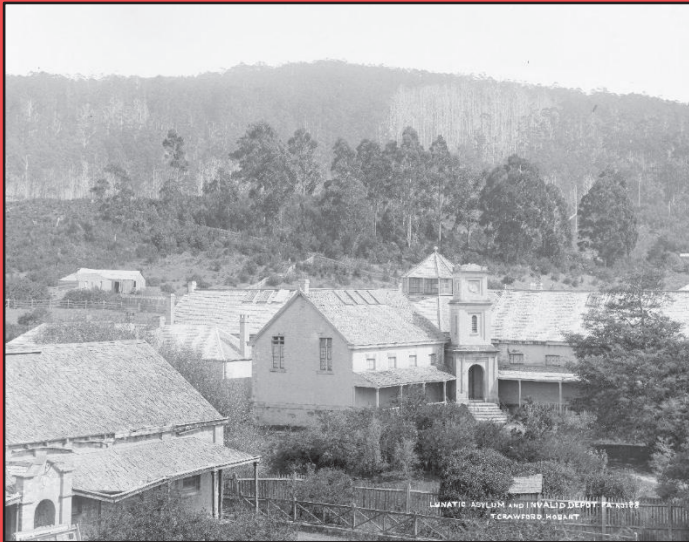


Tasmanian Ancestry



**TASMANIAN FAMILY HISTORY
SOCIETY INC.**

Volume 44 Number 2 — September 2023

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

Hello

I have just finished reading *The Remarkable Mrs Reibey* by Grantlee Kieza. I did not grow up in Australia and thus, was never exposed to any Australian History while at school. I did not become interested in history till much later in life and consequently I knew very little about the early days of settlement, especially around Sydney, before reading this book. Written in an easy-to-read style this book gave me insights into some of the difficulties and privations endured by the earliest settlers and convicts. I could not help thinking about my husband's ancestors who arrived in Tasmania in the 1830s and what it must have been like for them.

Mary Reiby is featured on the twenty dollar note because of her contribution to the early colony and her rise from being a convict to one of the wealthiest women in the country. She has links with Tasmania, trading with Van Diemen's land and some of her children settling here, including her son, Thomas who built Entally House and lived for many years in Tasmania, and the family went on to hold many prominent positions in the state.

Isobel Williams

Cover: Lunatic asylum and Invalid depot, c1880 Source: Tasmanian Archives (Pretyman Family Collection NG1012) NS1013-1-1913

Journal address

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

Deadline dates are:

1 January, 1 April, 1 July and 1 October

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

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

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President's Message

In the last issue of *Tasmanian Ancestry* Maurice Appleyard gave, what he expected to be, his last President's Message, as new office bearers were to be elected at the June 2023 AGM.

Rather to my surprise, this is my first President's Message. There were no nominations for executive positions before the AGM; this is a real problem for voluntary societies such as ours which depend on people being willing to put in the time and effort required to fill the (legally required) executive positions. It was in this context that I was persuaded (and a little guilty) into taking on the role of president. That said, I will put my best effort into this job, and I hope that I can do as well as Maurice has over a number of years.

A little about me and my family history journey. I was born and brought up in Melbourne, we moved to Tasmania

about 30 years ago when my husband became responsible for a family farm. Like many people, I began seriously investigating my family history after I retired and was delighted to discover that I do have a Tasmanian connection. My earliest Australian-born ancestor was a great-great grandmother who was born in Launceston in the 1830s, her husband was a Scottish soldier who arrived with the 99th Regiment; he stayed in Tasmania and became a police constable in Launceston.

I have been active in the Launceston Branch for about 10 years, and I hope to now spend some time becoming more familiar with the people in and activities of all the other branches.

Robyn Gibson President

Financial Statements 2022-2023

2022 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 2022 in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards.

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

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

- a) The Society has kept proper accounting records and other books during the period covered by the accounts.
- b) The accompanying accounts are properly drawn up and in accordance with the Associations Incorporation Act (1964) so as to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs as at 31 March 2022 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

11 May 2022



NEIL WILKINSON
Registered Company Auditor

TASMANIAN FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.
ABN 87 627 274 157

BALANCE SHEET
As at 31 March 2022

	31 Mar 2022	31 Mar 2021
CAPITAL		
Opening Balance	17,450	15,347
Surplus for Year	1,493	2,103
TOTAL	18,943	17,450
 THESE FUNDS ARE REPRESENTED BY:-		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash at Bank - Westpac	18,943	17,450
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	18,943	17,450
WORKING CAPITAL	18,943	17,450
TOTAL WORKING & FIXED CAPITAL	18,943	17,450
NET ASSETS	18,943	17,450

Tasmanian Family History Society Inc.

Statement of Consolidated Cash Flow for the year ended 31 March 2023

	Burnie	Hobart	Huon	L'ton	Mersey	Society	Consolidated Totals
Opening Balance	3,161	12,282	3,685	5,973	5,669	18,943	49,713
Add Receipts							
Membership Subscriptions	1,944	8,750	300	3,627	2,618	30,000	32,968
Donations	307	819	128	3,444	0	1,220	4,776
Fund Raising	710	249	0	1,151	1,716	0	3,826
Research	5	369	0	1,837	1,386	0	3,475
Sales	477	3,615	0	611	1,505	200	4,717
Interest	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Library Revenue	326	372	0	452	677	0	1,827
Sundries	0	0	0	357	2,036	4,451	2,891
Journal (<i>Tas Ancestry</i>)						1,505	1,505
Total receipts	3,769	14,174	428	11,479	9,938	37,376	55,985
Transfers from term loan a/c	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total funds available	6,931	26,456	4,113	17,452	15,607	56,319	109,651
Less Payments							
Membership Subscriptions	548	2,934	171	1,062	580	0	0
Insurance	0	0	0	0	0	6,020	6,020
Fund Raising	0	356	0	690	407	0	1,453
Research	122	0	0	0	0	0	0
Items for re-sale	0	1,583	0	366	133	0	391
Bank Fees	0	36	0	0	0	282	318
Library Payments	3,666	7,065	0	2,668	4,624	0	18,023
Sundries	110	281	0	191	2,801	1,442	3,683
Journal (<i>Tas Ancestry</i>)						14,489	14,489
Assets/Capital	71	1,460	0	1,490	259	0	3,280
Administration Payments	475	1,607	0	853	0	10,261	4,219
Total Payments	4,991	15,322	171	7,320	8,804	32,494	51,875
Transfers to term loan a/c	0	0	0	3,000	0	0	3,000
Closing Balance	\$1,940	\$11,134	\$3,942	\$7,132	\$6,803	\$23,825	\$54,776
Term Loans,Float etc	\$6,564	\$31,204	\$0	\$14,350	\$7,525	\$0	\$59,643
Total Cash Reserves	\$8,504	\$42,338	\$3,942	\$21,482	\$14,328	\$23,825	\$114,419
Value of Assets	\$9,854	\$169,978	\$0	\$24,165	\$33,033	\$0	\$237,030

Helen Stuart receives TFHS Inc. Award

At the Society's AGM in Campbell Town on June 17, Society President Maurice Appleyard presented Helen Stuart with the highest award the Society offers to members who have served the Society long and well, often in both branch and Society roles.



Here is Helen's story based on her nomination by the Launceston Branch. Helen has been a member of the Launceston branch since joining the TFHS in 1991. She has been branch president for a total of ten years, and vice-president from 2010 to 2014. She also was membership secretary from 1994 to 2003, and branch research officer for five years.

She currently has the following roles:

- Sales officer since 2006/7.
- Branch vice-president.
- Member of the publications committee since 2015/16 and its coordinator since 2017/18.
- Coordinator of the DNA discussion group that she initiated in 2016/7.
- Branch librarian since 2015/16.

Helen has represented the branch at community groups, promoting the Society and providing information about family history research. Helen has also organized and presented at several branch workshops on various family history subjects with Scottish and English research her speciality.

She is instrumental in the annual Seniors' Week event conducted by the branch.

Helen has also represented her branch as a delegate to the State Executive Committee for many years and represented the Society and Branch on numerous occasions.

Helen played a leading role in the Coming-of-Age Conference to celebrate the Society's 21st Birthday in March 2001, the 25th Anniversary celebrations in 2005, and more recently in November 2020 the branch's 40th Anniversary celebration at Franklin House.

The list of Helen's roles above does not fully reflect the pivotal role she plays in ensuring our branch functions well and provides effective library and research services to our members and visitors.

She has devoted an enormous amount of time working for the branch and society over the past 30 years. Helen is the stalwart of the Launceston Branch, and she volunteers her time selflessly and with goodwill on behalf of the Society.

Helen is very deserving of an award for her long and excellent service to TFHS.

John Dent OAM President, Launceston Branch Tasmanian Family History Society Inc.

Society Awards for Family History Writing

Dr Alison Alexander (Patron)

At the 2023 Annual General Meeting of our society, the winners of the three society awards for Family History writing were announced.

The first award to be presented was the *Lilian Watson Family History Award*.

This year saw another very interesting group of books entered for the Lilian Watson Award, showing different ways of writing family history. They all make fascinating reading, and all involve a huge amount of research and hard work by the authors and their assistants. All are well-written and make good reading.

As usual it was difficult to pick just one winner as all these books had something about them of special interest. Three tell the stories of families celebrating their bicentenaries, since so many emigrants arrived in the early 1820s. Here is a list of entries.

Leading Amateurs, by Anne Blythe-Cooper

A biography of musician Lucy BENSON, which lays to rest the idea that Victorian women stayed at home doing embroidery and childcare! Lucy Benson was a mover and shaker, a community leader in music and singing in Hobart for many years around 1900.

The Glorious Vintage, by Anne Blythe-Cooper

The story of Charles Benson, Lucy's grandson, who in 1895 brought the house down in Hobart when, aged four, he played the role of a fairy prince in *The Sleeping*

Beauty. He went on to become an international opera star.

An Amos Family History: The First Three Generations in Tasmania, by Julian Amos.

The AMOS family arrived in Van Diemen's Land as servants and by their industry rose to become noted landowners. They still farm properties the first Amoses were granted on the east coast in the 1820s.

Curling Wisps & Whispers of History; Volume 1: Thanet to Tasmania, by LucyAnn Curling.

This is not the usual story of a British settler coming to Van Diemen's Land, but going, as written from an English point of view – England is home, Van Diemen's Land is exotic. This is the story of the Curling family and their activities.

The winner this year is *The Legacy of John Headlam of Egleston, Macquarie River, Tasmania*, by Carol Bacon.

This entry is another comprehensive family history by Carol Bacon, who won this award (with David Gatenby) in 2022 for a similar tome on the GATENBY family. It is a large, well-researched, well-written book with copious illustrations and maps, describing every aspect of the HEADLAM family in Britain and then in Tasmania.

The next award announced was the *Best Journal Article Award* for volume 43 of *Tasmanian Ancestry*.

This award was judged by Beryl Dix and Beverley Richardson. This judging was extremely difficult, and, in the end, a triple

award was given to three articles of equal merit. They are given here in the order they appeared in the journal:

Hobart Ladies' Grammar School 1895-1920, by Eddy Steenbergen published in Vol. 43 No. 2.

Eddy Steenbergen's interesting article was clear, concise, and well written, and threw an interesting light on women's education in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, particularly the role of Nellie POULETT-HARRIS as a high achiever in education.

The Reinvention of John Byron: from Scoundrel to Good Guy, by Jennifer Jacobs published in Vol. 43 No. 3.

Jennifer Jacobs' article was fascinating and well written. Although not relevant to her own family history, she followed a line of enquiry and research into the life of John BYRON because she was captivated by the compelling story of his life. It was an interesting approach to a man who had a chequered career.

The Humble Hankie: Its prominent role in society and culture in Tasmania in the nineteenth century, by Don Bradmore published in Vol. 43 No. 3.

Don Bradmore's article was his usual entertaining and well-written story on the humble hankie from the earliest to comparatively recent times. The examples he gives of the various punishments meted out for the theft of hankies, particularly to children, illustrate the severity with which such misdemeanours were treated.

The final award announced was the inaugural Patron's Award.

This is offered each calendar year for the best article published in Tasmanian Ancestry and written by anyone who is or has been enrolled in the University of Tasmania Diploma of Family History course.

The winner of the inaugural Patron's Award is Robyn House, who wrote an article entitled *Who is the large man in the large chair?* This was published in the December 2022 issue of Tasmanian Ancestry.



Carol Bacon(left), winner of the Lillian Watson Prize 2023 presented by Allison Alexander.

Branch Reports

Burnie

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

President: Peter Cocker 0427 354 103

Secretary: Sue Sutton

Burnie Tasmania 7320

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Our Branch Annual General Meeting was held on 29th May. There are a couple of new faces on the committee, which is pleasing to see.

The topic of the General Meeting was a presentation by several of our members incorporating some of the early School Photos from *The Advocate* archive collection. This was well received and certainly created some discussion about the location and the period of when these early schools operated.

Our next meeting was held on the 26 June. Topic of this meeting was a collection of small items covering a variety of topics which were well received. These included: Presentation of some old glass slides and photographs, exporting reports and charts from FTM 2019, tips on charging your smart phone, Windows 10/11 and other computer tips, MS Word tips and best photo restoration apps for 2023.

The third publication in the 1960 series of our Branch publications is in the final stages of checking and should be ready for purchase in a week or so. This book covers the months April, May, and June 1960 and

like the previous editions covers People, Places, Photos, Events and News Items of interest to Family Researchers. This will be followed by the final 1960 book covering Jan, Feb and Mar 1960.

Hobart

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The branch held its well-attended AGM on a Saturday afternoon in April at St Mark's Church Hall in Bellerive. Louise Rainbow retired after serving seven (long, but she says enjoyable) years as President, and the incoming President, Ros Escott, thanked her for her service. Louise hasn't gone far and is now Vice President of the branch. The rest of the committee remains unchanged except for the retirement of long-serving members Robert Tanner and Clint Ayers. Garry Ling did not stand for re-election but has since been co-opted onto the committee now that his health issues are very much improved. Alison Alexander gave a presentation on her ancestors Thomas and Ann Peters who

arrived in 1804 at what would be the first settlement of Hobart Town. For 2024, she is planning a 120-year anniversary get-together of their descendants, of whom there are many. Alison's talk has been submitted for publication, so is not summarised here.

In May, Lucy Frost, author of *Convict Orphans*, was our guest speaker and her topic was *Unpaid and Unfree*. In June, Moira McAlister from Canberra gave a presentation on *The tricky business of fact and fiction*. Notes from these talks are elsewhere in this publication.

Hobart branch has a decreasing number of library assistants who volunteer to help visitors with their research on Tuesday afternoons, Wednesday mornings and Saturday afternoons. Several have recently retired or become unavailable and we are looking for some new volunteers to fill the roster. Are you able to do a shift a month, or perhaps more, especially on a Saturday? Training provided.

A new project, Unique Stories, will involve completing brief reviews of books in our library which are either unique to us or likely to be of special interest to family historians, and publishing the reviews on our web site.

Work is well underway on a new publication project which will see the late Geoffrey Sharman's comprehensive work on the Swing-rioters (or machine breakers) published on the branch website.

The DNA Interest Group continues to meet monthly. A recent survey of members highlighted that the group has a

mix of people at different stages of expertise, so we have now introduced a short segment each month addressing one of the basic skills or tools we use to explore DNA. Members Richie, Ruth and Maureen have made interesting presentations on the research they have been doing with their family's DNA and Ros talked about a recent conundrum 'Is he her father, or isn't he?'

Launceston

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

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Secretary: Fran Keegan

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All telephone enquiries to 0490 826 863



Congratulations to Helen Stuart, well known to the TFHS membership, who was presented with the TFHS Inc. Award at the State Conference and

Annual General Meeting held at Campbell Town on 17 June 2023. This Society Award is presented to members and others who have given meritorious service to the Society. Helen is a very worthy recipient. A member since 1991, Helen has held positions of President, Vice-president, and Secretary for 26 of those 32 years and been Sales Officer for the past 17 years. Helen is also the Library Coordinator and responsible for the day-to-day management of our City Park Stables library in Tamar Street. In nominating

Helen for this award, current Launceston Branch President John Dent summarised the view of Launceston Branch Committee and membership as follows: 'The list of Helen's positions above does not fully indicate the pivotal role she has played in ensuring the Launceston Branch functions well, and provides an effective library and research service to our members and visitors. Without Helen's efforts we would not be in the strong position we are now in. Helen has devoted an enormous amount of time to the efforts of the branch and the society over the past 30 years. Helen is the stalwart of the Launceston branch, and she volunteers her time selflessly and with good grace in any number of family history matters on behalf of the Society.' Thank you and well deserved, Helen. Congratulations are also due to Robyn Gibson, Launceston Branch Committee member and Research Officer who was elected State President of TFHS Inc. at the June AGM. We wish Robyn, and her Executive Committee, well, in that role and know that the Society is in good hands under her leadership. We would like to thank retiring President, Maurice Appleyard, for his leadership, guidance, and support to Launceston Branch over the past six years. At Branch level, we note that attendance at our City Park Stables library has been variable over the winter months as the number of visitors from interstate and overseas eases off. Requests for assistance with research does not wane, however, and our research team have been kept busy. Enquiries can be made by email, phone or visiting the Branch Library. The Research Request

form can be accessed via the website. Contact details are listed above. To date Launceston Branch 2023/24 membership is slightly increased from the previous year with new members enrolling on a regular basis. Sometimes new members only remain financial while they are actively researching, which is quite appropriate, but most of our members have been with us for many years. We thank them for their ongoing loyalty and support. The Branch is regularly contacted by members and non-members who are interested in pursuing their family history research through DNA analysis and matching. Members are welcome to join the DNA Discussion Circle. August is Family History month and our focus this year will be the next meeting of the DNA DC, with guest speaker Andrew Cocker, to be held on 17 August at City Park Stables library. Numbers are limited, but any member interested in joining the group should contact Helen via the Branch email or phone number. Another interest group available to members is the British Interest Group (BIG) that continues to meet on the second Wednesday each month with relevant British ancestry topics discussed at each meeting. Recent topics have been Edinburgh, Scotland, Extent Rolls, 1580-1847, UK General Discussion and Militia Records. Topics for the remainder of 2023 will be notified via the newsletter and website. New BIG members are always welcome and can book via the Branch contacts.

The 2022/23 AGM was held on 19 April 2023 at The Elderly Citizens Club, Invermay with 19 members and friends

attending. Annual Reports from the President, Treasurer, Sales Officer, and Research Officer were presented and office bearers and the auditor for the 2023/34 year were appointed. Following proceedings, guest speaker Dr Jillian Koshin gave a very interesting and informative talk on WWI & II - the Home Front. With Anzac Day coming up it was a timely reminder of the importance of the amazing contribution of those who never left their homes, but supported the war effort through the comfort fund, fund raising and employment. As the State Conference and AGM was held in June it was decided not to have a Branch workshop in June. The next seminar/workshop will be on 20th September at our usual venue, the Elderly Citizens Club, Invermay. Guest presenter will be Dr Dianne Snowden AM who will speak on Early Orphanages in Hobart. This seminar will interest many people, particularly those with female convict or pauper ancestry, as the orphanages were a likely residence for their children. This will be our final seminar for the year. More information and booking details are on the website. The segment on City Park Radio's Long Lunch continues, now once a month on Thursdays. Topics addressed are those that may be of interest to family historians and upcoming TFHS activities are promoted. The quarterly newsletter was distributed to members in late July with the last newsletter for 2023 planned for distribution in late October. Past newsletters are available on the website. Contributions to the newsletter, up to 300 words, are always welcome and can be forwarded to Fran via the Branch contact

details listed above. Currently, several transcription projects are progressing, at various stages of completion. These include Examiner BDMs 1966 -1970, the Card Index, J A Dunn Funeral Records, and some 1820/30s donated Court Records. The Card Index, alphabetically indexed up to the letter M is already searchable on a Library computer. This will be progressively added to and publication of the other projects is expected over the next year. The Launceston Branch Committee greatly appreciates the assistance of all its volunteers and does not expect them to keep going indefinitely. So, we are always looking for members who might be able to donate a little bit of their time as a library assistant, transcriber, committee member or helping with other library tasks. Do not hesitate to make contact via one of our contact methods above if you can help.

Mersey Branch

www.tfhsdev.com

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Library (03) 6426 2257

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A successful Beginners' course was held Saturday 1 July, combined with a soup and sandwich lunch. Everyone enjoyed the day, so much so, that it has been decided to have other courses once a month. Helen and Ross put together an interesting presentation, and even we 'old dogs' learnt some 'new tricks'.

Mersey Branch has had a busy time over the past months, with our three projects well in hand. By the next *Ancestry* the revised edition of *A Cemetery That Was* should be available to purchase. A planned 'taster' will be made available on our website.

Rhonda, a new and very keen member, is helping with our scrapbook photograph indexing which is progressing rapidly with Sandra's input as well.

F E Watts Funeral Directors index is at the 'tidying up' stage. The plan is to have all three projects completed this year.

For Family History Month in August Mersey Branch will have a display at the library in Devonport. Members have been rummaging through their collections of photos & collectables. A special group of drawings by three family members – grandfather, grand- daughter & great grandson from Sonia will be on display as

well as a golden wedding - anniversary cake (yummy?) and other precious items from Julie. There will be medals from Ross, a bible etc from Gay and much more.

Latrobe Council organised a meeting of local history groups at our library. Mersey Branch is the only group able to store accumulated material and one of two groups (Sassafras) being Incorporated.

We were very pleased with the write up in the Advocate this month. They are pleased to promote our books when ready.

Our front windows continue to create interest. This month it features early pioneers of Latrobe and their residences.

Volunteers are looking forward to our new computers coming, hopefully, before end of August. All's going well at Mersey - still happy - still keen.

The *Tasmanian Ancestry*

PATRON'S AWARD

celebrating the best article published in *Tasmanian Ancestry* in a single calendar year by any past or current student in the University of Tasmania *Diploma of Family History*.

To enter simply submit your article in the usual way by email to the editor at editors@tasfhs.org including in the body of the email information allowing the society to confirm your enrolment in the diploma course.

Attach your article as a Microsoft Word attachment to your email. Length from 1000 to 2000 words.

Submit your article now for the 2024 Patron's Award.

Notes from Branch Meetings

Unpaid and Unfree

Notes from a presentation by Lucy Frost, author of *Convict Orphans*, to the TFHS Hobart Branch in May.

Lieutenant Governor George ARTHUR established the first dedicated orphan schools in Van Diemen's Land in 1833, known as the Queen's Orphan Schools from 1837. They were funded by the Convict Department of the Imperial government in England and managed by the local administration. The mothers of these children were mostly convicts, compulsorily separated so they could be sent out as assigned workers. Convict mothers could retrieve their children if they had married or served a significant part of their sentence.

Staff at the orphan schools could be dishonest, diverting food and resources intended for the children to their own use. When such behaviour was investigated, some child witnesses provided good information which should have resulted in convictions. But the official response was minimal, intended to avoid critical attention from the public, and the named children became a target for punishment by the offenders who were allowed to remain in their jobs.

The notion of convict stain, where children of convicts were suspected to have inherited a propensity to crime, meant that there was an emphasis on moral training, rather than gaining educational, trade and social skills. If a child was apprenticed at 12 to 14, they were deemed

to be discharged and no further records were kept.

When transportation ended and Tasmania became self-governing, the Orphan Schools were renamed the Queen's Asylum. Children born of convict parents were still supported from Imperial funds, with all other children supported by the Tasmanian government. This distinction had financial significance and resulted in diligent record keeping, especially on admission. Birth details of the child and the names of parents, their origins, convict records and current circumstances were diligently recorded, to determine which funding applied. The Queen's Asylum Act of 1861 further required that orphans apprenticed out had to have formal indenture contacts and the Board of Governors remained responsible for them until they turned 18. All this enhanced record keeping provides valuable information for researchers. When Lucy Frost decided to research 'orphans' who had been apprenticed, she therefore chose this later period to focus on.

Indentured children rarely received any useful training beyond domestic or farm work and were essentially regarded as free labour. A Board of Guardians provided notional oversight until the age of eighteen, but in reality, had no system of checking on their welfare. People applying to take a child needed the support of a local notary e.g., magistrate or clergyman. Such recommendation was generously given and assessed against the respectability of the applicant rather than the life that the

child would have. Some children went to impoverished families, and their lives were no better or worse than that of the people they lived with.

Coming from an institutionalised life, these children often lacked the social skills needed to live and work in the community. Some kindly, and socially enlightened people took children into their homes and made great effort to give them a good life and good opportunities. Asylum records show Johannah Clyne CREAR, last of her middle-class family in Tasmania, had no need of cheap labour. Her kindly regard and treatment of the boys indentured to her is witnessed by the later life of Edward BIRCH who made a good life for himself, gaining good employment, maintaining a family, and acquiring assets by the time he died in Queenstown in 1934.

When the Queens Asylum closed in 1877, a boarding-out system was introduced where children who might be abandoned, neglected, or have no parental support, would be boarded into the community, with the government paying the foster carer. Parents were expected to contribute to the care of their children and were pursued to this end. This system continued into the early 20th century.

The tricky business of fact and fiction

Notes from a presentation by Moira McAlister, author of *Izzy*, to the TFHS Hobart Branch in June.

Moira's biographical website, published in 2015, *Dr Barry COTTER: the first doctor in Melbourne*, is a factual account

of the life of Dr Cotter. It also introduced the reader to his wife Inez Seville FITZGERALD, whom he married in Melbourne 1838. Dr Cotter arrived in Port Phillip with John BATMAN on the *Norval* in November 1835. The diary of John Pascoe FAWKNER has fifty-two entries for Dr Cotter and his later life is well documented in the public record. It was therefore possible to write a non-fiction narrative of his life.

His wife Inez was likely an illegitimate daughter of a Spanish woman and a member of the Fitzgerald family, one of the leading Irish families at that time. She was brought up in her father's household and this gave her opportunities such as social education, a definite benefit to a girl born in such circumstances. Inez claimed in a letter written in later life that before she was married to Dr Cotter she was employed as a companion to Mrs Arundel WRIGHT, wife of the first Postmaster of Launceston, and governess to their children.

Dr Barry Cotter, a speculator, bought up plots of land when Melbourne was first surveyed in 1836. He and Inez and their two children then went to England in 1841, as a wealthy couple. Their third child (Charles Henri Barry Cotter, Moira's great grandfather) was born in London 1842. Land bubbles collapse, and a recession in Port Phillip district saw Barry Cotter suffer great financial loss, necessitating his return to Melbourne in 1843 to salvage whatever possible of his investment. Eventually, he boarded the *Isabella* bound for England but was

shipwrecked on Flinders Island, delaying his return for two years.

During his absence Inez formed an association with Francis Durell VIGNOLES, possibly renewing an interest born of her earlier meeting with him in Melbourne, when he was a Lieutenant in the 28th Foot Regiment. By 1845 Inez was living with Captain Vignoles at Army Barracks Chatham. Their daughter was born that year, two weeks before Francis left with his regiment for India and out of Inez's life forever. Her marriage with Barry Cotter was over, and Inez, remarried in England in 1854, arrived in Sydney in 1860 with her four children. She died in Richmond, Victoria, four years later. Dr Cotter died in Swan Hill in 1877 having spent the final thirty years of his life caring for the people of the towns along the Murray and Darling Rivers.

Because Inez's true origins are unknown, and the life of this couple in Melbourne, and later London attracted much gossip, it is tempting to wonder about her life and times. There is insufficient documentary evidence for a non-fiction book, so Moira McAlister chose to write her novel Izzy as fiction. This enabled her to flesh out Izzy's character and to attribute motivations to her actions, while keeping the story as close to the known facts as possible. Moira spoke about the importance of changing the names of real people in a fictional account and using real names only for significant people mentioned in relation to a factual event.

Such an adventurous life lends itself well to imaginative story telling.

Still Time to Win

Earlier this year our patron, Alison Alexander, announced an exciting new initiative designed to allow us all to share some of our research in the form of a short story about our ancestors. These stories should be less than about 1500 words and may be about a single ancestor or a couple. The ancestors should be Tasmanian or at least have a Tasmanian connection. There is no limit on the number of separate stories which may be submitted for publication. One or two photos may also be supplied.

There is no charge to either members or non-members for this service which may prove to be a great way to ensure your research survives or perhaps ensure a special person or obituary is remembered.

Later this year there will be a lucky draw of the first 100 people to submit a story and the winner will receive a prize of an Ancestry DNA kit.

Guidelines on writing a successful story and how to submit may be found on our website. www.tasfhs.org.

Perjury and Prejudice Hobart Town, Tasmania, Tuesday 27 October 1874.

Margaret Nichols (Member 3225)

It is a truth universally acknowledged that a young couple determined to marry will find a way, especially if one's family strongly advises against it.

In the late 1980s when I began searching for the name HOPWOOD in Tasmania, the Tasmanian Registrar General's Births, Deaths and Marriages were available on a set of microfilm which included an index. The index led me to the marriage certificate for William BLACKWOOD and Hannah HAYLETT on 27 October 1874. A puzzle at first, until I read the annotation above the entry: "Hopwood was convicted on perjury in falsely stating his name to be William Blackwood, whereas it was William Hopwood".¹

The Mercury provided the details to the following poignant story.

William George Hopwood and Ellen Haylett had organised to be married in the Manse of St Andrews in Bathurst Street on Thursday in October 1874. Elizabeth Haylett accompanied her sister as she was to be a witness to the marriage despite being only 14 at the time. Richard Patterson was the second witness - a friend of William's perhaps?²

What we do know is that this was a surreptitious marriage for William, one he tried to keep from his parents. Permission had been sought but refused.

Hopwood was convicted of perjury in falsely stating his name to be William Blackwood, whereas it was William Hopwood -

1874 MARRIAGES in the District of Hobart Town -

No.	When married, and where.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Rank.	Signature and Description of Parties.	Name of Clergyman, Officiating Minister, or Deputy Registrar.	When registered.	Signature of Deputy Registrar or Officiating Minister.
362	27 October 1874 at Hobart Town.	William Blackwood Ellen Haylett	20 & 14 months. <i>See above.</i> 17	Seaman. Sprinter	W. Blackwood Blackw. Ellen Haylett Sprinter.	Rev J. Stone	27 th Octob 1874	<i>[Signature]</i>

Married in the Manse of St. Andrew's according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Church of Scotland by License by
 This Marriage was solemnized between us } W. Blackwood
 } Ellen Haylett
 { In the presence of } Richard Patterson
 } } Elizabeth Haylett
[Signature]
 Minister.

¹ RGD37/1/33 no 202,1874

² Ibid. No knowledge of Richard's connection with William.



Painting of the Manse in the Scots Memorial Museum and Collection (St Andrew's Hall)(1850). Photograph - St Andrew's Manse. Libraries Tasmania (demolished 1959)

As the marriage was conducted by Licence, the officiating minister, the Rev John STORIE, was obliged by law to obtain written affidavits from the couple. William proceeded to lie under oath when he signed the affidavits thus risking a charge of perjury.

His name, he declared, was William BLACKWOOD, he was 20 and 6 months old, he was a seaman, and his parents did not live in the colony.³

In fact, Willnough or William as he preferred, was the eldest son of Joseph and Eliza Hopwood and was born in Hobart on 22 December 1854, making him not quite 20 years old on 27 October 1874⁴. He was a compositor with *The Mercury* newspaper. His parents were alive and well and living in Hobart where they had both been born.⁵

Williams' parents had not approved of the marriage, hence the deception. Ellen was only just 17 and William, at 19, was still an apprentice compositor.

Several days later, as a result of information raised by his mother, William was served a summons. The hearing at the City Police Court was held on 26 November and the trial was held a month later on 3 December in the Supreme Court (perjury being a criminal offence) in front of the Chief Justice, Sir Francis SMITH. William was on bail for part of the waiting period. The Attorney-General appeared for the prosecution and Mr CRISP for the defence.

The verdict was one month in goal which William served at the Campbell Street Gaol. The jury had strongly recommended him to mercy because of his good character.

³ RGD37/1/33 no 202,1874

⁴ RGD33/1/5/ no 1723

⁵ RGD32/1/1/ no 2653; RGD32/1/2/ no 8462

The Mercury reported the hearing and the trial in great detail. As the story centred on one of *The Mercury's* employees this is not surprising.

It is from this meticulous reporting that we can follow the proceedings.

The first newspaper report was in late November when William appeared before the City Police Court. There were three witnesses questioned.⁶

First, the Rev Storie stated that “He held an authority from the Moderator of the Church to issue licenses for marriages, and it became his duty before solemnizing marriages to cause certain affidavits to be sworn to.” The affidavits in this case were handed over to the Court. [not sighted]. He continued “... that the mother of the defendant came to him two days after the marriage and seemed very distressed at what had occurred. She said her son had given an erroneous name. He (Mr. Storie) at once consulted with Mr. BUCKLAND, the registrar of births, marriages, and deaths, and Mr. Buckland, after hearing the facts of the case, said the defendant ought to be prosecuted.”

William’s father, Joseph Hopwood, a shipwright of Battery Point was the second witness. He stated that William had been living at home with his parents and was so on 27 October last. Joseph added that the “Defendant had not his consent to be married; in fact, he believed he [William]

had been regularly "trapped." Joseph continued that William “was engaged as a compositor in The Mercury office and was in receipt of 30/- per week. Now that the marriage had taken place, witness approved of it”.

The third witness, District-Constable CLEARY, deposed that “he served a summons on the defendant on the 10th inst. On that occasion the defendant said the reason he had given a wrong name to the minister was for fear his parents should hear of the marriage.”

The defendant was committed for trial, bail being allowed in two sureties of £50 each.

For William’s family to become embroiled in a minor 'cause célèbre' must have been embarrassing at best and humiliating at worst. As a member of the working class and descendants of 'old colonists', as convicts were often euphemistically called, anonymity was important.⁷ In this instance the crime of perjury became the catalyst for letters to the paper, comments by the editor, verbatim reports of the court case and subsequent reactions, petitions to the Governor and discussions in Parliament⁸. Anonymity this was not.

Unfortunately for the Hopwood family, William’s perjury rekindled the ongoing battle the Rev. Storie was having with his

⁶ The Mercury, Friday 27 November 1874, City Police Court

⁷ William’s grandfather, George Coatsworth Hopwood, was a convict as were Ellen’s parents, Ellen Leary and Isaac Haylett.

⁸ Tasmania, Parliamentary Papers January 1875

church and the law ever since he arrived in Hobart in late 1860.

When the Rev. Storie gave evidence for the prosecution in William's trial, he and the judge, the Chief Justice, Sir Francis SMITH, became embroiled in a verbal battle concerning the legality of the Presbyterian Church in Tasmania. According to the entry in the Australian Dictionary of Biography Smith "... was intemperate in court, often engaging in vehement exchanges with counsel or witnesses. Where his own interests were involved, he allowed anger to overbear reason".⁹

Sir Francis Smith and the Rev. John Storie had something of a history, the background to which makes fascinating reading via the vigilant reporting of *The Mercury*. They had met in court on several occasions in the 1860s and the early 1870s as well as exchanging opinions via *The Mercury's* correspondence columns.

Mr Storie's sensibility and his propensity to air his grievances publicly indicated a personality which many would have found confronting. Within six months of his arrival in Hobart Town from Victoria, Mr Storie wrote to the Colonial Secretary to point out that the schedule of religious denominations in the upcoming census papers was incorrect. He argued that the term Presbyterian was specific and not general and that the returns would not be

meaningful. He received no answer so used *The Mercury* to make his point.¹⁰

Throughout 1861 and 1862 *The Mercury* reported on the downward spiral of support for Mr Storie as his actions insulted and confused his fellow ministers and parishioners. How much was this due to his prickly personality and how much due to the conservative establishment's prejudicial attitudes towards the Church of Scotland is difficult to know.¹¹

The culmination of the arguments was that the Presbytery Court severed ties with Mr Storie in 1863. This was taken to the Supreme Court where the decision was upheld.

In December 1863, *The Mercury* reported that Mr Storie had taken six weeks leave and was not expected to take up his position at St Andrews again.

However, the Rev. Storie had a champion in Dr Adam TURNBULL, who was the Presbyterian Minister at the Campbell Town and Tunbridge area and sat on the Presbytery. Turnbull pleaded Mr Storie's case before the Presbytery each year until 1870 when Storie was reinstated.

This reminder of a long running controversy kept the Hopwood name in the papers for longer than a case of perjury normally would. *The Mercury* fuelled this second hand notoriety with dramatic

⁹ Australian Dictionary of Biography, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/smith-sir-francis-villeneuve-4603/text7569>.

¹⁰ *The Mercury*, Friday 5 April 1861, The Presbyterians and the Census.

¹¹ The census of 1870 calculated that the total population of Tasmania was 99,328. Of this number 53% belonged to the Church of England and 6% to the Church of Scotland, a decided minority. As outlined in www.parliament.tas.gov.au, Statistics of Tasmania for 1874.

headlines such as *A Scene In Court. The Bench! The Bar! The Church!* (4 December 1874) and *The Hopwood Episode* (5 December 1874). It did not matter that the focus of the reports had shifted away from William's perjury and was concentrating on Mr Storie and the Chief Justice. *The Rev. Mr. Storie And The Chief Justice.* (31 August 1875). The catalyst was the perjury and William's name was always mentioned.

William was released from prison in the week ending 2 January 1875.¹² William and Ellen had barely a month together since their marriage on 27 October before William's imprisonment (on 1 December 1874)¹³. The marriage would not appear to have been a successful one. Perhaps Joseph Hopwood's comments about William being 'trapped' were prescient. Ellen's parents (Ellen and Isaac HAYLETT) had separated in 1870 or 1871 and her mother was struggling to rear three children. Having the eldest married and off her hands may have been a relief to Ellen senior. In March 1871 Mrs Haylett and her husband were in the Police Court where Mrs. Haylett "applied that her husband, the defendant in the previous case, might be ordered to find sureties for his observance of the peace. She stated that some time since she separated from

him, and had subsequently, by hard work, supported their children."¹⁴

Perhaps the adverse publicity and a month's gaol dampened the couple's enthusiasm.

Barely a month later, on 8 February 1875, a warrant for William's arrest was issued.¹⁵ William and another compositor from *The Mercury*, Frederick FURLEY, were absent without leave from their apprenticeship duties. They left on the mail coach for Launceston on 7 February 1875, bound for Melbourne. They were arrested in Launceston and returned to Hobart.¹⁶ The repercussions of this escapade appear to be negligible. William did not lose his job. As he was still an apprentice, *The Mercury* would want him returned to fulfil his contract, despite the month's prison sentence and the absence without leave. *The Mercury* had a flourishing Athletic Club and a cricket team and William was mentioned several times in 1875 as competing successfully in foot races and playing cricket, not so successfully.¹⁷ The warrant contained a description of the escapees, the only one extant of William. "He was 5' 7", brown hair, dark eyes".

The marriage did have one happy result. On 15 August 1875 Louisa Mary Hopwood was born in Hobart to William

¹² Tasmanian Gazette, 12 February 1875

¹³ AOT, CON37/1/10 Page 5927

¹⁴ The Mercury, Friday 17 March 1871

¹⁵ Police Gazette, 8 February 1875

¹⁶ Launceston Examiner, Thursday 11 February 1875

¹⁷ The Mercury, Monday 8 March 1875, Tuesday 30 March 1875, Monday 5 April 1875

and Ellen.¹⁸ Louisa was to be their only child. Ellen's mother, of Battery Point, was the informant.

There are no further records to the couple in Tasmanian public records. However, an Ellen Blackwood married Edward COLEMAN on 6 November 1880 at the home of the bride's mother, Ellen Blackwood. The witnesses were Ellen and Elizabeth Blackwood. It appears that Ellen (together with her mother and sister) took on the fraudulent name of the man she married in 1874 - William Blackwood. Did they not realise that they were committing the same offence of perjury William had received 1 month's goal for in 1874? Given that there is no evidence of a divorce, the offence of bigamy was also possible if Ellen's actions had been discovered.¹⁹

The birth certificates of at least six children born to the couple between 1880 and 1899 name the mother as Ellen Coleman, nee Haylett.²⁰ Unlike William, Ellen managed to avoid both perjury and bigamy charges.

William died in Richmond, Melbourne in October 1895 at the home of his younger brother Francis.²¹ The death certificate states that William left Tasmania circa 1885 for Sydney where he lived for about a year. He then spent 10 years in New Zealand and returned to Australia in June

1895.²² The NZ Electoral Rolls 1853 through 1981 have two entries for a William George Hopwood. This William was living at Reefton in the Grey Valley between 1879 and 1881 in a hut on Lower Broadway.²³ Reefton is a small town in the West Coast region of New Zealand and was a thriving gold mining town in the late 19th century from the 1870s to the 1950s. Was this the lure that took William to New Zealand to try his hand at prospecting? If this is our William and he dutifully registered himself on the electoral roll, then why stop in 1881?

William was 42 when he died of phthisis. Although the death certificate stated that he was married at 19, the name of his wife and daughter were 'not known'. As Francis Hopwood was the informant for these particulars, it is possible that he did not know the marriage details. He was only 9 when the ill-fated marriage took place.²⁴

Did William know that he was a grandfather before he died? His daughter Louisa married John WELLS in Hobart in 1893 (ironically, at the Manse of St Andrews) and gave birth to a son bearing his grandfather's name, John William, in 1894, the first of their eight children.²⁵ Sadly, given the lengths William undertook to sever ties with Hobart, it

¹⁸ RGD33/1/11/ no 1401

¹⁹ RGD37/1/39 no 714 1880

²⁰ RGD33/1/12/ no 2214, RGD 33/1/82 no.2472, RGD 33/1/76 no. 2581, RGD 33/1/12 no. 2965, RGD 33/1/12 no. 3245, RGD 33/1/88 no. 2451

²¹ Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, Melbourne, Victoria, 1895/12361

²² Ibid

²³ Electoral Rolls accessed via www.ancestry.com

²⁴ RGD33/1/9 Image 122 no 8010, 25 August 1865

²⁵ RGD33/1/78 no 2468. All of Louisa's 8 children were born in Southport, Tasmania. This is where Louisa's mother, Ellen Coleman, was also living with her growing family.

appears that the answer was probably ‘no, he did not know’.

As is often the case in family history research, more questions than answers arise and this is true for this story.

Was there an important reason William and Ellen had to marry, as his father hinted at the Police Court hearing of 26 November 1874? Was she pregnant or did she lie to William about a pregnancy? However, the baby born in August 1875 could not have been conceived until after the marriage.

The strange attempted escapade to Melbourne in January 1875 is another puzzle. It certainly questions the stability of and respect for the marriage.

William’s actions seem to be those of an impetuous and restless young man, an attempted clandestine marriage under an assumed name, an aborted attempt at fleeing Tasmania for the mainland and then finally leaving Tasmania for good.

Storie’s notoriety begs the question – why did the couple choose that church and that Minister? As an employee of *The Mercury*, one must assume that William was aware of the frequency of Storie’s name appearing before the public (he was in the news in August, September and October of 1874). William’s family lived in Battery Point and any church dealings had been with the Anglican parish of St

George in Battery Point. It is not clear where Ellen was living in 1874 but her parents were married at St George’s church. William was prudent enough to avoid going to a church where he may have been recognised, but not prudent enough to avoid a minister who was a stickler for propriety and who would react to any underhand dealing – as he did!

On the day before the marriage was celebrated, the Presbytery met in private, without Mr Storie’s presence and the following motion was put and carried:

“That the members of this Presbytery desire to place on record their ? of Mr. Storie’s rebellious, defiant, and undutiful conduct of many months past and in view of existing complications they deem it advisable to defer dealing with him in accordance with the laws and usages of the Presbyterian Church.”²⁶

²⁶ The Mercury 26 October 1874

William Maum at Clarence Plains

Lorraine Redway (Member 7395)

William MAUM packed a lot into his early adult years.¹ He was a subaltern United Irishman arrested just before the 1798 uprising. After presenting flawed testimony at the court-martial of Francis ARTHUR, a prominent businessman, William Maum was transported to New South Wales.² He came to the attention of Governor KING who made a blunt assessment to Under Secretary COOKE.

*Respecting Maum, his atrocious conduct in Ireland cannot be unknown to you. I shall therefore make no other remark on him other than by observing that his principles and Conduct have changed as little as the others, Nor can Time or place have any Effect on such depraved Characters.*³

William Maum told both Lord Castlereagh and Lieutenant Governor COLLINS that such opinions were unwarranted. He got his second chance when he was recruited as an assistant, and subsequently as storekeeper, in the Hobart Commissariat,

but in 1816 Governor MACQUARIE dismissed both him and his subordinate clerk describing them as ‘most improper and unfit Persons to hold their respective confidential and important Offices’⁴

In 1816 William Maum owned a 30-acre property at Clarence Plains, a rural community separated from the small settlement at Hobart by a wide expanse of the River Derwent. Prior to, or within a short time after leaving the Commissariat, he acquired two adjoining properties and these were to be his home for the next 34 years, half of his entire life.⁵

The loss of a regular salary and the associated benefits was softened when his horse Black Beauty won the prize of 300 pounds at Edward LORD’s Orielson Park, a few months after he had been dismissed from the store. Then within a year his haystacks burnt down, he confronted inebriated bushrangers, his (de facto) wife broke her leg, and he was charged with

1 It is assumed here that William only wrote his surname as Maum or MAUME. William MAHONE, alias MAHONY or MAUGHAN, lived at Parramatta and was also transported on the Minerva. The 1814 NSW Muster refers.

2 Durey, M, William Maume: United Irishman and informer in two hemispheres, Eighteenth Century Ireland, vol. 18 (2003).

3 Historical Records of Australia (HRA), series 1 vol. 5, p 536.

4 National Archives of the UK: CO 201/41; AJCP Reel No 20, p 51. Robson, LL, Maum, William James (1780–1850), Australian Dictionary of Biography. Sydney Gazette and NSW Advertiser, 27 Jul 1816, p 1.

5 Tasmanian Archives: LSD354-1-2, p 57. Land Titles Office: Deeds 02/04148; 05/2130.

assault.⁶ It was an eventful, but not necessarily an easy, transition into a life on the other side of the Derwent River.

William Maum struggled with his finances, particularly during the early years at Clarence Plains. During his first eight years, the Provost Marshal or Sheriff advertised the sale of his property five times in order to repay his debts.⁷ In 1827, he told the Surveyor General that he would have to sell 80 acres and work as a tutor for his creditor to repay the money he owed.⁸ Though he continued to borrow money in his latter years, there does not appear to be the same financial pressure.⁹

It difficult to know how much land William Maum owned, let alone cultivated or kept in pasture. Not all the land records have survived, and as the Lieutenant Governor suspected that William Maum

overstated the extent of his wheat crop, the acreage recorded against his name in a muster could also have been exaggerated.¹⁰ According to the 1819 muster, William Maum had 450 acres, but a search found only 380 acres that William Maum might have owned in 1819.¹¹

Most of the food and income for his family would have come from these properties. He sold meat and wheat to the Commissariat. And over time he supplemented his income by selling, or relinquishing, much of his land. When he died, he probably only owned the two properties (75 acres in total) adjoining his first grant of land at Clarence Plains. There is some evidence that he taught privately for short periods, and Mary GARTH, his wife, may have received gifts or money by laying out the dead or being a midwife for the local community.¹² It is not clear

⁶ The Hobart Town Gazette & Southern Reporter, 5 Oct 1816, p 1; 4 Jan 1817, p 1; 16 Aug 1817, p 2; 19 Jul 1817, p 1; 1 Mar 1817, p1.

⁷ *The Hobart Town Gazette & Southern Reporter*, 23 Aug, p 2; 1 Jul, p 2. *Hobart Town Gazette & Van Diemen's Land Advertiser*, 16 Aug, p 2; 12 Mar, p 1; 3 Jun, p 1.

⁸ Tasmanian Archives: LSD1/1/82, p 171.

⁹ *Colonial Times*, 3 Apr 1838, p. 6. Land Titles Office: Deeds 01/0695; 01/0799; 01/800; 02/4148.

¹⁰ HRA, series 3 vol. 3, p 423.

¹¹ Tasmanian Archives: LSD354-1-2, p 57; LSD354-1-3, p 185; SC309-1-1 p 536 (includes PHILLIMORE's grant). Land Titles Office: Deeds: 05/2130; 01/0712. He later acquired, and sold, another 36 acres - *Courier*, 22 Oct 1841, p 4.

¹² Tasmanian Archives: LSD1/1/82, p 171.

Colonial Times, 15 Jan 1830, p 4. The teacher at the Coal River could have been either William Maum or his son Edward. Knopwood, R. (Nicholls, M. ed.), *The diary of the Reverend Robert Knopwood, 1803-1838 : first Chaplain of Van Diemen's Land*, p 565. Rev KNOPWOOD gave Mary Maum two gown pieces for her attendance on his ward who died shortly after giving birth. Mary Maum is considered to be the daughter of Susan Garth nee GOUGH for three reasons. (1) Mary Anne Gough & Mary Maum had the same date of birth. State Library NSW: Norfolk Island victualling book, 1792-1796, p 74. Tasmanian Archives: MM78 Diary of William Maum, Junior. (2) Mrs Maum of Clarence Plains was identified as the daughter of Susan Garth. *Austral-Asiatic*

whether he followed up Black Beauty's success by racing more horses, but the prize money would have been more circumspect than when Black Beauty raced in 1816.¹³

William Maum's predisposition to make dubious claims found an outlet in the land deals and property disputes of the time. He was named as the contact in an advertisement for a land sale, that included two adjoining properties which belonged to someone else.¹⁴ And in 1827, William Maum wrote to the Surveyor General expressing concern that Edward BOULTBEY had selected land at an undisclosed location without talking to him about it. He had, he said, given Edward Boultbody 80 acres at Clarence Plains in return for Edward Boultbody's entitlement to select 500 acres of unallocated land. After an investigation, the authorities decided that no agreement was in place and Edward Boultbody was granted the 500 acres.¹⁵

At two hearings before the Land or Caveat Board, William Maum testified that official records were destroyed after

Lieutenant Governor Collins died in office. As official returns for a nine-month period had disappeared on William Maum's watch in the Commissariat, he presumably wouldn't have wanted his case to be an isolated instance. Alison Alexander argues that few, if any, official papers from Lieutenant Governor Collin's administration are missing and concludes that there was only the customary sorting of possessions and documents after his death.¹⁶

She is also sceptical about William Maum's claims to have damning records on Edward Lord.¹⁷ These claims were published when Edward's brother, Sir John OWEN, claimed one of the properties adjoining William Maum's first grant of land.

Not only did William Maum consider the land claimed by Sir John Owen his, he took umbrage at the way the claim was handled by the Surveyor General's Department.

In the annals of pettifogging chicanery practised by the prostitute and degraded off-scourings of the

Review, Tasmanian and Australian Advertiser, 29 Jun 1841. (3) The marriage of Mary Ann Garth & William Maum was inferred from the 1814 muster. Biographical Database of Australia (www.bda-online.org.au): Bio Item No 200523335. Note: There is no record of a marriage ceremony.

¹³ Colonial Times, 11 Jan 1832, p 3. Bent's News and Tasmanian Three-Penny Register, 17 Mar 1837, p 1. Cornwall Chronicle, Sat 27 Nov 1841, p 2. Scoggins, Clarence and Young Pompey could have belonged to either William Maum or his son Edward.

¹⁴ Hobart Town Advertiser, 23 Jul 1841, p 1. Land Titles Office: Deeds 02/1804; 02/4725; 02/5892.

¹⁵ Tasmanian Archives: LSD1/1/82, pp 164-183.

¹⁶ Hull, HM, Statistical account of Tasmania : from 1804 to 1823, p 5. Colonial Observer, 10 Sep 1842, p 462. Alexander, A, Corruption and skullduggery : Edward Lord, Maria Riseley, and Hobart's tempestuous beginnings, p 92.

¹⁷ Alexander, Corruption and skullduggery, p 305.

*legal profession to obtain a hold of a tenement, in such is there any recorded baseness to be placed in competition with the deception practiced by the Surveyor General's Department to obtain ...a temporary possession by its surveyor of one of Maum's farms.*¹⁸

His earlier clashes with Governor King and arrest in Ireland seem to have done little to deter him from attacking the establishment again, and fortunately the response was more benign this time round. The Caveat Board concluded that Sir John Owen had not substantiated his claim and William Maum retained possession of the land.¹⁹

William Maum had been charged with writing a handbill in Ireland under the name 'An Avenger' and he could have seen fit to promulgate his ideas anonymously again. Letters in the local newspapers written under the pseudonym 'Rusticus' bear some similarities to letters written by William Maum and reflect an anti-clerical sentiment that was attributed to him in Ireland.²⁰ Rusticus accused the Rev BEDFORD of inappropriately using convict labour and the district pound, neglecting to visit schools, and erroneously claiming additional land.

Although it didn't address the individual accusations, a letter from Lieutenant Governor ARTHUR professing full support of the Reverend was eventually published.²¹ On another occasion, Rusticus expressed outrage at the Rev GRANGE's denigration of the Irish from the pulpit. 'What does he know about sermons?' was one response. 'He may perhaps be acquainted with sermons on the merits of a rebellion, but as regards the Rev. Messrs. Knopwood's, Fry's, and Grange's sermons, he knows nothing at all. I heard for myself the sermon of the tenth of October last, and "Rusticus" heard of it only.'²²

It is easy to imagine that William Maum would have been a polarising figure within his own community. While he was making life difficult for some people, he also tried to help others. He asked for a reduction in the punishment of one of his assigned servants, and gave a good character reference to the court for a former servant who was charged with theft. When asked by the prosecution whether he had said that it [*the arrest*] was no more than he expected, William Maum replied that, if he had said that, it was 'on account of the censorious character of the small community'.²³ The prosecutors in Ireland

¹⁸ Austral-Asiatic Review, Tasmanian and Australian Advertiser, 19 Nov 1839, p 1; 3 Dec 1839, p 8.

¹⁹ Tasmanian Archives: SC309-1-1 p 400.

²⁰ Durey, William Maume, p 123.

²¹ Colonial Times and Tasmanian Advertiser, 26 Aug 1825, p 4; 23 Sep 1825, p 3.

²² Hobarton Guardian, or, True Friend of Tasmania, 8 Mar 1848, p 3. Britannia and Trades' Advocate, 30 Mar 1848, p 3.

²³ Tasmanian Archives: CSO1-1-563, File No 12516, pp 33-38. Colonial Times, 13 Jul 1841, page 3.

could only rue that there wasn't such quick thinking at the trial of Francis Arthur.

William Maum emerges from the pages of history as an extroverted and passionate Irishman who didn't let the facts get in the way of a good story. Governor King might have been right in thinking that time and place wouldn't change him, but time and place still shaped the last half of his life. Clarence Plains was an out of the way place where William Maum's

responsibilities were limited to his farm and family. He wasn't entrusted with government stores, and no-one was concerned about a local Irish uprising. At such a time and place, his idiosyncrasies could be tolerated, and he pretty well kept out of trouble. While he didn't exactly thrive as a farmer, he and Mary Garth scraped together enough to raise their children and live out the remainder of their days on their own property.

**Tasmanian Family History Society Inc.
2023**

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Family History Award
for a Book**

**However, produced or published on paper, dealing with a family or biographical history and having significant Tasmanian content.
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Or

The Secretary
PO Box 326, ROSNY PARK, TAS 7018
email secretary@tas

Are you descended from Thomas and Ann Peters?

Convict Thomas, his wife Ann and their baby daughter Elizabeth arrived on the *Calcutta* in February 1804.

The family grew and their five daughters married:

Elizabeth m George Armytage of ‘The Hermitage’ and ‘Como’,
Victoria

Charlotte m Francis Flexmore of Green Ponds

Louisa m John Hayes of ‘Marlbrook’, Mangalore

Mary Ann m William Holt of unfortunate habits

Sophia m James Pillinger of ‘Milbrook’, Tunbridge

The girls had over forty children and Thomas and Ann have hundreds if not thousands of descendants.

Surnames include: Alexander, Armytage, Bailey, Bell, Bird, Braithwaite, Brooks, Campbell, Carmichael, Clarke, Colquhoun, Davidson, Dobson, Fairbairn, Fitzpatrick, Flexmore, Galloway, Giffard, Glover, Guest, Hayes, Herbert, Holt, Hopkins, Kerslake, Landale, McDonald, McIntyre, Miller, Molesworth, Page, Paxton, Pearce, Pillinger, Pyke, Richards, Russell Sinclair, Warner and Williams

Nothing was done at the bicentenary of Thomas and Ann’s arrival in Van Diemen’s Land in 1804, but I would like to hold a gathering in February 2024, near their farm at Bagdad (near Hobart) to commemorate their contribution to our nation.

If you are interested, please contact me on Alison.Alexander@utas.edu.au

or 0458 579 714.

Convicts and Blind Mendicants Part 1: Henry Shirkey

Elaine Crawford

In Hobart Town in November 1846, two men sent petitions to the Colonial Secretary.¹ The gist of the letters was the same – they wanted their sick wives released from the Invalid Hospital, and had comfortable houses waiting for them. The wives had a few things in common. They were both named Sarah and were of a similar age – if they were honest about their age. They had been convicts and were now free by servitude; both had been widows and not married long to their current husbands; both had struggled since arriving in the colony; both had numerous convictions for drunkenness; one would die within a year of consumption (TB), while the other would struggle on for another six years with her unnamed disability, and both were married to blind men.

Life in the colony in the mid-19th century was hard enough for convicts, however, to be blind and destitute was an extra unpleasant burden. The choices for Henry SHARKEY/SHIRKEY and William TUGBY were very bleak: living in an Invalid Depot, living in government sponsored rental, or destitute or on the streets where society could, all too often, be cruel and unempathetic. For a short time, they avoided being institutionalised; they had wives and an incentive to find accommodation, and with the help of

government rations they had some hope until their wives became sick. The two blind men were reliant on their wives for their own care and comfort as the alternative was unpleasant.

Henry Shirkey *York* (1) 1829

The oldest of the two men was Henry Sharkey. He had been tried at Somerset on 28 March 1829 for stealing wearing apparel (2 gowns), and sentenced to seven years of servitude, and had previous charges of vagrancy against his name. Henry was a convict on the *York* (I) arriving in Van Diemen's Land (VDL) in 1829. He was single, a thirty-three-year-old labourer from Frome, Somerset, 5'0¼" tall with a dark complexion, dark brown hair, and hazel eyes that were already weak with a speck on both pupils – a small detail that did not escape the sharp eyes of the description recorder. His weak eyes did not prevent him from being assigned to Mr. A. LAING. In the colony Henry's record indicates only two minor misdemeanours.

Henry Sharkey married Sarah KELLY on 28 May 1841. They were both paupers with no age given on their marriage register.² Sarah Kelly aligns with Sarah HAY per *Sovereign* 1827, a 29-year-old widow transported for stealing. While still under servitude Sarah married widower

¹ CSO20/1/38 file number 984

² RGD37/1/2, no 1325

Daniel Kelly.³ She had been a habitual drunk during her time of servitude but appeared to go under the radar after she married Kelly, who was thirty-five years older. Daniel (alias Dominick Kelly) had escaped the death sentence and was transported for life on the *Indefatigable* in 1812, receiving a Conditional Pardon in 1820. Kelly had been a butler convicted of stealing his mistress's silver [plate]. He had a wife and five children in England but that didn't stop him marrying convict Margaret YATES (35) in Hobart Town in 1818, with whom he had two daughters.⁴ Margaret died in 1826, and in 1828 Kelly was fined £11 for harbouring Sarah HAYES, a runaway convict at his home in Bathurst Street.⁵ Kelly had several unsuccessful business ventures in the colony before, perhaps in desperate need, turning to his old trade of 'barber'.⁶ He was known to be living on charity in his final years, and his family living in 'distress'.⁷ It was soon after the death of Kelly, that Sarah married Henry Sharkey, a man of similar age.

In 1841, five months after his marriage to Sarah, Henry (Shirkey) was admitted to the New Norfolk Colonial Hospital with ophthalmia.⁸ Henry had weak eyes when he arrived 22 years earlier, and by this stage he was either blind or going blind.

New Norfolk Hospital was established around 1827, and according to the *Hobart Town Gazette*: 'A number of maimed and invalid prisoners, who have for some time served to crowd the barracks in town, were last week removed to New Norfolk'.⁹ It was initially intended to cater for all disabilities, as an editorial piece in the *Hobart Town Advertiser*, in May 1839 explains: 'amongst [the patients], are to be found the melancholy and the raving mad—those labouring under the most terrible, hideous chronic disorders, and those suffering from the most hideous of compound fractures—indeed, patients suffering under almost every complaint and disease to which the human frame is liable are there we say to be found'.¹⁰

By January 1846, the year we know his wife was hospitalised, it was confirmed in

³ Daniel aka Dominick Kelly, Barber, died aged 77 of Natural Decay 16 January 1839. In 1840, a witness in a court case involving one of his daughters, Elizabeth Miller, stated: 'I knew her father Daniel Kelly; He was a poor man, I believe lived by charity; he was a hair-dresser by profession' *The Hobart Town Advertiser* 18 September 1840, p.4.

⁴ Margaret Yates a convict on the *Friendship* died 17 April 1827, aged 40.

⁵ CON31-1-23, p.178 (Daniel or Dominick Kelly) also CON40-1-5, p.58 (Sarah Hay)

⁶ Census 1819 Daniel employed as a government barber Hobart Town; CON31-1-23, p.178 (Daniel or Dominick Kelly); CON40-1-5, p.58 (Sarah Hay)

⁷ Census 1827 Return of Children, females having only a father living, Hobart Town Mary Ann Kelly 7 and Jane Kelly 5 of Bathurst St daughters of Daniel Kelly in great distress.

⁸ HSD104/1/1

⁹ *The Hobart Town Gazette*, 16 June 1827, p.4.

¹⁰ *The Hobart Town Advertiser*, 10 May 1839, p.3.

The Hobart Town Advertiser that Henry was blind and seeking charity on the streets of Hobart Town.

**HOBART TOWN POLICE.
MONDAY, 12 JANUARY**

The business of the week has not been devoid of interest. A resolution has been taken by the authorities, and instructions given to the subordinates, to apprehend and bring before the bench a number of persons upon whose movements the police has long had an eye, who, without any visible means of subsistence, or recognized place of abode, prowl about the city in the day, committing every description of petty larceny and rascality, pilfering from children sent on errands, sneaking glasses and pots from the houses of licensed victuallers, under pretence of visiting the servants in the kitchens of our merchants and tradesmen, to beg a smoke, or a drink of water and seize the opportunity of walking off with a silver spoon, a watch that might be hung on a nail, or anything else portable—and passing the night in some outhouse, unfinished building, a stable, or other available place of concealment.

A number of these degraded pests of society, and repulsive specimens of humanity, have been brought up and punished. Amongst the rest of these 'coilers' was an old blind man of the name of Henry Sharkey, charged by constable Shaw. In this case Mr Price, whilst commiserating with the infirmities of the prisoner, observed

that not one of the persons afflicted with blindness would remain at New Norfolk in comfortable quarters, and under proper care when sent there. They had become a perfect nuisance, and there were complaints respecting them from every quarter of the town. The reason of their preference for Hobart Town was very evident—at New Norfolk they could obtain no tobacco, and no drink. Here they could indulge in both, and lead a wandering vagabond life besides visiting public houses with some lazy rascal worse than themselves, collecting money in his hat, and their evenings work ended, the two having a revel with the proceeds. Sharkey was sentenced to 14 day's solitary confinement.¹¹

Henry Sharkey was in the New Norfolk Invalid Hospital in 1846 from where he discharged himself on 16 October.¹² Sarah Sharkey was also in the [Colonial] Invalid Hospital on 15 November 1846. Henry Sharkey sent a letter to the Colonial Secretary's Office:

*Sir,
I beg leave to ask you to permit my wife Sarah Sharkey a free woman now in the Invalid Depot to be restored to me again, according to her own desire as their is a very comfortable home provided for her.*

*I Remain Your obedient servant,
Henry Sherkey
To the Collonial Secretary Office¹³*

¹¹ *The Hobart Town Advertiser*, 16 January 1846, p.3.

¹² HSD270/1

¹³ CSO20/1/38 file number 984, p.175.

The hard-to-read response from the Colonial Secretary's office to Henry Shirkey possibly states: '[Not free] With enquiries if she is fit to be discharged as her husband is wanting her back. E.B.'¹⁴

Henry Sharkey's life appears to have taken a turn, and he had a comfortable house for himself and his wife. Furthermore, there would soon be a new option: The Impression Bay Invalid Station. Impression Bay at Premaydena on the Tasman Peninsula was the site of a Probation Station which opened in 1841. In 1848 the site was repurposed as an Invalid Station and removal of invalids from New Norfolk to Impression Bay Invalid Station was undertaken:

On Saturday last, there was a removal of invalids from this station to Impression Bay. It rained heavily, and it was such a day as should have been sufficient, to prevent the removal of any creatures — human or animal — unless under the most urgent circumstances. It was a dreadful scene. We have been present at the removal of the sick and wounded after fights at sea and on shore, and yet never saw anything so utterly heartless and distressing as the removal of the sick, the blind, the halt, and the lame, from New Norfolk to the steamer. Several of them taken from their warm beds, creatures totally helpless, led along by others. About seventy moved along in the rain, some

walking, some carried, others dragged along in hand-carts. It was a brutal exhibition. At the bridge they were kept for some time, the toll-keeper not considering them in the service of the Crown.¹⁵

Henry had been in and out of the New Norfolk Invalid Hospital during the previous two years and it is possible he was one of the blind persons mentioned in the move. He had already been listed as being at Impression Bay in hospital records: Henry Sharkey aged 50, on 9 December 1847, discharged [from the New Norfolk Invalid Hospital] 'Back to Imp. Bay'.¹⁶

Perhaps he preferred living on the streets of Hobart Town like the crippled beggar mentioned in the following 1849 article in the *Hobarton Guardian*:

The beggars and the disabled pleading for alms on the streets of Hobart Town were advised to go to Impression Bay. One crippled beggar, described as having a 'natural affliction', was accused of having an 'appearance that was calculated to do great injury to pregnant females who might be passing in the street, and that he was not in a fit state to be at large'... The plaintiff had been invited to go to Impression Bay, he stated that he did receive regular alms from supporters on the streets of Hobart Town, however an unsympathetic Magistrate sentenced him

¹⁴ Record ID:
NAME_INDEXES:1787615, Resource:
CSO20/1/38 file number 984 page 176

¹⁵ *The Britannia and Trades' Advocate* (Hobart Town) 11 May 1848, p.2.

¹⁶ HSD270/1

to 'three months hard labour in the house of correction—if, after that period, he did not go to Impression Bay, he was to be apprehended again'.¹⁷

Henry Shirkey's Convict Conduct Record includes an almost indecipherable note from February 1850, appended long after being free by servitude in 1837:

*Discharged from Impre'n Bay he having property ie: a House in Hobart Town then he expects to ... up the rents thereupon to maintain himself & wife both being chargeable to the Govt. Vide Release of free ... dischd from Invalid Station Impre'n Bay. 20/2/50.*¹⁸

Once again, Sharkey assured authorities he had a house where he could maintain himself and his wife. He was already back on the streets of Hobart Town according to the *The Irish Exile and Freedom's Advocate*:

MONDAY, 11 FEBRUARY [1850]
*Henry Sharkey, was charged by Constable Peter King with being an idle and disorderly character, wandering about on the evening of the 9th inst., without any visible means of subsistence. The defendant had been apprehended in Murray-street about twelve o'clock last night and was sentenced two months hard labour in the house of correction.*¹⁹

An article in the *Colonial Times* in October 1850, demonstrated the

intolerance to the blind paupers of Hobart Town and perhaps, without naming him personally, relates to Henry Sharkey as well as others released with him in early 1850:

BLIND PERSONS -*We never saw so many blind persons about the town as at this time. In every street they may be met. Pauperism too is on the increase. The blind men we understand are principally from Impression Bay, and we are told, what almost seems incredible, that many of the prisoners deliberately destroy their eyesight, in order to escape from work. It is the duty of the British Government to support those men, and not to turn them upon the colonists. These objects haunting our streets are however the most eloquent preachers of the evils of transportation. The paupers too are missionaries of the same truths; in this prolific land, under ordinary circumstances, pauperism in the distressing form which it now assumes, should be unknown.*²⁰

What happened to Henry's plans to maintain himself and his wife? A year later he was in a similar situation, being charged as a pauper vagrant, as reported in the *Hobarton Guardian* on 30 July 1851:

NO EMPLOYMENT ... *Another case was that of Henry Sharkey, also charged, by constable James*

¹⁷ CON40-1-514 March 1849, p.2.

¹⁸ CON31/1/38

¹⁹ *The Irish Exile and Freedom's Advocate* 16 February 1850, p.7.

²⁰ *Colonial Times*, 25 October 1850, p.2.

*Claridge, as a pauper vagrant, in placing himself in Elizabeth-street, on the evening of the 26th July instant, to ask alms. The man said he had been waiting thirty days to go to an Invalid station, but he apprehended that the order had not been made out. On referring to some record in court, the bench clerk remarked that the order was approved of on the 22nd instant, but he refused to go. — His worship committed him for three months to the house of correction.*²¹

The same day *The Launceston Examiner* printed a most unempathetic editorial piece:

PAUPERISM.—Our paternal government have lately bestowed a benefit upon Hobart Town, which the inhabitants cannot but appreciate, in the shape of thirty invalids from Impression Bay, halt, lame, and blind,—the town is completely Inundated with beggars.—*Tasmanian Colonist*.²²

Henry is being portrayed as a pariah, but where is Sarah all this time? Did she find employment and accommodation as a House Servant, her trade when she died of a disability in September 1853, aged 60, or

was she re-admitted to the invalid hospital to be cared for in her final days?²³

In 1857, The Invalid Station at Impression Bay started closing down and was converted into a temporary quarantine station.²⁴ There was very little option for Henry Sharkey – if he remained a vagrant on the streets of Hobart, the magistrates would sentence him to prison with hard labour – and then remove him to a pauper or Invalid Depot.

*During the 1860s Port Arthur entered what is becoming known as its 'Welfare Phase'. This period saw the construction of the Pauper's Depot (1863-64) and the Asylum (1864-68). The result of an ageing and increasingly infirm prisoner population, these were the centres of Port Arthur's somewhat benevolent leanings. Another result of the ageing prisoners was that the profitable convict-driven industries like timber-getting and agriculture took a downturn.*²⁵

The last notation for Henry Starkey, 74, from the *York* is in 1870, tabled in a list of 'Paupers – Imperial' at Port Arthur where Henry eventually died a pauper aged 76, on 11 February 1872.²⁶

²¹ Hobarton Guardian, or, True Friend of Tasmania, 30 July 1851.

²² Launceston Examiner, 30 July 1851, p.5.

²³ Died 26 September 1853 RGD35/1/4 no 567.

²⁴ <https://www.churchesoftasmania.com/2022/08/no-1159-premaydena-impresion-bay.html>

²⁵ <https://portarthur.org.au/history/history-timeline/>

²⁶ Return of the Convicts at Port Arthur, showing the Age and Period of Sentence; and distinguishing Imperial from Colonial Convicts; also of PAUPERS and LUNATICS; <https://www.parliament.tas.gov.au/tpl/PPW/eb/1870/HA1870pp128.pdf>. : CON31/1/38

Servitude - The Path to Freedom

The Cross family's journey to Van Diemen's Land

Julie Fitzpatrick (Member 3171)

Submitted for the Patrons' Award

If one could, Britain in the 19th century, was a country to leave. Social injustice would rank as the root cause, the type dependent on one's perspective. The wealthy feared a changing order and championed a virgin state in which to replicate the past. They could afford passage. The emerging middle class were starving, their livelihoods challenged, be it a flooded labour market or mechanisation. They were trapped. This was the plight of John CROSS, a tradesman. He could read and write, he was intelligent, honourable, and industrious.¹ He became an indented servant of the Van Diemen's Land Company to gain passage for his family, his wife Frances and their five children.²

Did John experience a private anguish? An intangible, quite unquantifiable concern that he had robbed his children of family by taking them from their familial

hometown of Tingewick, an English country village in Buckinghamshire of about 800 people with thatched cottages, inns and St Mary Magdalen, a beautiful gothic church.³

John Cross and Frances TERRY were born in Tingewick in 1798.⁴ John followed in the footsteps of his father, Thomas CROSS, a master craftsman. John and his brother were apprenticed to their father. John achieved the status of stone mason, bricklayer and slater⁵. John and Frances married in St Mary Magdalen on Christmas Day 1817, with other young couples.⁶ That was how it was, married on the one day of the year that all were free from work.⁷

Joanna, their first child was born in December 1818 but died within 12 months. Hannah (1820) was born in prosperous years.⁸ John had regular

¹ Edward Curr assessment of John Cross¹ Curr to Court Despatch 229 "I long had reason to suspect their intention and Cross being a very well conducted, industrious man, and at the same time an intelligent one.

² While indenture is probably more common today. Indented Servant was in use in the 19th century and the term used by the VDL Company.

³ 1830 Buckinghamshire Directory.

⁴ Leonard Bull Chairman of Tingewick Historical Society to Miss Cross, letter, March 8, 1976. Author.

⁵ Archives Office of Tasmania Van Diemen's Land Company: Reel 1 Despatch No 31 September 29 1831 p129.

⁶ Bull to Cross, letter March 8, 1976.

⁷ <https://www.findmypast.co.uk/blog/discoveries/christmas-day-weddings>, accessed, December 2022.

⁸ People of Tingewick

<https://www.tingewick.org.uk/gcweb>

income improving and re-fashioning a country home for an eccentric Lord. But the Lord fell on hard times.⁹ Good tradesmen could still find work. They moved to Oxford and were living just beyond Magdalen Bridge when Eliza (1822) and Maryann (1825) were born.¹⁰

By the mid 20's the economy was in chaos. Soldiers returning from the Napoleonic campaigns flooded the labour market. Why pay a skilled artisan when you can get a handyman for a fraction of the price? John Cross and family returned to Tingewick, at least family would ensure a roof and food. John took a labouring job.¹¹

Sarah was born in 1827, Joseph in 1828 and Isobella in 1831.¹² The family struggled. John sought Parish assistance, denied because he had been working.¹³ Maryann disappears, likely died, possibly buried with her sister illegally, surreptitiously, but at least in consecrated ground. The poor could not afford a sacred burial.

Register of Baptisms 1813 – 1841, 157,238 accessed 1 November 2022.

⁹ Assertion of Miss Cross research has revealed that it is probable but unable to find a primary reference.

¹⁰ People of Tingewick; Tingewick Register of Baptisms 1813 – 1841, 327, accessed 1 November 2022.

¹¹ People of Tingewick; Tingewick Overseers report of the poor, October 8, 1829 accessed 1 March 2019.

¹² People of Tingewick; Register of Baptisms 1813 - 1841, 45v1,426, accessed 1 November 2022.

Their lives had become a personal struggle amid a maelstrom of external unrest. Corn Laws designed with the best intentions, were of no benefit to ordinary folk, prices were inflated, ordinary folk starved.¹⁴ Wages were another discontent with frustrations vented on the systematic destruction of machines. The movement known as the Swing Riots affected 16 counties and reached Buckinghamshire mid November 1830.¹⁵ Survival needed decisive action and within the year John Cross and his family sought a better life on the other side of the world.

John and his family's path to Van Diemen's Land commenced with employment at Mixbury about 5 miles from Tingewick. Reverend W.J. PALMER employed tradesman to maintain cottages for the poor.¹⁶ Palmer was also renowned for assisting worthy parishioners in applications to shipping agents or pastoral companies, to secure passage to Canada or Van Diemen's Land. Was the move to Mixbury serendipitous or contrived? Had John predicted his

¹³ People of Tingewick: Overseers report of the poor October 8, 1829, accessed 1 March 2019.

¹⁴ Corn laws were tariffs on cereal grains intended to favour domestic producers but pushed prices higher for domestic consumption.

¹⁵ Jacksons Oxford Journal, Saturday November 27, 1830.

¹⁶ http://www.myfinmere.com/history/church/history/rectors/palmer/william_jocelyn_palmer.htm accessed 5 December 2022.

family's future? There were publications promoting Van Diemen's Land, mooted by existing colonists as instrumental in their immigration.¹⁷

Palmer, a minor shareholder in the Van Diemen's Land Company, with all the best intentions, may have been an unwitting puppet for this Company whose wealthy directors sought labour that was "*either receiving parochial relief or Of that class that may become a burden to their families.*"¹⁸ They couched their intent in noble words when in reality they sought people at their most vulnerable. This devious Company preferred their quarry to have families, as families ensured stability. However, families bought added costs and there was no capacity in Company's Charter to indent the women and children. To negate this oversight, the Directors sought written assurances that the families would make themselves useful.¹⁹ John gave these assurances.²⁰

John knew his credentials were good and the Company needed his services. He also needed £26 to pay a debt. A significant sum, the urgency suggesting items essential to his future - perhaps his tools?

Poverty had seen an unprecedented increase in the pawn trade.²¹ He also needed assurance that his family would be cared for if he died and he needed a little cash until he received his first wage. John was in a position to bargain, which he did. The Company paid the debt and advanced him £6. Edward CURR, the Chief Agent was instructed to recoup the money "*in the easiest way for him and his family.*"²² The Company undertook to return families should anything happen to the indented servant on the journey.²³ A future having been secured, there was one other pressing need. John requested assistance from the *Tingewick Overseers of the Poor* for clothes to go to Van Diemen's Land and £6 was granted on 29 September 1831.²⁴

Mid-autumn, the weather can be bleak, but one imagined not nearly as wretched as the mood of two-family lines, Terry and Cross, who were assembled to say goodbye. While optimism likely prevailed, they no doubt knew this was a final farewell; to familiarity, to family, to a country that had let them down.

The family and possessions loaded on to drays, accompanied by Reverend Palmer

17 Edward Curr the Chief Agent of the VDL Company had written Account of the Colony of Van Diemen's Land, Principally Designed for the Use of Emigrants. Von Steiglitz family.

18 Tasmanian Archives 6th annual report of the Van Diemen's Land Company March 15, 1831.

19 Tasmanian Archives VDL records Reel 1 Despatch No 133 p141.

20 Tasmanian Archives VDL records reel 23/5 p144.

21 <https://www.historic-uk.com/CultureUK/The-Pawnbroke>, accessed March 2022. £26.00.00 equate to £2579.00.00 today.

22 Tasmanian Archives VDL records, reel 23/5 p144.

23 Tasmanian Archives VDL records reel 23/5 p145.

24 People of Tingewick; Tingewick Oversears of Poor Register p150, accessed March 2019.

and two NEAL families also from Tingewick, they undertook the 80-mile journey to London. Their journey completed when they turned between two yellow brick buildings, six storeys high halting in the comparative sanctuary of St Catherine's Dock. The docks built in 1828 featured a unique innovation made possible by the steam engine. Access via a lock maintained water level at a constant height.²⁵

The new indented servants were greeted by John KING the Company Bailiff and formerly became employees of the VDL Company 31 October 1831.²⁶

Their new home the 369-ton Barque *Forth* a former convict transport was on this voyage transporting a microcosm of English society to a new world. They were all refugees, fleeing oppression, poverty, or society's changing order. The officers' quarters on the poop deck were now reserved for the paying passengers. During the voyage they maintained the trappings of rank; champagne for an occasion, preaching the Sunday Service and nominating favours.²⁷ The indented servants and their families occupied the convict quarters below deck. A long room

each side was lined with open berths. A table positioned in the centre ran its full length. At the foremast the kitchen was exposed to the elements but was in the shelter of the forecastle.²⁸ The livestock were housed in individual pens on the main deck.

Over the next month other indented servants arrived, including Shepherds John DOWLING with his sheepdog, John WRIGHT, John ELMER and families, and Carpenter William PEART.²⁹ A total 93 steerage passengers eventually filled the booths.³⁰

While indentures specified commencement of wages on arrival in Van Diemen's Land, payment commenced on taking up residence on the ship as Servants were expected to care for the livestock.³¹ John Cross had a crash course in animal husbandry as all, be it shepherd or tradesman, were engaged in making comfortable six blood horses, two bulls, forty dogs (various kinds) a number of sheep, swine, pheasants, partridges, rabbits and a hive of bees. Some animals were for the supply of fresh food on the voyage, the remainder belonging to paying passengers and the VDL Company.

²⁵ St Catharine's Docks, Wikipedia, accessed 1 September 2020.

²⁶ Tasmanian Archives VDL records reel 23/5 p144 & 145

²⁷The Thomas Henty Diary; Library OF Victoria box 117/1; p12Champaign p10; giving gifts to persons deemed suitable p16; service p22.

²⁸ Nicholson, Ian, *Log of logs* Roebuck Society, 1991 p193. G.A. Mawer, *Most Perfectly Safe*,

p1-3. Description of *Forth* taken from this as the fit of convict ship was standard.

²⁹ Tasmanian Archives VDL records reel 23/5 p144 & 145

³⁰ The Belfast News, Friday November 18, 1831.

³¹ Tasmanian Archives VDL reel 1 Despatch No 433, November 3, 1831, P141.

Departing on 3 November 1831, the *Forth* took pride of place in having the largest number of animals to leave in one ship since the dock was built.³²

At Gravesend the paying passengers joined the ship.³³ It was in the English Channel our traveller's gained firsthand the fickle nature of weather and oceans. The elements vent on the ship in a vicious storm. Waves pounded the upper decks tearing at the livestock pens, smashing and hurling several pens and the unfortunate inhabitants into the sea. The Company fared badly "*Out of the livestock only one mare Alexandrina arrived safe and 3 pigs.*"³⁴ On 11 November, off the Isle of Wright, the wind was dead against them, the *Forth* limped into Portsmouth for urgent repairs and much needed respite for its debilitated passengers.³⁵

The refit complete and new livestock acquired on 27 November, the *Forth* set sail once again. The wind is still testing. Off the Scilly Isles, west of the Bay of Biscay, all are terribly seasick and suffered falls due to the ship's erratic movement. West of Lisbon, the Captain gave the order to "*lay too.*" He declared he had never experienced such foul weather.³⁶ As if its wrath had been demonstrated the weather cleared and the ship began to make steady progress. Storms were still encountered but the

journey was not marred again by such challenging weather conditions.

There were other encounters. In the mid-Atlantic, just north of the equator. A polacca, a three masted vessel, believed to have nefarious intent, had stalked the *Forth* for three days. Its presence prompted the unusual order to bear arms. The very next day at 5.00am passengers were abruptly awakened by a violent noise. "Pirates" must surely have been on everyone's mind. It was nature's masterpiece, thunder. The *Forth* crossed the equator the same day. The traditional initiation ceremony was voluntary; steerage passengers participated while paying passengers watched.³⁷ What an adventure for the Cross children.

Each fine morning the bedding was taken on deck for airing, likely the children assisted. Between 10 and 12 noon the men remained on deck to give the women and children privacy. In the afternoon the men occupied the quarters.³⁸ With exposure to sea air and hours in the sun one can imagine a change in the children's physical appearance, their hair lighter their skin darker and their health better. While the rituals observed such as Sunday Service either on deck or in steerage, Christmas Day at sea, with goose and plum pudding, it was surely the unusual and unique that would entice their

³² The Belfast News, Friday November 18, 1831.

³³ Thomas Henty Diary p2.

³⁴ Tasmanian Archives VDL Papers, Despatch 212 May 4, 1832.

³⁵ Thomas Henty Diary p2.

³⁶ Diary Thomas Henty p6.

³⁷ The Thomas Henty Diary: p12.

³⁸ Tasmanian Archives, VDL Papers: Rules and orders to be observed by all the van Diemen's Land Company Servants on board the ship *Forth*.

attention.³⁹ The natural wonders, large birds skimmed effortlessly across the tops of the waves. Schools of porpoises frolicked around the bow and the sighting of a shark in a thwarted attempt to catch it. Whales were sighted often at a distance, but one, as long as the ship breached alongside.⁴⁰ The wet weather was appreciated, not only for a break in routine, but for the topping up of the water barrels.⁴¹

There was no land fall, but they saw other ships. *William Brant* on an expedition to the explore the South American coast and convict ship *Gilmour* bound for Hobart.⁴² The magic of communication, the universal flag semaphore, which solicited a ships name, country and destination would have enticed particular intrigue. From the *Forth* to the *Spartan*, at “latitude 31-21 longitude 33” mid Indian Ocean, a special request, an invitation to dinner.⁴³

Their first sighting of land was Amsterdam Island. Perhaps like HENTY, a paying passenger, the children yearned to set foot on its shores.⁴⁴ It was not to be, the captain myopic in his determination to reach Circular Head.

As morning cleared on 22 March 1832 they see a large flat-topped rock, seemingly an island. As they approach, low lying hills attach it to land. At 10

o'clock they arrived at Circular Head and drop anchor.⁴⁵ The Cross family have arrived at their new home.

*“To endeavour to describe the excitement of this day would be a useless task, a man must sail nineteen weeks upon the ocean he will then feel what can scarcely be conveyed in words”.*⁴⁶

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³⁹ Diary of Thomas Henty p10.

⁴⁰ Diary of Thomas Henty whale p21; Shark p14.

⁴¹ Diary of Thomas Henty p12.

⁴² Diary of Thomas Henty p6, p13 and p22.

⁴³ Diary of Thomas Henty p16.

⁴⁴ Diary of Thomas Henty p24.

⁴⁵ Diary of Thomas Henty p28.

⁴⁶ Journal of a voyage from London to Circular Head and Launceston in Van Diemen's Land in the Barque "Forth". Philip Oakden P13.

The Presumption of Innocence Women and Marital Coercion in Nineteenth Century Tasmania

Don Bradmore (Member 6756)

During the night of 15 October 1860, John and Mary Ellen ALLCOCK, a married couple, broke into the shop of Thomas TUCKER at Campbell Town, Tasmania, and took away a quantity of clothing and other articles. Some weeks later, the children of the couple were seen dressed in the clothes that had been stolen. The police were notified and the Allcock home, a short distance from the town, was searched thoroughly. There, much of what had been carried away was discovered. Husband and wife were both arrested and charged with burglary. In December 1861, they stood trial for the offence in the Supreme Court at Oatlands. When all of the witnesses had been heard, the Judge summed up the evidence and spoke at length about the law of the case. After a short deliberation, the jury returned a verdict of guilty against the husband but acquitted his wife. The husband, a former convict, was sentenced to imprisonment

with hard labour at Port Arthur for four years. His wife was free to go back to her children.¹

What had saved Mary Ellen from a guilty verdict was the law of marital coercion as it existed at that time. The judge would have explained to the jury that, for a very long time, it had been the case in English common law that if a woman committed a crime - other than murder or treason - in the presence of her husband, she was *presumed* to have been coerced (that is, forced) by him into doing it, and so she should be acquitted. The key word here is 'presumed'. The wife was not required to defend herself in any way. It was simply taken for granted that the husband had forced her to act as she did.²

This law was easy enough to understand in theory but there were difficulties and complications in practice. To begin with, there were differences in the way the law was applied from one jurisdiction to the

¹ Launceston Examiner, 31 December 1861, p.2; both John and Mary Ellen had arrived in Van Diemen's Land as convicts – John on Palmyra in 1846, CON33-1-81, image 7; Mary Ellen (nee WALSH) on Earl Grey in 1850, CON41-1-26, image 242; see also Rae Blair, 'Profile: Mary Ellen Walsh,' at

<https://raeblair.com/2022/10/25/profile-mary-ellen-walsh/>

² Coleman, Clive. (2013). 'Marital coercion legal defence explained' at <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-21447059>



*Portrait of Mary Ellen (nee Walsh) Allcock,
with permission.*

next. In some jurisdictions, judges and magistrates seem to have been more flexible in their interpretation of the law than those in other jurisdictions. At times, some seem to have been reluctant to make decisions in the matter, leaving it to the jury to determine the degree of coercion of the wife by the husband. And there were many questions. What, for instance, did the terms ‘husband’ and ‘wife’ really mean? Did the man and woman have to be *legally* married for the presumption to be made? What proof of a legal marriage was satisfactory? Did a wife in a *de facto* relationship have the same benefit of the law? What did ‘in the presence of the husband’ mean? How close to her husband

did the wife have to be? What if the husband were in the next room when the wife committed a crime? What if the husband were waiting for his wife on the street outside the scene of the crime? What if it were the wife, rather than the husband, who had played the leading role in the crime? What if it were the wife, rather than the husband, who had caused actual bodily harm to a victim?

As a consequence, the outcome of a trial in which marital coercion was involved was difficult to predict and often the verdict was quite unexpected. As the following cases illustrate, anomalous decisions appear to have been frequent;

sometimes the wife seems to have been fortunate enough to escape conviction and at other times she was not.

In April 1836, Mary BUDGELL, a thirty-one-year-old married woman, arrived in Van Diemen's Land (VDL) as a convict per *Arab II* (1) accompanied by her five young children.³ In the previous year, she and her husband John BUDGELL, described in a newspaper report of their trial as 'two wretched-looking creatures', had been charged with the theft of a watch and money from a young soldier whom they had met in the streets.⁴ At their trial at the Old Bailey, London, witnesses had told the court that they had seen the couple drinking with the soldier at a local inn. The soldier testified that, at one stage, Mary had unbuttoned his waistcoat and had urged him to lie down to sleep. When he awoke, the Budgells had gone and he had discovered that his watch and money had been stolen. After hearing the evidence against the couple, the judge told the jury that if Mary was the wife of John, and if she committed the robbery in his presence, they should acquit her, on the presumption that she had acted under coercion. If, on

the other hand, the fact of them being husband and wife was not proved, then each must be responsible for the crime. Because her marriage had not been registered, Mary was unable to prove that she was lawfully married to John.⁵ Both were found guilty and sentenced to transportation for seven years.⁶

In July 1840, Reuben and Ann BURROWS, husband and wife, were indicted for having assaulted a young man named CUNNINGHAM in the town of Thorpe, Norwich, England, on 4 June that year. Cunningham testified that, as he was walking home alone at about ten o'clock that evening, he had been accosted by Ann who had put one arm around him and her other hand into his trouser pocket, obviously hoping to find money there. As this was happening, Ann's husband had come up to him and accused him of molesting her. When Cunningham replied that it was not he who was interfering with Ann but she who had taken hold of him, Reuben had struck him and knocked him down. The couple were arrested soon afterwards. At their trial, William COOPER, legal counsel for the couple,

³ Mary Budgell: CON40-1-2 Image 36 via Libraries Tasmania.

⁴ Bell's New Weekly Messenger (London), 1 November 1835, p.12.

⁵ Registration of marriages was not introduced in England until 1837 – see <https://www.cumbria.gov.uk/registrationservice/vice/history.asp> .

⁶ Trial of John and Mary Budgell: 26 October 1835, Old Bailey, London: ref. t189351026-

2129 at www.oldbaileyonline.org; *Public Ledger and Daily Advertiser* (London), 27 October 1835, p.4 at <https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk>; see also Liston, C. and Reynolds, K. (2020). 'Man Robbery: A Gender Signifier in Convict Australia 1827-1836' in *Societies*, Vol. 10, Issue 3, at <https://www.mdpi.com/2075-4698/10/3/48>

applied to the Court for the acquittal of Ann who, he considered, had been acting under the coercion of her husband. Although the judge admitted that there was a great deal of uncertainty in the matter, he agreed that, under the circumstances, Ann should receive the benefit of the doubt. Reuben was sentenced to transportation for fifteen years but Ann received only a nominal sentence of one day's imprisonment.⁷ Unhappily, Ann appears to have learnt nothing from this experience. In October 1846, she was convicted again, this time for stealing a purse containing one shilling and sixpence from a woman whom she had encountered at a race meeting at Beccles in Suffolk. She was sentenced to transportation for seven years and, under the name 'Ann BEAS or BURROWS', arrived in VDL as a convict aboard *Asia V* (5) in 1847.⁸

In April 1845, James and Jane DONNELLY, husband and wife, were charged with stealing a variety of items from the home of their employers at Launceston. Some years earlier, they had married at Glasgow, Scotland, but there they had been convicted together of theft and both had been sentenced to transportation, James for life and Jane for

fourteen years. James had arrived in VDL per *Woodman* in 1826. Jane, who had been transported under her maiden name of MOFFAT, had arrived per *Sir James Forbes* in 1827.⁹ By the early 1840s, however, both were free again – Jane because she had served her time and James because he had been granted a conditional pardon in 1841 for his role in the capture of a gang of bushrangers. By 1844, they were working together as servants for a Mr. and Mrs. PENNY at Launceston where Jane was the household cook and James a waiter. In early 1845, Mrs. Penny noticed that certain items were missing from her home. Suspicion fell upon James and Jane and their home was searched. There, police found a variety of articles, including clothing, a razor and books, that Mrs. Penny was able to identify as belonging to her. Jane and James were arrested immediately. In court, counsel for the couple, a Mr. ROCHER, argued for Jane's acquittal on the grounds of marital coercion. The judge, however, warned the jury to be careful in absolving her of guilt. While he explained the law of marital coercion carefully to the jury, he thought that a dangerous precedent could be set in this particular case. He pointed out that, if a wife could steal from a house in which she worked and pass the stolen goods on

⁷ Source: *findmypast.co.uk*; *Norwich Mercury*, 4 July 1840, p.3 and *Ipswich Journal*, 24 October 1846, p.4, via

<https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk>

⁸ Ann Beas or Burrows: CON41-1-13, image 8 via Libraries Tasmania.

⁹ The Cornwall Chronicle (Launceston), 1 March 1845; Jane Moffat: CON40-1-7 Image 32 and James Donnelly: CON31-1-9 Image 139 via Libraries Tasmania.

to her husband with impunity, other servant couples, engaged by householders in similar arrangements, could be encouraged to act in the same way. After retiring for less than an hour, the jury found both husband and wife guilty. James was sentenced to transportation for seven years; Jane was sentenced to imprisonment for two years, to be served with hard labour at the Female Factory, Launceston.¹⁰

In June 1849, Thomas and Margaret HART were charged with ‘feloniously stealing on 17 May, one handkerchief, with a value of two shillings, the property of John REID’, a storekeeper of Port Sorell, near Devonport. The court was told that Thomas and Margaret had entered Mr. Reid’s shop together but, while Margaret had walked around looking at the goods, Thomas had sat on a box by the door. After they had left the shop, Mr. Reid had noticed that three handkerchiefs were missing. The police were called immediately and the couple was arrested. One of the handkerchiefs was found in a bundle that Thomas was carrying. At the Launceston Quarter Sessions a month later, the judge explained the law of marital coercion to the jury, pointing out that, in this case, the husband was apart from the wife while she was in the shop. He stressed that, if it was proved that Margaret had acted without coercion, she

should be convicted. A ‘Guilty’ verdict was returned against both husband and wife. Each was sentenced to imprisonment with hard labour for three months.¹¹

In February 1848, husband and wife Andrew and Catherine JAMIESON were charged with stealing a cigar case containing seventeen pounds in bank notes, the property of William BEVERIDGE, a Launceston publican. At their trial at the Launceston Quarter Sessions a month later, Beveridge told the court that the Jamiesons had entered his hotel and called for something to drink. After taking their drinks to them in a parlour next to his own apartment in the hotel, he had gone off to attend to other business. Later, he had noticed Catherine going into his private rooms but, thinking that she must have needed some privacy, he had not stopped her. Other witnesses testified that they had seen Catherine going into Beveridge’s rooms on three separate occasions and that, on one occasion, Andrew had followed her there. Continuing his evidence, Beveridge said that, after the Jamiesons had finished their drinks and left the hotel, he had noticed that the cigar case and money were missing from under a mattress in his rooms where he had hidden it. He had called the police and the missing items were discovered in a linen basket at the home of the Jamiesons that evening.

¹⁰ The Cornwall Chronicle (Launceston), 1 March 1845, p.4; 29 March 1845, p.2; Launceston Advertiser, 4 April 1845, p.4.

¹¹ The Cornwall Chronicle (Launceston), 9 June 1849, p.635.

Andrew and Catherine were charged jointly with the theft. In court, Mr. ROCHER, counsel for the defence, argued that it would be impossible for anyone to say when the cigar case and money had been stolen. Had Catherine taken them when she was in Beveridge's rooms by herself, or had she and her husband taken them when they were in the rooms together? If it were the latter, he maintained, the law held Catherine blameless, presuming that she had acted under the coercion and fear of her husband. The judge, however, advised the jury that it was entirely up to them to decide if there had been coercion. Ultimately, a guilty verdict was returned against both husband and wife. Each was sentenced to transportation for life. As Catherine was a ticket-of-leave prisoner at the time – she had arrived in VDL as a convict per *Mexborough* in December 1841 and was currently serving a seven-year sentence - this meant that her original sentence was extended to a life sentence. In addition, her ticket of leave was suspended, and she was imprisoned at the Female Factory at Launceston for twelve months. Andrew, who had arrived free in VDL, was imprisoned for two years. In 1850, he was granted a ticket of leave but was still a convict in 1873 when he was granted a free pardon.¹²

In July 1851, husband and wife Peter and Winifred WHITE, together with a man

named William JONES, were brought before a police magistrate at Hobart charged with 'feloniously receiving a quantity of cloth, the property of Moses Julien SOLOMON' of Hobart. After Solomon had identified three pieces of cloth, two of which were thirty-five yards (about 32 metres) in length and the other seven and a half yards (about 6.5 metres), as belonging to him, a Detective FARRELL testified that, acting on information he had received, he had found the stolen cloth on the premises of the Whites and had arrested them. In his own defence, Peter White told the magistrate that Jones had brought some cloth to his home, asking him to make a coat. Later, Jones's wife had brought more of the same cloth to him, requesting that he make two pairs of trousers and a waistcoat for her husband. He was in the process of making these items when Detective Farrell had entered his shop and seized the cloth. After all of the evidence had been heard, the magistrate remarked that it did not appear that Winifred, Peter White's wife, had any case to answer because she had been in the presence of her husband for the entire time when he and Jones had been conducting their transactions. Under these circumstances, he said, she might have been under coercion which, in law, would entirely exonerate her from all blame. She

¹² The Cornwall Chronicle (Launceston), 23 March 1848, p.2. Catherine (nee Downey):

CON40-1-4, image 43; Andrew: CON37-1-4, image 43.

was discharged immediately and was free to return to her home.¹³

In June 1872, husband and wife David and Catherine LEARY, together with an acquaintance by the name of McCARTHY, were charged with an assault upon a man named Jim SING. At the Police Court at Launceston, Sing told the magistrate that he had gone to the Leary's home on the evening of 18 May to visit a lady friend who happened to be there at the time. Shortly after his arrival, the lady friend had asked him for money to buy alcohol and he had given Catherine a shilling, asking her to go out to fetch some. However, Catherine had not done so, and when Sing had asked for his shilling back, she had refused to return it. In an ensuing argument about the money, Catherine had handed a thick piece of wood to her acquaintance McCarthy, telling him to strike Sing with it. Sing had received several blows to the head and was left covered in blood. The police were called and the defendants were arrested. In court, counsel for the defence, a Mr. CRISP, argued that the female defendant, Catherine, should be discharged because she had been acting under her husband's coercion. Although he quoted several well-accepted legal precedents to support his contention, the magistrate was not impressed. Over-ruling Crisp's submission, he said that, in this case, the

husband could not be held accountable for the assault which had been afflicted solely upon the volition of the wife. All of the defendants were found guilty and were fined three pounds each, with costs.¹⁴

Perhaps one of the strangest cases involving the law of marital coercion was that of twenty-six-year-old Charlotte GOODHALL (or GOODALL) who arrived in VDL as a convict aboard *Sir Charles Forbes* in 1827. In the previous year, she and her husband, Henry SHARP, had been convicted of arson at the Surrey Assizes. The court had heard that, while living in a house owned by a Mr. Thomas WILLOUGHBY at Egham, near London, the couple, known to all as Mr. and Mrs. Sharp, had fallen behind in their rental payments. In an attempt to obtain what was owing to him, Willoughby had seized their possessions. Later, he had returned their belongings, allowing the couple to keep them, subject to their paying the amount in arrears on a weekly basis. However, Charlotte and Henry were unhappy about the way the landlord had treated them and they had attempted to get even by damaging his house. Witnesses told the court that they had seen the pair together outside the house as it had burnt. They had been arrested soon afterwards. But, from the time of her arrest, Charlotte had insisted that she be tried under her maiden name of GOODALL. She knew

¹³ The Tasmanian Colonist (Hobart), 17 July 1851, p.3; Hobarton Guardian, or, True Friend of Tasmania (Hobart), 23 July 1851, p.2.

¹⁴ Launceston Examiner, 21 May 1872, p.3 and 20 June 1872, p.3; The Cornwall Chronicle (Launceston), 19 June 1872, p.3.

that a wife could not be held accountable for a criminal act committed in the presence of her husband and that if she said that she was married she would not be taken to trial. Accordingly, she told the court that she and Henry had never married and that theirs was *de facto* relationship. She had *wanted* to be taken to trial so that if her husband was transported – as seemed likely to be the case – she would be transported with him and they would be able to remain together. Thus, both were tried, found guilty and sentenced to transportation for life. Sadly, however, Charlotte’s hopes of being able to stay with Henry were crushed when it was ordered that she be sent to VDL and he to Sydney. They never saw each other again. Upon her arrival at Hobart, Charlotte told the authorities what she had done. A note on her Conduct Record reads: ‘I am married. My name is Sharp. My husband was tried with me ... I was tried in my maiden name. I denied I was married because I wished to come out with him. If I had said I was married, I would not have been tried.’¹⁵

By the early years of the twentieth century, however, much had changed in society

and eventually the law as it had been applied in cases of marital coercion was amended. In part, this amendment was due to a public outcry against a doctrine that was perceived to be reinforcing the long-held concept of a wife as her husband’s chattel. In England, in 1925, the concept of *presumption* in cases of marital coercion was abolished and jurisdictions around the world soon followed suit. While, today, a wife is still able to claim that she has been forced by her husband to commit a crime, she is now obliged to prove - to the legally required standard of probability - that coercion has been used.¹⁶ The burden now falls on the prosecution to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that either the husband was not present at the time the offence was committed or that he had not coerced his wife into committing the offence.¹⁷

According to *The Times* of London, the defence of marital coercion has been used in only five reported cases in England in the last seventy-five years.¹⁸ However, two high-profile cases this century, both in England, have focussed attention on it. In 2002, John DARWIN, a former teacher and prison officer, faked his own death in

¹⁵ Charlotte Goodall: CON40-1-3, image 242; Morning Post (London), 20 March 1826 via <https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk>.

¹⁶ Rubin, G. (2014). ‘Pre-dating Vicky Pryce: the Peel case (1922) and the origins of the marital coercion statutory defence’, in *Legal Studies, the Journal of the Society of Legal Scholars*, Vol 34, No.4, Dec 2014.

¹⁷ See Section 13.1 ‘Legal Burden of Proof – Prosecution’ of the Commonwealth Criminal Code - Guide for Practitioners at <https://www.ag.gov.au/crime/publications/commonwealth-criminal-code-guide-practitioners>

¹⁸ <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/anne-darwin-marital-coercion-defence-extremely-rare-xfzz6plkpmx>

a canoeing accident. Before disappearing, he instructed his wife Anne DARWIN to claim £250,000 from his life insurance so that they could start a new life abroad. The money was paid and John was missing for the next five years. When apprehended in 2008, he and Anne were charged with fraud. In court, Ann claimed that she had been coerced by her husband into going along with the plan, but the jury did not believe her. She was found guilty of fraud and money laundering and imprisoned for six and a half years. Her husband received a similar sentence.¹⁹ On 7 March 2013, Vicky PRYCE, a Senior Economic Advisor to the British Government, and her former husband Chris HUHNE, a Member of the British Parliament, were convicted of perverting the course of justice. (The couple had divorced two years earlier.) In court, it was claimed by the prosecution that, ten years earlier, Vicki Pryce had accepted driving licence penalty points actually incurred by her then husband. She entered a plea of not guilty and advanced the defence of marital coercion. Her plea was unsuccessful. She

and her husband were both sentenced to eight months in prison but served only nine weeks. They left prison on licence in May 2013, subject to electronic tagging.²⁰

Many legal experts now believe that the defence of marital coercion belongs to a bygone age, claiming that it has no place in English law and that it conflicts with human rights conventions. Others are at a loss to know how it can survive in a world where same-sex marriages and similar less-orthodox marital arrangements have become increasingly well-accepted. However, some feel that the unique relationship of marriage, and the pressures it can impose on a wife, justify its retention. Today, the defence of ‘duress’ rather than that of ‘marital coercion’ has commonly been advanced in such cases. Like coercion, duress implies that a person has been forced to act against their will in the perpetration of a crime, but it is applicable to all circumstances, not only in those involving a husband and wife.

¹⁹ Webb, S. (2009) ‘Dead’ canoeists wife found guilty’ at <https://abcnews.go.com/International/story?id=5432233&page=1>

²⁰ Peachey, P. (2013) ‘Chris Huhne and Vicky Pryce trials: a chaotic end to a strange and long drawn-out case’, in Independent at <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/cri>

[me/chris-huhne-and-vicky-pryce-trials-a-chaotic-end-to-a-strange-and-long-drawn-out-case-8527213.html](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/chris-huhne-and-vicky-pryce-trials-a-chaotic-end-to-a-strange-and-long-drawn-out-case-8527213.html) .

‘Chris Huhne and Vicky Pryce released from prison’ at <https://www.bbc.com/news/av/uk-22506878>

Bernard Walford, a Legacy of 'Firsts' in Tasmania

Julie Pfaeffli-Hornibrook (Member 8341)

Submitted for the Patrons' Award

Walford Terraces is a housing estate in the centre of Hobart, built on Harrington St., the site of the first Jewish cemetery in Tasmania.¹ It is named after my convict ancestor, Bernard (or Barnard) WALFORD who was my great grandfather's great grandfather on my mother's side of the family. He has a history profile as the person who advocated to Governor ARTHUR to have an area set aside for a Jewish cemetery in Hobart.² He achieved this sacred ground for the small community and then was the first person buried there in 1828. By this time Bernard had lived in Hobart with his family as a free settler for 21 years.

Establishing the cemetery helped to anchor a sense of pride in the small community of Jewish people in Hobart at the time. They continued to connect with each other and go on to build a synagogue, consecrated in 1845. This is recognized as the oldest synagogue in Australia.³

Bernard's story is also referenced in the Hobart Synagogue digital archives, as the act of gaining cultural recognition supported the emerging Jewish community in Hobart, with lasting impact. Over time, as Hobart's urban area spread, the Jewish cemetery was moved to Cornelian Bay and a plaque there commemorates the contribution made by Bernard.⁴ He also chalked up some other firsts. Although he was sentenced at the Old Bailey, London, for his crime of stealing washing at the age of 24 and sentenced to seven years transportation to Australia, he was Austrian, recorded as being a glass engraver from Vienna.⁵ Bernard is credited as being the first Austrian in Australia.⁶

Bernard's fate took him from Vienna to an emigrant life in England, then a felon designated for Sydney, moving on as a convict to Norfolk Island for marriage, family and farming and finally on to Van

¹ Walford Terraces, Hobart | Morrison & Breytenbach Architects Hobart Tasmania (jmybarchitects.com.au), accessed 19.2.23

² John S. Levi *These are the Names, Jewish Lives in Australia, 1788- 1850*, Melbourne, Miegunyah Press, 2013, p 1133

³ Jeff Schneider podcast, <https://thra.org.au/podcasts/jeff-schneider-hobarts-jewish-history-1828-present>, accessed 20.2.23

⁴ Jono David, HaChayim HaYehudim Jewish Photo Library® (original photo has been ordered online)

www.JewishPhotoLibrary.com, accessed 22 May 2018.

⁵ Bernard Walford, *Old Bailey Proceedings: Accounts of Criminal Trials, London Lives, 1690-1800*, <https://www.londonlives.org/browse.jsp?div=t17891028-78>, accessed 9 April 2018

⁶ *Austrians and Australia* / Marlene J. Norst, Johanna McBride, Potts Point, N.S.W. Athena Press, 1988, <https://catalogue.nla.gov.au/Record/552119>, accessed 23 May 2018.

Diemen's Land as a free man to be a baker and publican – all because of that basket of washing he stole in Petticoat Lane on 11 September 1789.

Bernard lived five years at Port Jackson, after arriving on the third Fleet ship *Active*. In 1796 he was sent to Norfolk Island on *Reliance* and named on the passenger list as 'Barney Walford: Convict'.⁷ Somehow the short form of his name conjures a less formal, more lively fellow who knew how to get along with people and find his way in life. On Norfolk Island he met and married an Irish girl, Jane MULLOY, who was about 22. She had two children and had also been transported for seven years, arriving at Port Jackson on the Second Fleet ship *Neptune* in 1790. After only five weeks there she was sent on further to Norfolk Island.⁸ Together she and Bernard had three more children and cultivated land after being granted forty acres.⁹ He is also recorded as buying twenty five acres there from John CHAIN in 1806 for 25 pounds.¹⁰ By then they had become free settlers.

The Government was coming to a decision to close Norfolk Island as a penal settlement and was looking for people to populate Tasmania with the promise of land grants and housing. Bernard and Jane took a risk and put up their hands for the first voyage of the *Lady Nelson* to Hobart with their family of five children. This was in 1807, arriving in Hobart Town on 29 November, after twenty days of cramped life on-board and a 1400-mile journey.¹¹ A replica of the ship is based at Hobart Port today and sails the Derwent River, so the public can go on board and readily imagine the conditions those thirty-four pioneers, and more to follow, endured the journey. Yet they survived and those first voyagers including Bernard, Jane and their children are commemorated on a monument in St David's Park, Hobart, linking the past with the present and recognizing their pioneering roles in the town founded just a few years earlier, in 1804.¹²

In starting a new life in Hobart Town Bernard again became a farmer, with records showing he was allocated ninety

⁷ Cathy Dunn, 'HMS Reliance to Norfolk Island February 1796', Australian History Research, <http://www.australianhistoryresearch.info/hms-reliance-norfolk-island-february-1796/>, accessed 20 May 2018

⁸ Jane Mulloy, Old Bailey Proceedings: Accounts of Criminal Trials, London Lives 1690-1800, <https://www.londonlives.org/browse.jsp?div=t17891028-78>, accessed 20 May 2018. Jane had been found guilty Old Bailey on 9th September 1789 for stealing 16 yards of printed cotton

⁹ Ancestry, Barnard Walford, Australian Convict Transportation Registers – Second Fleet, 1787-1809 [database on-line]. Provo,

UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2007, <https://search.ancestrylibrary.com.au>, accessed 20 May 2018.

¹⁰ Ancestry, NSW Australian Colonial Secretary Papers 1788 – 1856, [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc, 2010, accessed 21 May 2018

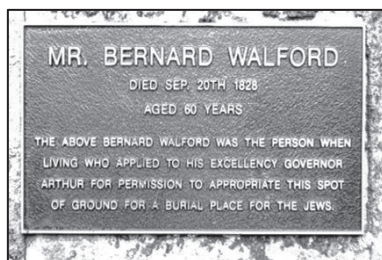
¹¹ Companion to Tasmanian History, http://www.utas.edu.au/library/companion_to_tasmanian_history/N/Norfolk%20Islanders.htm, accessed 24 May 2018

¹² <https://monumentaustralia.org.au/themes/landscape/settlement/display/70357-first-fleet-and-norfolk-islanders-memorial>, accessed 14.3.23

acres of land by Governor Macquarie in 1813, registered in the Queenboro District (Sandy Bay) on the Derwent River.¹³ He later started a bakery in Liverpool St., Hobart Town, then became a hotelier and licensee of Turk's Head Inn in Murray St. and owner of Adam and Eve Hotel in Liverpool St.¹⁴ Life became more colourful and in 1817 records show he was brought before a magistrate for stealing money from William MORGAN, a drunk patron. He was acquitted of the charge, but also fined ten pounds for retailing spirits 'contrary to the Colonial Regulations'.¹⁵

Bernard undertook a long, life journey that led from beginnings in Austria, fate as a convict and then life as a free settler in Van Diemen's Land which was his final resting place. As an early settler he had many 'Firsts' as the first Austrian in Australia, the first to be buried in the Jewish cemetery he advocated for in Hobart and he and his family were on the first voyage of the *Lady Nelson* that sailed to Hobart from Norfolk Island. Bernard and his wife,

Jane Mulloy, showed courage in the face of the unknown and the way they carved out their fate through willingness to go forward with a young family. Their stories have a place in Australian history, leaving a footprint that I have been able to trace. I honour their courage and adventurous spirits in facing the challenges of each stage of the journey from country to country, until they finally settled where they could grow their family and prosper in a community.



Plaque for Bernard Walford Cornelian Bay, Hobart

¹³ Ancestry, Barnard Walford Senior, Tasmania, Australia, Deeds of Land Grants, 1804-1935 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2016. Accessed 21 May 2018

¹⁴ Colonial Times, Hobart Tasmania – 1828-1857, Friday 13 November 1829, 'Public

House Licenses,' p4, cited in Trove, accessed 22 May 2018.

¹⁵ 'Sitting Magistrate A.F Kemp esq.' *Hobart Town Gazette and Southern Reporter*, (Tas 1816-1821), Saturday 17 May 1817, p1, Trove, accessed 23 April 2018.

Diet prescribed for Colonial Hospitals 1831

Diets for Colonial Hospitals in Van Diemen's Land, 1831.¹

The board therefore recommends that the annexed scale which more nearly assimilates that of the Military Hospital be adopted in the HM Colonial Hospitals in Van Diemen's Land.

Full Diet

One pound of Meat
One pound of Bread
One pound of Vegetables
One and a half drachms of Tea
Seven Drachms of Sugar
One sixth of pint of Milk
One ounce of Salt
One ounce of Vinegar
One ounce of Barley

Half Diet

Half a pound of Meat
One pound of Bread
Half a pound of Vegetables
One and a half drachms of Tea
Seven Drachms of Sugar
One sixth of pint of Milk
One ounce of Salt
One ounce of Vinegar
One ounce of Barley

Low Diet

Half a pound of Bread
One and a half drachms of Tea
Seven Drachms of Sugar
One sixth of pint of Milk
One ounce of Salt
One ounce of Vinegar
One ounce of Barley

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¹ W.G. Rimmer. Portrait of a Hospital: The Royal Hobart. Royal Hobart Hospital, 1981, p.311.

WHAT IS THAT PUBLICATION ABOUT?

Maurice Appleyard (Member 4093)

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

HEAVEN IS OUR HOME

This paperback publication of some 160pp, by Lance Geeves, first published in 1992.

Heaven is Our Home tells of the spirit, trials and exploits of early settlers in the Huon in the early 1830's and 40's.

They settled on land at Franklin, taken up by Lady Franklin from John Price. Before moving up and down the river. Their arrival followed the cutting of a bridle track across the hills from Hobart to Ranelagh. The Geeves family, the central theme of the author's research, left Franklin after eight years and cut Geeves Town out of the South East Rain Forest, entered from the Kermadie Estuary.

The author pictured the beautiful place it must have been when nothing but huge, eucalypts, dense undergrowth and fern-filled gullies covered the landscape up to the rugged, rocky mountain peaks. He had seen the opposite regression when two dying lakes became new, lively and magnificent Lake Pedder, part of Tasmania's self-generating powerhouse.

Convict stations, whalers, and shipbuilders were all part of the life of settlers as they grew crops, utilised the timber and built their shelters, homes and towns along the river.

SANATORIUM OF THE SOUTH

This paperback publication of some 225pp, by Stefan Petrow, was published in 1995.

In the nineteenth century boosters claimed that Tasmania was the Sanatorium of the Australian colonies, an island where the sick could gain new vitality and where a long and healthy life was assured. This image was mainly projected to attract tourists and immigrants.

The image did not match reality. Doubt was cast on the salubrity of the island by a series of epidemics of infectious diseases in Hobart and Launceston, in the 1870s and 1880s. Death became an everyday occurrence in many households and threatened Tasmania's reputation as a health resort. This book examines the cause of these epidemics and other public health problems faced by the two cities and assesses how public health responsibilities were discharged by the City Councils of Hobart and Launceston between 1875 and 1914, a formative period in their municipal histories.

One possible message for contemporary Tasmanians might be that city councils are as good as citizens want them to be and that if citizens take a greater interest in local government much can be achieved.

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Books — Hobart Branch

- *Amos, Julian; *AN AMOS FAMILY HISTORY—The First Three Generations in Tasmania*. [Q929.2 AMO]
- *Atkinson, James J; *BY SKILL & VALOUR—Honours and Awards to the Royal Australian Navy for the First and Second World Wars*. [359.10994 ATK].
- *Bacon, Carol; *THE LEGACY OF JOHN HEADLAM OF 'EGLESTON', Macquarie River, Tasmania..* [Q929.2 HEA]
- *Banks, Annette, et al; *THE FAMILY OF GEORGE BURGESS AND ANN HAINES*. [Q929.2 BUR]
- *Betjeman, John; *CITY OF LONDON CHURCHES*. [942.1 BET]
- *Blythe-Cooper, Anne; *THE GLORIOUS VINTAGE—Australian Opera Star Charles Westbrook Benson (1891-1977)*. [782.1992 BEN]
- *Cameron, David W; *CONVICT-ERA PORT ARTHUR—Misery of the deepest dye*. [365.9946 CAM]
- *Cannon, Michael; *LIFE IN THE COUNTRY—Australia in the Victorian Age: 2*. [994 CAN]
- *Clarke, R.S.J; *GRAVESTONE INSCRIPTIONS—VOLUME 4, County Down—Baronies of Upper and Lower Castlereagh*. [929.929.3269415 CLA]
- *Clarke, R.S.J; *GRAVESTONE INSCRIPTIONS—VOLUME 7, County Down—Baronies of Dufferin and Lecal* [929.929.3269415 CLA]
- *Clarke, R.S.J; *GRAVESTONE INSCRIPTIONS—VOLUME 14, County Down—Barony of Ards* 929.929.3269415 CLA]
- *Clark-Hansen, N; *THE HUON SHOW 1947-1996*. [Q994.62 CLA]
- *Davison, Graeme; *JOURNEYS INTO HISTORY—Australia's Foremost History Writers Reflect on the Landscapes of the past*. [Q994 DAV]
- *Duncombe, Kathy; *INDEX TO: SOUTH BRUNY ISLAND—TASMANIA—A brief history of the settlement*.
Dunn, Cathy; *LOVE AND LAND: Female Landholders Norfolk Island 1788–1814*. [929.39482 DUN]
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- *Finkel, George; *FROM COLONY TO COMMONWEALTH, QUEENSLAND 1824-1900* [994.3 FIN]

- *Frost, Lucy; *CONVICT ORPHANS—The heartbreaking stories of the colony's forgotten children, and those who succeeded against all odds.* [305.23086495 FRO]
- *Gee, Helen & Janet Fenton; *THE SOUTH WEST BOOK—A Tasmanian Wilderness.* [Q994.62 GEE]
- *Geeves, Lance; *HEAVEN IS OUR HOME.* [994.62 GEE].
- *Geeves, Lance; *SOUTHERN TASMANIAN MEN OF THE 40TH BATTALION.* [355.30994 GEE]
- *Geeves, Lance; *SOUTHWARD HO!—A southland argosy which sought and found the golden fleece of freedom in the Huon, Tasmania.* [994.6 GEE]
- *Gov. Printer, Tas 1987; *VENTURING WESTWARD—Accounts of Pioneering exploration in Western and North Western Tasmania by Messrs Gould, Gunn, Helyer, Frodsham, Counsel and Sprent.* [994.65 TAS]
- *Hastie, Julie & Elizabeth Hodson; *SWANSEA HERITAGE WALK.*
- *Hooper, F.C; *PRISON BOYS OF PORT ARTHUR—A study of the Point Puer Boy's Establishment, Van Diemens Land, 1834 to 1850.* 365.99464 HOO]
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- *Hurley, Beryl; *THE BOOK OF TRADES or LIBRARY OF USEFUL ARTS 1811—Volume II.* [993 HUR]
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- *Martin, Maureen and Sandra Duck; *INDEX TO PASSENGER ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES from EARLY LAUNCESTON NEWSPAPERS—Volume 1:1829-1840, M-Z* [929.38 MAR]
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- *Ryan, Lyndall; *THE ABORIGINAL TASMANIANS—Second Edition*. [994.6004 RYA]
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CONNELLY Charles		1806-1860	8335
CONNELLY John		1806-1860	8335
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CURWEN-WALKER John	Hobart TAS AUS/Ballarat VIC AUS	1810-1898	8342
DOWLING Ada		1872-1927	8338
DOWLING Henry		1840-1902	8338
DOWLING John		1807-1878	8338
EVANS Elizabeth	Waratah TAS AUS		8336
FISHER William	TAS AUS	1842-1900	8334
FOX Mary Anne		1806-1860	8335
GARRETT Joseph	Rush DUB IRE	1816-1907	8348
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HANSBOROUGH John Harrison	Stevensburgh VA USA/Hobart TAS AUS	1860-1945	8342
HERON William	Huonville (Victoria) TAS AUS	1847-1916	6470
HOLLOWAY	Devonport/Swansea/Sheffield TAS AUS	c.1900	8345
HOLLOWAY James	Police Point/Port Arthur TAS AUS	1826-1916	8349
HORNE Charles Henry			8340
HORNE Robert James			8340
IVASK Valentine	Estonia/Launceston TAS AUS	1949-1988	8344

JOHNSTON Hugh	Hawera NZ	1840–1898	8348
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TAPLEY Sarah		1842–1887	8338
TURNER Maria	Rushford SFK/Launceston TAS AUS	1823–1853	8338
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WRIGHT Maria	Cheshunt HRT ENG/Hobart TAS AUS	1814–1861	8349

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Saturday by appointment only 1.00 pm - 4.00 pm
Meeting Branch Library, 58 Bass Highway, Cooee, 10.30 am on Last Monday of each month, except December and January.
Night Dinner Meetings are held in winter and end of year, check with Branch Librarian for details.

HOBART Phone: Enquiries (03) 6245 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 1.00 p.m.–4.00 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.
Check the website <https://hobart.tasfhs.org> for the latest information.

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 website at
[https:// launceston.tasfhs.org](https://launceston.tasfhs.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 <https://mersey.tasfhs.org/> or email secretary@tfhsdev.com for updates.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE TASMANIAN FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.

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

Dues are payable annually by 1 April. Membership Subscriptions for 2023–24:-

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

Overseas: Individual or Joint member: A\$65:(inc. airmail postage) E-Journal(PDF) A\$35.00

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

Membership Entitlements:

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

Application for Membership:

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

Donations:

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

Research Queries:

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

Reciprocal Rights:

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

Advertising:

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

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