence. Ann and Margaret reunited in Van Diemens Land: Margaret 'QUOLLY' was one of the witnesses at Ann and Bernard's marriage in 1851 and was sponsor with her husband for the Gallagher children's baptisms.

Bernard and Ann settled on the East Coast. The first of their children, Patrick Joseph Gallagher, was born in Ross District in 1852. At Patrick's baptism, his aunt, Margaret 'Quealey' and her husband, Michael CLUNE, were sponsors.¹⁶ Another son, Bernard, was born in July 1853 at *Riversdale* near Swansea.¹⁷ A third son, John, was born at Jerusalem (now Colebrook) in January 1855.¹⁸ All were baptised in St Johns Roman Catholic Church, Richmond.

⁸ TA, CON33/1/69 Bernard Gallagher *Ratcliffe* (1) 1845 No. 16174

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ TA, CON52/4 Ann Corry and Bernard Gallagher; TA, POL242/1 1851 & 1852 Ann 'Curry'

¹¹ TA, RGD37/1/10 District of Hobart 1851/524 Ann Corry and Bernard Gallagher

¹² TA, CON41/1/24 Anne Corry *Australasia* 1849 No. 1000; TA, CON41/1/24 Bridget Butler *Australasia* 1849. See also Dianne Snowden, *White Rag Burning*, Hobart, 2018.

¹³ TA, CON41/1/19 Margaret Quealey *Kinnear* (2) 1848 No. 26; NAI, TR7 p. 189 Margaret Quealey

¹⁴ TA, CON15/1/6 Anne Corry *Australasia* 1849 No. 1000

¹⁵ TA, CON15/1/5 Margaret Quealey *Kinnear* (2) 1848 No. 26. Her brothers may have been John Keane and Patrick Kennerk, both tried on 14 January 1848 in County Clare for sheep stealing, the same day as Margaret. John was sentenced to transportation for 10 years, but was detained in Smithfield Gaol, Co. Dublin: NAI, TR7 p. 22. Patrick was also sentenced to 10 years' transportation but died in Smithfield Gaol on 16 January 1849: NAI, TR7 p. 22.

¹⁶ TA, NS1052/1/13 p. 57 No. 13 Patrick 'Gallagah'

¹⁷ TA, RGD33/1/31 District of Glamorgan 1853/209 Bernard Gallagher; TA, NS1052/1/2 p. 428 Bernard Gallagher

¹⁸ TA, RGD33/1/33 District of Richmond 1855/1351 John Galaha; TA, NS1052/1/2 p. 481 John Gallagher



Riversdale Glamorgan
Photograph Moe Ferris

Two more sons, Michael Gallagher and James Gallagher, were born after Bernard had received his Certificate of Freedom. Michael was born in November 1857 and James in 1860.¹⁹ Bernard and Anne's youngest child, Bridget, was born on Christmas Eve, 1861 at *Riversdale*.²⁰

In 1858, Bernard occupied a farm of 40 acres at *Riversdale* in the district of Glamorgan.²¹ It was not long after that he fell on hard times. In June 1862, six months after the birth of Bridget, Bernard deserted his wife and family:

... he left the mother with six children, perfectly destitute'.²²

¹⁹ TA, RGD33/1/35 District of Glamorgan 1857/635 Michael Gallagher;
TA, RGD33/1/37 District of Glamorgan 1859/686 James Gallagher (recorded as Jane, a female, by his father)

²⁰ TA, RGD33/1/40 District of Glamorgan 1862/599 Bridget Gallagher

²¹ *Hobart Town Gazette* 18 May 1858 p. 703

²² TA, SWD26/6 4 July 1863 Gallagher

On 28 July 1862, Bernard lodged a petition for insolvency, which was heard at the Court of Requests in Hobart the following month. At his hearing at the Insolvent Court, Bernard testified:

I have left my home, my farm at Swanport, a week on Monday last. I travelled on horseback. I brought two horses, one a filly, besides the mare I was riding ... I have sold the whole of them ... I had seen an advertisement of an auction for that day a week before ... I was intending to buy four bullocks for about £20 as my hay was out and I could not afford to keep horses, but I took a drop of drink and I lost it or it was taken from me.²³

Bernard's creditors included his brother-in-law Michael Clunes, of the Springs.²⁴ Bernard was discharged but he does not appear to have returned to his family immediately and it was rumoured he was planning to leave for New Zealand. He

²³ *Mercury* 11 August 1862 p. 2

²⁴ *Mercury* 11 August 1862 p. 2

later denied this.²⁵ On 12 August, his goods, including farming implements and livestock, were advertised for auction at Swansea.²⁶

Bernard's family was maintained until July 1863 'by the charity of their neighbors, who are unwilling to continue assistance any longer'.²⁷

On 4 July 1863, Ann Gallagher of the 'Springs' in Glamorgan district applied to have four of her six children admitted to the Queens Asylum for Destitute Children (formerly the Orphan School). They were Patrick (aged 11); John (aged 8); Michael (aged 6); and James (aged 3). All were baptised Roman Catholic, as were their parents. Ann Gallagher was 'out of employment', caring for her family. The other two children were Bernard aged 10, and Sarah,²⁸ aged 18 months. The warden of Glamorgan testified that the eldest boy had been well brought up, and believed the boy's

'habits and general character' were good.²⁹

The admission to the Orphan School was approved but before it took place, Bernard was located, and his family were no longer considered to have a claim to be kept at public expense. The application was withdrawn.³⁰

Shortly after this, Bernard, Ann and their children moved to Glen Innes in northern New South Wales. At some stage, Ann's sister also moved there.³¹

Ann Corry, aged 70, died as Mary Ann Gallagher on 21 August 1905 at Glen Innes. She was buried in the Roman Catholic cemetery at Glen Innes.³²

Bernard Gallagher, a farmer aged 84, died on 9 June 1907 in Grey Street, Glen Innes. No information about his parents was recorded on his death certificate but it noted he was born in King's County, Ireland, that he had been fifteen years in Tasmania, and 45 years in New South Wales.³³ Bernard was buried with Ann.³⁴ He may have



Gallagher Memorial, Glen Innes
Roman Catholic Cemetery,
NSW.

findagrave.com

²⁵ *Mercury* 29 July 1862 p. 1, 11 August 1862 p. 1; 21 August 1862 p. 8, 25 August 1861 p. 2; 26 August 1861 p. 2

²⁶ *Mercury* 12 August 1862 p. 4

²⁷ TA, SWD26/6 Patrick, John, Michael and James Gallagher

²⁸ This was most likely Bridget born 24 December 1861

²⁹ TA, SWD26/1/6 4 July 1863 Gallagher

³⁰ TA, SWD26/6 4 July 1863 Gallagher. He was located on 13 July 1863.

³¹ NSW Death Certificate District of Glen Innes 1909/5337 Margaret 'Cluen'

³² NSW Death Certificate District of Glen Innes 1905/8779 Mary Ann Gallagher

³³ Bridget who died in 1885 and Patrick who died in 1891

bequeathed £900 to the Roman Catholic Church in Glen Innes, towards the construction of the new St Patricks Church in 1909 but this has not yet been confirmed.

Bernard's carefully-worded obituaries were a mixture of truth and omission but suggest that he finally found respectability through hard work in his community:

MR. BERNARD GALLAGHER.

At the respected age of 84, and after an illness due to senility, Mr. Bernard Gallagher—one of the oldest pioneers of the central Tableland—has crossed the great Divide, succumbing at his residence in Grey-street at 11 o'clock on Sunday morning. The late Mr: Gallagher was born in King's County, Ireland, in the year 1823. At the age of 24 he migrated from his native heath and sped across the blue sea to the far-off Tasmania, when he remained for some time. About 45 years back, Mr. Gallagher with his wife came to New South Wales, and after a brief sojourn in Sydney trekked away north to commence a career in this district. For some years in the employ of the Dumaresq family on Furracabad, later at Wellington Vale, Waterloo, and King's Plains, but determined to strike out for himself in possession of land, he took up a selection on Furracabad ... The deceased by determination and hard work obtained a comfortable house and competency and here reared a family. Some two years ago the helpmate of the old gentleman passed away, and since that time he gradually grew more feeble, until the great hand of Death pointed to the last hour. The deceased is survived by three sons, John, Michael and James; 28 grandchildren and six great grandchildren.³⁵



ANN GALLAGHER,

DIED 21ST AUG. 1905
AGED 71 YEARS.

BERNARD GALLAGHER,

DIED 9TH JUNE 1907
AGED 84 YEARS.



JAMES GALLAGHER,

DIED 13TH JUNE 1907
AGED YEARS.

M^{RS} CLUNE,

DIED 15TH May 1909
AGED YEARS

Transcriptions in stone at the base of the Memorial.

Margaret Clune (aunt) and James Gallagher (nephew, son of Bernard and Ann)

³⁴ NSW Death Certificate District of Glen Innes 1907/4777 Bernard Gallagher
³⁵ *Glen Innes Examiner and General Advertiser* 11 June 1907 p. 23

An obituary also appeared in the *Freeman's Journal*:

MR. BERNARD GALLAGHER.

The death of Mr. Bernard Gallagher, of Glen Innes, on Sunday last, removed one of the oldest pioneers of the central tableland of New South Wales. He was born in King's County, Ireland, in 1823. At the age of 24 years he sailed to Tasmania, subsequently removing to the north of New South Wales about the year 1862. After spending some years in the district, he took up a selection on Furracabad, and by determination and hard work obtained a comfortable home. He was a wonderfully active man, and when employed on Waterloo Station is said to have walked 32 miles to Byron and sheared 50 sheep all between daylight and dark ...³⁶

Many years later, the obituary of Bernard and Ann's son, John, born in Van Diemens Land in 1855, provided the same romanticised version of the family background:

A son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Gallagher, deceased was born on the boat on which his parents came to Australia. The family came to the Glen Innes, district shortly after their arrival in this country.³⁷

It was only a fluke that I found Bernard Gallagher and his connection to my great-great-grandmother. It makes me wonder how many other intercolonial convict connections exist. ◀

https://images.findagrave.com/photos/2015/81/85057319_1427144929.jpg

https://images.findagrave.com/photos/2015/81/85307844_1427147680.jpg

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/85057319/clune/photo#view-photo=118480552>

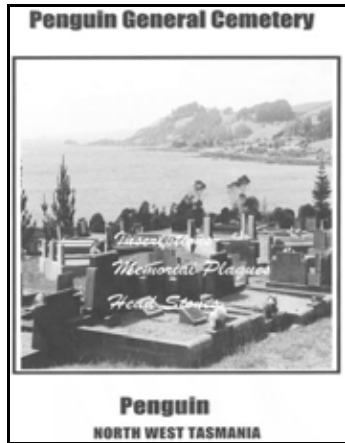
³⁶ *Freeman's Journal* (Sydney) 13 June 1907 p. 26

³⁷ *Glen Innes Examiner* 22 January 1835 p. 4.

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JOHN BUCK (ALIAS TATTERSALL), AGNES THOMPSON AND SARAH WATERS: CONVICTS TO VAN DIEMENS LAND

Leonie Mickleborough (Member 20)

<p>40 George Howarth.....18 41 John Buck.....22 <i>all alias Tattersall</i> <i>guilty and death</i> 42 Peter Eastwood.....21 <i>all reprieved</i></p>	<p>Committed by John Hargreaves and Lawrence Halsted Esqrs. 14th July, 1819, charged with having burglariously broken and entered the dwelling house of Abraham Greaves, at New Accrington, and with having stolen therein, a quantity of silver and copper coin, two bottles of spirituous liquors and other articles, the property of the said Abraham Greaves.</p>
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QJC/1 Calendar of Prisoners, printed with permission of Lancashire Archives

ON 1 September 1819 at the Lancaster Summer Assizes 22 years old John TATTERSALL, George HOWARTH 18, and Peter EASTWOOD 21, were convicted of ‘burglariously breaking and entering the house [adjoining the print-works of calico printer] Abraham GREAVES, at New Accrington, and stealing a quantity of silver and copper coin, and other articles, his property’ at 10.00 p.m. on 11 July. The three were also charged with ‘divers other burglaries, felonies and larcenies, at the same place’, and were all sentenced to death, sentences which were later commuted to transportation for life.¹

John Tattersall (c. 1798–1879), a weaver, who lived with his wife and two children at Accrington, the centre of cotton and textile machinery industries, had dark brown hair, grey eyes and a scar on the corner of his left eyebrow arrived at Hobart Town in December 1820 on the convict transport *Maria* (1) from Portsmouth. Peter Eastwood was transported to New South Wales on the *Mangles*,

arriving in August 1820, and George HOWARTH might have been James Howarth who arrived in Sydney per *Guildford* in April 1822.²

Most newspaper reports and official documentation regarding Tattersall’s conviction recorded his surname as ‘Tattersall’, but at least one official document published on 28 August 1819 and two newspaper reports indicate that Tattersall was an alias, and his surname was ‘BUCK’.³ Later reports and documents list his surname as Tattersall.⁴

Throughout his life in Van Diemens Land, Tattersall’s unsuccessful application to marry Agnes THOMPSON/THOMSON, his marriage to Sarah WATERS (c.1811–84), a convict who

¹ *Lancaster Gazette* 17 July 1819, 18 September 1819; Lancashire Archives Record Office DDCM 1/14, *Orders for commutation of death sentence to transportation*, QJC/1a/2438 and QJC/1, *Calendar of Prisoners*.

² Tasmanian Archives (TA) CON31-1-42 Image 45; AJCP Microfilm Roll 88, HO11/3, p. 277 (140), British convict transportation registers 1787–1867 database compiled by State Library of Queensland from British Home Office (HO) records 176/1856V1856176, No. 107 Peter EASTWOOD per *Mangles* 29 March 1820 to NSW for ‘life’

³ *Lancaster Gazette* 17 July 1819, 28 August 1819; QJC/1 and QJC/1a/2438 *Calendar of Prisoners*

⁴ *Leeds Mercury* 11 September 1819, *Lancaster Gazette* 18 September 1819

arrived aboard the *Harmony* in 1829, the birth of eleven children, his death and burial, and the males among his sixty grandchildren and also his great-grandchildren, all maintained the surname of Tattersall. Since obtaining information from Lancashire Archives regarding the alias, I have unsuccessfully searched for details of John's parents, his marriage, his wife and his two children, all left behind in Lancashire. Thinking John's mother's maiden name might have been Tattersall, I have also been unable to find a Tattersall/Buck marriage. John's background is a mystery.

Soon after arrival at Hobart Town, Tattersall was employed in the Public Works as a sawyer.⁵ His conduct record lists seven guilty verdicts. The first was on 22 October 1821, when, after refusing to attend work as ordered by his overseer, he was given fifty lashes and ordered to serve two months in the gaol-gang. The next report was more than two years later, on 13 December 1823, when he was found guilty of not residing under his master, H ASHWORTH's roof. He was ordered to return to Ashworth.⁶

On 1 January 1826 Tattersall was appointed constable in the Field Police. Within six months of his appointment, he failed one of his duties and was fined 10/- (ten shillings) for neglect of duty on 20 June 1826 in not attending the Police Office when the Magistrate was sitting. On 13 February 1828, he was more fortunate when a complaint was dismissed against him. It had been alleged that he tried to obtain money by false pretences from Anthony Fenn KEMP and having caused a threatening letter to be written for the same purpose. Two months later he was found guilty of being drunk and assault-

ing Michael KEVAL (KEVALL) in Hobart Town, and of destroying several articles of Keval's wearing apparel. He was ordered to reimburse the rightful owner.⁷

The consumption of alcohol played a role in the crimes for which Tattersall was charged, and he became boisterous and violent after consuming an excessive quantity. On 29 November 1828, he was found guilty of being drunk at the *Lovely Banks Inn*, where he also assaulted the landlord, William GUEST. The noise and disorder he caused during the night annoyed and disturbed Mr WILLIS J.P. and others who were in the Inn. As a result of this episode, he was fined his salary for the quarter, the case having been heard by Police Magistrate Thomas ANSTEY.⁸

Guilty verdicts were recorded on 27 December 1830 and the following 19 March. In the former incident, again under the influence of alcohol, and at *Butchers Inn*, Bagdad, Tattersall lost a warrant to convey a prisoner to Bridgewater. This misdemeanour was expensive. It cost him 40/- (forty shillings). In the latter case, again drunk, he abused the Chief Constable in the execution of his duty and was fined 5/- (five shillings). His last official appearance in court was on 10 February 1834, when he was under suspicion of stealing three bullock chains belonging to Mr BRODRIBB. The case was discharged, and no action was taken.

⁷ *ibid.*

⁸ CON 31/1/42 image 45; Richard Willis, MLC & JP arrived in 1823 and his original grant was 'Wanstead Park' at Epping, see Anne McKay, *Journals of the Land Commissioners for Van Diemens Land 1826-28*, University of Tasmania in conjunction with the Tasmanian Historical Research Association, Hobart, 1962, p. 151

⁵ TA, CSO1/247/5960

⁶ TA, CON 31/1/42 image 45

Conditional and absolute pardons were granted by the Crown on the recommendation of the Lieutenant-Governor, and Tattersall received his conditional pardon on 11 May 1830.⁹ Convicts serving out their sentences became 'free by servitude', an option denied to Tattersall as he had received a life sentence.

There was more to John Tattersall's life than his assignment and his official duties as a constable in the Field Police. In 1827, he applied to Lieutenant-Governor George ARTHUR for permission to marry convict Agnes Thompson. Agnes (or Nanny) arrived in the colony in 1823 aboard the *Lord Sidmouth* after being convicted of larceny at the Jedburg Court of Justiciary in April 1822 and sentenced to seven years' transportation.¹⁰ Tattersall explained they had formed a 'Mutual affection' for each other and were 'desirous to be joined in the Holy State of Matrimony'. In support of his application, he expressed the hope that his conduct since arrival in the colony had been 'such as to merit the approbation of his Superiors'.¹¹

Tattersall also stated he had earlier rented a house for Agnes, but after he left town (presumably as a constable to work in the country) she was charged with being 'on her own hands' and was 'most unfortunately ordered to the Factory', where she and three children were in the 'most pitiable situation'. When Agnes went to the Female Factory, she was possessed of 'some little property', but during her

imprisonment it had been 'squandered in various ways'.¹²

According to Magistrate Adolarius W H HUMPHREY, Agnes, who had no offences recorded against her in the books of the Police Office, had been transported for 'Assaulting & wounding'. She confessed that she left her husband, Robert HUNTER, at Kelso and there were two children 'there' and 'one with him'. A further report on the marriage application was provided by Thomas Anstey, who spoke 'very highly' of Tattersall's 'conduct' and described him as being in the 'Band of Field Police'.¹³

John LAKELAND, Principal Superintendent of Convicts, understood Agnes to be a scheming woman. She had been

on her own hands ... for near 12 Months in consequence of which she was placed in the Factory.

According to Lakeland, Agnes' master, Joseph NEW, admitted she had been away from his premises with his consent. As a result, Lakeland forwarded New's bond to the Crown Solicitor, and it was recommended that no more convict servants be assigned to him. The report was endorsed across the corner:

Agnes Hunter being unable to prove that her former husband is dead. J C 28 Feby.¹⁴

Late in 1828, Agnes was employed at the Male Orphan School, but in October, Chief Constable CAPON found her guilty of being drunk at the *Scotch Thistle* public house.¹⁵ Her punishment was confine-

⁹ CON 31/1/42 image 45, CP No. 143

¹⁰ TA, CON 40/1/10 image 136; Phillip Tardif, *Notorious Strumpets and Dangerous Girls*, Collins, Angus & Robertson Australia, 1990, p. 604

¹¹ TA, CSO 1/379/8600, pp. 125–26

¹² TA, CSO 1/379/8600, pp.125–26

¹³ CSO 1/247/5960

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ There was a *Scotch Thistle* on the south-east corner of Barrack and Liverpool Streets, Hobart, which was licensed between 1823 and 1841, see David J

ment to a cell on bread and water for seven days. On 16 May 1829, she was admonished for obstructing Constable YOUNG in the execution of his duty, and two weeks later, on 30 May 1829, on the expiry of her sentence, her certificate of freedom was issued.¹⁶

Serving convicts needed to obtain permission before marrying, which, in this instance, may not have been granted because John had stated he had a wife and children at his native place, and also because Agnes was unable to prove her husband was dead. This snag was not the end of John's attempts to form a permanent relationship in the colony.

Meanwhile, at Middlesex on 29 May 1828, 18-year old servant of all work and plain cook Sarah Waters from Holborn and 17-year-old Mary Ann WILLIAMS from Soho, also a servant of all work and a plain cook, were tried and were both sentenced to seven years' transportation for larceny. Both were found guilty of robbing their ready furnished room and stealing pillowcases and had both been 'on the town'. Sarah's mother was Maria Waters who lived at Park Place and James Street, and Mary Ann's parents lived at Soho. Sarah was a prostitute and single, was able to read and write, was 5'1" tall with light brown hair, brown eyebrows and grey eyes. Sarah and Mary Ann Williams were two of 100 female convicts aboard the *Harmony* which arrived at Hobart Town on 14 January 1829, having left the Downs 123 days earlier.¹⁷ On 22 January 1829 at 4:00 am

to avoid prying eyes, and accompanied by an armed guard, the convicts left the *Harmony* on their walk to the Cascades House of Correction (Female Factory).¹⁸

Sarah was soon assigned from Cascades, and her colonial offences were petty. She absconded twice from her master Robert HARRISON. In April 1829 she disobeyed orders and carried off a pillowcase, a loaf of bread and a 'Pannakan', all the property of Harrison, and on 16 May she was apprehended by Constable John Tattersall in the Brisbane Parish. Her sentence, imposed by Thomas Anstey, was six months in the 'C' class at the Female Factory, the wearing of an iron collar for one month, her hair cut off, and confinement on bread and water for fourteen days.¹⁹ Robert Harrison had arrived in the colony in 1823, his original grant being *Woodbury* at Antill Ponds, and it is likely that is where Sarah was assigned.²⁰

On 29 January 1830, for 'refusing to do her work and being absent from her service' the previous night without leave from her next master Mr HIDDLESTONE, Sarah was confined to a cell on bread and water for five days, and then returned to service. Just two months later, she was again absent without permission and remained out after hours from her master, Mr NAIRNE. The punishment for this was another month in 'C' class. She was then returned to the public service.²¹ According to the convict musters in both 1832 and 1833, Sarah was 'assigned to Mr McPHERSON'.²² Apparently, she did

Bryce, *Pubs in Hobart from 1807*, Rosny Park, 1997, p. 143

¹⁶ Tardif, p. 604

¹⁷ TA, CON 19/1/13 image 53; Charles Bateson, *The Convict Ships 1787–1868*, Library of Australian History, Sydney 1988, p.386; Tardif, pp.1609–10; Mary

Ann Williams, and George Scarborough per *Calendonia* were married at Launceston on 16 January 1831

¹⁸ *Hobart Town Courier* 24 January 1829

¹⁹ TA, CON 40/1/9 image 284

²⁰ McKay, p. 138

²¹ TA, CON 40/1/9 image 284

²² Tardif, p. 1608

not apply for her free certificate at the end of her sentence because it was not sent to her until 8 October 1841, when she was living at Bothwell.²³

The chance meeting when John Tattersall apprehended Sarah in May 1829 changed their lives. Three times in 1831 Tattersall applied to marry Sarah but he was unsuccessful. Still determined to marry Sarah, 'by Whom he has one Child', on 2 May 1832, Tattersall approached Anstey for advice. Mr Anstey directed Tattersall to take his application to the Reverend Mr DROUGHT. This application was also unsuccessful. In November 1832, John wrote to Anstey from 'Green Water Holes', lamenting that the 'Governor has refused me the indulgens that was requested', and he begged Anstey as his

Protektor to let it be known to me or
Find out the case why I am refused the
indulgens that others receive

and his feelings were 'very much hurt' since he received the answer.²⁴

In November 1832 after yet another application from John for permission to marry Sarah, permission was granted by Lieutenant-Governor George Arthur, and they married in the Independent Church at Green Ponds on 29 April 1833.²⁵ John and Sarah remained living in Van Diemens Land, John receiving his con-

ditional pardon on 11 May 1830, and Sarah her Free Certificate in 1841.²⁶

In 1842 John was leasing *Littledale*, near Bothwell from Duncan McRAE, and in 1848 he was leasing *Selma* at Bothwell, from Thomas F MARZETTI.²⁷ John and Sarah had a successful life in the colony, and between 1833 and 1853 they had eleven children, most of them born in the Bothwell area, nine of whom were known to survive to adulthood. John and Sarah both died in Launceston, John on 31 January 1879 at the General Hospital, and Sarah in hospital on 15 February 1884 from heart disease and were both buried at Franklin Village.²⁸ John and Sarah, their children and grandchildren, and all known current descendants living in Tasmania, New South Wales and New Zealand, have remained with the surname of Tattersall, possibly not knowing that it was an alias.

The mystery remains, and hopefully one day, with the release of more documents or because of even more diligent researching, these gaps in the family history of my great-great-great grandparents John and Sarah will, for many of us be filled. ◀

²³ Tardif, pp. 1607–08; TA, CON 40/1/9 image 284

²⁴ TA, CSO 1/379/8600, pp. 125–26. Maybe Sarah was with John on the nights she was 'absent without permission'.

²⁵ TA, RGD36 Green Ponds marriages 2333/1833 John Tattersall, Bachelor of this Parish, Sarah Waters of Parish of Cluney, Spinster by Bans with consent of Lt-Gov. R C Drought LLD Chaplain. Witnesses William Wilson of Hunting Grounds [X] Mary Hopkins of Green Ponds [X].

²⁶ CON 31/1/ 42 image 45; CON 31/1/13 image 120; John's CP no. 143 11 May 1830; CON 40/1/9, image 136; Sarah's Free Certificate No. 893/1841

²⁷ TA, CEN 1/1/2, p.5, 1842 Census Bothwell District; CEN 1/1/74–85A, p. 85, Bothwell District

²⁸ *Examiner* 1 February 1879, 18 February 1884; TA, RGD35/1/53 Sarah's death RGD35/451/1879, John's death NS970/1/29.

FOR KING AND COUNTRY PRIVATE FREDERICK ARTHUR WALLEN

Betty Pilgrim (Member 7744)

GIVING his life willingly when duty called, for King and country, Private Frederick Arthur (Arthur) WALLEN, was in the prime of his life, aged 21 years and 9 months, when he was killed on the first day of what became known as the 'Bombardment of Pozières'.

Wallen, who was an upholsterer with a Launceston firm, Maples' Piano and Furniture Warehouses, initially enlisted in World War I on 11 May 1915 at Claremont in Tasmania. He was assigned to the 26th Battalion.¹ However, he was discharged in Sydney to undergo an operation for varicose veins. Wallen re-joined at the Sydney Town Hall on 23 October 1915 and was appointed to the 8th Reinforcements, 19th Battalion.² In his second application Wallen said he had not served previously. This may have been so his recent operation was not a hindrance in re-enlisting.

Private Wallen embarked Sydney per HMAT A35 *Berrima* on 17 December 1915 and spent a short period of time at the Black Boy Camp at the foot of the Darling Ranges, east of Perth, in Western Australia. During this time, he was charged with being absent without leave and fined 15/- as well as the forfeiture of three days' pay. His general character

was stated to be good.³ After continuing the voyage, he arrived in Egypt undertaking training in the Zeitoun Training Camp. It was likely he disembarked at Alexandria and went by train to Zeitoun, near Cairo. He was then allotted to join the 2nd Battalion from Tel-el-Kebir, 110 kilometres north-north east of Cairo and 75 kilometres south of Port Said on the edge of the Egyptian desert.⁴ Apart from Tel-El-Kebir being a training centre it was a large prisoner of war camp. The Tel-El-Kebir village was described by an Australian soldier in 1916 as 'a very dirty little place with a few dirty shops in it'.⁵

The 2nd Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the AIF during the First World War. Combined with the 1st, 3rd and 4th Battalions, it formed the 1st Brigade. Prior to Wallen being transferred to this Battalion it had taken part in the ANZAC landing on 25 April 1915. After the withdrawal from Gallipoli, the Battalion returned to Egypt⁶ and it was at this time Wallen was allotted to the 2nd Battalion.

After training, Wallen departed from Alexandria per the *Invernia*, disembark-

¹ Service Record of Frederick Arthur Wallen, p. 1, Service No. 1230, National Archives of Australia (NAA).

² NAA Service Record of Frederick Arthur Wallen, p. 46, Service No. 3646 and Service Record of Frederick Arthur Wallen, p. 5

³ NAA Service Record of Frederick Arthur Wallen, p. 10

⁴ NAA Service Record of Frederick Arthur Wallen, p. 16

⁵ Ernest George King, a Diary of the War, 2nd Reinforcement, 19th Battalion, 5th Infantry Brigade, AIE Forces, Intermediate Base Depot, Egypt, 12 February 1916.

⁶ Australian War Memorial:
www.awm.gov.au/collection/U51442
Accessed 7 April 2018

ing at the south coast of France at Mar-seilles on 28 March 1916.⁷ The Battalion's first major action in France against the Germans was at Pozières in the Somme Valley in July 1916. During 23 July most of the Australian forward troops prepared for a German attack. The 2nd Battalion had captured the German strong point known to the British as 'Gibraltar' which was considered by the British as being unable to be captured.⁸ Pozières became a focus of attention for the Germans as it was seen as a critical element of their defensive system. Three attempts were made on 23 July but each was broken up or swept away by machine gun fire. It was not until early morning on 4 July that it was discovered Pozières had been captured by the Germans. It was during this battle that Private Wallen was killed in action, in the field. Between 1 July and 14 November 1916 the total of Australians killed in the Somme was 7,487 with a further 23,277 wounded.⁹

A Court of Inquiry on 14 August found that Wallen had died in the field in France on 23 July 1916.¹⁰ Several witness reports were made to the Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing Enquiry Bureau.¹¹ One report said that his head

was 'half blown off by a shell' and he 'was buried where he fell'.¹² Another reported his dead body was seen on the morning of 24 July near the German front line. The same witness explained that he was a Battalion runner.¹³ A runner was a military courier, a foot soldier responsible for passing on messages between fronts. Although a very important position it was considered to be the most dangerous as these soldiers were exposed to enemy lookouts. It was commonplace for runners to die before reaching their destination.¹⁴

Wallen is one of the many soldiers buried where he fell as 'there was no time or opportunity to mark the grave in any way'.¹⁵ He is remembered at the Villers-Bretonneux Memorial in Somme, France. On the walls of the memorial are the names of 10,885 Australians who were killed in France with no known grave.¹⁶

Private Frederick Arthur Wallen's parents were advised by the Defence Department, through the Rev. H N BAKER, rector of St Johns Church in Launceston, that their son was killed in action in France on 24 July 1916 [sic].¹⁷ Just days before, the Launceston *Examiner* reported that Wal-

⁷ Service Record of Frederick Arthur Wallen, p. 12

⁸ Anzacs in France: 'Australian Battlefields of World War I – France – 1916: www.anzacsinfrance.com/1916/

⁹ K H Jobson, 'First AIF Enlistment, Patterns and Reasons for Their Variation', *Australian Defence Force Journal*, No. 132 (1998). Appendix to pp. 61–66 – Appendix H.

¹⁰ Service Record of Frederick Arthur Wallen, pp. 9, 42

¹¹ Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing Enquiry Bureau files, 1914–18 War 1DRL/0428. www.awm.gov.au/

collection/R1478703 Accessed 7 April 2018

¹² Cpl C Page, 1822, 2nd Battalion as related to the Red Cross

¹³ Pts H S Ray, 1618, 26 General Hospital, Etaples, as related to the Red Cross

¹⁴ Wikipedia: Runner (soldier):

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Runner_\(soldier\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Runner_(soldier)). Accessed 8 April 2018.

¹⁵ Cpl. Page 1822, 2nd Battalion as related to the Red Cross

¹⁶ Professor Stefan Petrow, Lecture 5, HAA107, 'Lest We Forget': Remembering Australian Soldiers Who Died in Foreign Lands

¹⁷ *Daily Telegraph*, Launceston, Wednesday 27 September 1916, p. 2

len was missing.¹⁸ The sad news of his death was not conveyed until mid-September 1916, two months after his recorded death.

A death notice followed in the local newspapers stating he had died on 24 July 1916 [sic] and that ‘Duty called and willingly his life he gave. For King and country’.¹⁹ Undoubtedly this patriotism to King and country was of little comfort at the time although some justification might have been found for the loss of their only son. It would have been difficult to mourn his loss without having a body to bury and perhaps knowing he was buried where he fell in an unmarked grave—they were not able to say goodbye.

A powerful inducement to enlist was for the love of Empire.²⁰ His mother, most likely would have had a major role in encouraging Artie, as he was known by family, to enlist. A mother generally saw it as her patriotic duty to send sons off to war—making a blood sacrifice!²¹ In 1914 a British popular song ‘Your King and Country Want You’ was written as a ‘Woman’s Recruiting Song’ to be sung with the intention of persuading men to volunteer to fight in the war.²² In Tasmania alone 758 death notices, and throughout Australia 7,394, also reported loved ones had died for ‘King and country’.²³ Some of the notices conveyed

the message—‘the call was not in vain’²⁴ and giving a life for King and country, ‘a man can do nothing grander’.²⁵

Some families were desperate to find out how their loved one had died by trying to piece together their last moment, and the hour of their death.²⁶ It is hoped Artie’s family never found out that his head was half blown off with a shell. As ANZAC Day approaches, more than one hundred years later, ‘Lest We Forget’ the Australian hero, Private Frederick Arthur Wallen, who was one of the many who died fighting to save us all. ◀

AMOS FAMILY BICENTENARY

Adam and John Amos and their families arrived in Hobart Town in March 1821 on board the *Emerald*. They were advised to look for land on the unsettled East Coast of Van Diemens Land. They took up land grants near the Swan River at Cranbrook, their descendants still being there today.

The *Amos Family Bicentenary* will be held at the family estates at Cranbrook, Tasmania on 20/21 March 2021.

This will be open to family members, relatives and any interested parties.

Feedback on our website most welcome and you may wish to contact us so we can send email updates direct to your email address. Relevant contacts on web site.

amos200.com

¹⁸ 15 September 1916

¹⁹ *Examiner*, Launceston, 30 September 1916, p. 1

²⁰ Bill Gammage, ‘The Broken Years: Australian Soldiers in the Great War’. Australian National University Press, Canberra 1974.

²¹ Dr Gavin Daly, ‘Women on battlefronts and home fronts’ HAA107 Families at War

²² Sheet music, Chappel & Co. Ltd 1914

²³ National Library of Australia:
www.nla.gov.au/trove

²⁴ For example the *Geelong Advertiser*, 24 July 1917, p. 1

²⁵ *The North-Western Advocate and the Emu Bay Times*, 31 October 1916, p. 2

²⁶ Dr Gavin Daly, ‘In Flanders Fields: The War Dead’, Module 5, Chapter 1, HAA107, Families at War: Mourning and Memorials.

FROM LOVE CHILD TO LADY

EMILY LOUISE DWYER AND HER KNIGHT

Karen Mather

BERNARD DENHOLM'S book of his family history would make any genealogist proud to have authored it. In 1978 he published *Dwellers at the Farm in the Valley: the Story of the Denholm Family* [1781–1978].¹

Today the book still provides a sweeping context and strong logical framework for family information that is scattered across the public records.

Unexpectedly, in Denholm's many-stranded narrative, one particular family line comes to an abrupt halt in 1883.

In the section entitled *George the Second – Issue* he reports that the first born of George Denholm Jr and Mary Ann (née STEPHENS) was a daughter, about whom he writes:

Elizabeth Ann: born 18 October 1864. Baptised at Bothwell Church of England November 1864. On 2 November 1883 she had a daughter Emily Louise (father's name not given). She was then a domestic servant, living at Wood Springs, near Bothwell.²

Forty years later, new channels for research now enable the addition of a relatively happy ending to the tale of Elizabeth Ann Denholm and her daughter Emily Louise.

The story includes individuals from several of Australia's Scottish, Irish and



Lady Emily and Sir John Dwyer
Date and location unknown
Collection of Old Court House Museum,
Perth WA

English pioneer families: the Denholms and the MUNROs of Bothwell in northern Tasmania, plus the DWYERs and the DONALDSONs of the Victorian Alps in West Gippsland.

Denholms and Munros

Bernard Denholm sums up his family's story thus:

During 155 years of settlement in Tasmania there were few scandals but some tragedies. The family were free settlers but one of the brothers married a convict, Sarah Barnes. There were two illegitimate births, one to an unnamed father.³

The brother who married a convict was George Denholm Sr (1808–1884), a

¹ B Denholm, 1978, *The dwellers at the farm in the valley: the story of the Denholm family*, self-published, Howrah, Tasmania

² Ibid. Denholm, p. 64

³ Ibid. Denholm, p. 9

Scottish immigrant who arrived in 1828.⁴ Sarah BARNES (–1873), a Shropshire lass, was transported from England the same year. They married in Bothwell in 1836, well before the end of her 14-year sentence.⁵

Denholm does not mention that the father-in-law of George Denholm Jr (1838–1884) had also been transported from England. John STEVENS (1812–1890) was a carpenter, condemned to seven years in Australia, arriving on the *Bardaster* in 1836. In Bothwell, at the end of his sentence in 1842, he married the widow Elizabeth GEARD (née SCHUMACK) (1806–1893), from Cornwall.⁶ Their daughter, Mary Ann Stevens (1843–1912), was the mother of the aforementioned Elizabeth Ann Denholm.⁷

In Australia convict ancestry is now usually seen as a badge of honour.⁸ But formerly it was a negative for the family. Often the facts were not passed on to ensuing generations, so Emily Louise may have been unaware of her great grandparents' backgrounds.

Though possibly knowing nothing of her ancestors' suffering, Emily Louise was presumably well aware of her mother's difficulties as a single parent for 11 years, before she, Elizabeth Ann Denholm, married.

It is unremarkable in the 21st century for a child to have unmarried parents. More than 34 percent of Australian children are now 'ex-nuptial' and socially acceptable.⁹ But when Emily Louise was born, only about five percent of children were ex-nuptial and life would have been far from easy for mother or child.

Bernard Denholm remarks in his book that Emily's father was unknown. However, on her birth record (emphatically marked 'illegitimate') Emily's father was officially recorded as Alexander MONRO, farmer.¹⁰

Three pieces of circumstantial evidence make it seem the man in question may have been Alexander Munro Jr (1858–1923), son of the successful Scottish pioneers who owned a local property named *Broadwater*. The farm was, and still is, on Woodspring Road close to Apsley (formerly Black Marsh), not far from Bothwell.

The first piece of evidence: Emily Louise's birth record states that her father was a farmer, as was the local Munro family. Secondly, Bernard Denholm notes that Elizabeth Ann was working as a domestic servant at Wood Spring, which is close to the 68-acre Munro property, *Broadwater*. Thirdly, when Emily Louise was born in 1883, Alexander Munro was 24 years of age.¹¹ He remained single until after Elizabeth

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Tasmanian Names Index, (TNI) Convicts Marriage Permissions, 1829–1857

⁶ TNI, Marriages 1804–1899

⁷ Family Notices, *Mercury*, 23 October 1863, p. 2

⁸ A Akbar, 2004, 'Today people regard convict ancestry as a badge of honour', *Independent*, 28 December, <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/australia/today-people-regard-convict-ancestry-as-a-badge-of-honour-26363.html>

⁹ Australian Institute of Family Studies, 2019, *Ex-nuptial births 1901–2012*, viewed 13 May 2019, <https://aifs.gov.au/facts-and-figures/births-australia/births-australia-source-data>

¹⁰ TNI, Births 1803–1933

¹¹ Australian Institute of Family Studies, 2019, *Ex-nuptial births 1901–2012*, viewed 13 May 2019, <https://aifs.gov.au/facts-and-figures/births-australia/births-australia-source-data>

Denholm's marriage, in 1894. The next year, at the age of 36, he married Margaret Jane HILDER whose family, like his own, was farming in Bothwell.¹²

Without further 'inside' information, the above evidence is not positive proof of paternity, but seems to be one possibility.

Elizabeth Ann Denholm next appears in the public record as a bride.

In Victoria, in 1894 she married Norwegian immigrant, Karl Theodor IRGENS.¹³ He became an Australian citizen in 1891 and anglicised his name to Charles Theodore Irgens.¹⁴

Three years later, in April 1897, the pair sailed on the *Hubbuck* for Fremantle, Western Australia, taking Emily Louise with them.¹⁵ She was recorded in the passenger list as Emily Irgens, the name she used thereafter, until her marriage in 1908.

Elizabeth Ann and Charles Theodore Irgens gave Emily Louise two half-siblings. Their son Theodore Carl, born in 1899, only survived 14 months.¹⁶ This was a sad repetition of the fate of Joseph Denholm, Emily's older brother (ex-nuptial, father unknown) who, in 1881,

survived for only six weeks in Tasmania.¹⁷

The Irgens' second child was Enid Jean (1906–1989), born in Fremantle, Western Australia.¹⁸

Two years after Enid's birth, her elder half-sister, Emily Louise, was married to a highly eligible young barrister, John Patrick (Jack) DWYER (1879–1966).¹⁹

By 1913 Charles and Elizabeth Irgens were able to become farmers in the wheat belt region to the south-east of Perth.

Their children, the half-sisters Emily and Enid, seem to have been close, and were often reported in the society pages of the *Daily News* (Perth) socialising together, in the 1920s.

Enid's life was by no means free of sadness. She and her husband, James Ian Maxwell

DRUMMOND, were farmers in the south western town of Dinninup. In 1946 James died in a swimming accident.²⁰ He was 46 years old. Enid remained at the farm for several years with their three children.²¹



Assumed to be John and Emily Dwyer
Date and location unknown.
Collection of the Old Court House Law
Museum, Perth WA

¹² TNI, Marriages 1804–1899

¹³ Public Record Office (PRO) Victoria, Marriages

¹⁴ *Ancestry.com*, Victoria, Australia, Index to Naturalisation Certificates

¹⁵ PRO Victoria, Outward Passengers Index

¹⁶ *Ancestry.com Australian Births Index, 1788–1922*

¹⁷ Australian Institute of Family Studies, 2019, *Ex-nuptial births 1901–2012*, viewed 13 May 2019, <https://aifs.gov.au/facts-and-figures/births-australia/births-australia-source-data>

¹⁸ *Ancestry.com Australian Births Index, 1788–1922*

¹⁹ *Ancestry.com* Australia, Marriage Index, 1788–1950 WA Fremantle 1908/181

²⁰ *The Western Australian*, Perth WA, 9 January 1946

²¹ *Ancestry.com* Australian ER, 1903–1980

Four years later her half-sister, Emily, died after months of illness, and tragedy occurred yet again in 1960 when Enid's only son died at the age of 18.²²

After the death of her half-sister Emily, Enid returned to the city of Perth and shared a house with her widowed brother-in-law until his death in 1966.²³ At that time Enid received numerous letters of condolence from people in every walk of life (including Queen Elizabeth II), of which more than fifty are preserved in the Old Law Court Museum in Perth.²⁴

After Enid's death the Denholm genes would be passed on, in WA, only via her daughters.

So, on current evidence, it seems as if Bernard Denholm's account of the lineage of Elizabeth Ann Denholm (described by him in 1978) can be extended and enriched, to include the public records of: her marriage, her second daughter, Enid Jean Irgens, and Enid's children.

As we shall see next, more of the story of Enid's half-sister Emily Louise was fortunately kept alive by a member of a different family, who shared it with the Morwell Historical Society in Gippsland, Victoria.

Dwyers and Donaldsons

I T Madden gives us a sense of the conditions in the Victorian high country:

Gippsland was by far the most difficult area of Victoria for the pioneers to settle and develop. Great mountains, steep slopes, deep valleys, a plentiful rainfall, huge forests, swollen rivers, swamps and morasses.²⁵

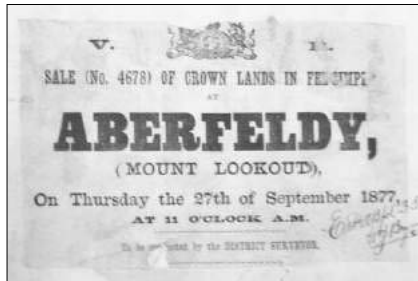
When the government sold new parcels of land in Aberfeldy in 1877, an Irishman Thomas DWYER (1842–1885), bought

several lots and set up as a butcher.²⁶

Other purchasers were Thomas GAFFNEY and David DONALDSON. The former was famous for his gold finds in the 1860s and was a brother-in-law to Dwyer, whilst the latter would soon become his father-in-law.²⁷

David Donaldson (1820–1886) had, in addition, purchased land in Morwell, a town 120 kilometres south of Aberfeldy, port and service centre for Gippsland.²⁸

Here the Scottish-born couple, David and Annie Donaldson, and their eight Australian-born children, opened a general store in 1878.²⁹



Aberfeldy Sale Notice, 1877
From the collection of Sale Contract Books,
Public Records Office Victoria

²² Death registration online WA, District of Plantagenet 1960/37

²³ *Ancestry.com* Australian ER, 1903–1980 John Patrick Dwyer

²⁴ Papers concerning J P Dwyer, in the collection of the Old Law Court Museum Archives, Perth, Western Australia

²⁵ I T Madden, 1973, *Morwell Historical Society News*, vol. 12, no. 5, 15 November, p. 39

²⁶ PRO Victoria, Lands Department, Sale Contract Books, VPRS 873 P001 Unit 135, Aberfeldy 4678, 27 September 1877

²⁷ I T Madden, 1973, *Morwell Historical Society News*, vol. 12, no. 5, 15 November, p. 39

²⁸ *Ibid.*

²⁹ *Ancestry.com* Australian ER, 1903–1980

Their oldest daughter, Elizabeth (1855–1884) soon married Thomas Dwyer, the Aberfeldy butcher, in February 1879.

Elizabeth and Thomas Dwyer had three children, John Patrick (1879–1966), Annie Gertrude (1881–1965) and David Percival (1883–1974).³⁰

Unfortunately the 29 year-old Elizabeth developed pleurisy and died in September 1884.³¹ Her mother, Annie Donaldson, now aged 56, still had four of her own teenage children living at home, but she took in her two youngest grandchildren (aged one and three), whilst John Patrick remained in Aberfeldy with his father. But his sorrows were not at an end.

Thomas Dwyer died of dysentery in Aberfeldy, just over a year after his late wife.³² The six-year-old John Patrick then joined his siblings in the Morwell Donaldson household.³³ Thomas and Elizabeth Dwyer share a grave in the Aberfeldy Cemetery.

The Dwyer children were amongst the early pupils at the new Commercial Road State Primary School in Morwell, where the head teacher was John IRVING,

whose brother George, a grazier, later married Dwyer's aunt, Mary Edith Donaldson, in 1906.³⁴

Fortunately, their son John Irving, was an amateur historian and became the main custodian of information about his cousin John Patrick Dwyer.

At primary school John Patrick achieved extraordinary results, far beyond his years. So, Annie Donaldson enrolled him in the prestigious secondary school, Geelong College, at the age of ten. He excelled there too, in sport and in academic subjects, as he did throughout his life. At 14 years of age he completed his secondary education with top marks in all subjects, and went on to Melbourne University

Law School, being admitted thereafter to the Victorian Bar on 1 August 1902.³⁵

During this time his Donaldson family's life continued to be turbulent. Annie Donaldson's health was deteriorating, so she left Morwell and returned to Melbourne.

The 1903 electoral roll records the members of her household in Hawthorn,



Headstone of Thomas and Elizabeth Dwyer, Aberfeldy.
Courtesy of Dr R Irving

³⁰ *Ancestry.com* Birth Index 1788–1922

³¹ *Ancestry.com* Australian Death Index 1787–1985

³² *Advocate*, 26 December 1885, p. 14

³³ I T Madden, 1973, *Morwell Historical Society News*, vol. 12, no. 5, 15 Nov. p. 39

³⁴ *Ancestry.com* Australian Marriage Index 1788–1950

³⁵ 'The Old Boys', *Pegasus*, Geelong College, June 1959 (viewed 28 September 2018) http://gnet.geelongcollege.vic.edu.au:8080/wiki/GetFile.aspx?File=%2fPegasus_1959_01_June_reduced.pdf.

Melbourne. Annie Donaldson (now 75) and her daughter Edith, both occupied with 'home duties', plus her Dwyer grandchildren—Annie Gertrude, a telephone switchboard operator in the civil service; David Percival, a salesman; and John Patrick, a solicitor.³⁶

Annie Donaldson's third daughter, Agnes, had married Charles SOMMERS from Geelong, in 1886.³⁷ The pair went to Western Australia, where they flourished. Sommers became a long-standing member of parliament, and a mayor of Coolgardie, 1899–1903.

Perhaps Sommers was a role model for Agnes' brothers. Her youngest brothers, John Goulbum Donaldson and David Donaldson Jr, sold the store in Morwell, Victoria, and went to the gold-rich Coolgardie region of Western Australia as miners, around 1900. And her nephew, John Patrick accepted an invitation to join the West Australian Bar in 1904 in time to support his cousins that year, after the drowning death of the young David Donaldson Jr, in Coolgardie.³⁸

Dwyer amply fulfilled the promise of his prodigious childhood, going on to build the most distinguished legal career. Amongst his many honours were: his

appointment as Chief Justice of Western Australia and a knighthood in 1946, then further distinction with a KCMG in 1949.³⁹ His responsibilities were increased with his appointment to the post of Lieutenant-Governor of Western Australia in 1952.

Tireless, slender and impeccably attired, he took his official responsibilities very seriously until the end of his life, never sparing himself, in spite of suffering from type 1 diabetes.

His colleagues related how he was fierce in the courtroom, intolerant of incompetence, fastidious in applying the law, but 'totally fair'.⁴⁰

Yet, as is repeatedly noted in condolences sent to his sister-in-law in 1966, when not officially sitting in judgement, Dwyer was very kind and a gentleman in the fullest sense of the term. He discretely sent sums of money to some prisoners upon their release 'to make a fresh start'.⁴¹

An unsigned note in the Dwyer file in the Old Court House Law Museum in Perth



Dwyer's Dux prize, 1893
Collection of the Old Court House
Law Museum, WA

³⁶ *Ancestry.com. Australia, Commonwealth Public Service Lists, 1904.*

³⁷ *Ancestry.com Australia, Marriage Index, 1788–1950*

³⁸ 'Drowning fatality at Coolgardie', *Kalgoorlie Miner*, 19 February 1904, p. 5

³⁹ *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, online

⁴⁰ G C Bolton, and G Byrne, 2005, *May it please Your Honour: a history of the Supreme Court of Western Australia from 1861–2005*, Law Society of Western Australia, Perth, WA

⁴¹ Papers concerning J P Dwyer, in the collection of the Old Law Court Museum Archives, Perth, Western Australia

reveals how enthusiastically he also took an active part in society:

A keen sportsman, Sir John played his favourite game, golf, until he was 79—and he was still on a single-figure handicap. He did not give up bowls till he was 82 ... A staunch football supporter (and league player in his early days in Victoria) he was Member No.1 of the East Fremantle Club, and he regularly attended the races and the trots.

Among the many other offices he held were: Chief Scout WA, active member and president of the board of the Kings Park and Botanic Gardens, and trustee of the public library, museum and art gallery. (Anonymous note, Dwyer file, OCHLM)

As a young couple the Dwyers were fully involved in their community. Dwyer enlisted, in March 1916, in the new 44th Australian Infantry Battalion. He gained rapid promotion, attaining the rank of lieutenant within 12 months.⁴²

Emily took a prominent role in the WWI (and WWII) Australian Trench Comforts Fund and participated in many other women's organisations in Perth.

Dwyer lost his wife in 1950. He was supported in his final years by Emily's half-sister, Enid (herself a widow) and her daughter, Caroline PUMMER.⁴³

There were no children to inherit the brilliant intellect of John Patrick Dwyer. His brother, David Percival, remained in Victoria working as a salesman. His sister, Annie Gertrude, worked in Mel-

bourne as a government telephone switchboard operator until her marriage, in 1910, to Englishman G L Smith, a naval lieutenant temporarily based in Sydney.⁴⁴ Descendants of Dwyer's cousin, John Irving (the grazier and amateur historian), are still in Gippsland. Drs R and F Irving have generously shared information from their mementoes of Dwyer, who was usually known as Jack. They attest to the close, affectionate relationships between Jack and his Donaldson family, in Victoria and in Western Australia. ◀



Headstone of John and Emily Dwyer,
Karrakatta Cemetery, Perth, WA.
Courtesy Metropolitan Cemeteries Board

⁴² Australian Government, National Archives of Australia, 2017, Series B2455, Record Search, viewed 3 October 2018 <http://www.naa.gov.au/collection/search/index.aspx>.

⁴³ Papers concerning J P Dwyer, in the collection of the Old Law Court Museum Archives, Perth, Western Australia

⁴⁴ *Ancestry.com* Australian ER, 1903–1980

WILLIAM CLIFFORD

Submitted by Carol Rodway (Member 4)

Bream Creek

Mr. William Clifford, of Bream Creek, on Monday celebrated the 90th anniversary of his birthday (writes our travelling correspondent). Born in Germany on October 2, 1849, he came to Tasmania with his parents at an early age, and settled in Clover Valley, Bream Creek.¹ In his youth he was employed by the late Mr. Wm. Lester, of Fulham, Dunalley, father of the Warden of Oatlands (Mr. W. M. Lester), at a weekly wage of 10/.

When the Clifford family settled at Bream Creek, that and the surrounding districts of Copping and Kellevie were known as Ragged Tier, so called after the rugged, or ragged, range of hills running through the centre, Bream Creek being situated on the eastern side, Kellevie on the western, and Copping on the southern. This area is now considered the richest dairying centre in Southern Tasmania, and the Pembroke dairy factory at Bream Creek, of which Mr. Clifford has been a director for many years, is widely known for its high-class product.

Mr. Clifford engaged in mixed farming, principally dairying, until recently, when his son, Cecil took over the property, which adjoins Clover Valley, which was purchased by Mr. Arthur E. Kingston some years ago from Mr. Albert V. Clifford, of Slab Rd., Cygnet, and brother of Mr Clifford. Mrs. Betsy Mundy, a sister, keeps house for Mr. Clifford, whose wife (nee Miss Alice Smith) died on January 9, 1917. The members of the family, in ad-

dition to Cecil, are Sydney, Norman, and Henry (Bream Creek), Ernest (Premaydena) Victor (Kellevie), William (Melbourne), Daphne (Mrs. Nelson Ward, Hobart), Bertha (Mrs Frank Kingston, Moonah), Violet (Mrs. J. Roy Allanby, Copping), and Miss Lucy Clifford, of Copping.

One of Mr Clifford's earliest exploits was to carry some live porcupines in a wheelbarrow to Dunalley, a distance of seven miles, along a rough bush track for the most part, and the rest of the way on the beach. Dunalley was the shipping port for the early settlers in this locality to get their produce to Hobart markets. Information had reached him that porcupines were in demand in Hobart for the oil extracted from them, its use as an ointment having just become known. Those few shillings obtained for the consignment was the first ready money that he, then 14 years of age, had earned. And no one can say that he had not earned it! This resolution to succeed typifies the spirit that has animated Mr. Clifford through life.

Mr. Clifford became a member of the Church of Christ about 58 years ago, during the ministry of Pastor Stephen Cheek, and is one of its staunchest supporters. The Church of Christ at Kellevie was erected about 35 years ago, and he was one of the promoters of the building. Mr. Clifford represented the district as a member of the Sorell Municipal Council for some years. He enjoys good health, and is the oldest resident of the district.²

Mr William Clifford died at the Royal Hobart Hospital in his 96th year—the oldest resident of Sorell.³ ◀

¹ Parents Jacob Heinrich and Christiane Klöpfer—later anglicised to Clifford. After the death of his wife Jacob returned to Germany and died aged 98 in 1918.

² *Mercury*, 6 October 1939

³ *Mercury*, 29 December 1945.

WHAT IS THAT PUBLICATION ABOUT?

Maurice Appleyard (Member 4093)

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

CRIES FROM THE PAST—The Chronicles of Kate Finnerty and George Evans ...

This A4 book, of 84pp. by Les Shearer was first published in 2015.

Cries from the Past is the story of the Circular Head family of Kate and George Evans, an account so tragic that it is hardly believable. Researched and written by Les Shearer, journalist and former editor of “The Circular Head Chronicle”, it traces the history of his wife Margaret’s great grandparents. It follows Kate and George’s ancestors from their arrival in Tasmania as convicts and sponsored immigrants to the heartbreaking incidents that afflicted their own marriage and the lives of their 11 children.

The daughter of Irish immigrants who separately arrived in Tasmania in the 1850s, Kathleen Finnerty was deserted by husband George around 1910 and left poverty-stricken after giving birth to 11 children. Sadly, she outlived eight of them who died tragically before her own death in 1948. Her eldest son was

lost on the WW1 battlefields of France after being injured at Gallipoli; another was killed in an accident while serving in WW2; a third met his death in a logging disaster while still a young man; and her youngest committed suicide after enduring his own personal tragedies. Most of her daughters, too, lived through extremely sad and difficult circumstances that ended in ruined marriages, animosity, illness and, for some, early deaths.

And then there was George, rediscovered by the author after disappearing from Circular Head during WW1. Uncovered by modern technology and handwriting analysis, George is found to have falsified his identity to bigamously “remarry” and establish a new family in Launceston, growing the Evans lineage in many new and previously unknown directions. ◀



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The Secretary
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- *Chick, Neil; *History of the Chick Family In Australia*. [Q929.2 CHI]
- *Furze, Jack; *The Furze Family in Australia 1994*. [Q929.2 FUR]
- *Hudson, Norma J; *The Leslies of Ravenswood, Invermay & Rocherlea*.
[Q 929.2 LES]
- *Ibbotson, John; *Lighthouses of Australia—Images From the End of an Era*.
[387.1550994 IBB]
- *Moorhouse-Grey, Freda; *We Shall Do Well There—The Story Of William Nichols*
[Q 929.2 NIC]
- *Paton, Shona; *Descendants of James Lowe and Janet Smart Jeffray*. [Q 929.2 JAF]
- *Sargent, John R; *Days Gone By—An Historical Snapshot of Kangaroo Bay, The Port
of Hobart and the Derwent River*. [994.61 SAR]
- *Schaffer, Irene; *James Jordan's Last Journey—Norfolk Island to Norfolk Plains,
1813—3rd edition*. [Q 929.2 JOR]
- *Schaffer, Irene; *James Jordan's Trial—Dublin 1789*. [Q929.2 JOR]
- *Shearer, Les; *Cries From the Past—The Chronicles of Kate Finnerty and George
Evans, Their Ancestors and Their Descendants*. [Q929.2 EVA]
- *Whittle, Meryle; *Mcdougall Family Ties* [Q929.2 MCD]

* Denotes complimentary or donated item

Mersey Branch

ACCESSIONS—Books

- *Reynolds, John; *Launceston - History of an Australian City*
- *Reid, Owen; *The South East*
- TFHS Inc Hobart Branch; *Undertakers of Hobart, Vol. II - Index to Alex Clark & Son,
Funeral Records Part 2 November 1907-December 1920*

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MERSEY Phone: Branch Secretary (03) 6428 6328 Library (03) 6426 2257
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