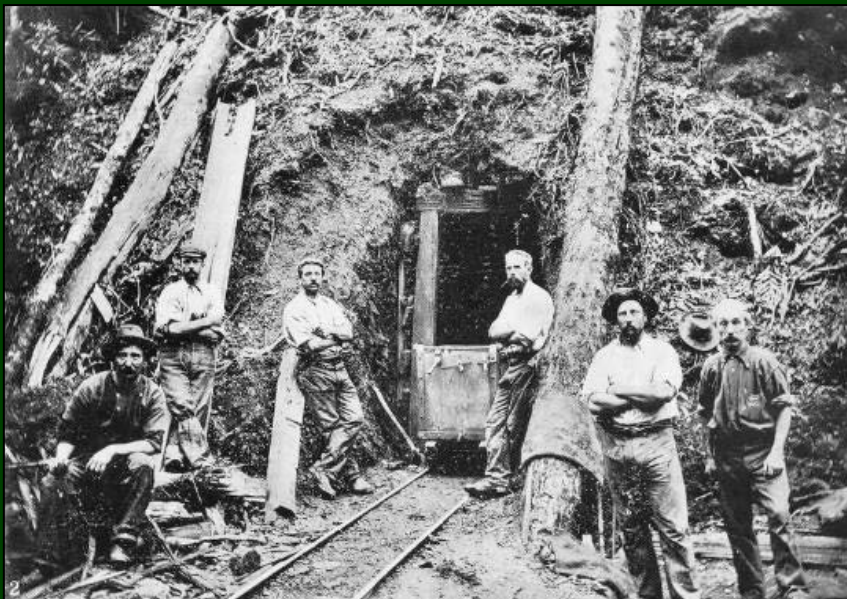


Tasmanian Ancestry



**TASMANIAN FAMILY HISTORY
SOCIETY INC.**

Volume 42 Number 2—September 2021

TASMANIAN FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.

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Tasmanian Ancestry

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

From the Editor

I must thank everyone for the great support in producing this second edition. I have had a steady supply of articles and already have a few lined up for the next issue. Please don't stop sending them in. I am enjoying the variety and interesting topics.

I hope you will enjoy the first of two articles about African, Asian and Creole convicts and their stories in Tasmania. Topsy's doll is such a sad family story. I too have Margarets in my family and having a long line of them makes me think of those women and their lives. Tasmania has many past residents who have made huge impacts on their local communities and, indeed, on the State and two of them are remembered in this issue. The contribution of German immigrants is not forgotten in the story of the Rumffs in Tasmania.

Isobel Williams

Cover: 1907, Burnie Copper Mines property workers at the mouth of the tunnel; Weekly Courier; 8 June 1907; courtesy of Tasmanian Archives

UN-IDENTIFIED DEPOSITS

If you renewed your membership by direct transfer to TFHS Inc. bank account and you have not received a membership renewal receipt and member card please contact Treasurer.

Ross Warren.

treasurer@tasfhs.org

0487 330 009

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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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President's Report 2020/2021

Maurice Appleyard

W elcome to our first 'Annual' Conference for two years.

As you are all aware, last year's AGM was postponed and ultimately cancelled due to the Covid 19 restrictions that applied at the time.

Branches were closed completely, and the affairs of the Society have been managed in a caretaker role by the standing executive officers: President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer with support from Branch executives. Branches have since been able to hold their own A.G.M. meetings and the new office bearers have continued to support the standing executive officers in the running of the Society.

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.

All officers holding appointed positions in the Society also willingly continued in their roles and continued to provide the services we enjoy. With the exception of Rosemary Davidson, our retiring Editor and Lucy Frost, our retiring Lilian Watson judge, they have all made themselves available to continue in their role.

They are: Clint Ayers, Journal Distribution; Lyndal Ayers, Membership Registrar; Leonie Mickleborough, LWFHA Coordinator; Robert Tanner, Web Manager; Beverley Richardson,

Rosemary Davidson and Beryl Dix, Publications Committee; Alison Alexander and Diane Snowden, Lilian Watson Award Judges.

Welcome to Isobel Williams, our new *Tasmanian Ancestry* Editor, Rosemary Davidson, our Journal Editor of many years has retired and hopefully is enjoying the leisure time to devote to her own family history research.

Welcome to Kate Bagnall who is joining our Lilian Watson Award judging panel.

Branches have been slowly returning to normal opening hours whilst still observing spacing limitations. Both Hobart and Launceston branches have reported increased requests from members and the general public for products or assistance. Hobart has reported strong on-line book sales during the last 12 months.

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. IV Index to H.C. Millington Pty Ltd Funeral Records: Part 11 November 1975 to May 1979;

Vol. II Index to Alex Clark & Son Funeral Records: Part 4 January 1931 to December 1943;

Vol. II Index to Alex Clark & Son Funeral Records: Part 5 January 1944 to May 1961.

Auditors Report

2021 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 2021 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 receiving 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

19 May 2021



NEIL WILKINSON
Registered Company Auditor

TASMANIAN FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.
ABN 87 627 274 157

BALANCE SHEET
As at 31 March 2021

	31 Mar 2021	31 Mar 2020
CAPITAL		
Opening Balance	15,347	13,646
Surplus for Year	2,103	1,701
TOTAL	<u>17,450</u>	<u>15,347</u>
THESE FUNDS ARE REPRESENTED BY:-		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash at Bank - Westpac	17,450	15,409
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	<u>17,450</u>	<u>15,409</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Creditor - Other	-	62
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	<u>0</u>	<u>62</u>
WORKING CAPITAL	<u>17,450</u>	<u>15,347</u>
TOTAL WORKING & FIXED CAPITAL	<u>17,450</u>	<u>15,347</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>17,450</u>	<u>15,347</u>

TASMANIAN FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.
ABN 87 627 274 157

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE
For the Year ended 31 March 2021

	31 Mar 2021	31 Mar 2020
INCOME		
Donations	478	380
Collection Branch Membership	9,645	6,695
Collection Branch Donation	652	315
Journal - Advertising/ Sales	220	65
Journal - Subscriptions	1,215	1,395
Membership Subs - Interstate	18,473	15,329
Membership Subs - Branch	4,268	6,915
State Sales - Books, CD's, Fiche	52	365
AGM Registrations	--	40
Interest Received	52	9
TOTAL INCOME	35,055	31,508
LESS EXPENSES INCURRED		
AGM Expenses	40	158
Audit Fees	165	165
Bank Charges	321	407
Executive Travel	--	1,072
Filing Fee	(62)	62
Insurance	4,915	5,383
Journal Postage/ Printing	13,238	14,021
Lilian Watson & Other Awards	243	200
Postage, PO Box, Phone, Internet	2,238	1,055
Printing and Stationery	54	48
Room Hire/ Meetings	--	106
Subscriptions (AFFHO & FFHS)	100	297
Tier Collection Branch Membership	10,740	6,043
Tier Collection Branch Donations	960	790
NET SURPLUS	2,103	1,701

Branch Reports

Burnie

<https://tasfhs.org/burnie.php>

President: Peter Cocker 0427 354 103

Secretary: Sue Hutton

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email: petjud@bigpond.com



Our Branch Library is now opening on Mondays as well as Saturdays. We have decided to open two days a week as some of our members prefer to come during the week rather than on a weekend. Our Monthly Day meetings have now been changed to the last Monday of the month. The Library will not be open for research on meeting days as we have our Committee meetings after lunch on these days. Also, if there is a public Holiday on the Monday the Library will not be open.

Our April meeting was a presentation on Joseph North Cocker who invented a potato digger and took out a patent in 1891. He and his brother, Joseph, farmed their fathers farm at Lower Barrington.

Janine Wood was our guest speaker for the May Meeting. Janine had recently had a book published called *No Ordinary Convict: A Welshman called Rebecca*. A most interesting story and members enjoyed the way she presented her topic including the delivery of a song from the book by her friend's husband. Some of our members bought a copy of the book which was duly signed by the author.

June 28 was the date for our June meeting. We did not have a guest speaker but instead the members were entertained by a webcast about the Foundling Hospital in London that was founded by Thomas Coram in 1739. The children that came into the Hospital were often babies that had been abandoned by their unmarried mothers and when entering the Hospital were baptised with new names. It is no wonder that many researchers hit a brick wall during this period as the connection to any further ancestors does not exist. Perhaps the only way past this may be DNA.

Hobart

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All telephone enquiries to (03) 6245 9351



Hobart Branch held its AGM in April at St Marks Church Hall, Bellerive and it was our first face-to-face meeting for quite a long time. The committee is much the same except that Julie Kapeller has stepped down from her position of Minutes Secretary after many years of dedicated service and a sense of humour. Some time ago and with the financial assistance of the Tasmanian Community Fund we undertook a new project and engaged a commercial company to digitize the *Tasmanian Parliamentary*

Papers 1856 – 1901 and this has now come to fruition and can be viewed online. I can see a few people hopping into this and making new discoveries.

We are now back at our usual meeting place at the Old Orphan School, St Johns Park Precinct, for the monthly meetings and it has been a welcome move. As usual we have a very interesting programme ahead of us as indicated below and hopefully, we will be able to maintain our current meeting plans into the future. If that fails, there is always Zoom.

General Meetings

The speaker at the April meeting – the AGM of the Branch – was Warwick RISBY speaking on the topic on his recently published book *Risby Ancestors from Convict Beginnings*. Because of Covid-19 restrictions the book was launched at a small gathering of relatives, friends and museum staff at the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery in July 2020. It was an entrant in the Lilian Watson Award and was announced as the winner of the Award at the June AGM of the Society.

Warwick is a dedicated researcher of First Fleet convicts and Hobart First Settlers. His interest piqued at an early age when he became interested in photographs displayed in the office at Risby Bros timber business in Hobart. He is descended from two First Fleet convicts: Edward RISBY (born 1755) transported on the *Alexander* for seven years for the theft of three yards of cloth, the property of Edward MOORE; and James MORRISBY, transported on the *Scarborough* for stealing iron bars from a

fence. The book was written for the benefit of 7th and 8th generation descendants with the hope that it will encourage further interest and continued maintenance of family records and research.

Both First Fleeters married Second Fleet women, Edward Risby marrying Ann GIBSON and a daughter of Morrisby, Diana MORRISBY, born on Norfolk Island married Edward Risby's son Thomas in Hobart. This is the line from which Warwick is descended. In VDL James Morrisby was granted land at Humphrey's Rivulet in Tolosa Street Glenorchy.

The talk focused on aspects of Warwick's research that he considered to be highlights of the Risby story, including visiting Uley (Gloustershire) and Norfolk Island. Also included was a display of some family artefacts. Both Edward Risby and James Morrison had made their way from Sydney to Hobart via Norfolk Island. In Uley Edward had been a cottage weaver and the Shepherds mill was known for its Uley blue and indigo cloth.

Being involved in timber trade and the delivery of timber products naturally meant involvement in boats and shipping for both the transport of timber and as a recreation. The Risbys were significant supporters of the Hobart Regatta and very successful participants. The book contains photographs of a large number of family artefacts and paintings including Hobart Regatta silks for sailing and whale boat races. James Risby was heavily involved in the Regatta being treasurer for thirty years. His brother Thomas built boats at

Battery Point and later moved to Melbourne and built the Grace Darling Hotel in Collingwood. Gold and silver medals set in blackwood plates were awarded to Risby Bros at the Tasmanian International Exhibition in 1894 – 5.

The speaker at the May meeting – the first since Covid restrictions – was Brian STACE, speaking on the topic of his book *Coromandelians - South Australian Pioneers of the Coromandel* co-authored with another descendant, William OTHAMS. Leaving London in September 1836 and arriving at Kangaroo Island in 12 January 1837, the *Coromandel* carried 124 adults and 32 children and was the first ship to arrive in South Australian waters just 15 days after the arrival of the Governor's ship. The adults – predominantly young and working-class couples – were free to choose their employer and negotiate their pay. Their passage was paid out of a fund raised by the sale of land in SA to English investors and wealthy settlers who had bought land in an unspecified area of an unfounded 'city' (Adelaide) whose location was unknown.

Brian commenced his presentation by posing questions about the comparative timelines of SA and VDL colonisation starting with sealers in the Bass Strait area (1788); the mapping of the southern coastline by Matthew Flinders (1802); Bowen's first settlement on the Derwent at Risdon Cove (1803) followed by Collin's Sullivans Cove settlement (1804), and Governor Arthur's establishment of the Black Line (1830) all before the South

Australian Act was passed in England (1834). This legislation resulted in a series of colonizing vessels the first of which arrived at Kangaroo Island in July 1836. Around the same time Batman was negotiating land in Victoria for the present-day site of Melbourne (1835) and further south in VDL, Governor Franklin was arriving (early 1837). It was the food production of VDL and the regular shipping of supplies from VDL that would play a significant role in the support and development of the South Australian colony.

The authors set themselves the goal of undertaking a single ship study (like "Convicts Unbound") and including biographies of all passengers on the *Coromandel*. Unlike for convict ships there was no 'definitive' passenger list. Firstly their list had to be compiled from a variety of different sources including Maritime Museum records, the Biographical Index of SA and any other source or list that included a 'Ship's name' column. There had been previous attempts – all perpetuating inconsistencies and inaccuracies – to produce an accurate and complete passenger list. Through the breadth of resources that were used and the painstaking depth of research of the authors', errors in earlier lists were corrected with both deletions and additions.

Brian mentioned several *Coromandel* passengers who came to Tasmania including one who boarded the *Coromandel* as a bookbinder, committed forgery in SA and was sentenced to

transportation to Van Diemen's Land where he remained for the rest of his life. "Convict free" SA exported its worst felons to "convict stained" Van Diemen's Land!

The speaker at the June meeting was Burnie Branch member, Danny Crothers, speaking on the topic *Our families' Hobart*, referring to the arrival, between 1820 and 1920, of his ancestors and those of his wife, Jo, nee Miley. The experiences of their ancestors gave an insight to life in Hobart and surrounds over a century.

The first to arrive was a convict on the *Dromedary* in 1820. He was Henry BROWN, who spent the rest of his life in the Evandale district. Thomas TERRY (*Lady East* 1825) was one who returned to Hobart after a chequered career as a member of the Field Police in Campbell Town. He was assigned to one of Hobart's distinguished citizens, Joseph ALLPORT, and there met and married another convict, Frances CREW (*Lady of the Lake* 1829). Frances' son, George, born in the Female Factory, became George Terry and ran a boot making business in Elizabeth Street, Launceston, in the 1860s, at the same time as Jo's great great grandfather, John HARGRAVES (*John* 1833), was a cobbler in the same street.

The *Calcutta* brought 150 young Irish women to Hobart in 1851. Mary Ann WILLIAMS was snapped up by a Launceston couple and later married George Terry. Margaret CASEY married James HALLY (*Lord Auckland* 1853), a blacksmith, and they raised their family in Pontville. James came from Carrick-on-

Suir, Tipperary, and was probably present at the disturbances caused by the meeting held in that town in 1847 by the Young Irishmen, among whom were Smith O'BRIEN and Thomas MEAGHER, later transported to VDL as political prisoners.

Among Jo's ancestors was George CURRIER, an American whaler, who left his young family, never to return, to join the gold rush to Central Otago in 1861 and turned up back in the USA as a recruit to the Union Navy in 1865. Jo's great grandfather, James MILEY, became captain of the *May Queen* in 1892.

The last of the arrivals came in 1920. Jo's grandparents, Fred and Annie BROUGH, with their two children. Fred became head draftsman for the HEC and a celebrated actor and producer at the Theatre Royal, with Annie also starring in numerous plays. They were founding members of the Hobart Repertory Society. Their son, James Brough DFC, served for five years in Bomber Command and was probably the first Australian to see action in the Second World War.

Future Meetings

Speakers have been arranged for the remainder of 2021 and will be held face-to-face in the Old Sunday School at St John's Park Precinct New Town.

17 August 2021

Dr Richard TUFFIN and Sylvana SZYDZIK *Current archaeological digs and findings at Port Arthur*

21 September 2021

Julian AMOS *The Amos Family ... 200 years in Tasmania – the early years.*

19 October 2021

Jeff SCHNEIDER *The Hobart Synagogue*

16 November 2021

Ruth BINNY *JR Butler First Fleeter*

Launceston

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

President: Helen Stuart 0427 847 000

Secretary: Fran Keegan

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Library: ltntasfh@bigpond.com

All telephone enquiries to 0490 826 863



While attendance numbers at our Branch Library over the past three months have been on the low side, it has been pleasing to see the number of younger people interested in researching their family histories. Visitors in general are surprised to see the variety of resources available and have appreciated the time spent in assisting them with their research. We are always looking for members who might be interested in joining our small band of duty officers who assist visitors in finding resources or sharing their research expertise. Training is, of course, provided.

The AGM was held in April at the Elderly Citizens Club, Invermay. Twenty-five members attended to hear the presentation of reports, elect the office bearers and committee for the upcoming year and hear our guest speaker, Pip Nielson, deliver a very interesting presentation on her experiences as an oral historian and transcriber. Pip provided some useful insights into how, when and why we all should, not only seek out others' stories,

but find ways of telling our own. Afternoon tea completed the afternoon.

In May, a very generous donation allowed the Branch to purchase a new colour photocopier/ printer which will enable us to generate inhouse the larger runs of printing and copying, as well as facilitate the production of our own publications. We are very grateful to the donors who are regular supporters of Launceston Branch.

The acquisition of a mobile phone, dedicated to the Branch, means that the telephone number for enquiries has changed but will be a permanent number. The number is 0490 826 863 and while efforts are made to answer all calls, audio or text messages can be left if necessary. Previously, the enquiries phone number changed with the change of office bearers which has, on occasions, been inconvenient or confusing, with sometimes missed calls.

Our Newsletter Team, Fran Keegan and Jai Paterson, published a newsletter in June. This is distributed by email, with a few copies posted to members. Copies are also available on the website or at the Branch Library. Contributions of articles up to 500 words are always welcome.

A very successful workshop was held in June at the Elderly Citizens Club, Invermay. The topic was *Searching Tasmanian Land Records – Using the LIST* and was presented by John Dent OAM. John's professional background as a surveyor and expertise in researching land records contributed to an extremely informative and instructive presentation. Twenty-eight people attended, a number of whom were non-members who saw the

workshop advertised in the Community Notices of *Examiner* newspaper. Very positive feedback was received over the lavish afternoon tea that followed.

Most members have renewed their membership for the 2021/22 year. What is particularly pleasing is that a few unfinancial members have re-joined this year after a little break. We are always pleased to welcome old members back to the fold! There is a steady trickle of new members as more people catch the family history research 'disease'.

We regularly receive requests for research assistance from within Tasmania, interstate and overseas. Research Officer Robyn Gibson, assisted from time to time by other volunteers at the Branch Library, is always happy to receive requests. The Research Request form, charges (\$20/hr for members, \$25/hr non-members) and other details are on our website.

Please refer to the Branch website for details of upcoming events and publications available.

Mersey Branch

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

Twenty Members of Mersey branch enjoyed a complimentary afternoon T on Saturday 19th June at our library. We took the opportunity to update our members on additions to



the library of new family history books, Parish records, Undertaker records and a reminder that there is a library catalogue as well as knowledgeable people to help with their research. A delicious & plentiful spread capped off the afternoon.

Our volunteers were shown how much they are appreciated by being spoilt just a little with a morning tea at Verona, Devonport. There were twelve of our fifteen volunteers able to attend and they received certificates expressing the branches thanks. Everyone enjoyed the morning by the wood fire on a cold day.

For Family History month in August Mersey branch will have a display in the family history section of the Devonport Library. This year the theme is Weddings. Many of us have beautiful, old wedding photographs. These, including some family's histories, will be a pleasure to show.

U3A classes will commence again September/November. These are always popular as people who are just starting their research, need help, or have hit a brick wall get one on one attention for 1 hour on 3 consecutive Fridays. We usually gain new members from these courses.

Mersey Branch library is still open Fridays only - 10am to 3pm. Contact Secretary Sue-Ellen 6428 6328 or Ros 6491 1141

Huon

<https://tasfhs.org/huon.php>

President: Shirley Fletcher (03) 6264 1546

Secretary: Libby Gillham (03) 6239 6529

PO Box 117 Huonville Tasmania 7109

email: vsbtas@bigpond.com

The Five Margarets

Margaret Cochran 1760-abt 1821

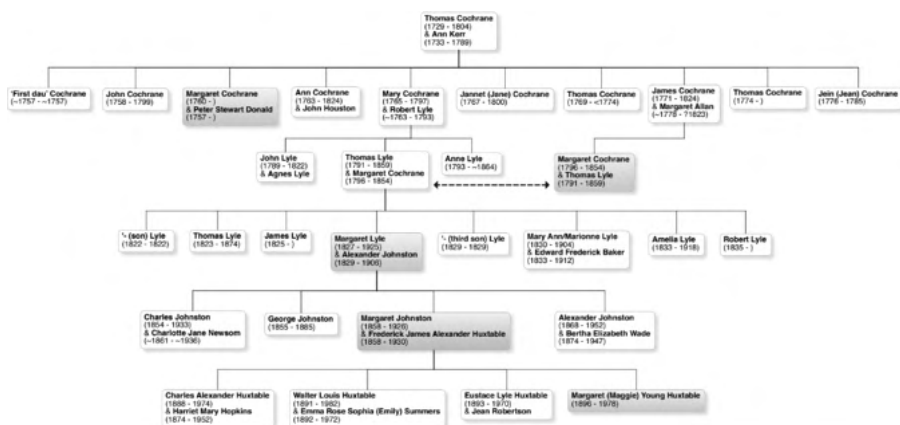
Her niece Margaret Cochran 1796-1854

The latter's daughter Margaret Lyle 1827-1925

And granddaughter Margaret Johnston 1858-1926

And Great granddaughter Margaret Huxtable 1896-1978

Nancy Gibb.



The first Margaret (COCHRAN), who was most likely named after her mother Ann KERR'S mother if the family followed Scottish naming patterns, was born on 19 August 1760 in Paisley and baptised in the Abbey Church two days later. Her mother Ann Kerr carefully recorded her birth in a large family bible which she had "aught" (bought) following her marriage to Thomas Cochran in Paisley on 16 April 1756.

The bible is a large ornate volume with gold-stamped leather spine and cover, not

something a poor family could afford. That plus the fact that Ann was literate points to the Cochrans having been an affluent family. The baptismal records of their children show that until 1771 they were living in the village of Eaglesham to the south of Paisley and Glasgow. Eaglesham flourished during the age of agricultural and industrial improvements, with handloom weaving the main industry until the establishment of a water powered cotton spinning mill in the village in 1791. It seems very likely that Thomas Cochran was involved in the weaving industry.

It is difficult to research back past the early nineteenth century, but when Thomas Cochran died without a will on 27 January 1804, his son James together with three of his sisters applied to the Commissary Court of Paisley for their share of an inheritance which Thomas and Ann had received from John Kerr of Dorchester, Dorset. Discovering these documents was a great breakthrough in our family history. Fortunately, John Kerr had left a large Testamentary (will) containing bequests to various relatives, including “my sister Ann Cochran”. It was dated 1798 in London, and he added a codicil 2 years later. A similar Testament Dative was presented to the Commissary Court at the same time for Thomas and Ann’s daughter Jane who died in 1800, who had also received an inheritance from John Kerr.

Part of the latter named [document] some of [Jane’s] siblings, which enabled positive identifications: “....Made and given up by James Cochran manufacturer in Paisley, Margaret Cochran spouse of Peter STEWART Weaver in Glasgow and Ann Cochran spouse of John HOUSTON weaver in Parkhead. Brother and sisters of the said Defunct”

Margaret the First married weaver Peter Stewart DONALD on 21 March 1780 in Glasgow. There is some dispute among her descendants as to the name of her first daughter. Jane or Jean (interchangeable names in those times) was born 5 March 1780 and there may have been a second

daughter named Janet. Jane/Jean was born in Kilpatrick, Dunbartonshire and married Robert HILLHOUSE by whom she had 5 children, all born in Old Kilpatrick. There are several Margarets among her descendants.



*Margaret (Cochrane) Lyle -
Margaret the Second*

The second Margaret (COCHRANE) was born 10 or 14 November 1796¹ in Paisley to James Cochran 1771–1824, brother of the first Margaret, and his wife who has not been positively identified. Her name was not recorded in either the church baptismal entry or, somewhat curiously, the family bible. Margaret the Second’s birthdate was recorded in the large family bible by her husband as being 10 November.

It is thought that Margaret the Second’s mother was Margaret ALLAN, born about

¹ Scottish OPR Registers Births 573/1 10 150
Paisley

1778 and died 1823. A James Cochrane and Margaret Allan married on 20 August 1796 in Paisley High² and they had a daughter Margaret born on the 14 and baptised in the High Church, Paisley on 17 November 1796.

There were other Jameses and Margarets marrying about the same time and also several other Margaret Cochran(e)s born about the same time so without any entry in the family bible (a significant omission) it is impossible to be certain if Margaret Allan was 'our' Margaret's mother - and indeed she is claimed by several other families on Genealogy websites. It was quite common in those times to 'prove' fertility before marrying so the arrival of a baby soon after a wedding would not have caused much comment.

Margaret the Second married her cousin Dr. Thomas LYLE on 30 May 1821³. Thomas was the son of Margaret the First's sister Mary Cochran(e) 1765-1797 and Robert Lyle 1763-1793.

Thomas and Margaret Lyle had eight children, all recorded in Thomas' neat hand in the bible:

Unnamed male Mar 27 1822 died due to a 'difficult parturition'.

Thomas 5 Nov 1823. Glasgow, Lanark.

James 24 Oct 1825 Glasgow, Lanark. May have emigrated to Australia.

Margaret 14 Oct 1827 in Glasgow. Married Alexander JOHNSTON of

Glasgow 1855. Died 29 Mar 1925 in Sydney, Australia. (Margaret the Third.)

Another male 13 Sept 1829, stillborn.

Mary Ann 24 Dec 1830. Airth, Stirling. Married Edward Frederick BAKER in Launceston, Australia 1861. Died 1904 at her residence Kelvin Grove, Launceston – named after the ballad her father wrote. Amelia 22 May 1833. Airth, Stirling. Robert 10 Aug 1835 Airth, Stirling.

Ten years later the 1841 Census records the family as living in Airth, Stirlingshire, with the last three children born in that County. Dr. Thomas was listed as a Surgeon. However, it was well known that he preferred composing poetry and the study of bryology to that of medicine. He was the author of the well-known song "Kelvin Grove" and a book on Scottish Ballads. He kept up a voluminous correspondence with a leading Bryologist, Mr. William WILSON. All Wilson's letters, bound by Lyle, are in the author's possession; Lyle's letters are in the British Natural History museum.

By 1851 the family has dispersed. Sisters Margaret (the Third) and Amelia were earning their living as Cap makers in Glasgow. Only their brother Thomas was still living with his parents in Airth, possibly working as an assistant to his father. Sister Mary Ann and brothers James and Robert cannot be found in that Census.

² Scottish OPR Registers Marriages 573/1 20 66 Paisley High

³ Scottish OPR Registers Marriages 644/001 0400 0073 Glasgow

Margaret the Second (Margaret Cochran Lyle) died in Glasgow the following year.⁴ According to letters from William Wilson to Lyle:

18 Oct 1853:

(after some bryological correspondence - a new paragraph, a fresh pen)

If you must needs go to Glasgow, I sincerely hope that you will succeed in the attainment of your moderate wishes, and escape from the pestilence that you go to withstand - I shall rejoice if this revolutionary event of your life shall be productive of good to you and your wife -

Then 5 months later on 9 March 1854:

My dear Sir, You have often been in my thoughts and I had fully intended to write to you on the day that I received yours informing me of your loss - it is a relief, I trust, both to yourself and to your departed wife, (who must have suffered much under the protracted and hopeless illness) that she is gone to her rest.

There was an epidemic of typhoid in Glasgow in the 1850s – possibly the pestilence referred to; on the other hand Margaret died “after a protracted and hopeless illness” so perhaps they moved to Glasgow so she could receive the best available medical attention.

Margaret the Second’s father James Cochran, said to have been a Merchant of High Street Paisley, was the registered owner of a large lair, No. 395, in

Castlehead Church of Scotland, Paisley Church cemetery (also known as the “West Relief Burying Ground”). But he was NOT buried there. He died on 17 June 1824 (entry in Cochrane bible) and on 13 April 1826 the ownership of the lair was transferred to Thomas Lyle, his son-in-law. James’ wife Margaret (? Allan) was not buried there either. But Dr. Thomas Lyle, his sister Anne and his wife Margaret the Second (Cochrane) - “Mrs. Thomas Lyle” - were all buried in this lair.

There was a cholera epidemic in Paisley in 1823. Perhaps James and his wife died from that and were buried in a mass grave with other victims? There is a large one in Castlehead churchyard.

The Third Margaret (Lyle) was born on 14 October 1827 in Glasgow⁵, the daughter of Dr. Thomas Lyle 1791-1859 and Margaret Cochran 1796-1852. Despite being the daughter of a Surgeon and later married to a Librarian, she was apparently illiterate, signing the birth register of one of her children with a cross.

Margaret the Third was working as a cap maker in Glasgow when she met the young Alexander Johnston, a carpenter and precentor (choir leader). The Johnstons were solid Glasgow stock, painters or shoemakers; Alexander’s brothers were a shoemaker, tailor, Sheriff’s officer and later gas fitter, carver and gilder, and Congregational Minister respectively. His lone sister married a Free Church minister.

⁴ Cochrane Family bible. Entered by Dr. Thomas Lyle, her husband.

⁵ Scottish OPR Registers Births 644/1 320 330

The marriage was in Glasgow on 25 March 1853⁶.



Margaret (Lyle) Johnston - Margaret the Third

Late the following year their first child, Charles, was born in Airth⁷. It is not known if any of Margaret's siblings were still there - her mother had died in Glasgow early the previous year and her father was by then living and working in Glasgow. Did Airth hold happy childhood memories?

When baby Charles was less than two years old and Margaret was pregnant with her second, the family embarked for

Tasmania on board the *Storm Cloud*, a new clipper sloop of 907 tons, built 1854 in Glasgow. Alexander and Margaret's voyage was sponsored by St. Andrew's Immigration Society; they came to Australia under engagement to St. Andrew's Presbyterian church in Launceston, where Alexander took up a position as precentor or a choir leader. A cabinetmaker by trade, he also carried out his own cabinetmaking business in Brisbane St. Launceston.

They arrived on 20 August 1855, the passage from Glasgow to Launceston having taken 71 days⁸. It must have been a difficult time for Margaret, heavily pregnant on a long sailing voyage, and doubtless still grieving the loss of her mother in February 1854 just before they emigrated. But she was made of tough Scottish stock and lived to be 98.

A few weeks after their arrival Margaret gave birth to their second son George on 15 Sept 1855⁹. George was to lose his life tragically to the sea some 32 years later.

Their third child and only daughter Margaret was born on 20 July 1858 in Launceston. Her birth was registered by her mother Margaret on 6 December - perhaps Alexander was too busy?¹⁰

In about 1860 Alexander became the Librarian at the Launceston Mechanics Institute, as Libraries were frequently termed in those days. He remained at the

⁶ Scottish OPR Registers Marriages 644/1 440 289 Glasgow

⁷ Papers of Louis Huxtable. This was at the time Scotland switched over

from OPRs to Statutory Registers.

⁸ Log of Logs Vol.2

⁹ Tasmanian Births Reg 853 Launceston.

¹⁰ Tasmanian Births Reg 1241 Launceston

Library for 45 years and “died in harness” aged 77 in 1906. When he died the Library authorised his portrait which now hangs in the Launceston Library¹¹.

Ten years after the birth of their daughter, Alexander and Margaret’s third son and fourth child Alexander was born on 28 June 1868¹². This Alexander was to lead a very full and adventurous life as a young man - an artist, journalist, traveller and author. He was the author’s grandfather.

Alexander and Margaret lived all their lives in the same house, at the corner of Mayne and Gunn Streets, Invermay, Launceston. However, it is likely Margaret at least visited her eldest son Charles and his family in Sydney. The photo of her would have been taken in the 1890s judging from the style of dress.

Margaret (Lyle) Johnston was to live for another 19 years, dying in Sydney on 29 March 1925 aged 98. Cause of death was given as uraemia. It is thought that she moved to Sydney to live close by her son Charles and his family. She was buried on 30 March in the Presbyterian section of Sydney’s Northern Suburbs Cemetery. Her daughter Margaret (the Fourth Margaret in this story) who married Frederick HUXTABLE died a year later, in 1926, and was also buried at Gore Hill in the same grave as her husband.



Margaret (Johnston) Huxtable and husband on their wedding day - Margaret the Fourth

The Fourth Margaret (JOHNSTON), the daughter of Margaret the Third, was born on 20 July 1858 in Launceston, Tasmania¹³. Her birth was registered 5 months later by her mother, who surprisingly signed with a cross.

She grew up in Launceston with her three brothers - the last born 10 years younger than her and probably quite a surprise to his parents. They were a close-knit family as evidenced by the letters her seaman brother George wrote from his various ships overseas, always sending love to his siblings Charley, Maggie and Sandy.

¹¹ Launceston Library - which sent me a wonderful photograph.

¹² Tasmanian Births Reg 266 Launceston

¹³ Tasmanian Births Reg 1241 Launceston.

George was to die at sea just a year before Margaret married Frederick James Alexander Huxtable in Launceston at the home of her father on 7 December 1886¹⁴. The photo of them is said to have been taken on their wedding day.

Margaret and Frederick spent their early married life in Georgetown, Launceston. A photo of the house taken in the early 1900s shows them with their last-born, the Fifth Margaret (“Maggie”).

They had four children:

Charles Alexander Huxtable 1888–1974
Walter Louis Huxtable 1891–1982
Eustace Lyle Huxtable 1893–1970
Margaret Young Huxtable 1896–1978

Sometime in the 1920s the family moved to Sydney, together with Grandmother Margaret (the Third) perhaps to be closer to Grandmother Margaret’s older brother Charles. They lived at Chatswood, where Grandmother Margaret died in 1925. Margaret the Fourth died in 1926 and her husband Frederick in 1930. Their daughter Maggie - the Fifth Margaret - lived with them.

An interesting letter written by George Alexander Johnston, son of Maggie’s elder brother Charles,¹⁵ said that the Huxtables “fared very badly” in the Great Depression of the 1930s and for a time rented a house in Lane Cove. He also mentioned the building of a “Longueville Cottage” commenced in 1904 - a timber

cottage in Kenneth Street and that “Uncle Alex” was already living in Wharf Road.

The 74 Kenneth Street house was indeed the address of Charles and Charlotte Johnston, from at least 1930 to 1933 when Charles died; Charlotte was at a different address in Alpha St in early 1936 and died later that year. Alexander and his wife lived at Wharf Road Longueville all their lives.

Margaret (Johnston) Huxtable died on 22 June 1926 at Chatswood, aged 67, and is buried at Gore Hill in the same grave as her husband, and next to her mother Margaret the Third. The cause of her death is not known.

The Fifth Margaret (Huxtable), daughter of the Fourth Margaret and Granddaughter of the Third, was born in Georgetown, Launceston on 26 October 1896. Always known as Maggie, she never married but from her photos looks like a lovely lively person, described by a nephew¹⁶ as a diminutive roly-poly lady with a mass of fine silver hair, a round face and sensible shoes with buckles.

Maggie moved to Sydney with her parents and brothers when she was in her 20s. They lived for a time in Chatswood, during the Depression. Eventually they bought a house at 9 Wharf Road Longueville which they named “Glenalvon”, right next door to Margaret the Fourth’s brother Alexander Johnston.

¹⁴ Tasmania Civil Registration 600

¹⁵ In the possession of Charles’ descendants

¹⁶ pers.comm. Bret Wymer

Maggie's father FJA Huxtable died in 1930; the electoral roll updated some time earlier that year showed him as a 'telegraphist' while Maggie's (whose name was always spelled that way in the electoral rolls) occupation was the usual 'home duties'. With them at the time was Mary Ritchie Huxtable, widow of FJAH's brother Ernest Octavius Huxtable. The following year only Maggie, who had inherited the property, was living at No.9; it is believed she took in boarders for a time. The property was sold some time before 1936.

Maggie lived to be 81, dying in the upper North Sydney suburb of Gordon on 20 August 1978.



Margaret "Maggie" Huxtable - Margaret the Fifth

How To Get The Most Out Of familysearch.org

Part 2: The Catalog

Rebecca Read (Member 5432)

The Genealogical Society of Utah, the predecessor of FamilySearch, was founded in 1894 and began microfilming records of genealogical value in 1938. For nearly eighty years, patrons could order copies of microfilms and microfiche to view in their local family history centres. Patrons identified the films and fiche that interested them by consulting the Family History Library Catalog, now known as the FamilySearch Catalog.

As the Internet became more widespread, FamilySearch decided to convert its preservation and access strategy to digital. In 1998 it began the process of converting its collection of 2.4 million microfilms into digital images while preserving the master copies of the original microfilms in its Granite Mountain Records Vault. In 1999 it launched FamilySearch.org and visitors began accessing the digital images online. In August 2017, with the task of converting microfilms into digital images almost complete, microfilm technology becoming obsolete, and the Internet accessible worldwide, FamilySearch stopped distributing microfilms to family history centres.

The FamilySearch Catalog lists everything in the FamilySearch collection: the microfilms, microfiche, and books,

whether digitised and/or indexed or not, as well as historical records FamilySearch camera crews have photographed digitally since microfilming ceased.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, FamilySearch had 300 specialised digital camera crews each capturing 3,000-5,000 images of records per day in various countries, including Australia. Camera crews will resume their work when it is safe to do so. FamilySearch can digitise records much faster than indexers can index them. Therefore, only about 25 per cent of FamilySearch records have been indexed and are searchable via the various search forms, another 50 per cent or so are available in unindexed ('Image-only') collections, and the remaining 25 per cent are available only through the Catalog. To leave no stone unturned, consulting the Catalog is a must.

Searching the Catalog and understanding the icons

To access the Catalog, sign in to FamilySearch.org with your username and password, click **Search**, then click **Catalog** in the drop-down menu. There are eight individual search options. You can use one or a combination of search types to narrow your search.

1. A Surname search finds Catalog entries that contain the name you enter.
2. A Title search finds titles that contain the words you enter, regardless of the order in which you enter them.
3. If you choose an Author search, enter both a first and last name.
4. A Subject search finds subjects that contain the words you enter.
5. A Keyword search finds notes, series, subjects, statements of responsibility, authors, and titles containing the keywords you enter.
6. A Call Number search finds books with that call number.
7. If you choose a Film/Fiche Number search, do not enter any leading zeros.

The default search type is **Place**.

1. As you type in the **Place** field, a list of possible matches appears. Click the one that matches the place that interests you. Click **Search**.
2. In the search results, click a category to view a list of titles. Click a title.
3. When you scroll past the publication information to the **Film/Digital Notes** section, you see five columns with headings. Read through the content under **Notes** to find which film/s might contain the relevant record/s. Make a note of the Film and Item number/s.
4. A magnifying glass icon on the far right indicates that the microfilm has been at least partially indexed. You can click on the magnifying glass to access and search the index. Index results are not necessarily linked to the related images.
5. A camera icon and a DGS number indicates that the film has been digitised and you may browse the images. Click on the camera icon and a page of thumbnail images appears. You might need to use the scroll wheel on your mouse to scroll down to the relevant Item (section). Item number images are usually white on black. Record images are usually the reverse.
6. Double click on a thumbnail to view the full-size image.
7. Use the image counter or arrows in the upper left to navigate backwards or forwards through the digitised microfilm.
8. A camera icon with a key over it indicates that the record custodian has imposed viewing restrictions, such as only allowing access to the digitised images in a family history centre.
9. A film reel icon indicates that the film has not been digitised and can currently only be viewed on microfilm in the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. If you wish, you can contact FamilySearch to request the digitisation of up to 5 films. For instructions on how to do this, Click on the question mark in the upper right of the screen and type in 'How do I request that a microfilm be digitized?'. Note, however, that a contractual, data privacy or other restriction might be preventing access to a microfilm. Note also that if you see a DGS number in the Catalog entry but no camera icon, the content is digitised, but a contractual, data privacy or other restriction prevents FamilySearch from making the images available online.

From Find My Past and Ancestry to the FamilySearch Catalog

When your searches on either Find My Past or Ancestry yield results without record images, it is often possible to find the record images via the FamilySearch Catalog. An Ancestry search that yields a 'Text-only collection' result, for example, often includes an FHL film number. FHL stands for Family History Library and indicates that the original data comes from FamilySearch. Enter the film number in a **Film/Fiche Number** search in the FamilySearch Catalog to find the digitised microfilm image/s.

A search for the will or probate record of Moses MOSSOP who died at St Bees, Cumberland, England in 1800, yields a result in both the Find My Past collection 'Lancashire Wills & Probate 1457-1858' and the Ancestry collection 'Web: UK, Death Duty Registers Index, 1796-1811'. Neither collection provides images of the will or probate record. The key details needed for finding the microfilm containing images of the record in the FamilySearch Catalog are the names of the deanery and archdeaconry, and the probate date. While the date is available in both results, only the Find My Past result names the deanery and archdeaconry. The deanery is Copeland, the archdeaconry is Richmond, and the probate year is 1801.

Type the words 'Copeland', 'deanery', and either 'probate' or 'wills' into a Keyword search in the Catalog. In the results, select 'Probate records for the Archdeaconry of Richmond Consistory Court, 1466-1860'. There are 664 microfilm reels in the collection, and they are listed across seven pages. Select 'Copeland Deanery Wills, admons. &

inventories, J-O 1801-1810' on the fifth page. The associated film number is 99191 and the images must be viewed in a family history centre. The alternative is to use the Document ordering link on Find My Past and pay Lancashire County Council £10 for an image copy of the document. The link on Ancestry leads to The National Archives (UK) which only provides an image of a page containing the relevant entry in the death duty register.

England Quarter Sessions, Tasmania CSO1, and Scotland Civil Registration records in the Catalog

To find England Quarter Sessions records in the FS Catalog, search by 'England, [county name]', then select the category 'Court Records'. For example, to find the depositions (witness statements) against Samuel JONES, John BAKER and Benjamin RYLAND in the case Leonie Mickleborough mentioned in her article in the March 2021 edition of *Tasmanian Ancestry*, p. 231, search by **England Warwickshire**, choose the category **Court records**, then select 'Depositions, 1824-1850 in the Warwickshire Quarter Sessions', and click on the camera icon to the right of 'Depositions 1831'. View images 29-31.

Many convict entries in the Tasmanian Names Index now have CSO1 references attached to them. The CSO1 series was microfilmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah between 1975 and 1980, and FamilySearch has digitised the images. To find them in the Catalog, do a Place search for **Australia, Tasmania**, select the category **Australia, Tasmania – Public Records**, scroll down and click on 'Correspondence, 1821-1841', look for the relevant set of file numbers, and click

on the associated camera icon. John BAKER, mentioned above, arrived in Van Diemen's Land on the *Larkins* in 1831. Linked to his convict page (and the pages of every other *Larkins* convict) in the Tasmanian Names Index is the reference CSO1/1/554 file 12172. This file is on film 992763, images 68-101.

Civil registration records for Scotland can also be found in the FamilySearch Catalog, but can only be viewed in a family history centre. The easiest way to know which microfilm to look at is to first find the index entry on Scotland's People. The death index entry for Susan GIRVAN in 1861 has the reference number 685/3 925. The first part of the reference number (685/3) relates to the parish and

registration district of Canongate in Midlothian. To find the record in the FamilySearch Catalog, search by **Scotland**, click on the category **Civil Registration**, click on the collection title 'Registers of births, marriage, and deaths, 1855-1875, 1881, 1891, and general index, 1855-1956', scroll down to the Film/Digital Notes section, go to page 43, and look for 'Midlothian county deaths, parish nos. 685/3-685/5 1861'. The film number is 224440.

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*comScore, 2011

Frederick Henry Haines (1879-1951)

Part 1

Champion Builder and Timber Merchant
on the North-West Coast of Tasmania
Peter Roberts-Thomson

Frederick Henry HAINES, colloquially known to all as Harry or less commonly Cocky Haines, developed a thriving timber, building and contracting business on the North-West Tasmanian Coast during the turbulent years of World War 1, the Depression and World War 2. During this period F H Haines also played a prominent role in the civic and sporting activities in the rapidly expanding township of Devonport and raised his family. This is his life's story.

Early Life

Frederick Henry Haines (from hence forth he will be called Harry Haines) was born in Hobart on the 20th December 1879.¹ He was the eldest of five children of Frederick Edmund Haines and his wife Isabella, nee CHEVERTON. F E Haines (1866-1913) was a baker and auctioneer who hailed from the village of Melksham in Wiltshire, United Kingdom and immigrated to Tasmania in 1876. Three years later he married Isabella Cheverton (1858-1933) in Hobart. Isabella was of Tasmanian birth, the daughter of the well-known

Hobart builder and contractor William Henry Cheverton (1834-1911) and his wife Emma, nee KEEN (1831-1895). W H Cheverton had arrived in Tasmania on the *Honduras* in 1854 as an unassisted immigrant from Newport, the capital of the Isle of Wight.



Harry as a young boy

¹ Details of the early life of Harry Haines were obtained in multiple interviews with his son, Henry Haines, between 2000-2018.

Harry Haines was a sickly child with severe bronchial asthma². It stunted his subsequent growth and sapped his strength and continued episodically throughout his life. During his childhood he also caught typhoid fever that required a prolonged period of recovery and rehabilitation in the Derwent Valley. Harry's schooling was severely interrupted by his asthmatic attacks forcing him to finish schooling at the young age of 13 years. He then sought work in the building firm of his maternal grandfather W H Cheverton who was a prominent and successful Hobart wholesale and retail timber merchant, contractor and builder and proprietor of the Derwent Saw and Mould Mill in East Hobart. It was with this firm that Harry gained his first insight into the business world and acquired many of the skills necessary for success in the building trade.

It was towards the end of the 19th century that Harry's father decided to return to Melksham taking his wife and five children with him. Whilst in the UK Harry was indeed fortunate in finding work as a salesman for Jay's Clothier for men, a well known and respected company situated on the corner of Oxford and Regent Street in Central London. Harry received his board (his sleeping quarters were on the top floor of this premises) and his keep but no wage. Family records suggest that this arrangement may have eventuated because

of the common membership of his father and that of the proprietor of Jays in the Masonic Lodge. There is no record of how Harry, a young lad from colonial Hobart responded to his work experience in the midst of the world's largest city but one could speculate that it might have been quite stimulating for one at the start of his business career.

After a year in Melksham and failing to establish himself in productive work, Henry's father decided to return with his family to Tasmania. Back in Hobart Harry returned to his former employment with his grandfather's building and contracting firm and in 1898 he was sent to the North-West Coast as paymaster for the construction team working on the Ulverstone to Burnie railway, a contract held by his Grandfather in partnership with Mr D FREEMAN.

Subsequent career as builder, contractor and hardware supplier

Harry was so impressed with the North-West Coast that, with his grandfather's blessing, he returned to commence his own building and contracting firm initially in partnership with his friend, Mr Robert STABB³. Their joint start-up capital was £50. Their first contract was the erection of a spectators' stand at the East Devonport Oval with the contract price being £40.⁴ A number of smaller jobs followed, but being young and unknown

² Libraries Tasmania NS6569/1/2; *History of the firm of F H Haines Pty Ltd, Devonport*, written by Henry Haines about 1960.

³ *Examiner* 21 April 1981

⁴ *Weekly Courier* 12 June 1919;

on the coast, they found difficulty in getting established. However, in 1906 they successfully secured a substantial contract for the construction of the AMP building in Devonport, and from then on, they did not look back.⁵

The partnership with Mr Stabb lasted only a short time after the AMP build, when it was dissolved. Harry then carried on by himself as an independent builder and contractor, his initial work premises being situated on Steele Street, Devonport. In 1908 he shifted across the road to a two storeyed building that consisted of a joinery workshop upstairs and a machine shop downstairs. The first machines used were electrically driven bandsaws, a circular saw and a buzzer. During the subsequent years, Harry contracted for work on the coast between Smithton and Deloraine and a good many substantial builds were successfully completed, further establishing his reputation⁵. These buildings consisted of scores of residential villas and smaller homes (particularly in Devonport and Burnie). Larger buildings included the Devonport Baptist Church (1908), the Spreyton Baptist Church (1909), The Stanley Catholic Church (1910), the Stanley Court House, (1910), Penguin State School and residence (1910), Burnie Railway Station (1912), the McGaw Pier at Burnie (an expensive build done in partnership with Harry's grandfather and worth more than £25,000), the Club Hotel in Burnie (built

for Mr ALEXANDER at a final figure of £7000), extensions to the Devon Hospital at a cost of £3100, the Penguin Hotel (1912), the Burnie Institute Offices (1913, costing £1000), and the construction of limestone bins to hold 6000 tons on the new Devonport wharf (1915, with a total cost approaching £10,000)⁶. This last structure built from hardwood created an imposing structure on the Devonport skyline. The limestone was obtained from Melrose and railed to the wharf where it was then shipped to the BHP smelters in New South Wales. Other builds at this time also included a private hospital in Devonport (1917), shop and six offices in Burnie (1917) and the Devonport High School (1920, a large job worth a five-figure sum).



Lime Bins on the Devonport Wharf

In 1917 Harry brought out Mr Fred PLUMMER's timber business in Best Street, Devonport and moved his work

⁵ Advocate 12 November 1920; Faye Gardam, Haines – an important Devonport name. Devonport Times, vol 9, No 8, 2001, p.15.

⁶ The North Western Advocate and the Emu Bay Times, 6 June 1912.

premises to that site⁷. He built a new joinery workshop and three years later a new showroom and new offices were erected. It was also in that 1920 year that Harry first entered the builders' hardware supply business. About 1925 the first four-sider planing machine was installed in the Best Street yards, and in 1927 the timber - seasoning yard was opened in nearby Griffiths Street.

In 1930 Harry formed his business into a Proprietary Company, with himself and Chloris Haines, his wife, as Directors, the only other shareholders being Messrs ORME, WINTER, HILL, COLLINS and DOCKING - key members of his staff to whom he gave shares.³ When Messrs Docking and Collins retired from the business, their shares were taken over by his employees Messrs JENNINGS and ARNOTT.

About 1939 the Company decided to get out of building and to concentrate entirely on builders' supplies. By this time the business had been built up to the extent that it was supplying the greater percentage of the requirements of all builders in the district and it was felt that it would be a better policy not to compete with its customers, At this stage the Company was the only timber business of any consequence in Devonport, and it purchased the entire output of most of the small sawmills in the district. As a consequence of this new direction an expanded business centre and new

showroom was erected on the Best Street frontage in 1940 and an innovative building advisory service was commenced for its customers.³ At the conclusion of the War, building boomed on the North-West Coast, and local sales became the major part of the Company's business with interstate exports reduced to token quantities.



Showroom of F H Haines Pty Ltd, erected in 1940

The growth of the business can be gauged from the following sales figures:³

1935	£22,500
1940	£61,000
1945	£86,000
1951	£225,000

⁷ The North Western Advocate and the Emu Bay Times, 18 January 1917

Key personnel of the Company over the years were:³

Mr Alf LAYCOCK Building Foreman 1906-1931

Mr E Docking, Joinery Foreman, 1906-1933

Mr R B Winter, Storeman, 1922-1933

Mr H E HILL, Secretary, 1920-1949

Mr K H Arnott, Joinery / Foreman, 1923-1951

Mr K Jennings, Manager/Foreman, 1927-1951

Mr C B Orme, Joiner/Planing/Kilns, 1911-1951

Mr H NEVILLE, Storeman, 1948-1951

Mr J VOLLPRECHT, Manager of Maintenance

In November 1951, Harry, aged 70 years old and in poor health, (he died two weeks later) quietly finalized the sale of his company to Kauri Timber Co⁸. At that time Kauri Timber Co, was possibly the largest timber company in Australia and had already acquired several timber companies in the Smithton area. The reputed price paid for F H Haines Pty Ltd was approximately £500,000 (approximately \$25,000,000 in today's currency).³ A condition of sale was that the Haines Business would continue as an independent member of the Kauri Group and that Harry's son Henry, aged 28 years, would continue on as manager of the Devonport firm. Thus, F H Haines Pty Ltd continued business without change until June 1956, when Henry Haines resigned

as manager and moved to Deloraine to commence a farming career.

Kauri Timber Co. over the next decade slowly sold off all their Tasmanian interests and in 1967 the Haines business was brought by the Devonport timber and hardware concern, LUCK Bros., who established a new firm called Luck and Haines. This firm itself was taken over by GUNNS' timber firm in 1999. With this takeover the Haines family name in the building and hardware industry had come to an end.⁵

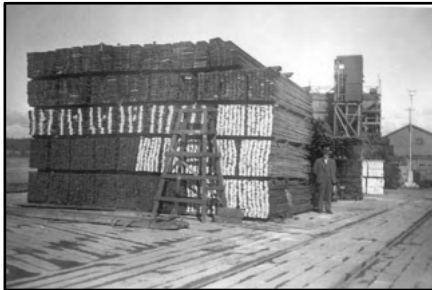
Timber merchant

Harry was also a most successful timber merchant, a business that closely complimented his interests in the building and hardware trade. He first entered into sawmilling in 1916 when he opened a sawmill at Mole Creek, about 12 miles west of Deloraine⁹. This mill, which had a large capacity, was situated in the foothills of the picturesque Western Tiers, a few miles south-west of the Mole Creek township, to the east of Baldcock's limestone caves. Harry's timber lease comprised some 1000 acres, and the area embraced some of the best hardwood in the State, notably stands of the white top eucalypt tree (*Eucalyptus delegatensis*) or the famed "Tasmanian Oak", with a proportion of blackwoods in places. From the mill a wooden tramline led up into the forests and there the selected trees were felled, sawn into convenient lengths, loaded onto the rail trucks and conveyed to face the breaking down vertical saws at

⁸ The Sydney Morning Herald 19 December 1952

⁹ *Advocate* 8 September 1926

the mill. These saws were driven by a portable steam engine. After being sawn as desired into various sizes, the timber was carted to the Mole Creek Railway Station where, at times, up to a million feet of timber was stacked and seasoned awaiting transport to the Haines Devonport works or the wharf. After the necessary seasoning, much of the timber was then exported to Melbourne, later Sydney and from 1938 to Western Australia. That timber not exported was cut and turned in the Devonport Best Street works into dressed weatherboards, dressed flooring boards, lining timber for inside work, moulding in all shapes and designs, window sashes, doors, mantlepieces and all other requirements of the builder.



Harry Haines standing alongside stacks of hardwood on Devonport Wharf

The Mole Creek Mill employed up to 20 men and was in continuous operation until 1928. Each of these men had specific work duties; for example the bushmen who

felled the trees in the forest, or drove the bullock/horse teams taking the logs to the mill; the motor saw man cleaning up the logs and, at the mill, the men manning the skid, removing the bark and cutting the flitches; the benchmen feeding the flitch into the vertical saw and “tailing out” men, one returning the flitch to the benchmen after a board had been cut off, so it could again be offered to the saw, the other “tailer out” man lowering the separated boards on to the docker skids¹⁰. The boards or planks were then trimmed with a docker saw and placed on a trolley and hauled away by another mill hand to be racked. Finally, the important mill engineer who stocked up and manned the boiler that drove the steam engine.

In 1920 Harry purchased Ted ALEXANDER’s Pencil Pine sawmill, adjacent to the Pencil Pine Creek and now the site of the Cradle Mountain Tourist Lodge.³ Harry was seeking a source of the unique King Billy Pine, a soft, straight grained timber particularly useful in the production of internal house fittings and window sashes. At the mill one of the employees was the Gustav WEINDORFER of Waldheim, Cradle Mountain, who remembers this time “covered with the mud of virgin forest, I drove four of the strongest draught horses one behind the other, hauling logs with heavy chains. No reins are needed, words are sufficient”.¹¹ However, as there was

¹⁰ Nic Haygarth, *A View to Cradle: A history of Tasmania’s Forth River High Country*, 1998, pp. 157-158.

¹¹ Haygarth, *A View to Cradle*, p157.

uncertainty as to who actually owned the magnificent King Billy trees on the lease and failing to come to terms with the adjacent landowner, together with a deteriorating economic environment Harry choose to close the mill in April 1921. Furthermore, he had recently opened another sawmill on his Best Street site where access to labour was more favourable and logs could be obtained from alternate sites, particularly the Barrington forests. This Best Street mill cut logs for the next two years and another small mill was also established at Barrington.



Hauling out King Billy Pines with a bullock team at Pencil Pine Mill (this and the subsequent photo courtesy of Archives Office of Tasmania, LPIC27-1-5 photo no7 and No 18)

In 1924 Harry constructed another sawmill at Round Hill having acquired 2,200 acres of heavily forested freehold land and an additional Crown Land lease adjacent to the Round Hill gold, silver and

lead mine. The Round Hill Mill was situated in the Oliver territory containing the Forth River Valley at the South-East end of Mount Claude and approximately 10 miles distance from Sheffield.⁹ A 12 horsepower steam engine was installed to run the sawmill. Access to the mill used the same serpentine rough road that ran from Lorinna to the mine and timber could be transported from the mill to the Roland Rail Station and hence to the market¹². The Round Hill mill was initially worked for only a short period and then with the economic downturn, closed for eight years. Following the ending of the Depression the mill was reopened in 1932 and after an initial slow start the output dramatically increased and continued until 1945. During this period the site of the mill was shifted once and rebuilt following a devastating fire. In 1945 the Round Hill mill was transferred into Sheffield and logs were trucked to that site from the Round Hill and Moina forests.³

Again in 1924 Harry, in partnership with Mr O U CAMERON, established a sawmill at Burns Creek, 30 miles East-Northeast of Launceston.⁹ This mill was known as the Mt Barrow Mill and was built adjacent to some of the finest hardwood forests in Tasmania, on the southern slopes of Mount Barrow. Haines and Cameron held 3,600 acres of Crown land leases and they can lay claim as having pioneered the timber industry in this area. They equipped a state of the art

¹² *Advocate* 14 January 1924



saw with a 22-horsepower steam engine and cut millions of feet of timber with the finished product being carted by truck to Launceston. As Pencil Pine sawmill about 1920 (at the end of the accessible road)

As with the Mole Creek Mill timber tramlines were laid into the forest above the mill and the logs hauled out. Between 20 and 30 men were employed at the Mount Barrow concern and a second mill being established later. The Mount Barrow partnership was dissolved in 1928 when a syndicate of seven men took on a contract to cut and rack for 5/6^d per hundred super feet.³ During the height of the Depression in 1930, the Mill closed for six months but reopened to cut and rack on a contract for 2/6^d per hundred super feet. In 1931 a planer was installed at the Mount Barrow Mill to dress case ends for Messrs Clements and Marshall Pty Ltd, and later it went to machined weather boards and flooring. Most of the output from Mount Barrow was shipped via Launceston to interstate clients in Melbourne, Sydney and Adelaide and the "Barrow Board" was well known and respected on the mainland

at that time.³ Harry sold his Mount Barrow interests in 1934 to the Hobart timber firm of CHESTERMAN and Company Pty Ltd¹³. At the time of sale, the timber from the Mount Barrow district was regarded as the best quality available in Tasmania and the Chesterman firm were keen to access large supplies of this timber. The purchase price, including a quantity of racked timber, was reputed to be about £20,000. Following the sale, the Chesterman firm continued to operate the Mount Barrow mills for many more years.

During the period from 1927 through to the end of the Depression in the early 1930s the Tasmanian timber business languished initially due the importation of the cheap softwood Oregon and cheap hardwoods, particularly from Borneo and Manchuria, and more latterly due to the Depression and its aftermath¹⁴. Many sawmills closed especially during the Depression years of 1928-1932. Harry proceeded with caution with his timber interests over this time, being ever careful not to overcapitalise but aware of his responsibilities to his employees and their families. In 1927, as a representative of the North-West Sawmillers' Association he lobbied strongly for the Tariff Board to apply increased duties on imported timber and gave evidence to that effect in a deputation in Melbourne in 1927¹⁵. He also presented a cogent argument for reforestation in Tasmania to ensure a sustaining timber industry.

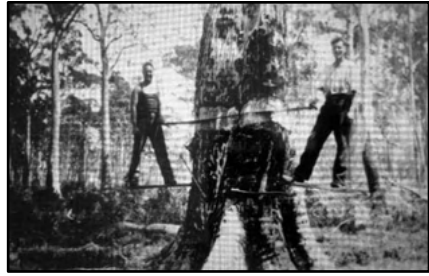
¹³ *The Mercury* 3 August 1934

¹⁴ *The Mercury* 30 May 1930.

¹⁵ *The Mercury* 2 February 1927

In 1933 The Tasmanian Forests and Milling Company went into liquidation and Harry, seeing a business opportunity, bought their plant. Two years later F H Haines Pty Ltd commenced kiln-drying operations using Sturtevant Kilns that had been obtained in the sale. These kilns were erected at Devonport and their availability added further to the efficiency and capacity of the Haines timber business.³ In the same year (1933) sawmills were established at Daisy Dell on the Cradle Road 10 miles south of Moina on the former site of Bob QUAILE's property on Bulls Plain, and also at Montumana near Sisters Creek. This later mill was taken over by Mr H C LOCKETT after a short period, but the Daisy Dell Mill flourished and was still in operation when the Haines Company was sold in 1951. The Daisy Dell mill at full capacity employed about 20 men, the majority being married, and it was not long before a small settlement became established in the vicinity of the mill that included a shop and Post Office¹⁶. The workers and their families were housed in four roomed newly milled timber huts, whilst nearer to the mill were single-roomed "bachelor" quarters. The mill itself was powered by a single bricked-in steam engine.

Tasmanian historian, Nic HAYGARTH continues the description of Daisy Dell by transcribing the recollection of axeman Reg BRAMICH "The mill was served by



Felling white top at Daisy Dell with cross-cut saw, (photo-Wes Goninon)

a horse-drawn, timber-railed tramway¹⁷. Above the mill the line climbed Poyntons Hill, past the bullock sheds and out towards the Blackboy and a place called the Wire Paddock. The logs would come down from Poyntons Hill to the mill without horsepower, controlled only by a brake. The horses hauled the empty trucks back up to the loading bay at a mossy area called the Featherbeds". Reg's first job for Haines was to establish a branch tramline that joined up above Poyntons Hill at the Featherbeds. It went out to Myrtle Creek and almost as far as his grandparents' farm at Emu Plain. At that time sawmill hands worked a 48-hour week, that is five days of nine hours plus three hours on Saturday: "I'd work Saturday morning and ride a bike home and go the football Saturday and pack a bit of tucker up Sunday and ride back up to be there Monday morning". Logging of old-growth hardwood forests formed part of the economic recovery following the Great Depression. The main timber in the high country was what

¹⁶ Haygarth, A View to Cradle, p. 159.

¹⁷ Reg Bramish, *Recollections of bush life*, May 2020,

<https://mountainstories.net.au/blog/recollections-of-bush-life-reg-bramich/>.

bushmen called whitetop (*Eucalyptus delegatensis*) — not as valuable as browntop (*E. obliqua*) or stringybark (*E. regnans*). Most of Haines' whitetop was seasoned on site and used for flooring, weatherboards, joinery and furniture. From the beginning of World War II, some was shipped to Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide. At a time when the State Government wanted to protect its investment in the rail system, timber could be trucked no further than the nearest railway station. Seasoned timber from the sawmill was railed out from Roland Station to Devonport”.

In 1940 the Haines Company purchased 10,242 acres of freehold land together with 7,126 acres of Government lease together with all cattle running on it from the estate of the former cattle baron J T Field for a figure in excess of £6,000. This consolidated the Crown Land leases and

private property that the Company had been purchasing in the Daisy Dell area for some time and ensured no one else could start milling in that area.

Mills were also established at Moina and Branchs Creek in 1940, but neither of these mills operated for very long. In 1941 another mill was established at Middlesex, but again, economic conditions of the time made it impractical to keep the mill operating.³

In 1941 the Devon Mill was established on Hillcrest Road on the western outskirts of Devonport. In the first instance this was built as a case and scantling mill, but as access to labour became more difficult to find in the bush, the Devon Mill was gradually expanded and provisioned so it soon became the principal mill for the Company with extensive seasoning yards.

To be continued in the next issue.

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Topsy's Doll

Lyn Hookway (Member 726)

When I was a child (in the 1950s) my mother had a doll which she kept on a shelf in her bedroom. She was obviously a special doll, (I was never allowed to play with her), but I just took her for granted as part of the furniture. Every now and then Mum, who was a great knitter, would knit her a new set of clothes, so she had quite an extensive wardrobe. I don't think she had a name; she was just "The Doll".

The years went by, Mum passed away, and "The Doll" became relegated to the spare room. About 10 years ago I thought maybe I should do something with her; Dad was getting older and not very interested. I said to my uncle, Mum's brother, "Do you know anything about this doll of Mum's?" He replied, "Yes, she belonged to Auntie Topsy who drowned in the 1929 floods."

Topsy was Jane WELLS, born in 1921, the youngest daughter in a family of eleven of Joseph Frederick Wells and Lena Clare McMAHON of Mount Hicks.

At Easter 1929, as a special treat, Jane accompanied her elder brother William to stay with the LYNCH family at West Gawler (near Ulverstone). William Wells was engaged to Mary Louise Lynch. Her parents, Frank and Eva Lynch had 12 children. The three eldest, Kathleen, Jess and Jim, were married by this time and lived elsewhere.

The weather had been fine and dry for most of the summer, and rainfall was below average on the North West Coast of Tasmania. A monsoonal depression developed in Queensland, and on the 3 April, rain extended to Tasmania, with 132 mm falling at Mathinna in the north east and 85 mm at Ulverstone. On the 4 April 337 mm was recorded at Mathinna and 151 mm at Ulverstone.



There was to be a dance held in Ulverstone on the night of Thursday 4 April. In the afternoon Mrs Lynch and her son Bill went into town to help set up the hall for the festivities. William Wells was to drive the rest of the young people to the dance. They set off in the evening, and when they



arrived at the bridge over the West Gawler River, they saw that the water was almost up to the bridge, but it looked safe to cross. However, when they reached the other side, the bridge footings collapsed, and the car was swept into the river. The only survivor was George Lynch, aged 15, who was found the next day by rescuers in the willow trees.

Drowned were: Mary Lynch aged 19, Nellie Lynch aged 17, Jack Lynch aged 16, Allan Lynch aged 11, Ernest Lynch aged 9, Dorothy Lynch aged 7, William Wells aged 27 and Jane (Topsy) Wells aged 8. They are buried in the Ulverstone General Cemetery.

Poor Mr and Mrs Lynch, who lost half their family in one fell swoop. And on that night, Mrs Lynch was on one side of the river and her husband on the other, with the bridge down between them. To attend the funeral the Wells family had to travel from Wynyard to Ulverstone by boat as many bridges had been destroyed by the floods.

After Topsy's death my mother Glennis, who was the baby daughter of Topsy's eldest sister, Ellen Cicely Wells, and Ellis John BUGG, inherited her doll.

So "The Doll" suddenly became very significant. She now lives with me and is coming up to 100 years old. She is a celluloid doll, not of great monetary value, and has had an internal organ transplant (she is held together with elastic and rubber bands), so she sits up nice and straight again. She hasn't had any new clothes for a while, but she still has several outfits that Mum knitted for her.

Now I am 72 and will soon have to decide what to do with her. Do I donate her to a museum? Or try to keep her in the family? I haven't yet found a family member who is truly interested, but hopefully one may turn up soon.



The floods in northern Tasmania in April 1929 have been well documented in newspaper reports and other writings. An excellent, well researched report about the tragedy at Gawler was written by Dr Tony Large, and published in Chapter 2 of his book "Ulverstone – Sunshine and Storm" (published 2004 - ISBN 0-646-43231-1).

Finding Susette – the Arrival of the Rumpff family in Australia

Michael Rumpff (Member 8125)

Determining how your family arrived in Australia is an important task for any family historian. The key person in my story is Susette Elizabeth RUMPF (b. 1829), who in the early 1850s arrived in Australia.

Our German family has been previously researched, but there were still gaps in the story. The name traces back to Butzbach in 1420, using a variety of names starting with Rom, then Romp and Rompf, but mainly Rumpf. Butzbach is situated 35km. north of Frankfurt am Main. My task was to make the Australian connection.

My story starts with Georg Carl RUMPF, my third great grandfather. He was born in Butzbach on 24 October 1751, and he moved to Giessen and then to Frankfurt am Main,

where his death is recorded on 30 October 1817. He was a stocking weaver and merchant. His second son, my second great grandfather, was Johann Ludwig Andreas Rumpff, who started life as Rumpf. When Johann married Eva Catherina FLEISCHMANN (1797 – 1840) on 17 August 1816 at St. Bartholomew's Cathedral in Frankfurt am Main,¹ he emerged as a Rumpff, and that has been the spelling ever since. He was



Ludwig Becker, by F. Schoenfeld and J. M. Ferguson, 1850s

born in Offenbach on 30 November 1783 and died in Bockenheim on 21 March 1855. He was a military man, who in 1816 was Captain of the Board of Ordinance in the Frankfurt military. This was in the immediate post-Napoleonic era, when Frankfurt was re-establishing its army. He and Eva had fourteen children, and at least

¹ Archives, Frankfurt am Main: Nachlaßakte des Ludwig Andreas Rumpff 1855, Nachlaßakten 1855/311 Stadtarchiv, Frankfurt am Main (Estate

record of Ludwig Andreas Rumpff 1855, Estate records 1855/311)

five of the children left Germany, two went to live in England, and three made the long journey to Australia. The eldest son, Carl Franz Ludwig Rumpff (b. 1822) became Privy Councilor of Police in Frankfurt am Main and was assassinated by radicals on 13 January 1885, an event that was reported around the world.²

One important document we have from the Frankfurt archives was recorded in April 1855 following the death of Johann. It is a court document disclosing a meeting regarding his estate, and who might be eligible to inherit, as he had died intestate.³ It lists all the living children and their whereabouts. We discover that Susette Elizabeth Rumpff had been in Australia for three years, but was expected home shortly, and that my great grandfather, George Carl Anton Rumpff, had recently left for Australia.

Details of her arrival now needed to be established. After a search in Trove for all early records of “Rumpff” and other variations, I found that a Miss Rumph had arrived on the *Hannah*, in Launceston, Tasmania, on 10 March 1851.⁴ I was to discover many times over that the skill of the early reporters and typesetters was not all that one would hope. From the Frankfurt document, I also had to find a

departure, and on 12 September 1855 on the *Kent*, out of Melbourne, we find Mrs. Rumpff, and two children! The link to both notices was made when I detected another common name in both notices, and that name was GARDNER.⁵

William Atkinson Gardner (b. 1815) was a Mancunian, son of the extremely wealthy Robert Gardner (1780-1866). W. A. Gardner, at his father’s suggestion, was dispatched to Van Diemen’s Land to manage family property. To this end, he leased the 480 ton *Hannah*, which set sail from Liverpool on 4 November 1850.⁶ It was quite impressive to lease the whole ship just to transport the family! However, Gardner was a very generous man, and on this near-empty ship, he brought at his own expense twelve seamstresses to Launceston to assist with the critical shortage of servants.⁷ Gardner was married and had two daughters. He was also a Germanophile. In 1848 he had travelled to Frankfurt am Main, where he met and befriended Ludwig BECKER, and Becker also travelled with Gardner to Australia on the *Hannah*. And we have the arrival of Miss “Rumph”

At this point perhaps a reminder of who Ludwig Becker was. There are many

² *The Times* (London) Tuesday June 30 1885; p.5; Issue 31486. A German Murder Trial.

³ Archives, Frankfurt am Main: Traueintrag vom 17.08.1816, Heiratsregister 1816/162 Stadtarchiv, Frankfurt am Main (Wedding entry dated 17.08.1816, marriage register 1816/162)

⁴ *Launceston Examiner* (Tasmania) Wednesday 12 March 1851 p.2 Shipping Intelligence. Rumph, (sic) W.Gardiner (sic) and Mrs Becker (sic) arrival on *Hannah* in Launceston,

⁵ *The Argus* (Melbourne) Thursday 13 September 1855 p.4 Shipping Intelligence. Departure of the *Kent*, 1855 with Mrs Gardener (sic), Mrs Rumpff (sic) and two children

⁶ *The Times* (London) Friday November 8 1850; p.5; Issue 20641. “A Voyage Around the World”

⁷ *Launceston Examiner* (Tasmania) Wednesday 12 March 1851 p.3 Gardner brings twelve female servants to Launceston

biographies available, and he is probably better known in Australia than England, or even his native Germany, as the naturalist on the Burke and Wills Expedition.

Ludwig Philipp Heinrich Becker was born 5 September 1808 at Offenbach am Main, and he died 29 April 1861 at the Koorliatto Waterhole on the Bulloo River in Queensland with three fellow explorers. His father, Ernst Friedrich Becker (born 11 February 1780 in Darmstadt) was previously a lotto director, but in 1821, became Auditor for the Archduke of HESSE-DARMSTADT. His wife, Amöne Eleanore Charlotte WEBER, Ludwig's mother, died in 1819. Ernst then married Anna Christiane Weber, a younger sister of Amöne. Ernst Becker died in 1826, but I am certain that he would have been acquainted with Johann Ludwig Andreas Rumpff, who as stated earlier was Captain of The Board of Ordinance. This would have meant regular meetings between Rumpff and the Auditor, Becker. My argument is based on a belief that both families were also acquainted socially, probably because of the above professional relationship.

The one thing that I have discovered in my research is that none of Becker's biographers recognized that there was another German person on board the *Hannah*. Many of these biographies offer the argument that he fled Germany after

the events of 1848, having been involved in the liberal revolutionary movement. Because of my belief in a family friendship I am led to believe that he left rather than fled. I don't believe that Captain Rumpff would countenance traitors and deserters. The Rumpff family has a history of conservatism, patriotism, and loyalty. The revolutionary era of 1848 in Germany meant that many just chose to leave, and that included Susette and four of her siblings.

Which brings me back to Susette. I have discovered that she was the governess to the two Gardner children, and it seems she had a prominent position in the household. She certainly wasn't one of the twelve seamstresses. There was a Bachelors' Ball shortly after their arrival in Launceston⁸, and Susette is noted as attending with the Gardners. Becker is also noted as a guest, but separately. The Gardners made trips to Melbourne and Sydney^{9,10} and she accompanied them on these trips.

The question remains, how did she gain employment? Why would a wealthy Englishman employ a young German girl as Governess to his two daughters? I believe she was recommended by Ludwig Becker. In any case, Susette must have had a formidable education to be trusted at the age of twenty-one with the care and education of two young English girls.

⁸ *The Cornwall Chronicle* (Launceston) Saturday 19 July 1851 p.452 The Bachelors Ball, Launceston

⁹ *Hobarton Guardian, or, True Friend of Tasmania* (Hobart) Saturday 7 August 1852 p.2

Shipping Intelligence. Gardners and children and Miss Rumph (sic) travel to Melbourne

¹⁰ *Sydney Morning Herald* (Sydney) Thursday 1 September 1853 Shipping Intelligence. Mr & Mrs Gardner and governess

When Becker became frustrated with the mail service between Australia and Germany, he told his friend, J J KAUP, that he should forward mail to him via A Rumpff Esq., 11 Queens St., Cheapside, London. Becker's biographers have not made the link between Susette Rumpff and her older brother, (Theodore) August Alexander Rumpff (1827 - 1907). He had established a warehouse in London, initially trading as WEINTRAUD, Rumpff & Co.

Becker stayed a short while in Launceston, before travelling to Hobart, and then to Melbourne. His biographers (both TIPPING and DARRAGH) do state that he was very much enamored with life in the colonies. Susette stayed with the Gardners.

After Becker's departure, Gardner was busy establishing himself as a man of the colony. He brought with him on the *Hannah* many new cultivation tools from England and demonstrated them at the Launceston Agricultural Show¹¹. There was much gushing in the local newspapers, particularly *The Cornwall Chronicle*. Unfortunately for everyone, William Atkinson Gardner died at his home in Newnham, Tasmania, on 22 June 1855. The cause of death was from inhalation of chloroform, and it was

regrettably a lingering death, but not a suicide¹². He had recently been elected as Member for the County of Cornwall in the Tasmanian Parliament¹³.

After Gardner's death, his widow determined to return to England, and we know that Mrs. Gardner, Susette, and two children boarded the *Kent* in Melbourne, departing for London, and arriving there on 26 November 1855. This accounts for the departure of "Mrs. Rumpff and two children" Of course, the *Kent* was a much larger ship than the *Hannah* and it is noteworthy that in its hold were 232 packages containing 131,978 troy ounces of gold¹⁴. That is about 4,000 kilograms, which at today's price is valued at over \$200,000,000!

With Susette's departure, my search turned to my great grandfather, Carl. The court document stated that he had left for Australia in December 1854. I was finally able to discover Carl Rumpff's arrival in Launceston from his (Tasmanian) naturalisation papers¹⁵. He arrived aboard the *Fingal* on 26 February 1855, which was out of London. He and Susette would have enjoyed six months together in Launceston before her return to England. I suggest that both Susette and Ludwig Becker were responsible for recommending to Carl that he emigrate to

¹¹ *The Cornwall Chronicle* (Launceston) Wednesday 2 April 1851 p.204 Horticultural Society's Show, March 26 1851

¹² *The Hobart Mercury* (Tasmania) Monday 25 June 1855 p.2 Local News. Death of William Atkinson Gardner

¹³ *Launceston Examiner* (Tasmania) Thursday 22 March 1855 p.2 Cornwall Election. W A Gardner elected

¹⁴ *The Argus* (Melbourne) Thursday 13 September 1855 p.4 Shipping Intelligence. Cargo of the *Kent*. Record gold transport to England

¹⁵ Tasmanian Archives: Naturalisation Carl Rumpff CSD4-9 B54 27 January 1864

Australia and would have given the same advice to the younger brother, Justus Jacob Rumpff (b. 1834), who arrived in Melbourne on the *Evening Star*, out of London on 17 January 1856¹⁶.

When Carl arrived in Australia, his occupation was listed as lithographer. Interestingly, this is the same early training as Ludwig Becker. He went into partnership with one Abraham MOSES retailing papers, paints and tobacco products - all the sundry items that might interest the locals. Advertising in the local papers indicates the supplier of their goods was Weintraud, Rumpff & Co. of London¹⁷. Carl probably visited his brother, August, in London before departing for Australia to establish a shop for these items.

I find it interesting that both Carl and Justus found Launceston a suitable base. I suspect it is because of recommendations from Susette, and Ludwig Becker. My great grandfather Carl initially set up business there, and only left when the shop burnt down. Newspaper reports indicate that it was entirely accidental¹⁸. The partnership was dissolved, and Carl eventually spent the rest of his life in Bald Hills (later named Seaton) in Gippsland,

Victoria. Justus initially lived and worked in Melbourne before marrying into a Tasmanian family (the STEPHENSONS) and living in Launceston. Unfortunately, many of his children died young, and in tragic circumstances. In business affairs, Justus suffered many tough experiences as a liquidator before taking his own life on 31 August 1894¹⁹. The two brothers do not appear to have seen each other frequently. There are only a few examples of travel across Bass Strait, either way, which is a little strange as they were the only members of the family in the Antipodes. My father's recollection of his grandfather, Carl, was of a man who sat in his own corner and did not have much to say. Justus published a notice in the Launceston press noting the assassination of his older brother (Carl Franz Ludwig) in Frankfurt am Main on 13 January 1885, but Carl did not²¹. That may have been because Seaton, in Gippsland, is very isolated.

Meanwhile the focus of my story, Susette returned to England without mishap, but also without employment. It appears that Robert Gardner took over raising his two grand-daughters and saw to their education. On 16 February 1858 Susette

¹⁶ PROV: Fiche 105 Month Jan. Origin SWI Page 2 Port B Ship *Evening Star* Year 1856 Name Rumpff, Justus (sic) Arrival, Justus Jacob Rumpff

¹⁷ *Launceston Examiner* (Tasmania) Thursday 16 June 1859 p.1 Carl Rumpff (& Moses) use the warehouse of Weintraud, Rumpff & Co. in London

¹⁸ *The Cornwall Chronicle* (Launceston) Saturday 1 Feb 1862 p.5 Town Talk and Table Chat. Fire at Frankfort House.

¹⁹ Tasmanian Archives: Inquest 10418 SC 195-1-70 Justus Jacob Rumpff

²⁰ *Launceston Examiner* (Tasmania) Saturday 1 September 1894 p.7 Distressing Suicide

²¹ *Launceston Examiner* (Tasmania) Thursday 26 February 1885 p.1 Family Notices Funeral notice placed by J. J. Rumpff for his brother, Ludwig Rumpff

married George RYDILL at All Saints Anglican Church, Dewsbury, Yorkshire.

George Rydill (1830 – 1907) was an entrepreneur. His occupation in 1858 was as an auctioneer, but in 1864 he claimed a patent:

1453. GEORGE RYDILL, of Dewsbury, in the County of York, for an invention for - "improvements in treating mixed fabric, rags containing animal and vegetable fibre and known in the trade as linsey skirtings, shallies, frize, serge, extract wool, shoddies and waste, to destroy the cotton and obtain a yellow color, and give a milling or felting property to extract rages and extract material"²²

Dewsbury became an important town for the production of shoddy, the name given to inferior or lower quality cloth produced by recycling woolen and other materials. George was initially successful at this business, but later, in one of those “fillers” that newspapers around the world use, the following message appeared:

Great change of fortune, - Said at one time to have made £500 a week, there has just died at Dewsbury Workhouse a man, named George Rydill, aged 77. When fortune failed him, he declared: "I will either be a millionaire or die in the workhouse"²³

Susette and George had seven children together. Their children were born between 1858 and 1869 and three died young. From the British census records, they are living together as a family in 1871, but then in 1881, Susette is recorded as head of the house in Grove Street, Dewsbury, although she does describe herself as “Auctioneer’s wife”. George is the sole occupier of 16 Commercial Street, Sheffield, with an occupation of “Wool extractor” – the production of shoddy. However, in 1891, Susette is living at 26 Princess Street, Barnsley, with daughters Rosa and Lily. Susette states herself to be a widow, which she is not. I suspect deserted wives quite often made this claim, perhaps out of shame. In a letter to Australia, Susette’s sister, Clementine, describes Susette’s situation as “poor” which I take to mean both financially and in terms of sorrow.

Thus, we have the story of my great grandaunt who was the first Rumpff in Australia. She died on 20 April 1898 at 26 Princess Street, Barnsley, Yorkshire. She was unusual in that she returned to England in an era when most regarded the trip to Australia as a one-way voyage. This story records her interesting life, and in so doing contributes to our knowledge of the life of Ludwig Becker.

²² *The Textile Colourist* (Great Britain) 1876 (from *Google Books*) p.184

²³ *The Colonist*, Volume XLIX, Issue 11983 (Nelson, New Zealand) 9 July 1907 p.4 Advertisements col.6

HENRY BUTLER DOWIE – From Parkhurst Boy and Convict to Pillar of Society Part 1

Tony Dell (Member 8110)
(Born 7 July 1822, Lambeth, Middlesex, England;
Died 13 August 1889, Evandale, Tasmania, Australia)



query Henry Butler Dowie Photo from brooch-locket in the possession of Beverly Esther Dell (nee Dowie) when she died. (photo taken by Burrows & Co, Photographers, Brisbane Street, Launceston who operated between 1885-1888)

Henry was born on 7 July 1822, Lambeth, Surrey, England, according to his annotation of his birthday in his wife, Sarah Ann DOWIE (nee BRYAN)'s, Birthday Book dated

1875.¹ This date is confirmed by the entry in the Dowie Family Bible held in Launceston by my cousin Andrew Dowie and of which I have a photograph.

¹ Birthday Book of Mrs (Sarah Ann) Dowie (nee Bryan) presented to her on 25 Feb? 1875 and noted in what appears, from his signature on his Will dated 1 July 1889, to be Henry's own

writing. The Birthday Book is in the possession of Anthony Robert Dell, Maternal Great Grandson.

He was baptised on 25 August 1822, Parish of St Mary, Lambeth, Surrey, England. The baptism registration shows his father as John Alexander Dowie, Haberdasher, and his mother as Mary living at Durham Place, Lambeth². Records show that between 1820-1824 John Alexander and Mary Dowie and their family lived at 2 Durham Place, Lambeth.³

Closer searching of historic records, via Ancestry.com, show no John Alexander Dowie in the records until 11 April 1811, when a son of that name is born to John Andrew Dowie (1778-1837) and Mary Dowie (nee Pounds) (1781-1861). There is also no record of a marriage of a John Alexander to a Mary in the Lambeth area (or any other in England) at the relevant time.

However, John Andrew and Mary's second child, Frances Mary Dowie, was born on 26 October 1802⁴ and married Thomas Butler on 28 April 1822 at Lambeth St Mary, Surrey, England,⁵ just before Henry Butler Dowie was born on 22 July 1822 in Lambeth, Surrey, England. Henry was Baptised at Lambeth St Mary on 25 August 1822 as shown above. It would seem to me that it is highly likely that Frances Mary Dowie and Thomas BUTLER were Henry Butler Dowie's biological parents and he was bought up by his grandparents in order to

assist Frances and Thomas to get a start in life together. If my assumption is correct, Henry had eight siblings, four brothers and four sisters who all survived to adulthood.

This equivocal start to life and upbringing could well explain his later travails. This is mere speculation and there are no means to determine whether it is what happened. The fact remains that there is no record of his supposed father. The name may have been borrowed from John Andrew and Mary's fifth son, John Alexander Dowie (1811–1889), who couldn't have been the father as he would only have been about 10 years old at the time of Henry's conception!

*[An interesting sidelight is that a similar situation would seem to have arisen in relation to Henry's "sister" Isabella Maria Dowie (1829–1896). Her baptism registration dated 27 May 1829 discloses the same parents as Henry, the same occupation (Haberdasher) and the same address (Durham Place)⁶. John Alexander Dowie (1811–1889) would, in this instance, be old enough to be the father. He, however, married Lucy Elizabeth Rouse in 1839 and there is no record of any marriage to a Mary or anyone else during the relevant period, so he may have fathered Isabella out of wedlock and she, as speculated in relation to Henry, may

² Baptism Register, Parish of St Mary, Surrey, England, page 76, No.561.

³ Surrey, England, Jury-Qualified Freeholders and Copyholders, 1696-1824 for John Andrew Dowie (www.ancestry.com)

⁴ Baptism Register, St George the Martyr, Southwark, London, England (England, Select

Births and Christenings, 1538-1975, www.ancestry.com)

⁵ Marriage Register, St Mary, Lambeth, 28 April 1822,

⁶ London, England, Church of England, Births and Baptisms, 1813-1917, St Mary, Lambeth, no. 186, 27 May 1829 (www.ancestry.com)

have been taken in by John Andrew and Mary as their own child.

Isabella married William Plank KESTERTON on 23 September 1848 and the marriage registration lists John Andrew Dowie as her father⁷, strengthening that speculation. At the time of her conception, John Andrew would have been 61 years old and capable of fathering a child. His wife Mary at 57 would have been well past childbearing age, making it unlikely that they, jointly, were her biological parents.]

Nothing is known of Henry's early life, other than the uncertainty of his parentage, until 13 January 1838, when he was committed to appear at the Central Criminal Court to answer a charge of larceny. He was then aged 15 years and the court recorded that he had been employed as a Clerk.

On 18 June 1838, Henry was convicted of larceny at the Central Criminal Court (Old Bailey), London. He was convicted of "... feloniously breaking and entering the dwelling- house of William MOODY, on the 27 May at the Inner Temple and stealing therein 19 spoons, value £7/10 Shillings; 1 eye-glass value 10 Shillings; and 1 pair of sugar tongs, value 2 Shillings; to which he pleaded GUILTY.

⁷ London, England, Church of England, Marriages and Banns, 1754-1932, St Mary, Lambeth, no. 295, 23 September 1848 (www.ancestry.com)

⁸ *Old Bailey Proceedings Online* (www.oldbaileyonline.org) (12/12/2008), 18 June 1838 trial of Henry Butler Dowie (t18380618-1486)

Aged 15 he was sentenced to be transported for Ten years".⁸

He was originally received on the Prison Hulk *York*, moored in Portsmouth Harbour, as an interim holding arrangement on 21 July 1838, and then transferred to Parkhurst Prison on the Isle of Wight on 26 December 1838. He was one of the original 102 juvenile offenders received at Parkhurst when the institution was officially opened on that date.⁹

In 1842, his Gaoler's Report noted that his conduct had been good, that he was single and could both read and write. Henry Butler Dowie was discharged from Parkhurst Prison on 31 May 1842 on condition that he embark for transportation to New Zealand.¹⁰

On 31 May 1842, Henry embarked on the *St George*, (Master, Captain SUGHRUE), at the Isle of Wight as a free immigrant, under no restraint other than being forbidden to return to England until free by servitude (ie until his original 10 year sentence had expired), bound for Auckland, New Zealand via Portsmouth (3 June 1842) and Rio.¹¹

On 24 October 1842 the *St George* arrived in Auckland.¹²

⁹ Parkhurst Prison Register, UK National Archives, HO24/15, p.1

¹⁰ *ibid*

¹¹ Parkhurst Boys - *St George* 1842, www.convictcentral.com

¹² *ibid* and *New Zealand Gazette*, 2 November 1842, page 315, which states that the "*St George*" had arrived, ruling out the 24 November arrival alternative noted in the previous reference.

NEW ZEALAND

On 11 March 1843 Henry is noted by the Guardian of Boys (David ROUGH, the Immigrant Agent in Auckland, who had assumed guardianship for the transportees, reporting generally on the engagement of the Parkhurst Boys) as being apprenticed to J P DE MOULIN, Surveyor, for 3 years and to receive board, lodging, clothing, to be paid £5 each year and £8 in the third year.¹³

Rough's subsequent "Return for the half year ending 30 June 1843 of free immigrants from Parkhurst" confirmed that Henry continued to behave himself :

Name: Henry B. Dowie
Where situated: Bay of Islands
Occupation: Surveyor
Remarks: Very steady¹⁴

This steadiness was not to last. On 2 September 1844, Henry was convicted of stealing from the dwelling house of J P DUMOULIN (*De Moulin*), his master, on the 18th August, "... a cash box containing 13 sovereigns, £10/13s in silver, £65 in £5 Debentures and £17 in £1 Debentures, making in all £105/13s."¹⁵ On the next day, the Chief Justice of the New Zealand

Supreme Court sentenced Henry to seven years transportation, "... beyond the seas, to such a place as his Excellency the Governor shall appoint for the term of seven years."¹⁶

Henry departed Auckland on 8 October 1844, on board the 105 ton schooner, *John Pirie* (H SIMPSON, master) along with 3 other male convicts and 20 steerage passengers plus cargo for Hobart, Van Diemen's Land. Henry arrived in Hobart on 8 November 1844.¹⁷

VAN DIEMAN'S LAND

Convict Records note that on 18 November 1844, Henry was graded as a Class 3 prisoner (number 393), placed on 15 months' probation and assigned to the Broadmarsh Works Gang.¹⁸

On 9 February 1846, Henry was assigned to H HARRISON, *Merton Vale*, west of Campbell Town. He is noted as remaining there until 8 December 1846.¹⁹

Until 26 June 1848, when Henry was granted a Ticket of Leave by the Comptroller General's Office of the Convict Department in Hobart²⁰, there is no official record I can discover, to date,

¹³ *Internal Affairs, Series I*, Archives New Zealand, 43/274

¹⁴ *Internal Affairs, Series I*, Archives New Zealand, 44/871

¹⁵ *The Auckland Chronicle and New Zealand Colonist*, 29 August 1844, page 3, Auckland, New Zealand (Papers Past, Archives New Zealand)

¹⁶ *The Daily Southern Cross* Newspaper, Volume 2, Issue 73, 7 September 1844, page 4, Auckland, New Zealand; and *The Auckland Chronicle and New Zealand Colonist*, 5 September 1844, page

3, Auckland, New Zealand (Papers Past, Archives New Zealand)

¹⁷ *The Shipping Gazette and Sydney General Trade List* (NSW: 1844-1860), Saturday 23 November 1844, page 235 (www.trove.anl.gov.au)

¹⁸ Convict Records con37-1-2 (Archives Office, Tasmania)

¹⁹ *ibid*

²⁰ *Colonial Times* (Hobart, Tasmania: 1828-1857), Friday 30 June, page 2 (www.trove.nla.gov.au)

of his whereabouts in what was then still Van Diemen's Land.

On 14 December 1848, Henry was directed to apply for a Conditional Pardon in 6 months from that date.²¹ I can find no evidence of a Conditional Pardon having been issued to him.

I am strongly inclined to the view expressed by Tony Cocks in his 2010 biography of Henry Butler Dowie²² (one of a series he did on the group sent to New Zealand, known as the 'Parkhurst Boys') that Henry's unserved years of his original Parkhurst sentence were added to his seven year sentence handed down in New Zealand which would see him in the VDL prison system until about 1855.

LAUNCESTON

I have no information about Henry's whereabouts from the time he was given his Ticket of Leave in June 1848 until 1850, but he was probably in Launceston.

On 25 April 1850, Henry's first son, Henry Deniston Dowie was born, most probably in Launceston, Tasmania.²³

Henry was given permission to marry Barbara ANGUS²⁴ (daughter of convict Deniston Angus) on 14 October 1850. The permission printed in the *Hobart Town*

Gazettes of 15, 22 and 29 October 1850 indicate that he was a Ticket of Leave convict and had not, at that time, sought or been granted a Conditional Pardon, so was still in the Convict system.

I have gone through all the Convict Department lists of Conditional Pardons and expiry of sentences in the *Hobart Town Gazette* from 29 October 1850 to 9 January 1855 and Henry Butler Dowie does not figure in any of them. However, in the *Gazette* of 9 January 1855 he is present on a list of jurors for Launceston²⁵ which would, prima facie, indicate he was no longer in the convict system.

His 7 year sentence handed down in New Zealand on 2 September 1844 meant that he should have been free due to expiry of his sentence in September 1851. However, he may have had the remainder of his 10 year sentence from England commencing 1838 hanging over his head. This would have meant that, potentially, he would not be free of the Convict system until June 1855. To see whether this was the case, I have perused the *Hobart Town Gazettes* for June and July of 1855 and Henry Butler Dowie is not listed in the Convict Department sentence expiry lists.

²¹ Convict Records, op cit

²² Tony Cocks, DOWIE, Henry Butler; A biography, Hampshire, England 2010 (www.ancestry.com)

²³ Baptism Registers, Holy Trinity Church, Launceston (1843-1945) , NS1735/1/2-3, Microfilm roll Z523, Archives Office, Tasmania

²⁴ Convict Records CON52-1-3, page 117 (Archives Office, Tasmania); and *Hobart Town*

Gazette, Tuesday 15 October 1850, page 920 (Aust., Tas., Government Gazette 1833-1925, State Library of Tas, Microfilm (on line through www.family search.org)

²⁵ *Hobart Town Gazette*, Tuesday 9 January 1855, page 52 (Aust., Tas., Government Gazette 1833-1925, State Library of Tas, Microfilm (on line through www.family search.org)

Henry married Barbara Angus at the York Street Chapel, Launceston, Tasmania (VDL) on 31 October 1850.²⁶ It is of interest that in the Family Bible, his marriage date is noted as 31 October 1849 - a case of re-writing history to give respectability, after the fact, to his first child, Henry Deniston, who was born out of wedlock.

To further emphasize the above point, on 16 April 1851, Henry Deniston Dowie was Baptised at Holy Trinity Church, Launceston. On the registration Henry Butler Dowie is noted as living in Launceston and his occupation as a Clerk.²⁷

Henry's first daughter Maria Dowie was born in Launceston, Tasmania (VDL) on 18 December 1851.²⁸

On 6 February 1852, Maria Dowie was Baptised at All Saints Church, Launceston. On the registration, Henry Butler Dowie is noted as living in Launceston and his occupation as Grocer.²⁹ Research indicates that between this time (possibly earlier) and January 1853, Henry worked for Edward AYTON at his Grocery and Tobacco store in Honey Dew House, Charles Street, Launceston. In an advertisement, dated 18 January 1853, advising of the transfer of his

business to Dowie & Woodgate, Edward Ayton states that Henry "... has for a long time conducted the grocery side" of the business.³⁰

In January 1853, Henry went into partnership with William WOODGATE to operate a Grocery and Tobacconists store located in Honey Dew House.³¹ Henry Butler Dowie and William Robert Woodgate were both Parkhurst Boys transported to New Zealand on the *St George* in 1842 and apparently maintained their friendship, which lasted all their lives. The impacts of that friendship carried on beyond their deaths, as my Grandfather, Vernon Alexander Dowie, was the Executor of the Wills of the two last surviving Woodgate children in Tasmania and was, as a result, the keeper of the Woodgate Family Bible, which I have sent (November 2015) to Victorian descendants of William Woodgate, the VIRTUE family.

I have wondered since this fact came to light, how two ex-convicts, one notionally still in the convict system, got the capital to purchase the business. My suspicion is that it was the seemingly unrecovered loot (£105/13s), stolen from JP De Moulin in 1844. My suspicion was heightened by some evidence given at his trial:

²⁶ Marriage Registration 757/1850, Names Index: 841114, RGD37-1-9, no.757, Archives Office, Tasmania

²⁷ Baptism Registers, Holy Trinity Church, Launceston (1843-1945), NS1735/1/2-3, Microfilm roll Z523, Archives Office, Tasmania

²⁸ Birth Registration 1852, Launceston (Names Index: 1109202), Archives Office, Tasmania

²⁹ Baptism Registers, Holy Trinity Church, Launceston (1843-1945), NS1735/1/2-3, Microfilm roll Z523, Archives Office, Tasmania

³⁰ *Launceston Examiner* (Tas.:1842-1899), Saturday 22 January 1853, page 1 (www.trove.nla.gov.au)

³¹ *Launceston Examiner* (Tas.:1842-1899), Saturday 22 January 1853, page 1 (www.trove.nla.gov.au)

"Ed. Williams, a butcher, detailed a conversation which took place on Saturday last, in the shop of Mr. Gibbling, a butcher. He asked the prisoner Dowie, who came in, whether any clue was obtained to the robbery at Mr Dumoulin's - to which he replied, "No!" He enquired if it was true that he, Dowie, was suspected, and he said "Yes, it was all right, he had got it, and what could they do." He afterwards boasted that the money was safely on the way to Sydney by this time, and the name of a Parkhurst companion who has actually sailed for that place in the Terror was mentioned.

Edward Johnson gave the same evidence, but both the witnesses stated that Dowie had made the acknowledgement by way of a joke.

Mr. Hardy and the Chief Constable on being re-examined, proved that the former witnesses had not when examined at the Police Office, made any such statement or qualification."³²

As noted above, Henry Butler Dowie and William Woodgate were extremely close friends and at the time of the offence both were living in the Bay of Islands, William Woodgate as a self-employed settler,³³ so

it would be entirely possible that Henry Butler Dowie could have entrusted the proceeds of the robbery to William Woodgate with an agreement to meet up later. His comment, supposedly in jest, that he had sent the money with a friend to Sydney referred to in the evidence outlined above may have just been a misdirection to take any possible suspicion away from William Woodgate.

In the event, William Woodgate arrived in Launceston on 10 December 1844 aboard the "Henry"³⁴ shortly after Henry arrived in Hobart. Tony Cocks further notes that he found evidence of a Dowie-Woodgate partnership in 1847 from the Launceston Assessment Rolls, in relation to a property at 168-169 Brisbane Street, Launceston, a clear indication that they jointly had an interest in the property at that date.³⁵ Given that Henry was, at this time, definitely still within the convict system (he hadn't at that stage received his Ticket of Leave), this does heighten my suspicion.

William was certainly in Launceston in March 1849 when he was a "... shopman in the employ of Mr Joseph NATHAN"³⁶. His obituary in October 1890 places him in Launceston from 1849, and as a seaman on the steamship *Yarra* prior to that³⁷.

³² *The Daily Southern Cross* Newspaper, Volume 2, Issue 73, 7 September 1844, page 4, Auckland, New Zealand (Papers Past, Archives New Zealand)

³³ B. A. (Tony) Cocks, WOODGATE, William Robert, a Biography, page 2, Hampshire, 20 May 2010 (accessed via www.ancestry.com)

³⁴ *ibid*; and *Colonial Times* (Hobart, Tas.:1828-1857, Saturday 14 December 1844, Page 2, Shipping News (www.trove.anl.gov.au))

³⁵ B.A. (Tony) Cocks, *op.cit.*;

³⁶ *The Cornwall Chronicle*, (Tas.: 1835-1880), Saturday 24 March 1849, page 459 (www.trove.nla.gov.au)

³⁷ *The Colonist* (Launceston, Tas.: 1888-1891), Saturday 11 October 1890, page 21 (WWW.trove.nla.gov.au)

On the family front, Henry's second son, Thomas Dowie, was born in Launceston on 16 June 1855. His Birth Registration indicated that the family lived at Tamar Street, Launceston and Henry's occupation was listed as Grocer.³⁸ He was Baptised at Holy Trinity Church, Launceston, on 13 September 1855.³⁹

On 7 November 1856, an un-named son (John Francis Dowie) was born in Launceston. In the registration Henry Butler Dowie is again noted as a Grocer and his residence as Tamar Street, Launceston.⁴⁰ John Francis was Baptised at Holy Trinity Church, Launceston, on 18

December 1856. Henry's abode and his occupation were as above.⁴¹

We have followed Henry Butler Dowie from England, to New Zealand and to Van Dieman's Land as a twice-convicted felon and traced his rise in Launceston as a 'respected' shop keeper in partnership with an old co-offender, William Woodgate.

In the next part of his story we will chart his rise to prosperity and see him become a truly respectable member of local society.

To be continued in the next issue

Tasmanian Family History Society Inc. 2021 Lilian Watson Family History Award

for a Book however produced or published on paper, dealing with family or biographical history and having a significant Tasmanian content.

Historical fiction is not eligible.

Entries close 1 December 2021

Further information and entry forms available from TFHS Inc. Branch Libraries or

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email: secretary@tasfhs.org

³⁸ Birth Registration 725/1855 Launceston, Names Index: 997957, RGD33/1/33, no.724, Archives Office, Tasmania

³⁹ Baptism Registers, No.953, page 78, 1855, Holy Trinity Church, Launceston (1843-1945), NS1735/1/2-3, M'film Roll Z523, Archives Office, Tasmania

⁴⁰ Birth Registration 936/1856 Launceston, Names Index: 999731, RGD33/1/34, no.936, Archives Office, Tasmania

⁴¹ Baptism Registers, No.1052, page 85, 1856, Holy Trinity Church, Launceston (1843-1945), NS1735/1/2-3, M'film Roll Z523, Archives Office, Tasmania

Tasmanian Parliamentary Papers 1856 – 1901

Robert Tanner (Member 5158)

The Tasmanian Family History Society partnered the Tasmanian Parliamentary Library in digitising the Tasmanian Parliamentary Papers for the years 1856 to 1901. The Parliamentary Papers are mainly reports to parliament by various government agencies and should not be confused with ‘Hansard’ which records the proceedings of the parliament. Examples of such papers are the ‘Charitable Grants Department Report for 1900’ or ‘Main Line Railway: petition from Bothwell as to route (1873).’

During 2019 a member of the Tasmanian Parliamentary Library staff suggested that the valuable paper copies of Tasmanian colonial-era (1856–1901) Parliamentary Papers be digitised in order to better preserve them and, at the same time, to allow the Tasmanian Parliament to make the digitised copies available to the wider community for research purposes. Subsequently a project steering committee was formed; comprised as follows:

Jim WILKINSON, (Project Sponsor and then President, Legislative Council)

Dr Marijana BACIC (Tasmanian Parliamentary Librarian)

Robert TANNER (then Vice-president, TFHS Inc.)

Warwick LEE (Project manager and relief Librarian, Parliamentary Library)

To facilitate this project the Tasmanian Family History Society Inc. (TFHS Inc.), as an appropriate community organisation, was approached. It was thought that such a project would provide a very valuable resource for family historians, as well as other historians and other interested researchers. The project would not have been possible without the valued support and assistance of the TFHS Inc.

That project is now complete, and the digital papers are now available via the Parliament of Tasmania website (under Library & Resources). The papers may be read and searched by accessing: <https://www.parliament.tas.gov.au/tpl/PPWeb/>.

TFHS Inc. and the Tasmanian Parliamentary Library acknowledge the generosity of the Tasmanian Community Fund who made it possible to employ the services of Acrodata to undertake the task of digitisation. More details of the project: <https://www.parliament.tas.gov.au/tpl/ppweb/About.html>

The papers are readily searched, and individual papers may be downloaded as PDFs. The web site is very ‘user friendly’ and well worth exploring.

Blythe Road School

1897- 1921

Betty Jones (Member 6032)

Situated between Burnie and Howth on the North West Coast, the settlement of Blythe Road was slow to develop until the 1890s when more land was cleared and tracks and roads suitable for transporting farm produce to and from market were established. Dairy, cattle, pigs, potatoes and oats were the area's wealth generators, and on the back of that economy grew the need for the establishment of a government school.

The first school

An application to the Education Department for the provision of a school was first made in April 1895 but it was not until 1897 that the request became a reality. Parents who signed the original petition to Government in 1895 included John SICE, Daniel ELPHINSTONE, John SUSHAMES, H J and M ELPHINSTONE, T W and J S SMITH and C DELL. The Primitive Methodist Church, built along Blythe Road in 1895, doubled as the schoolroom from 1897-1912 and was occupied five days a week by the Education Department at a rental of £5 per annum.¹ The chapel reportedly was lined to the eaves, contained a good fire place and was considered sound, clean and comfortable for school purposes.²

Furniture was requisitioned in January 1897 as follows: four desks and seats, 9 feet in length, one desk press, two easels, a teacher's stool and one lesson post.³



1901, Miss Margaret Ballantyne Courtesy of Ancestry.com member Barbara K Fairhurst

The school's first teacher was Miss Margaret (Maggie) BALLANTYNE (1874-1961), who took up her appointment as a provisional teacher from 22 February 1897. Born in Buckingham, England, daughter of Andrew Ballantyne and his wife Ellen Edith, nee CARTER, she arrived in Tasmania from London with her parents and siblings in December 1883 aboard the *Tiverton*. Her family eventually settled on 100 acres of land at Sulphur

¹ Tasmanian Archives (TA): ED9/1/177

² TA: ED31/1/1

³ TA: ED13/1/61

Creek. Miss Ballantyne was employed as a private governess before being appointed for a time to Burnie State School as teacher of sewing in July 1894. She reapplied to join the Department in October 1896.⁴ The Inspector's report on Blythe Road for 1897 indicated that Miss Ballantyne showed fair aptitude with sound judgement. The following year, Inspector MASTERS noted that her work showed a good deal of judgement and energy. She could throw interest and animation into her work and her general management of the school showed fair method and easy control.⁵

When the Inspector made his first visit to the school in August 1897, he noted that the premises seemed suitable and were in quite good order. A year later, he recorded that a windowpane had been broken between Friday and Monday and another had been broken by a boy who was required to pay for the damage. With an enrolment of 27, attendance had been irregular owing to sickness and home duties of the elder girls who were much over school age. Many of the children had commenced school late and their academic progress was slow.

In June 1899, *The North-West Post* reported that parents were concerned about the unfinished state of the chapel. It was claimed the building was not lined or ceiled and the chimney had dangerous cracks in it. However, in August of that year, the Inspector reported that the

structure was in very fair condition, only it was not painted at all. In April 1902, the attendance was 36. The premises were considered fairly comfortable but not very clean. The map of Australia was said to have been torn into strips by a dog during the Christmas holidays. The report was not complimentary about Miss Ballantyne's teaching manner, and she resigned soon after.⁶ She became a missionary in India c. 1904 and, while there, met and married English-born Reverend Sydney ARMSON at Dhaka in December 1908. The couple returned to Tasmania in 1912, and Rev. Armson was ordained in 1914. Mrs Armson was widowed in 1930, and over thirty years later died at the age of 87 years. She was buried at Penguin.

Miss Sarah Learmonth ROSS (1879-1957) was the school's next teacher from 1902 to 1905. Born at Launceston, she was the daughter of Thomas and Eliza (nee JONES) Ross. In the days prior to the establishment of a formal Training College for teachers in Tasmania in 1906, Miss Ross was one of a minority who had received structured training. From 1895-1897, she had been a pupil teacher at the Elizabeth Street State School in Launceston, followed by her appointment as a selected student at the Model School in Hobart during 1899. Prior to her three-year appointment to Blythe Road, she had taught at Preston State School from 1900-July 1902.

⁴ TA: ED2/1/1583; file 1822

⁵ TA: ED31/1/1

⁶ TA: ED31/1/5

When Inspector BROCKETT visited in April 1903, he noted that the apparent diminution of the attendance to 29 was due to the fact that ten scholars formerly attending had gone to the school at West Pine. It was recorded that Miss Ross suffered from anaemia and displayed a low level of energy. The Inspector was concerned about the lack of brightness, general intelligence and good manners in the children and thus was critical of Miss Ross.⁷ In December 1905 at Launceston, she married Alfred William JONES, a well-known farmer in the Cuprona district, and resumed residence there. They had eight children in eleven years. Mrs Jones was buried at Penguin.

Miss Caroline (Carrie) Lavinia DENBY (1884-1913) replaced Miss Ross from October 1905 to September 1910. Born at Chudleigh, she was a daughter of Henry Denby and his wife Bridget Story, nee MITCHELL. In early 1890, Miss Denby moved with her family from Chudleigh to 'Rannock Estate' at East Devonport, where her father was employed as a farm laborer. She was educated first at East Devonport State School and next at West Devonport. At the latter, she passed the Junior and Senior Public Examinations in 1899 and 1901. After seeking a position with the Department in October 1900, she was soon employed at West Devonport as a paid monitor starting with a class conducted in the Baptist Hall.⁸ A transfer in early 1904 saw her placed in charge of

the new school at Maurice in the North-east of the State for a period of just over eighteen months. During that time, she was sent to Ringarooma State School for a short period in place of its head teacher while he was on sick leave.

Mining growth

Miss Denby had control of the Blythe Road school at a time of considerable growth in the area. By November 1905, soon after her appointment, it was reported that the Copper King Mine, later also known as the Burnie Copper Mine, was being considered for its potential. It was situated three quarters of a mile from Blythe Road towards the river.⁹ The Blythe River Iron Company had also started work with some twenty men being employed at that time. By November 1906, a new settlement at Ellenton, at the junction of Blythe Road, had commenced. A baker's shop, a bootmaker's business, a billiard room, a barber's shop and a general store were all being set up, followed by two boarding houses and other places of residence.¹⁰ A daily mail service was established in January 1907. Another new settlement at Cuprona also was being developed on land acquired by the Burnie Copper Mines Limited and situated between the main road and the mine. By May 1907, a further mine, the Copper Queen, was being considered north west of the Burnie Copper Mine.¹¹

⁷ TA: ED31/1/5

⁸ TA: ED2/1/2384; file 2651

⁹ *North West Post*, 4 November 1905

¹⁰ *North West Advocate and Emu Bay Times*, 10 December 1906

¹¹ *The Examiner*, 30 May 1907

In 1908, a hotel, a miniature racecourse among the trees, good stables, a blacksmith's shop, and a few dwelling houses made up the actual township called Blythe.¹² By 1910 however, the Copper King boom had all but ended. The ore petered out at current depth and the mine was abandoned. Most of the mining families left Cuprona, although some stayed on to become farmers.

Miss Denby was well-accepted within the community and appeared to work in the children's best interests. She complained to the Penguin Board of Advice in 1906 about the quality of the school's drinking water which was said to be contaminated by pigeons, making it unfit for the children's use.¹³ The supply of a new tank was approved early in 1907 and a tender was accepted for the delivery of 5 tons of wood to warm the schoolroom.¹⁴ In May 1908, there were about 40 pupils on the rolls¹⁵ and local residents campaigned for the provision of a new, purpose-built school.

As a parting gift from the school community in 1910, Miss Denby was presented with a silver teapot and butter dish.¹⁶ She married Ernest Edward Alfred SMITH at Devonport in 1912 and they lived at Cuprona. Mrs Smith died in October 1913 soon after the birth of her

only child, Edith Caroline Georgina Smith. Throughout her short life, she had been an enthusiastic member of the Wesleyan Methodist Church. Mrs Smith was buried at the old Penguin Cemetery.

In October 1910, a new provisional teacher, Miss Blanche Ethel BURLEIGH (1891-1967), was appointed. Born in Hobart, she was the daughter of Samuel Theophilus and Emma Laura (nee REID) Burleigh. She had undertaken a two months' training course at East Launceston Practising School in late 1910 and Blythe Road was her first appointment. In 1910, the school continued to be conducted in the Methodist Church building, reportedly still a most unsuitable site. In winter the ground was covered in pools of water.¹⁷ Nevertheless, there were bright spots in the life of the school. Club swinging was a skill taught to Tasmanian school children in physical training classes of that era and Miss Burleigh obviously was quite skilled in the art, her solo performances being reported at concerts. She also had talent as an organist.¹⁸

¹² *North West Advocate and Emu Bay Times*, 13 June 1908

¹³ *The Examiner*, 14 April 1906

¹⁴ *North West Advocate and Emu Bay Times*, 28 March 1907

¹⁵ *North West Advocate and Emu Bay Times*, 29 May 1908

¹⁶ *North West Advocate and Emu Bay Times*, 27 September 1910

¹⁷ *North West Post*, 11 February 1910

¹⁸ *The Advocate*, 28 September 1912



Club-swinging demonstration The Tasmanian Mail, 15 September 1906; courtesy of Tasmanian Archives

In May 1911, it was suggested that a new school would be erected at Ellenton¹⁹ and in October that year, the Department recommended that a 20 by 20 feet schoolroom to accommodate 40 children be built on the site just acquired from John WELLER. In December 1911 the tender was let to W A PILBEAM & Co. at a cost of £236 with a completion time of twelve weeks.²⁰

The new school

By the end of April 1912, the new school was ready for occupation. It was described as situated about half a mile **from the township on the** Burnie Road and built on model lines, similar to the school at Gawler.²¹ A social evening was held in the schoolroom in early May to celebrate the opening.²² Miss Burleigh was transferred to the school at Calder Road at the end of June that year, having given service at Blythe Road for about eighteen months. Her replacement, Miss

Georgina COMBES, had come from the charge of Calder Road where she had been placed for just six months. Miss Burleigh eventually returned to live in the Cuprona district after she married local inhabitant, Alfred Bernard SICE (an original school pupil) in 1921 at 'Rosehill', Warwick Street, Hobart.

Georgina Combes (1884-1966) was born at Victoria (Huon), daughter of Walter and Margaret (nee BELL) Combes. She commenced her teaching career as an assistant at Elphinstone State School in 1909, and continued it at Waratah and Calder Road before her appointment to Blythe Road. At Calder Road in 1912, the Inspector noted that Miss Combes was bright, interesting, and apparently sympathetic. She taught well, had very good control and was considered capable of managing a much larger school.²³ In October 1913, Miss Combes married Edward KINCH at Longley. They made

¹⁹ North West Post, 25 May 1911

²⁰ TA: ED9/669/1911

²¹ North West Post, 27 April 1912

²² North West Advocate and Emu Bay Times, 2 May 1912

²³ TA: ED31/1/1911&1912

their home at Preolenna, from where she was widowed in 1948.

Alma Mabel (Mabel) BILLING (1890-1945) was appointed to the school from July 1913 to April 1915. Born at



Georgina Combes; courtesy of Ancestry.com member 1832

Sheffield, daughter of Matthew Billing and his wife Amelia, nee PACKETT, she was educated at North Motton State School, from where she commenced her teaching career as a paid monitor from 1906-1908. An appointment as head teacher at Upper Calder Road school followed and it was from there that Miss Billing was transferred to Blythe Road. Towards the end of 1910, she had undertaken a short training course at the East Launceston Practising School. The Inspectors' reports on her work at Upper Calder indicated that she was quiet, painstaking and earnest in her approach, her maintenance of discipline being good.

Miss Billing managed the school without apparent trouble and achieved very satisfactory results, a pleasing tone being evident throughout her tenure.²⁴ She married Adam Robert Lindsay ELPHINSTONE in April 1915 at Burnie and they lived at Stowport.

From April 1915 to May 1917, Janet (Jessie) Lilian WEEDING (1888-1959) was the next teacher. Born at Hunting Ground (Green Ponds district), eldest daughter of James George and Agnes Paterson (nee WILSON) Weeding, she was educated at Mt Seymour State School from 1895-1902. Miss Weeding's mother died in 1907, and she was involved in domestic duties before applying for employment with the Department and passing the Provisional Teachers' Examination in 1912. At that time, her address was 'Hillside', Mt Seymour.²⁵ Miss Weeding's career as a teacher commenced at Deep Bay in 1912 and after numerous placements over the years, ended at Llandaff in July 1941 when she resigned to marry Campbell Town pastoralist John Ingle BAYLES (1885-1970).

During her time at Blythe Road, Miss Weeding was particularly committed to encouraging the children to contribute to the Penguin Red Cross Society's War Comforts activities.²⁶

Minnie STOEISSIGER (1898-1966) had charge of the school from June 1917 to October 1919. Born at Launceston, third

²⁴ TA: ED31/1/11

²⁵ TA: ED9/828/1912

²⁶ North West Advocate and Emu Bay Times, 22 September 1916

daughter of Ernest and Elizabeth Fraser (nee ANDERSON) Stoessiger, she passed the Provisional Teachers' Examination in 1916 while employed as a monitor at Invermay State School. Blythe Road was her first appointment after her completion of a fifteen-week training course at the Wellington Street Practising School in early 1917. She was well-liked by both children and parents. In 1918, nearly the whole community attended a working bee to fence and lay out a garden for the school. It was followed at night with a social.²⁷

Daily attendance at the school had been considered unsatisfactory since at least 1917 and in April 1918, the Director of Education intimated that the matter needed the attention of the Penguin Board of Advice. At that time, the enrolment was 38 but daily attendance averaged only 24.6 (64%). The average for the State was 81%.²⁸ Miss Stoessiger resigned in 1919 to marry John HALL at Launceston.

Classified as a Class VI school, Blythe Road was granted permission to have a monitor appointed between 1918 and 1921. At least five individuals held the position over time: Misses Jane Margaret ELLIS, Amy Eve DEVERELL, Vera Gwendoline DEVERELL, Mary Elizabeth GEE and Mabel Elizabeth ROBINSON.

Alice Eleanor Cranswick ROBINSON (1896-1979) replaced Miss Stoessiger from October 1919 to 1923, her appointment spanning the time when the

school underwent a name change (at the same place). Born at Frankford, daughter of Henry & Lillian Isabel (nee MOSEY) Robinson, she was educated at Frankford State School and was appointed paid monitor there from 1913-1914. After a short training course at East Launceston Practising School in early 1915, she accepted several northern appointments prior to her arrival at Blythe Road. Miss Robinson married Henry William ELPHINSTONE in 1924 and lived at Cuprona for several years.

An Arbor Day working bee was held at the school in June 1921 when memorial trees, various shrubs and a hedge were planted, adding to over forty from the previous year. The school garden was fenced against the rabbit pest.²⁹

A new chapter

The December 1921 edition of *The Educational Record* advised that the school's name was to be changed from Blythe Road to Cuprona from 2 January 1922. This was to make it correspond with the name of the local Post Office. Cuprona State School continued in the 1912 building up to the end of 1954 when it closed and the children were conveyed to the new Riana Area School.

*Though the dust that's part of us
To dust again be gone,
Yet here shall be the heart of us –
The school we handed on.*
- NEWBOLT³⁰

²⁷ Daily Telegraph, 28 August 1918

²⁸ The Examiner, 30 April 1918

²⁹ The Advocate, 29 June 1921

³⁰ The Educational Record, 15 July 1918

African, Asian and Creole convicts: a study of descent and descendants in Australia

Clare Anderson (Member 8202)

What would modern histories and societies look like if they were written from the perspective of the descendants of African, Asian and Creole convicts? This question is the starting point for a new project based at the University of Leicester (UK). The work is focusing on the former empires of Britain and France. The British element includes studies of New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land, alongside the Indian penal settlements of the Andaman Islands and Penang. For France, the study is looking at French Guiana, New Caledonia, and Réunion Island (which are all now French overseas territories).

Historians and genealogists are well aware that because they were managed by state legal systems, convicts are some of the best documented migrants in world history. This means that in places like Australia family historians can draw on a wide range of resources, and genealogy is flourishing. However, although we know quite a lot about convict descent from British and Irish convicts, there are big knowledge gaps about the inheritances and legacies of non-European convicts. This project seeks to research descent and descendants among the following groups sent into transportation: enslaved and formerly enslaved people of African

heritage, Asian indentured labourers, and free colonial populations (some of whom were African or Asian, and some of mixed Creole heritage). For the Australian case study, the focus is on those convicts sent intra-colonially, mainly from colonies in the Caribbean region (e.g., Barbados, Demerara, Jamaica), as well as the Cape Colony and Mauritius.

In the years since I first worked in the Mauritius Archives as a PhD student in 1994-5, I have amassed substantial archival material on 'colonial' convicts. My aim in this new project is to add newly emerging genealogical resources and to work with descendants themselves. I am interested in what kind of cultural transfers and transformations took place (e.g. in regard to language, religion), as well as social and economic outcomes (e.g. education and property ownership). Did these convict groups have different experiences to the British and Irish? How did they interact with them? How did identities emerge and change over time and in what ways do they matter now – if at all?

Some of Australia's non-European convicts are very well known. Historians like Cassandra PYBUS have established the significance of the nation's *Black*

Founders, with black convicts present on the First Fleet, whilst Ian DUFFIELD pioneered work on black convict transportation from the Caribbean, including in a study of their role in bushranging.¹ Most recently, Lucy FROST and Colette McALPINE have brought together a series of fabulous essays on colonially convicted women, which can be found in the Convict Women's Press publication *From the Edges of Empire*.²

In this article, I would like to present some material on colonial convicts in Van Diemen's Land, as a first step to making connections with histories of descent and descendants. By 1837, there were around 70 Caribbean convicts in the colony, though most were transferred to New South Wales after officials brought attention to what they called their 'extreme suffering' during an especially harsh winter.³ About ten of the men wished to stay. They included Jean QUATTELL and Jim WHITE, who were at Port Arthur at the time. Despite the severity of the penal

station, Jim White's recalcitrance was entirely understandable. He was employed in the marine department as a caulker and was on the verge of applying for a ticket-of-leave.⁴ Does anybody know anything about his later life?

The sending colony of Mauritius also presents an interesting case. It was the site of a penal settlement for Indian convicts, and a few from Ceylon, operational between 1815 and 1853. At the same time as receiving convicts from India, Mauritius sent over 150 non-European convicts to New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land. Almost half of these convicts were Mauritian born, about a quarter of them were from India, and the rest hailed from the Seychelles, Madagascar, Mozambique and China. They even included a handful of re-convicted Indians, who had originally been transported to the Mauritian penal settlement. One of them was a man called Sheik ADAM, transported to Mauritius from Bombay.⁵ Records of his transportation crime never reached

¹ Cassandra Pybus, *Black Founders: the unknown story of Australia's first black settlers* (Sydney, University of New South Wales Press, 1996); Ian Duffield, 'From Slave Colonies to Penal Colonies: The West Indians Transported to Australia', *Slavery and Abolition*, 7, 1 (1986), 25-41; Ian Duffield, 'The Life and Death of "Black" John Goff: Aspects of the Black Convict Contribution to Resistance Patterns During the Transportation Era in Eastern Australia', *Australian Journal of Politics and History*, 33, 1 (1987), 30-44.

² Lucy Frost and Colette McAlpine, eds, *From The Edges of Empire: Convict Women from Beyond the British Isles* (Hobart, Convict Women's Press, 2015).

³ "Nominal Return of Black Men who have been transported from the West Indies to Van Diemen's Land, shewing their ages and how they are at present employed", CSO 5/56/1222.

⁴ Commandant's Office Port Arthur, to John Montagu, colonial secretary, 14 December 1837, CSO 5/56/122:

⁵ Convict conduct record, CON37/1/4. Sheik Adam's trial records are in the National Archives of Mauritius, with the case summarised in Clare Anderson, *Subaltern Lives: biographies of colonialism in the Indian Ocean world, 1790-1920* (Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2012), ch. 2.

Mauritius, but almost immediately on his arrival in 1834 he deserted the penal settlement. On this first occasion, Sheik Adam was quickly captured; he claimed that he had run away because his overseer punished him. He deserted again at the end of 1837, and when he was found this time, he was put in chains. This has little impact, and he escaped again, remaining on the run for two months. Suspicion fell on him when a convict post office courier was robbed and killed. The police offered a reward of £50, and Sheik Adam was captured. However, lacking evidence against him, he was found not guilty.

Just after the conclusion of the trial, Sheik Adam deserted once more, the start of a pattern of escapes and recaptures lasting into 1840. He was then caught in possession of stolen goods, shortly after a series of robberies by poisoning had taken place. This time, he was found guilty, in concert with three other men: ITCHAINED,⁶ CARIM⁷ and MANGLOU.⁸ Sentenced to fourteen years transportation, he was embarked for Van Diemen's Land in 1842. Three years after he arrived in Hobart, having passed his period of probation, Sheik Adam (who let us remember had been transported for poisoning) was assigned as a cook to Francis HENSLOWE, a police magistrate in Campbell Town. In 1849, he married one Sarah SWIFT. She had been transported from the English port of

Liverpool for manslaughter. She stated her offence as: 'stabbing with intent Elizabeth - with a pair of scissors (I was drunk at the time).' Once in Van Diemen's Land, Swift was frequently disciplined, but surprisingly, there is not a single offence recorded against her husband's name.⁹ In 1849, he received his ticket of leave, and in 1852 a conditional pardon, by which time he had changed his name to John Adams. He went to Melbourne, no doubt to try his luck in the gold fields, alone and without Sarah Swift. He returned to the island and was reunited with his wife, but I nothing more of their lives – except that in 1866 Sarah Swift's sister Eliza MAGRAW wrote to the governor, calling for news of her whereabouts. The sisters had evidently kept in touch with each other, because Eliza knew that Sarah had married.¹⁰ The colonial administration could find no trace of her, and I wonder what became of the couple?

We can locate some interesting working patterns in the Mauritians' assignment records. A disproportionate number of them seem to have worked in hotels and public houses, mainly in Hobart and Launceston. Petit (Emmanuel) VERA, for instance, an indentured labourer originally from Madras, was employed at both *The Bull's Head* and *The Jolly Anglers* in Launceston during the 1840s. (John) DOORBY worked at *The Jolly Anglers* too. Sheik Adam's co-accused Itchaine was employed in the *Queen's Head Inn*

⁶ Convict conduct record, CON37/1/1.

⁷ Convict conduct record, CON35/1/1.

⁸ Convict conduct record, CON37/1/1.

⁹ Convict conduct record, CON41/10, Marriage Record RGD37/1/8 1849 no. 46, Court of Petty Sessions, LC251/1 & LC251/2.

¹⁰ Alphabetical list of letters received, GO121.

and *Queen's Arms* in Launceston, and later *The Patriot King* and *William IV* in Evandale. CHANGRANDY (who called himself John GRUNDY), worked at a whole host of institutions, including the *Hope and Anchor* and *Exchange Coffee House* in Launceston, the *Jerusalem Inn* (Jerusalem), *Bird-in-Hand* in Hobart, *Crooked Billet* in Brighton, and the *Caledonian Inn* in Campbell Town.¹¹

Edouard ROSE was employed at *The Royal Oak* and *Old Commodore* in Hobart; Jerome Delphine, an ex-apprentice (i.e. emancipated slave) from Grand Port in Mauritius, transported to Hobart with his brother Augustine, worked at *The Golden Fleece*. Emile JULIEN, a cook originally from Mozambique, worked at *The Hibernia* and *London Inn*, Launceston, as also the *Bush Inn* in Bishopbourne and the *Albion Inn* in Cocked Hat Hill. DEALLY and DOUMAN, both labourers from Calcutta, worked in Launceston's *Tasmania Inn* (Douman had earlier worked in the *Bowling Green Hotel* in Hobart; he called himself William DOWMAN, and DEALLY was known as John DALEY, DALLY, DATTON, or Deally). Another Creole man, Jean VICTORIEN, who had been a cook to Governor NICHOLS in Mauritius was assigned as a servant to Governor William DENISON. Later on he worked at the

Victoria Hotel in Green Ponds. He got his ticket-of-leave and died in the service of Henry WRIGHT, at the *Hope and Anchor* in Hobart.¹²

In regard to non-European convicts, there is also an interesting connection between Van Diemen's Land and Moreton Bay in Queensland. Moreton Bay was founded as a penal station (akin to Port Arthur) in 1824, when it was hoped it could support the production of commodities like cotton, sugar, coffee, rice, tobacco, and indigo. In 1839, 14 of the Mauritian convicts were transferred to the site, where most were assigned to look after cattle. However, one man, CASSIM – an indentured labourer from Calcutta - married an Irishwoman called Mary TEALY, and together they opened the Cleveland Hotel (otherwise known as Cassim's Hotel) in the seaside resort of Cleveland. Cassim Island in the bay is named after him, and he is buried with Mary on Stradbroke Island.¹³

Other colonial convicts joined the Mauritians at Moreton Bay. They included PRAAM (known as 'Shiek' BROWN) from Bombay, who was transported from Britain to Sydney in 1824, and George BROWN, a 'man of colour' from Ceylon who was first transported to New South Wales from Britain in 1815. Both men absconded and apparently formed close alliances with Aboriginal peoples.¹⁴

¹¹ Convict conduct records, CON37/1/2, CON37/1/1, CON37/1/11.

¹² Convict conduct records, CON37/1/1, CON37/1/2, CON37/1/4.

¹³ Convict conduct record, CON31/1/8, Patrick J. Tynan, *Johnny Cassim: Coolie – Convict –*

Catechumen – Colonial Entrepreneur (1814-1884) (Toowoomba: Church Archivists' Press, 2006).

¹⁴ Raymond Evans and Bill Thorpe, 'Frontier Transgressions: Writing a History of Race, Identity and Convictism in Early Colonial

Back in Van Diemen's Land, some groups of convicts were kept together. Clement BUESNELL, who ran a freehold estate in Sidbury, Launceston, for instance, employed almost all of the Hong Kong convicts shipped to the colony alongside several Mauritians: six Indians, one Malagasy (from Madagascar), and one free Creole.¹⁵ These assignment patterns meant that many colonial convicts continued to work together after their transportation. Most people in Mauritius spoke Kreol, derived mainly from French, but we know that they were able to learn English once they got to the Australian colonies. In 1848, Itchaine was accused of threatening to assault a female servant. She reported: 'He said that he would cut my bloody head off and that he had a good mind to run a knife through me.' And when Changrandy was accused of using indecent language in the presence of his master's children in 1851 a house servant stated:

*'I asked him to hand me the tub if he pleased – he told me to go and f*** myself – he said go and f*** yourself you b***** cow and b***** b*****'*¹⁶

But these convicts also retained their mother tongues. When Doorby married the Irish Catholic Ann MAHON in a

Church of Scotland ceremony in 1851, for instance, he signed the marriage register in what was described as 'Hindustani'.¹⁷ On the other hand, when Eugene FLORE (who anglicised his name to John FLOWER, or FLOWERS) appeared in Hobart charged with burglary in 1856, he gave the magistrates a letter in lieu of a verbal testimony, stating 'he was an Isle of France man, and could speak French, but not English perfectly.'¹⁸ Ichingono too, a labourer from Calcutta, was said to have been unable to speak English - eight years after his transportation.¹⁹ But, like the convicts noted above, many others anglicised their names. ORJOON called himself John ARGOON or HARDGOOD.²⁰ Itchaine became John HITCHEE,²¹ and MANGLOU (convicted with Sheik Adam) John MANGALOW.²² Salicouty was transformed into Charley CULLUM or William CARTER.²³ Two convicts even underwent religious conversion and were baptised. In Moreton Bay, Cassim became a devoted Roman Catholic and trustee of a church.

Like Sheik Adam, Cassim, and Doorby numerous of these men forged intimate relationships in the colony. Edouard Rose (as 'Edward') married Elizabeth MILNER, a housemaid from

Queensland', *Continuum: Journal Of Media And Cultural Studies*, 13, 3 (1999), 325–332.

¹⁵ Convict conduct records, CON37/1/1-4.

¹⁶ Police Office, Hobart Town, Record Book of Charges Laid, 1850-1, LC247/19.

¹⁷ Marriage record, RGD37/10/867 1851 no. 104.

¹⁸ Quarter Sessions Chairman's Reports, 1856, CON4/8.

¹⁹ Register of Patients Admitted to the Asylum, CON37/1.

²⁰ Convict Memorials for Indulgences, 1852-3, CON44/7.

²¹ Supreme Court, *Launceston Examiner*, 10 January 1852.

²² Police Court, Longford, 26 June 1851, LC362/7.

²³ Supreme Court, *Launceston Examiner*, 14 July 1868.

Staffordshire.²⁴ AHONG (known as John Ahong) was given permission to marry Hannah HOWARD, though there is no evidence of a ceremony.²⁵ Later, a man who I believe to have been Ahong (John A. Hong) married the free woman Jane HAMILTON. I think this was the case because one of the witnesses was John HICHINGMAN, who could have been fellow Mauritian convict Itchaine/ John Hitchee.²⁶ Jerome DELPHINE wed Mary KANE.²⁷ Manglou²⁸ and EDMOND²⁹ both applied to marry Irishwomen (Mary REILLY and Johanna NEALON), though

I have not found records of the ceremonies.

These stories represent just the start of rich histories of empire, work, society and culture, and there must be numerous descendants in Australia today. Do families in Tasmania know of their non-European heritage? *What* do they know? I would love to hear from anybody who is a descendant, and who is interested in participating in this study. With pleasure, I will share any research materials that I have. Do contact me, Clare Anderson, on ca26@le.ac.uk.

The Marita Bardenhagen Memorial Award for Local History

This Award has been sponsored by the Launceston Historical Society, the Tasmanian Historical Research Association, the State Government, and the Professional Historians' Association of Tasmania. It commemorates the contribution to the study and writing of local history in Tasmania by Dr Marita Bardenhagen (1961-2012). **The Marita Bardenhagen Memorial**

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²⁴ Marriage record, RGD37/1/7 1848 no. 1411.

²⁵ Marriage permission, CON52/1/3-4 1851.

²⁶ Marriage record, RGD37/1/10 1851 no. 725.

²⁷ Marriage record, RGD37/1/10 1851 no. 229.

²⁸ Marriage permission, CON52/1/6 1853.

²⁹ Marriage permission, CON52/1/3 1851.

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- *Dunn, Cathy; *NORFOLK ISLAND – REV. FULTON'S BAPTISMS, BURIALS & MARRIAGES, 1801 – 1805*. [Q929.39482 DUN]
- *Fidlon, Paul G. & R.J. Ryan (Eds); *THE JOURNAL OF PHILIP GIDLEY KING: LIEUTENANT R.N., 1787–1790*. [994.02 KIN]
- Historical Society of the Municipality of Sorell; *PITT WATER CHRONICLES, VOL. 3, June 2021*. [P994.62 PIT]
- Howatson, Donald; *THE STORY OF GREATER HOBART—Suburb by Suburb*. [Q994.61 HOW]
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8201	SHIER Mr Jonathan	192 / 99 Spring Street jfsprivate@imap.mail.com	MELBOURNE	VIC	3000
8202	ANDERSON Professor Clare	21 West Street ca26@le.ac.uk	LEICESTER	ENG	LE16XL
8203	JOSEY Mrs Holly	69 Outram Street happycats485@gmail.com	SUMMERHILL	TAS	7250

8204	BAILEY Ms Anne	27 Curraghmore Ave	PARK GROVE	TAS	7320
8205	GEANEY Mrs Pamela	362 Preservation Dr pam.geaney@bigpond.com	SULPHUR CREEK	TAS	7316
8206	DI TOMMASO Mrs Joy	13 Petty St joy.ditommaso2705@gmail.com	WEST HOBART	TAS	7000
8207	BEETS Mrs Susan	10 Villeneuve St arieandsusan@gmail.com	CAMPANIA	TAS	7026
8208	GARDNER Mrs Diane	14 Corandirk Pl dgardner@bigpond.com	YALLAMBIE	VIC	3085

NEW MEMBERS' INTERESTS

NAME	PLACE/AREA	TIME	M'SHIP NO.
ABBOTT Francis	Hobart Town TAS AUS	1799–1883	8186
BAILEY Robert			8204
BARNES Caroline	Hobart TAS AUS	1865–1934	8192
BARRETT Michael	Ireland/Tasmania AUS	1789–1854	8200
BEHAN Ellen	Ireland	c.1838	8205
BENNETT Patrick	Scarrif County Clare IRE	1807–1875	8190
BESWICK	Burnie TAS AUS		8183
BUCK Ethel Kate	Hobart TAS AUS	1894–1941	8188
BUCK William	Kangaroo Point Rokeby TAS AUS	1858	8188
BUCKHAM Margaret	Melbourne VIC AUS	1850–1880	8196
BUCKHAM William	Melbourne VIC AUS	1850–1890	8196
BUCKHAM William	Campbell Town TAS AUS	1845–1860	8196
CASCADES Female Factory, Women of	South Hobart TAS AUS	1828–1877	8196
CATLIN	ENG/TAS AUS		8189
CLARKE	ENG/TAS AUS		8189
COLGAN	Burnie TAS AUS		8183
COLLINS Georgina	Victoria/New South Wales AUS	1865–1895	8196
COLLINS Martin	Port Sorell TAS AUS	1850–1900	7472
CONLEY	King Island TAS AUS		8183
CONVICTS	From British Colonies Marriage & Decent		8202
COSGROVE John	Ireland	c.1861	8203
CUMPER Jno [John] Hinton	Dunolly VIC AUS	1884–1961	8190
DAWSON Michael	Hobart TAS AUS	1818–1875	8201
DEANS Margaret	Campbell Town TAS AUS	1845–1860	8196
DONNELLY William	Tasmania AUS	c.1878	8205
DONOHUE	Ireland		8189
DUCKROW/DICKROW John	Liverpool LAN ENG/Flinders Is TAS AUS	1801–1836	8185
DUTTON Robert	Launceston/Hobart TAS AUS	1835–1852	8201
DUTTON William	Hobart TAS AUS	1804–1840	8201
EELES	Evandale TAS AUS		8183
FISHER Capt William	Sandy Bay/Recherche Bay TAS AUS	1813–1893	8184
FISHER Edward	Staffordshire ENG/Sandy Bay TAS AUS	1753–1838	8184
GOUGH Patrick	Ireland/Oatlands TAS AUS	1769–1855	8184
GROSSE Ferdinand			8204
HALL John	Unknown/Tasmania AUS	1808>	8200
HAMMOND William E H	Tabrabucca Swamp NSW AUS	1851–1927	8190
HARVEY Thomas	Yackandandah VIC AUS	1850–1890	7390
HEALY Patrick	Circular Head TAS AUS	1845–1900	7472
HILL Sarah	London ENG/Tasmania AUS	1830–1903	8200

HOLT Alfred Edward	Hobart TAS AUS	1893–1964	8185
HOLT Sarah	England/Hobart TAS AUS	1872–1929	8185
HOUSTON Janet			8204
JACKSON James	Narrandera NSW AUS	1860–1876	7390
JARVIS William			8204
KEANE Mary	Ireland	1852–1930	8190
LENTON Robert	NTH ENG/Tasmania AUS	1812–1868	8200
McKEOWN Jane	Narrandera NSW AUS	1860–1885	7390
McQUEENEY Michael Timothy	Hobart TAS AUS	1865–1911	8185
MARTIN John	Tasmania AUS	<1860	7390
MARTIN Elizabeth	Tasmania AUS	<1860	7390
MARTIN Robert	Narrandera NSW AUS	1880–1942	7390
MINOGUE Ellen	Limerick IRE	1816–1857	8190
MORRISBY James	NSW/Norfolk Is/VDL	1757–1839	8186
NUTTING Joseph	Meander TAS AUS	1830–1895	8186
O'BEIRNE Patrick Armstrong	Hobart TAS AUS/Lustia ROS Leitrim LET IRE	1865–1880	8191
O'BRIEN Johanna	Killscully TIP IRE	c.1862	8203
PHILLIPS Henry	HAM ENG/TAS AUS	1795–1888	8200
POULTNEY William	WOR ENG/TAS AUS	1796–1854	8200
SCOTT	Mole Creek/Deloraine TAS AUS		8183
SHAW Elizabeth Celia	Hobart TAS AUS	1861	8188
SHAW Joseph	Hobart TAS AUS	1832–1911	8188
STARK Eva Victoria	Dunolly VIC AUS	1886–1959	8190
SWEENEY	Ireland		8189
THIERS Georgina	Victoria AUS	1865–1895	8196
THORPE Alfred	Launceston/Hobart TAS AUS	1841–1893	8201
TOWNS	King Island/Burnie TAS AUS		8183
TURVEY Mary Ann	Hobart/Launceston TAS AUS	1819–1880	8201
VICKERS George	Cheshire ENG/TAS/VIC AUST	1807–1870	8197
WEBB Esther	Ireland/Lemons Lagoon Oatlands TAS AUS	1789–1828	8184
WILSON Charlotte Catherine	Bellerive TAS AUS	1830–1916	8188
WILSON Thomas	Hobart TAS AUS	1819–1840	8201

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If you find a name in which you are interested, please note the membership number and check the
New Members' listing for the appropriate name and address.

Please enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope and don't forget to reply if you receive a SSAE.

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BRANCH LIBRARY ADDRESSES, TIMES AND MEETING DETAILS

Please Check Branches for Opening Times

BURNIE Phone: Branch Librarian (03) 6435 4103.
Library 58 Bass Highway Cooee
Tuesday 11.00 a.m.–3.00 p.m.
Saturday 1.00 p.m.–4.00 p.m.
Meeting Branch Library, 58 Bass Highway Cooee 10.30 a.m. on 1st Monday of each month, except January and December.
Night Dinner Meetings are held in winter and end of year, check with Branch Librarian for details.

HOBART Phone: Enquiries (03) 6244 9351
Library 19 Cambridge Road Bellerive
Tuesday 12.30 p.m.–3.30 p.m.
Wednesday 9.30 a.m.–12.30 p.m.
Saturday 1.30 p.m.–4.30 p.m.
Meeting Old Sunday School, St Johns Park Precinct, New Town, at 7.30 p.m. on 3rd Tuesday of each month, except January and December.

HUON Phone: Branch Secretary (03) 6239 6823
Library Soldiers Memorial Hall Marguerite Street Ranelagh
Saturday 1.30 p.m.–4.00 p.m.
Other times: Library visits by appointment with secretary,
48 hours notice required
Meeting Branch Library, Ranelagh, at 4.00 p.m. on 1st Saturday of each month, except January.
email vsbtas@bigpond.com

LAUNCESTON Phone: 0490 826 863
Library 45–55 Tamar Street Launceston (next door to Albert Hall)
Tuesday 10.00 a.m.–3.00 p.m.
Monday to Friday by appointment only
Check the Branch News and the website
<http://www.launceston.tasfh.org> for locations and times.

MERSEY Phone: Branch Secretary (03) 6428 6328 Library (03) 6426 2257
Library 113 Gilbert Street Latrobe (behind State Library)
Wednesday & Friday 10.00 a.m.–3.00 p.m.
Saturday opening has ceased and is now by advance appointment only.
Meetings Please check the website at www.tfhsdev.com or contact the
secretary@tfhsdev.com for updates.

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

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Application for Membership:

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