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# The President encourages

Garth Walter  
President

I am nearing the end of my first year as the President of FamilyHistory WA. As I reflect on this first year, I have been reminded how much the way we engage has changed over the last few years and through our emergence out of the COVID-19 impacts. We have been able to get back to face to face meetings and continue to try hybrid and online group meetings.

Also, as I've mentioned in my other musings in the journal, 2029 will be the 50th anniversary of FHWA and is a great opportunity to ask the question...

What will be be when we are 50?

As a result, I have started engaging with our members as part of the many Interest Group sessions. I have attended around 10 of these so far. Some of the constant themes I have been hearing are:

- how valuable our face to face gatherings are;
- how lucky we are that our more experienced members share research guidance with the less experienced members, and
- how great our volunteers are.

I am very grateful for all the hours and effort our volunteers put in across our projects, groups, the State Library, website, library, buildings, support, administration and committees. It is your contribution that makes FHWA great. And we are always looking for more assistance. Whilst lots of our members are volunteers, we still need so many more. Even the Governor of WA was thanking us for FHWA's contributions at a thank you event I attended in June (see the photo post event).

We survive and thrive through the efforts of our volunteers.

With our membership and volunteer numbers decreasing, one area we need your help is in promoting the great work we do, the benefits of being part of our community and how the information and knowledge FHWA has can help in our own local and global family history research. Whether it is helping out with one of the groups, in the State Library, the May Street buildings, promoting what we do, administrating one of our chat groups or helping on our



Garth Walter

Bicentennial project - your volunteer contributions are invaluable.

I would appreciate hearing from you if you have some great ideas on how we can recruit more of our members to volunteer or if you can help by volunteering hours. Please contact me at [president@fhwa.org.au](mailto:president@fhwa.org.au).

**We're Searching for Volunteers**

FamilyHistoryWA (FHWA) relies on its volunteers

To learn more about these oppoertunities please contact the Volunteer Liaison Coordinator by email: [volunteers@fhwa.org.au](mailto:volunteers@fhwa.org.au).

# From The Editor

Peter Forrestal

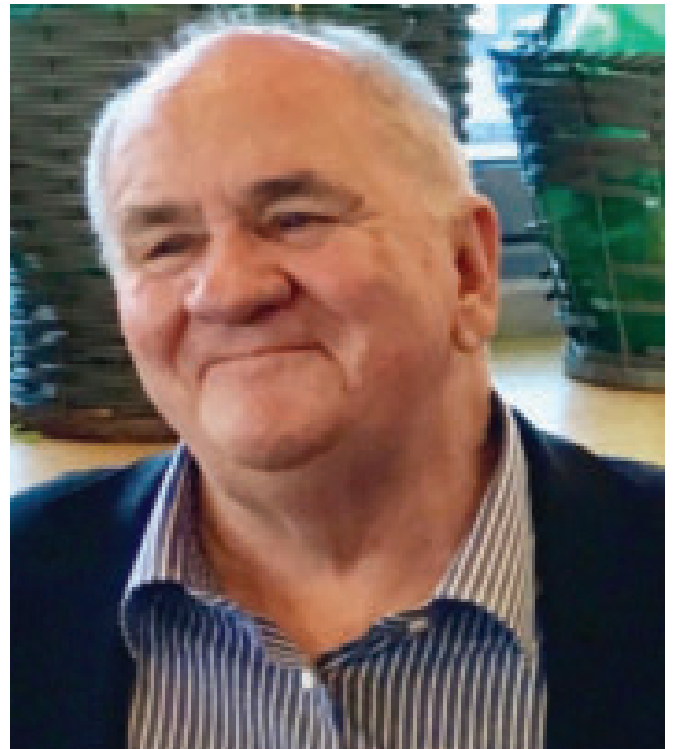
The role that anniversaries play in family history is so crucial that it likely no longer ceases to amaze. The centenary of World War 1 was the game changer in unravelling the story of my mother's maternal line. Without two seminal books celebrating 'Kitchener's One Hundred', our knowledge of her forebears would have been miniscule. So it is with the looming 70th anniversary of the Armistice in the Korean War: Josie Millwood's important story of the role of West Australians who were killed in that War became more possible.

Graham Webster's meticulous research in England unveils a significant family story in Western Australia. In the first of a two-part story, he gives a detailed picture of the professional lives that members of the colonial police force led. And, because family history abounds in wild coincidence, Michelle Roberts, the great-great-grand daughter of a nineteenth century Western Australian policeman, and first mayor of Bunbury, Charles Wisbey became a long-serving Minister of Police for the state.

Ron Pimm's graphic tale of domestic discord throws light on some of the difficulties that immigrants face as a minority in a new country. Especially one in which not speaking the language is just a factor influencing alienation. It is a disturbing, gut-wrenching story.

As ever, our shorter pieces offers some fascinating glimpses. CJ Edington begins a series that offer insights into the Voyage to Australia - things that I've wanted to know - how did immigrants get to the boat? how bad was the food on the voyage? how was the accommodation on board organised? Great stuff.

Then there's a couple of regulars with a seemingly never-ending (almost) impossible-to-believe pieces. I get dizzy reading Terry Fox on marital infidelity. His 'A bigamist in the family' shows the bizarre side of life, but the tempo is a little gentler. Then there's Colin Fallows with his entertaining 'Hidden Treasures': excelling himself with 'The Man Who attended his own inquest.' You certainly couldn't make this up!



Peter Forrestal

There are two book reviews in this issue. It may seem unusual to review a book that was first published in 1981, even if it is a family history. I'm happy to do the unexpected - if there's a good reason. Albert Facey's *A Fortunate Life* was published more than 40 years ago. It has enjoyed a surge in sales recently and so it seemed appropriate to draw our members attention to this Aussie classic - just in case. The other book on which we are placing the spotlight - *These are my war time Diaries: Sumatra 1942-1945* by Marjorie Lyon - concerns events that took place not far from the notorious massacre on Radji Beach of which Nurse Vivian Bullwinkel was the sole survivor. Further details of that massacre have received recent press coverage and so there's been some focus on that theatre of war. In her diaries, Australian doctor, Marjorie Lyon, describes dispassionately, and in great detail, the three years she spent in Sumatra caring for a large group of Dutch and British internees. It's an important documentation of Australians at war.

And, by popular acclaim, the crossword is back for another issue. Enjoy that. There's plenty to fascinate and entertain in this issue of *Western Ancestor*.

# The West Australians who died in the Korean War

Josie Millwood | Member # 14304

Thursday 27 July 2023 marks the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the armistice that ended the Korean War. It is also the date when the Perth Korean War Memorial will be unveiled in Kings Park, so Western Australia will have its own memorial to its soldiers and airmen who died as a result of their service in Korea. It is an opportune time to remember the stories of the West Australian servicemen who participated in

this conflict, which is considered a ‘forgotten war’, due in part to its timing between the Second World War and Vietnam.

My interest in Korean history started in the late 1990s when my family had the opportunity to live in South Korea for several years. We lived in a small town where my husband, Doug Millwood, taught English to students at the local government schools. We saw many historical sites

during our time in Korea but did not have the opportunity to visit the United Nations Memorial Cemetery in Busan. Visiting that Memorial Cemetery in January 2015 piqued my interest in the West Australians who died in the Korean War.

The United Nations first set up a cemetery in Korea in January 1951 as a place to bury fallen servicemen. In 1955, the South Korean government proposed that the UN accept the land where the cemetery was located for perpetual use as a sacred UN memorial cemetery. It is managed by the Commission for the UN Memorial Cemetery by 11 member nations and is a beautifully maintained cemetery with extensive landscaping and several memorial halls. Eleven thousand servicemen were originally interred there. As many countries have repatriated the remains of their fallen, there are only 2,320 servicemen currently buried in that cemetery. These represent the 23 countries who fought under the United Nations command in Korea.

As my husband and I were walking through the UN Memorial Cemetery on that cold January winter’s day, we stopped at the Wall of Remembrance and read through the names of the 281 Australians buried there. Reading through the names we found a Millwood! From our knowledge of my husband’s family history, we strongly suspected that this Millwood was one of our relatives. However, this was the first time we had heard of a family member who had served in the Korean War.

We walked carefully back to the Australian section of the cemetery



United Nations Memorial Cemetery, Busan, South Korea. Australian section.



United Nations Memorial Cemetery, Busan, South Korea. Grave site - Edward (Toby) Lauderdale Millwood.

to see if we could find Sergeant Millwood's grave, avoiding the snowy patches on the shaded edges of the paths and carefully avoiding walking on the grass. We found the grave and took a photo of it, so on my return to Australia I could start my research into who Sergeant Millwood was, and how he was related to us.

By the time we had the opportunity to revisit Korea and the UN Memorial Cemetery late in 2022 I had my answers. And had become interested in the other West Australians buried in Korea. Most of them, like Sergeant Millwood, died before they had had their own families. Were their stories remembered in Western Australia still?

My first challenge was finding a list of the West Australians who died in the Korean War. The one I eventually found was published by the Highgate RSL and lists 35 Korean War servicemen with links to Western Australia.

I knew from my research into Sergeant Millwood that there was information

available about his life, his service in World War II, and in Korea. But that information needed to be found and collated. Many accounts of the Korean War were no longer in print or not in Western Australian libraries. Could I research these 35 men and write a short biography for each one before the end of 2023, the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Armistice?

I started this project late in 2022 just prior to my last trip to South Korea. I planned to visit each of the graves of West Australian servicemen at the UN Memorial Cemetery and take a photo of their headstone. At the UN Memorial Cemetery, my plan for taking photos of the graves was interrupted by Security, who asked me to report to the UN Memorial Cemetery office. At the office, I spoke to the Assistant Director of Public Relations who was very interested in my project. This interest culminated in her arranging for a Korean film crew to come to my Peth home in late April and interview me about it. The edited film footage will be used by the UN Memorial Cemetery for

promotional purposes and will be uploaded to their social media pages.

What have I found out so far about the West Australians who went to the Korean War and did not return?

Australians, including West Australians, were very keen to volunteer for Korea. Over 2000 men and 200 women had expressed an interest in going to Korea even before recruiting for the Australian volunteer ground force for Korea (K Force) was announced in early August 1950. The first servicemen to be selected for advanced training were 400 regular soldiers whom the Army planned to send to Japan by the end of September 1950. They would make a combined force with the British Commonwealth Occupation Force troops already there. At least four of the West Australians who died in Korea were in this group.

The next volunteers were chosen from those with previous army experience in infantry, armour, artillery, engineers or signals. It was expected that these volunteers could be ready for service in Korea shortly after the first 400 regulars. They had to be British subjects and permanent residents in Australia, between 20 and 40 years of age, A1 medically and have had a satisfactory report on their service in the last war. Six of the West Australians who died in Korea were ex-WWII servicemen who enlisted for the K force in 1950. Two of these had been held as Prisoners of War by the Japanese, but still volunteered for Korea.

The other sixteen West Australians who died in Korea were young men in their late teens or early twenties who joined the army to fight in Korea.

The K Force soldiers came from many parts of Western Australia –



West Australians, Korean War (Cont.)

Kalgoorlie, Katanning, Pemberton, Norseman as well as Perth. Several were born in the UK and came to Western Australia either as children or young men. Two of the K Force soldiers came to Western Australia as child migrants and lived at Fairbridge Farm as children.

Three of these soldiers are still missing; as their bodies have never been found. One soldier fell overboard on the way home from Korea. The rest of the soldiers who were killed in action, or died from their wounds in Korea, are buried in the UN Memorial Cemetery in Korea.

Nine of the WA Dead were airmen. Eight airmen were in the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF), and the oldest West Australian casualty (Captain Luscombe, who was 46) was attached to the 1903 Independent Air Operations Flight of the Royal Air Force. Only three of these airmen are buried in the UN Memorial Cemetery in Korea. Three airmen are still missing, one is buried at sea and the two (who died in aircraft accidents prior to their arrival in Korea) are buried in the British Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery in Yokohama, Japan.

**Some of their stories**

There are many moving stories about the West Australians who died in the Korean War. Here are just a few.

**Sergeant Edward (Toby) Lauderdale Millwood**

Sergeant Toby Millwood was my husband’s father’s second cousin, so my husband’s cousin twice removed. Toby grew up in Kalgoorlie and worked in the mines prior to his enlistment in the Second World War. He was a ‘five-year man’ as he



Pakchon, Korea. November, 1950. Private E. Millwood, (seated). AWM 147002.

had enlisted in July 1940 and was discharged in October 1945. He had spent more than three years overseas and reached the rank of Bombardier. Toby was described by the head of a training school in New Guinea in 1945 as ‘not a parade ground soldier but a very good fighting soldier who has good courage and can lead men.’

In Korea, Toby was the Platoon sergeant of an Anti-Tank platoon of sixty men attached to the 3rd Battalion of the Royal Australian Regiment, (3RAR). The platoon commander, Freddy From, saw Toby as an equal and described him as an ex-artillery sergeant and a very good man. On the day before Toby died his Anti-Tank Platoon was getting ready to celebrate ANZAC Day with the Turks at Kapyong, northeast of Seoul. The Anti-Tank Platoon was providing support for other units and in a nice spot by a stream with their Bren guns in position. However, things started to change quickly after dark with the Korean troops further up the valley withdrawing and the platoon coming under heavy fire from the enemy. The attacks eased off as the night progressed but when From walked across a patch of moonlit ground,

he felt a sniper bullet rush past him. From told Toby to stay put but his sergeant must not have heard him and as Toby walked across the parade ground in the moonlight he was shot in the abdomen. Due to the confusion of retreating troops under fire there was a delay in retrieving Toby and he died before his platoon could get back to him. From has a chapter in his book, *That’s Enough Freddy From*, dedicated to Toby and describes him as ‘irascible at times and forthright and although liked and admired by the men, was a little feared too.’ From added that Toby had all the principles of a good unionist.

**Private Kenneth Sketchley**

Private Sketchley was a 20-year-old soldier from Collie and one of the first two Australians to die in Korea. Sketchley, who joined the army in 1948, was in the first group of Australian soldiers who landed in Korea at the end of September 1950. Less than a week later, Sketchley was driving an officer in a Bren Gun carrier when it ran over a land mine which exploded, killing both servicemen. The land mine was American-made and had only just





Korea. October 1950. Bren Gun Carrier. AWM HOB1397.

come into Communist hands when they overran an American military base. Sketchley's death on 3 October 1950, made front page news across Australia. Sketchley is remembered in Collie to this day with a Memorial Rose Garden in Soldier's Park and his is the only name on the Korean War section of the Collie War Memorial.

### **Private Albert John (previously Alfred Victor) King**

Private King was an ex-World War II soldier who volunteered for service in Korea. He was born in Birmingham but came to Australia at the age of eight as a Fairbridge Farm boy. To avoid being in care until the age of 21, he absconded from Fairbridge, changed his first names, and enlisted for World War II at the age of 17. He had been working as a station hand prior to his enlistment. King had been a machine gunner in World War II, a Prisoner of War on the Burma Railway and then shipped to

Japan in 1945. He worked as a miner in Norseman after his discharge but enlisted for K Force in August 1950. He served with the Special Forces unit of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion (3RAR) of the Royal Australian Regiment until he was killed in action on 8 November 1950, after only 42 days of service in the Korean special forces. His remains were recovered from North Korea in Operation Glory and were reinterred at the UN Memorial Cemetery in 1955.

### **Lance-Corporal William (Bill) Ellis**

Lance-Corporal Ellis worked in the family wood and ice-carting business in North Beach which ran into financial difficulty after his father died. He joined the army in January 1951 as a way of supporting his young family and paying back his business debts. At first, Ellis didn't volunteer for overseas service, but was told that doing this would increase his

chances for promotion. Ellis left for Korea in early 1952 but was killed on 19 December 1952 after stepping on a landmine while leading a night patrol. According to an account told to family friends at a dance in Harvey many years ago, Ellis knew he had tripped the landmine, called a warning to his patrol, and stood still on the ticking landmine while his soldiers dived for cover.

### **Flying Sergeant Laurence Charles Haines**

Flying Sergeant Haines enlisted in the Royal Australian Air Force in 1940 during the Second World War as an electrical fitter. He stayed in the Air Force after the war finished and went to Japan with the Occupation Forces in 1947. He spent four years in Japan as the Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO), in charge of the electrical department at Iwakuni, the main RAAF base in Japan. The Air Force continued to use Iwakuni to

## KILLED IN KOREA

CAPTAIN HUMMERSTON, of Armadale, Victoria, served in New Guinea during the war and was ADC to Lieut.-General Sir Horace Robertson before joining the Korean Force. Private Sketchley, of Collie, Western Australia, recently joined the Army. The men were killed when a Bess gun carrier was blown up by a landmine. They were buried yesterday in Taegu.



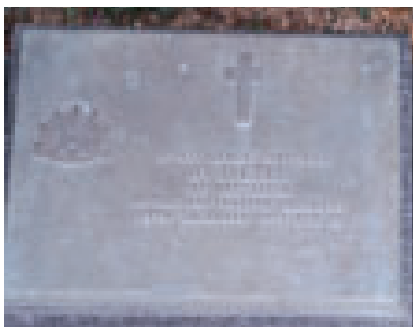
Pte. R. G. Sketchley



Capt. R. J. Hummerston

ABOVE: The Herald (Melb) 5 October 1950, p1.

BELOW: United Nations Memorial Cemetery, Busan, South Korea. Grave site – William (Bill) Ellis.



# Volunteers For Korean Expeditionary Force

Some of the volunteers for the Australian expeditionary force to go to Korea. These pictures were taken at Swanbourne transit camp after the men had been attested and equipped with uniforms.



ABOVE: Ptes A J King (Norseman), V Voysey (Darwin) and R Birch (Darwin). Western Mail 17 August, 1950, p6.

support their operations during the Korean war. Haines went to Korea several times during 1950.

As well as being the NCO for the electrical department, Haines was in charge of the welfare department at Iwakuni. On 24 April 1951, he was a passenger on a RAAF Auster light transport plane that crashed shortly after taking off, killing all on board. Haines and the aircraft crew (including another West Australian, Corporal Donald Scott) are buried in the British Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery, Yokohama.

After Haines' death his widow entered into correspondence with the Department of Air about the BINGO machine Haines had made for the amenity's section of his unit in Japan. This BINGO machine was built in Haines' spare time from materials he found on base and was modelled on the popular American BINGO machines.

Haines had made improvements on the American BINGO machine and proudly referred to the contraption as his machine. The Department of Air did not consider this BINGO

West Australians, Korean War (Cont.)



Western Mail 31 August 1950, p43.

machine to be Haines' personal property and so would not return it or reimburse his widow for its value. The Department of Air's secretary corresponding with his widow did say 'The fact he went to a great deal of trouble to make this machine was typical of his conscientious attitude, and his anxiety to do everything in his power to provide additional entertainment and recreation for his comrades. His good work in this respect will always be remembered by those who served with him.'



I am publishing the biographies of the West Australians who died in Korea as I complete them at <https://wakoreadead.blogspot.com/>, the webpage I have set up in memory of these West Australian servicemen so their stories are not forgotten.

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LEFT: British Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery, Yokohama, Japan. Gravesite – Laurence Charles Haines. AWM HOB2871.



# A Spearwood Tragedy

Ron Pimm | Member # 13108

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*"I have killed my wife for what she has done to me.  
I will go away and kill myself".*

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That is the translation of a note written by Frenchman Marius **MARTIN** at Spearwood on 29 October 1912. Sure enough, the body of Marius' wife was discovered in the lonely, single room, corrugated iron hut where they lived. She lay in a pool of blood, next to a blood-smearing tomahawk, the weapon that had inflicted three life-ending wounds to her head.

Looking around the shanty, on shelves were kitchen utensils and small tins of pantry goods, all neatly arranged. Everything was in order, and the room was quite clean and tidy, evidence there had not been a struggle. Some packages of groceries were found lying beside the woman's body on the floor and the table was laid for the midday meal. But Marius himself was missing, and would only be discovered the following morning, hanging from a tree not 150 yards from his house. Death must have been slow and agonising, for his hands were tightly clenched, and the knot of the double running noose had caught underneath his chin and had sunk deeply into his flesh. His rope was an ordinary clothesline that had been taken from his house for the purpose.<sup>1</sup>

The tragedy was quickly picked up by local and national newspapers, who during the following days satisfied the public's thirst for intimate details of the tragedy. But their published accounts of what led to the tragedy

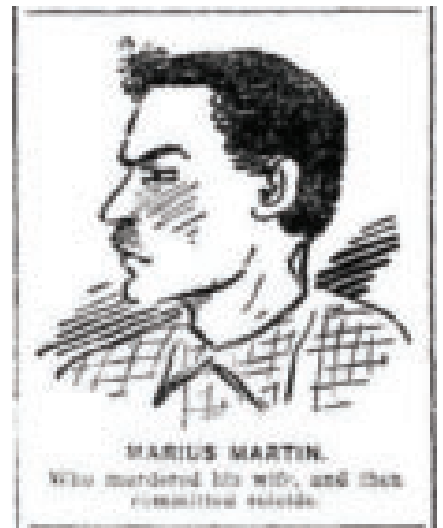
varied, and two camps were formed; one believing that Marius was a mad, savage monster<sup>2</sup>, while the other believed Marius may have been the victim of a scheming, lazy wife.<sup>3</sup>

The coronial inquiry into the deaths of Marius Martin, a Spearwood settler, and his wife, Marie Therese Martin, was conducted at the Fremantle Courthouse on the 15th November, at which the jury found that 'Marie Theresa Martin came by her death as the result of injuries inflicted on October 29 by her husband, Marius Martin, while he was in a fit of frenzied passion. They also found that Martin met his death by hanging, his own act.'<sup>4</sup> No official investigation into what had caused Marius to commit such a brutal act was undertaken and it was left to the press and the public to form their own opinions.

Much of what follows was researched from the numerous press reports of the day.

## Prelude

Marius and his brother Urbain were born near Toulouse, in the south-west of France. Urbain claimed he was lured to Perth from Melbourne in early August 1902 with an offer to work as a chef in the new Palace Hotel on St George's Terrace. He was soon dismissed from the job but by 1906 he was an orchardist in Mundaring. Until 1911, Urbain was also in partnership with fellow Frenchman



TOP: Marie Theresa Martin *Sunday Times* 3 Nov 1912, p3.  
ABOVE: *Truth* 2 Nov 1912, p9.

Neston Andreu, running a Guildford manufacturing business. Of his brother Marius, nothing of certainty is known, although it is believed he may have arrived at Fremantle from Melbourne in either 1903 or 1904.

Mr. Angus McLeod, who lived about 300 yards from Marius' place in Spearwood, stated that Marius had sued his brother for wages for work done at Mundaring and had recovered £300. He then went back to Toulouse, where he met the pretty, diminutive 23-year-old Marie and, after knowing her only a month, married her.<sup>5</sup> Their marriage agreement was on the half-





The dwelling of the Martins at Spearwood in which Mrs Martin was murdered. *Sunday Times* 3 Nov, 1912, p3. ABOVE: *Truth* 2 Nov 1912, p9.

residents signed and addressed to the Court a note deploring the prosecution and declaring Martin to be a gentle and inoffensive man.<sup>9</sup>

Marius appeared in the Perth Court on 17 October. The evidence was heard, and the charge was dismissed, some said irresponsibly dismissed, by the magistrates, who advised the husband and wife to go back and try to live happily together.

On 28 October, the day before the tragedy occurred, with the aid of others at the French Consul's office in Perth, the couple agreed to a reconciliation, but when Marius kissed Marie to seal their reconciliation, she shrank from him.<sup>10</sup> The couple then returned home by train, and at Spearwood station a witness reported that Marius had 'jumped out and offered to assist his wife to alight, but instead of taking his offer in the spirit it was made she slapped him across the face and threw a purse containing money at his feet.'<sup>11</sup> Another witness saw the couple quarrelling at the station, and when they passed a wire fence on the boundary of their allotment, Marie appeared to be unwilling to accompany her husband further. Marius thereupon half dragged, and half carried her the last 100 yards to the house, with Marie uttering cries

and-half principle, half of what was hers belonged to him and half of what was his belonged to her.

In December 1911, Marius brought his young bride to Western Australia, and for a time they lived at Guildford. Then, in mid-1912, he bought a block of land at Spearwood from Mr. McLeod, and there the couple made their home. Marius cleared five acres and cultivated two acres, while also trenching and doing other work for neighbouring farmers, who described him as being exceedingly industrious and a highly capable farm labourer. A good tempered and intelligent man, they said.<sup>6</sup>

Although they were both peasants, Marie, who was about eight years younger than Marius, was of quite a different stamp.<sup>7</sup> Speaking hardly a word of English, Marie found the isolation at Spearwood suffocating. But Marius could not understand that she could not bear the loneliness, or if he did understand, he did not know what to do about it. Marius, who was small but very strong and broad chested, wanted his dark-eyed and dark-haired wife Marie to fill her time with light work in the garden,

but she thought the work too hard. This caused much conflict between the two.

Marius was said by his neighbours to be anxious to please Marie in everything, and when she suggested that she should have a half share in the land because of the agreement which was drawn up when she brought £40 into the marriage, he determined that the transfer of the Spearwood property should be made out in her name. He made the transfer accordingly, but before it had been registered in the Titles Office, Marie had disappeared. In anger, Marius altered the transfer to his own name.<sup>8</sup>

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*"I will leave this with you. I owe for a stove which I bought this morning, and I want you to pay for me. My wife has come back and I no like it. I go away and perhaps I die."*

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### The Tragedy Unfolds

Marie left Marius on 2 October, 27 days before the horrendous deed took place. Within a few days she had instituted proceedings against her husband for having threatened to shoot her. But when the charge became known, several Spearwood

of protest.<sup>12</sup> Later, yet another witness saw Marie crying as she ran down a pathway leading from her house, but Marius ran after her and brought her back to the house.

Oddly, on the morning of the tragedy, Marius and Marie journeyed into Fremantle, purchasing groceries

A Spearwood tragedy (Cont.)

and a new cooking stove, which was to revolutionise the kitchen of the little household. At the shop of their friend, Mr. McLeod, they seemed to be on excellent terms, and stayed for a while chatting and laughing.

Then, at two o'clock that afternoon, Marius called at the house of one of his neighbours, Charles Green, and after chatting for some time he asked for a pen and paper. He wrote on a piece of notepaper some words in French, sealed the slip in an envelope, and handed it to Green, together with his bank book, a purse containing a small sum of money, and a receipt for £2 from the Union Stores, Fremantle, saying "I will leave this with you. I owe for a stove which I bought this morning, and I want you to pay for me. My wife has come back and I no like it. I go away and perhaps I die." He left the house then and walked towards his own cottage. Alarmed at Marius' speech and strange manner, Green followed, walking down his allotment until he saw Marius enter his little one roomed shanty and immediately telephoned for the police. Despite his earlier, pleasant demeanour at Green's house, it is clear that Marius had already killed his wife.<sup>13</sup>

### Marius Revealed

While several neighbours of the pair asserted that for some time past there had been frequent quarrels between Marius and his wife, it is certain that Marius was well liked among his Spearwood neighbours. But holding a very different opinion was a quartet of Frenchmen, who had known Marius much longer than them. It is the custom for those from foreign lands to seek out their fellow countrymen, particularly if

their native tongue is not commonly spoken in their adopted place. That these four men were united in that desire is unquestionable, and they may be thought of as good friends. The foursome consisted of Marius brother, Urbain; Urbain's business partner, Neston Andreu; the French Consul's secretary, Peter Michelides; and a most accomplished and widely known Perth identity named Henri Edouard SEGUY.

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*I took her into my house at Hay-street East, where she remained for about a fortnight. She told my wife she was in dread of her husband and wanted to go back to France.*

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When questioned by the press about the deceased killer, Neston Andreu, Urbain Martin and Peter Michelides were but briefly reported. Andreu considered him eccentric, thinking some of his actions were queer and he did not think him straight in his mind. Urbain Martin said that his brother had twice attempted to murder him, that he abused himself; and the moon affected him, while Peter Michelides said he had seen Marius behave like a madman. But the person most quoted in the press about Marius' personality was the fourth man, Henri Seguy.

Henri Seguy was a most interesting man. Born at Bordeaux about 1859 and having spent a number of years in the French Navy, Henri emigrated to Australia in 1888, arriving in Perth in 1895 as a member of the 'Olde Englishe Fayre', he amazed audiences with feats of strength and his performing monkeys and bears.<sup>14</sup> In Perth the following year, he married Amelia Wallmann and in 1906 'Professor' Seguy opened a gymnasium opposite the Mechanic's Institute in Hay Street, where he taught boxing, physical culture and

fencing. Although not a large man, the champion fencer was still an imposing figure, sporting a receding hairline and a well-crafted waxed moustache. Speaking five languages, Henri was also an interpreter at the Perth Police Court.

Seguy claimed that he had known Marius for eight years and considered that he conducted himself in an extraordinary manner and was at times a wild man. He confirmed

Urbain's claim that Marius had twice attempted to murder him, saying that he was present on those two occasions and, before Marius could harm his brother, Seguy had disarmed him, the first time of a carving knife and the second of a rifle. Seguy also stated that Marius was a man with a violent temper and very quarrelsome. He had frequent disagreements with his brother at Mundaring, and eventually left and instituted legal proceedings against him. His treatment of his wife was disgraceful. Niggardly and closefisted, he often denied her the bare necessities of life, and butter and milk were luxuries to her. Marius ordered her not to visit the neighbours, and this was one of the reasons why she wished to return to France. He was quite certain that Marius was mad, and claimed he was always bad when the moon was at the full.

Seguy continued: "I did not know Mrs. Martin till two or three weeks ago, when she left Marius. I received a letter from the latter's brother asking me to look after his sister-in-law, and I took her into my house at Hay-

A Spearwood tragedy (Cont.)

street East, where she remained for about a fortnight. She told my wife she was in dread of her husband and wanted to go back to France. While she was at my house, I found a round hole cut out of a wire door so that a person could get a hand through to undo the latch, so that would make it appear that Marius had visited my house on one occasion and tried to get in.’<sup>15</sup>

In the West 31 Oct 1912, Mrs Seguy said that Mrs Martin lived in the constand dread that she would be done to death by her husband.

‘She was a simple, peasant girl...not more than 23 years of age, and she hardly knew a word of English. She was a native of Toulouse and arrived in Western Australia last December. ... whenever he came to the house she was so frightened that she trembled violently and refused to see him. She has a presentiment that he would take her life...

‘Marius Martin was a man with a violent temper and very quarrelsome. He had frequent disagreements with his brother at Mundaring , and eventually lef and instituted legal proceedings against him. His treatment of his wife was disgraceful...Martin ordered her not to visit her neighbours, and this was one of the reasons why she wished to return to France.’

### A Theory

But let us return to Urbain Martin and Henri Seguy’s contention that ‘he was always bad when the moon was at the full.’ As powerful as this ancient belief appears to be, there is little science to back up the theory that a full moon causes changes in human behaviour. Despite this, even

today, large sections of society believe there is a connection between the lunar cycle and the human body. We even continue to use the word ‘lunatic’.

However, one marked exception to this general conclusion does exist. Researchers have found that those with **bipolar disorder** may be affected by changes in the lunar cycle. People with bipolar disorder have episodes where they feel very energetic and even euphoric (mania), and episodes of depression. Sometimes, mixed episodes occur, where a person has the moods associated with depression, but also the energy associated with mania. A 2018 study examined 17 people whose bipolar disorder tended to switch rapidly from depression to mania. The study showed that the circadian pacemaker (a small group of nerves) in these individuals became synchronized with lunar patterns. This caused changes in their sleep that then triggered a shift from depression symptoms to mania symptoms.<sup>16</sup>

Could Marius Martin have been a sufferer of bipolar disorder? While this writer is not versed in the complexities of mental health, there do seem to be parallels between symptoms of the disorder and the wildly differing descriptions of Marius’ personality.

### The End

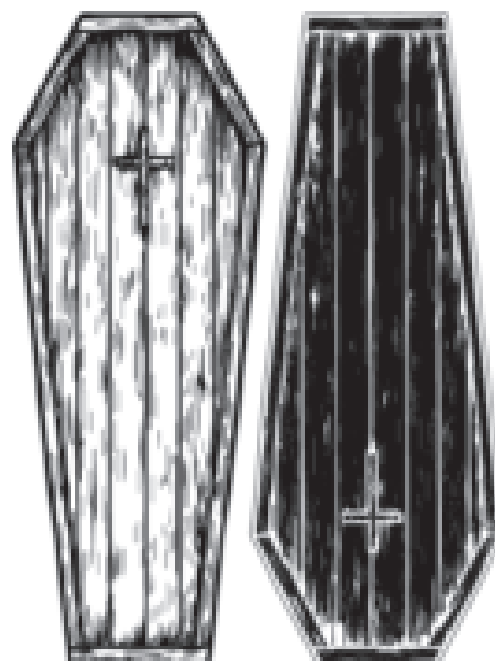
Two days after their deaths, Marie and Marius were buried in Fremantle Cemetery. While Marie was buried in the Roman Catholic section of the graveyard, Marius, a suicide, was buried without a burial service in unconsecrated ground. It was said that a prominent Fremantle man at the graveside, who had known Marius Martin and who liked the Frenchman for his quiet and unassuming ways, could not bear to see the body

consigned to earth like that of a dog, and after offering up a silent prayer he cast a handful of earth on the coffin. “Poor devil,” he muttered, “he deserved a better end.”<sup>17</sup>

Finally, Marius’ brother dismantled the little house where the tragedy had unfolded and chopped down the tree where his brother had taken his own life.<sup>18</sup>

(Endnotes)

- 1 *The West Australian*, 30 Oct. 1912, p.7
- 2 *Western Mail*, Friday 1 Nov. 1912, p.15
- 3 *Sunday Times*, Sunday 3 Nov. 1912, p.15
- 4 *Truth*, Saturday 23 Nov. 1912, p.7
- 5 *Western Mail*, 22 Nov. 1912, p.34
- 6 *Western Mail*, 1 Nov. 1912, p.15
- 7 *Sunday Times*, 24 Nov. 1912, p.3
- 8 *W.A. Government Gazette*, 20 January 1911, p.138
- 9 *Kalgoorlie Miner* 31 Oct. 1912, p.6
- 10 *The West Australian*, 31 Oct. 1912, p.7
- 11 *The West Australian* 31 Oct. 1912, p.7
- 12 *Sunday Times*, Sunday 24 Nov. 1912, p.3
- 13 *Truth*, 23 Nov. 1912, p.7
- 14 *Daily News* 31 Dec. 1896, p.3
- 15 *Sunday Times* 3 Nov. 1912, p.3
- 16 <https://www.healthline.com/health/full-moon-effects>
- 17 *Sunday Times* 3 Nov. 1912, p.15
- 18 *Sunday Times* 12 Jan. 1913, p.15



# A Policeman's Lot: Charles Wisbey in nineteenth century Western Australia

Graham Webster |

**O**n 24 March 1854 Charles WISBEY arrived in Fremantle aboard the barque *Victory*. With him were his wife Ellen, his son Charles and his widowed mother, Amelia. He had been born in Duxford, Cambridgeshire on 31 August 1833, and worked as a labourer in England before emigrating. He found work in the colony in agriculture, farming a property at Irishtown. Charles joined the West Australian Police Force as a Constable in September 1854 and became the second officer in charge in the Northam Police Station.

At Northam, Charles' role in the police force was various and may have included: *following some unfortunate into the back country, and in so doing to spend days and nights in the wilderness exposed to the trying effects of the climate, and without the necessary equipment to*

*withstand the hardships consequently endured called forth the best traits of human character imposing self-denial and strong determination combined with self-reliance.*

He became a Mounted Constable in September 1857 yet was on foot duty in October 1857 at the York Fair. In June 1858, Charles was given a cash

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*They agreed but realised their mistake as soon as they entered the building, when the constable's wife locked and bolted the door behind them. She held them prisoner until her husband came home, 12 hours later.*

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reward of £10 as an encouragement. In 1859, he unsuccessfully tried to quench a fire, possibly caused by sun on a piece of glass in grass tree rushes for repairs to the roof, together with Thomas Mead - the new owner - and Richard Morrell - the previous owner, in the thatch roof of the Northam

Inn. He occasionally had to supervise convict working parties, although the Governor's office made it clear that this was not the responsibility of the police force. Policing in the districts away from Perth often involved tracing errant convicts and rebellious indigenous locals. Charles would have had to ride round the country visiting the settlers and shepherds to see if

they had any complaints to make. And also, to see several woodcutters to ascertain if they had paid their licence fees.

While he was away, one day in the early 1860s, there was an incident in which two escaped convicts roamed at large, to the terror of the settlers. They reached the home of Mrs. Wisbey and asked her for some food. She realised that they were the escapees and offered to cook them a meal, asking them to wait in the building used as a lock-up. They agreed but realised their mistake as soon as they entered the building, when the constable's wife locked and bolted the door behind them. She held them prisoner until her husband came home, 12 hours later.

On 8 February, Charles was investigating John Ingram, charged with stealing a cow, the property of William Chidlow, of Northam. In April 1864, Charles arrested James Ford, charged with forging and



Charles Wisbey (seated at left) – Swearing-in Ceremony, 1868.



A policeman's lot (Cont.)

uttering an order for money, with intent to defraud William Dodd, of the Toodyay district; the arrest was not made earlier as Ford had left the district and used a different name. The former prosecution was successful, the latter not.

In January 1865, Charles was involved in arresting David Reeder, indicted for the murder of Denny, an aboriginal native, at James Steere's station, on the Blackwood; Reeder was convicted of manslaughter. In April, Charles Wisbey offered a reward for information on the poisoning of his dog. Obviously, there was no take up of the reward as the advert was repeated weekly until 12 May 1865.

Not all arrests went to Charles' advantage as witnessed in the charge of murder of Edward Ellis Clarkson by Egup or Conder, an aboriginal native, at Galver Cutting on 1 August 1865.

*To the Editor of the Perth Gazette & W. A. Times.*

*SIR,-In your issue of the 21st ult., it was said that the capture of one of the natives for the murder of the late Mr. Clarkson was made by police-constable Edwards, and no mention was made of any other officer. Without opposing Mr. Edwards, but injustice to a zealous and enterprising officer, I beg to say that the capture in question was made by police-constable Charles Wisbey, who on this as on other occasions, has proved himself to be an officer of superior merit, and it is to be hoped will meet with due reward.*

*I am Sir, Your obedient servant,  
Northam.*

The trial took place in April 1866 and accused was found guilty and sentenced to death.



Charles Wisbey (right), 1896

Later in 1866 Charles was again involved in an agricultural dispute when he investigated George Longbottom, charged with killing a calf, the property of W Chidlow, with intent to steal. Longbottom was taken into custody on 24 July 1866 and the verdict of the trial was guilty, five years penal servitude.

In Northam, Charles was involved in the trial of Jack, an aboriginal native, charged with the murder of Balgett, a native, at Newcastle, on the 6 February 1867 where he gave evidence on the alleged crime scene; verdict, guilty, but with a strong recommendation of mercy.

Later in 1867, he gave evidence in the trial of Charles Peachy charged with stealing a pony, the property of John Wall Hardey, at York, in February. The verdict - guilty: three years imprisonment.

Not all of Charles' activities were

**IMPOUNDED** in the public pound  
at York, on the 17th Sept., 1870—One  
bay mare, about 14 hands high, branded  
off side on ribs SS or ES, small rope  
round neck, hollow back, a few white  
hairs on withers, aged. If not claimed  
within the time allowed by law will be  
sold to defray expenses.  
**CHARLES WISBEY,**  
Pound-keeper.  
York, Sept. 18, 1870. (2a. 4.)

The Perth Gazette and West Australian Times. 23 Sept 1870, p2.

directly related to crime on his patch. In a trial in April 1868, Charles, as a corporal, gave evidence of searching for Michael Bryant charged with stealing a watch from the person of Robert Wilson, at Perth in January 1868.

By 1868, he was transferred to York as Sergeant in charge: after various spells of duty, from Northam and York as Constable. During his time in Northam, his reputation as a fair officer grew: '...So useful was Mr Wisbey the position of senior police officer in the eastern districts that for

A policeman's lot (Cont.)

many years, we believe, at the earnest request of the settlers he was allowed by the Government to remain there, the rule of the department being, and is still, to constantly change these officers.' He was fully involved in the local community and, in August 1864, he was on a committee for the establishment of a Mechanical Institute.

Northam was renowned in the early 1860s as sober and respectful:

Its small school and neat little church and Mechanical Institute are symbolic of its character, and were complemented by the conscientious work of Constable Wisbey...

He refused to allow George Throssell a gallon licence yet granted him one to sell colonial wine in his store. Constable Wisbey claimed that there was an immediate deterioration of behaviour in the community.

At York he was responsible for sub-stations at Lakes, Youndegin, Beverly

extent most successful forgeries in the colony...' in the trial of William Berrett and James Dixon, both found guilty and sentenced to seven years imprisonment.

In May 1870 in a sheep stealing case, Charles arrested William Sermon who was found not guilty. In August 1871, whilst serving in York, Police Constable Michael Lalley complained that a malicious report against him was made by Charles and Sub-Inspector Finlay claiming he was unfairly accused of drunkenness; he threatened to resign if he was not transferred to Perth. His complaint was rejected and Lalley had to resign!

Later in 1871 Charles was involved in a 'mistaken' postal fraud where a letter posted in York by his daughter Fanny (aged 16) was wrongly handed to someone who thought it was for them but was not read. The letter was eventually handed back to the post office for redirection, the envelope having been destroyed by an infant. Charles apparently took the actions



Charles & Ellen Wisbey

on 31 January 1857; Martha Jane born 4 May 1859 in Northam; Sarah Eliza born in Northam in 1861; Mary Ann born 1863 in Toodyay; Emily born 26 November 1865 in Northam; Eleanor born in Perth on 24 April 1868 and Elizabeth born in 1870 in York.

In 1872 Superintendent Matthew SMITH restructured the police districts and brought Fremantle more under control from Perth, although it still remained a distinct entity with a local sergeant in place; its first sergeant was Charles Wisbey on transfer from York. What must have been one of his court cases in this new role, Charles gave evidence in November that he made an arrest on a warrant of Patrick Macnamara, indicted for robbery with violence in Fremantle. The verdict: not guilty.

In September 1875, the *Western*

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*In September 1875, the Western Australian Times wrote a scathing report on the Fremantle court and police, hinting at corruption.*

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and Stanton Springs. In early 1869, Charles was involved in a number of trials in the Supreme Court. Charles also gave evidence in the trial of John Clarke, charged with stealing a pig. Although he explained that he had searched house of the accused a verdict of not guilty was returned. In another trial, he investigated the stealing of a filly belonging to S E Burgess by James Fitt where the verdict was guilty: six years penal servitude. In October 1869, as Sergeant of Police at York, Charles Wisbey gave evidence in '...one of the boldest and to some

as being deliberate and was 'called out' by George Throssell:

*...I cannot too strongly express my contempt. Will it be credited that the man [ie Charles Wisbey] was a professed friend of my family, and that a short time before he made his charge he was at my house and drank brandy, at my expense, to the good health of those he must at the same time have been planning to ruin? Such conduct seems too Judas-like for these days, but alas ! too true*

During his Northam days his family grew: Frances (Fanny) was born there in 1855; Amelia was born in Toodyay

A policeman's lot (Cont.)

*Australian Times* wrote a scathing report on the Fremantle court and police, hinting at corruption. A reporter had attended a court session and reported on two particular cases. In one case, in which a ticket-of-leave man was applying to the court to take up a position with Mr Woollams, a local sawyer, the paper reported:

*A respectable-looking man applied to the magistrate to allow him, being a ticket man, to have an engagement (produced) with a Mr. Woollams, both sawyers. The learned sergeant (Wisbey) here rose and addressed the bench, that he "would not allow him to take the engagement, that he could get him an engagement at the Vasse." The man said he had no wish to go so far as he could get plenty of work here. The learned sergeant then called out, 'stop your jaw, will you!' I thought this a novelty and allowed by the bench too. The same bumptious individual told Mr. Slade that he would give the man a 7 days pass for Fremantle, but not an engagement. Why? Echo answers because it appears Mr. Simpson at the*



Charles Wisbey

arresting Pat, unless called upon by the landlord to do so'. At the same time Kelly must leave Harwood's house which, the paper noted, would have left Kelly homeless. The report concluded 'Why not promote the learned Sergt. to Perth? He is (as Mrs. George Case observes) so remarkably clever,' and Mr. Landor would soon put him through his facings, and take the 'jaw' out of him.'

---

*This left Charles in danger of being let go but Matthew Smith, Superintendent of Police felt '...the force could not afford to lose such a reliable man...*

---

*Vasse wants several pairs of sawyers, and requested an official of this court to send some down. Does Mr. Simpson also want Fiddlers? The sequel will show.*

That morning, the other significant case concerned Pat Kelly, an elderly man who worked for local publican Mr Harwood. The police had arrested him for being in a bar when he was on the list of those prohibited from buying alcohol. The verdict, in this case, was that 'the police acted wrong in entering the Hotel and

The newspaper then published a letter supporting Mr Wisbey [sic] but adding the comment:

*Sergeant Wisbey has woke up one morning and found himself famous. We have received a number of contradictory letters on the subject, and we are tired of it. So we hope in Sergeant Wisbey's alleged parlance that everyone will 'hold their jaw' about it for the future.*

The 'hold your Jaw' reference was also used by the newspaper in an October episode of the satirical column 'The

Owl and the Magpie' on the justice system in the colony. The *Inquirer and Commercial News*, another paper in the colony, condemned the reporting and defended Charles Wisbey, stating:

*These remarks were quite uncalled for, if not utterly false. The sergeant is a very kind and popular man, both with his officers and all who come in contact with him officially, and quite unworthy of the slanderous effusion which appeared in your contemporary.*

Then in 1876 Charles was transferred to Bunbury on promotion as a Sub-Inspector.

By the end of his first year in the district, Wisbey was accused of corruption by the Anglican minister, Reverend Withers. However, given his recent treatment in Fremantle, Charles sued the Reverend for defamation of character and won. The case arose from an inquest on Jack Meloy who died as a result of drinking; the verdict was death as result of apoplexy. Withers commenting on the verdict wrote:

*So far from any bona fide effort to ascertain the real cause of death being manifested; the Sub-Inspector appeared desirous to screen the publican. Some five or six witnesses - most unwilling ones - were examined. The feeling common to all evidently was "Jack" (meaning the deceased) is out of the way, and nothing that we can say can do him any good. Let us screen the publican.*

This was the libel complained of. There was a second count for slander, arising out of following observation made by the defendant in the course of a sermon preached by him, and alluding to the same case '...the heads of the police connived to smother the matter up.' The verdict was:



A policeman's lot (Cont.)

*Found for defendant [Withers] on the first count, for libel; on the second count, for slander, for plaintiff [Wisbey] damages 20s*

In 1877, the West Australia police grant was considerable cut by the Government; set at £14,000 and planned to decrease £1,000 a year until 1888 when the entire funding would be the responsibility of the Colony. This had an immediate effect on the number and salaries of police officers; the Superintendent salary became £400 pa, Inspector's £200pa and the number of Sub-Inspectors reduced to three from four, the most junior being Charles Wisbey. This left Charles in danger of being let go but Matthew Smith, Superintendent of Police felt '...the force could not afford to lose such a reliable man...' He wrote to the Colonial Secretary that this would mean:

*'...discharging...a very deserving officer, Sub-Inspector Wisbey after twenty two years, and leave Bunbury district without an officer in charge, a step I am sure the Honourable Members of Council will not press when they understand the facts.*

They relented and agreed to retain Charles but as a Sergeant in Charge of the district. In August 1878, Charles Howard was appointed Inspector of Police for the Southern Regions but it was questioned why Charles, among others, had been overlooked in preference to a young man with little experience. With little chance of promotion within the police force Charles announced that month he would resign at the end of the year, and departed the police force in November 1878 receiving a gratuity of £294 3s 4d and 50 acres.

In preparation of leaving the police

*...for the sale of fermented and spirituous liquors, in the house and appurtenances thereunto belonging, situated at Bunbury, in Victoria Street, containing three sitting rooms and seven bedrooms, rented from Mr. William Spencer, at present occupied by Mr. Thomas E. Spencer, now licensed under the sign of the Wellington Hotel, and which I intend to keep as an Inn or Public House.*

force Charles embarked on his new career by applying, in November 1878, for a licence:

*for the sale of fermented and spirituous liquors, in the house and appurtenances thereunto belonging, situated at Bunbury, in Victoria Street, containing three sitting rooms and seven bedrooms, rented from Mr. William Spencer, at present occupied by Mr. Thomas E. Spencer, now licensed under the sign of the Wellington Hotel, and which I intend to keep as an Inn or Public House.*

#### (Sources)

Detailed references can be provided by contacting Graham Webster at [overswavesey@gmail.com](mailto:overswavesey@gmail.com)

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# Hidden Gems: The Man Who Attended His Own Inquest

Colin Fallows | Member #13898

An inquest into a person's death is a sombre occasion. That there should be a mistaken identity and a touch of hilarity on such an occasion is highly unusual. The deaths of a husband and a wife, in separate incidents, both of which are the subject of an inquest is rare. Such are these Hidden Gems which turned up on *Trove* and its New Zealand equivalent, *Papers Past*.

In my previous article, I wrote of my great grandfather, Thomas Trant Kennedy, who looked after the son of Dick-a-Dick, the indigenous cricketer, and how this family took on the Kennedy name. Thomas also adopted his sister's daughter, Nellie Cantwell, following the death of her parents.

Thomas's sister was Mary Trant **Kennedy** who was born in 1846 at

breath-taking Dingle in Ireland. In 1863, Mary and Thomas boarded *Queen Bee* in London, bound for Melbourne, and arrived there on 28 September 1863. She married Michael **Cantwell**, an Irishman from Waterford, on 1 June 1865 at St Francis Church, Lonsdale Street, Melbourne. She was 19 and he was 27.

The Cantwells moved to the west coast of New Zealand in 1866 and they had



Coffee Palace, Port Fairy, Victoria. 1906. Geraldine Kennedy on balcony. Pettingill family, below.

## FEATURE

Hidden Gems (Cont.)

two children there. Ellen (known as Nellie) was born at Greymouth on 17 May 1866. Her brother, Thomas, was born at Greymouth on 18 May 1868. Not long after that, Mary and Michael Cantwell separated.

Then a tragedy occurred. Mary was living at the gold mining town of Charleston, just north of Greymouth, when, on 8 July 1870, she fell while carrying a lighted candle and set fire to her clothes. She was severely injured and died on 23 July, aged 24, and was buried the next day. An inquest into her death was held at Charleston on 1 August 1870.

The following reports were published on this incident:

'An accident, likely to result fatally, occurred at Charleston on Friday last (8 July 1870). A Mrs. Cantwell, residing in a tenement adjoining the premises of Messrs Harrold and Scanlon, fell down while carrying a lighted candle which set fire to her clothes. The children were in bed and their screams brought Mr Harrold to the spot. He burst open the door and found Mrs. Cantwell whose clothes were in flames under the bed. He and others succeeded in extinguishing the flames, and, but for their timely assistance, the mother and children would have been burnt to death; the former is severely injured and very faint hopes are entertained of her recovery.'<sup>1</sup>

'The unfortunate Mrs Cantwell, who was fatally injured by igniting her clothes some time back, expired at Charleston on Saturday (23 July 1870). An inquest was held by District Coroner, Mr **Broad**, and the jury returned a verdict that the deceased came by her death by accidental burning.'<sup>2</sup>



Gertrude Kennedy, Ellen Cantwell, Hubert Kennedy, Evangeline Kennedy, Francis Kennedy, Caroline Kennedy, 1901.

Title on Inquest File: Coroner, Charleston Date: 1 August 1870 Subject: Inquest Proceedings on Mary Cantwell (burned while drunk).<sup>3</sup>

'CHARLESTON - (from our own correspondent.) Tuesday, July 26. The funeral of the unfortunate Mrs. Cantwell took place on Sunday (24 July 1870), the remains being attended to their final resting-place by a large body of mourners. She leaves two children for whom I trust the charitable instincts of this community will be impelled to make some provision.'<sup>4</sup>

The children were returned to Melbourne and on 28 August 1870 were made wards of the State.<sup>5</sup> The cause of commitment on the admission form was 'uncontrollable'. They were initially committed for one year. On 13 September 1871, they were re-committed for a further

seven years, this time 'neglected' was recorded. The notes say:

'Father, Michael Cantwell, a labourer, with no fixed place of residence. Mother, Mary dead. Uncle James Cantwell, a storeman at Mr **Barnett's**, 121 Russell St. Father ordered to pay 8/- for the children, for which the Uncle above is named as surety.'

Nellie was in Melbourne to 19 September 1872, when she moved to Lyndhurst, but returned to Melbourne on 2 October 1873.

In late 1873, aged eight, Nellie was taken into the care of her Uncle, Thomas Trant Kennedy. The notes state: 'Discharged per sentence of the court to Uncle Mr. Kennedy at Levy St' (Merino). Nellie continued to stay in the care of her uncle, and after his death, her Aunt Caroline Kennedy.

Nellie's brother, Thomas Cantwell

was taken into foster care. He died from Scarlet Fever on 4 October, 1875, aged seven at the residence of the foster parent, Mrs B. O'Halloran, Union Street Brunswick.

Nellie Cantwell died, aged 36, at Port Fairy on 23 December 1902. Her aunt, Caroline Kennedy, inserted the following death notice in *The Argus*, published on 26 December, 1902:

'CANTWELL.— On the 23rd December, at Port Fairy, Nellie, beloved niece of the late Thomas Trant Kennedy, sergeant of police, Merino and Port Fairy. R.I.P.'

Michael Cantwell, the father of Nellie and Thomas, returned to Melbourne where he fell on hard times, as indicated by the following newspaper report in 1898:

### VAGRANCY

Michael Cantwell was charged as above by Constable Moylan. 'It appeared the prisoner was an old and poor man, and had applied to get into the Immigrants' Home, but had not yet received an answer to his application. He was found helpless in the street by Moylan, and asked to be locked up. He was discharged'.<sup>6</sup>

He died, aged 65, in 1903 in tragic circumstances. A very strange inquest resulted, at which the deceased was mistaken for another man, Bernard M'Donough, who actually attended the inquest himself:

### NAMES CONFLICT AT AN INQUEST

It has been given to a few men to read their own obituary notices but it is to be doubted if until yesterday (25 March 1903) any man ever was a witness at an inquest on himself. The individual placed in this unique

position at the morgue, before Mr. Candler, treated the matter much as a music-hall audience would the song about Pat Malone forgetting that he was dead or *Finnigan's Wake*; he laughed boisterously.

The coroner, however, saw more occasion for perplexity than hilarity. He was conducting an inquest on the body of a man who had been picked up on the railway line on Monday (23 March 1903), between Middle Park and St. Kilda in a mutilated state. His remains had been identified by William Stone, senior warder of the Benevolent Asylum, as those of Bernard M'Donough who had been admitted to that institution in April last and had left it in December.

This witness said that he recognised the man by the general appearance of his features. While he was giving his evidence a man in court gave vent to a peal of laughter and gasped out in the intervals of his extraordinary mirth, 'I'm M'Donough!'

Constable Youdan who was one of the witnesses called, restored the man to a more sober state of mind and elicited from him that he had been an inmate of the asylum for the period corresponding with that given by the senior warder in the case of the deceased. In proof of his statement, the stranger showed plainly marked on the shirt he was wearing the letters 'B. M'Donough'.

Stone then admitted that he had made a mistake in the identity of the deceased and said that there had been another M'Donough in the asylum whose Christian name was Dennis. He had however died in the asylum. A further examination of the shirt on the body lying in an adjacent room revealed that the garment was marked 'D. M'Donough'. Mr. Stone then explained that it was the practice, when

a man died in or left the asylum for his name to be crossed off his clothing, which was handed to other inmates.

The Coroner said that the practice of giving one inmate's clothing to another made it impossible to discover who took any particular garment from the institution. The jury returned a verdict that the deceased, whose name was unknown, died through injuries received being run over by a train, there being no evidence to show how he had got upon the line.

### DECEASED'S IDENTITY SOLVED

After the inquest, a further examination was made of the body, leading to its identification as that of Michael Cantwell, aged about 68 years, and at one time an inmate of the Benevolent Asylum.

Mr. A.E. Laver, superintendent of the institution, positively identified the remains as those of Cantwell. He stated that the deceased, and Dennis M'Donough had been close friends when in the asylum together, and he surmised that, on the death of the latter, Cantwell had been given the marked shirt that had led to all the confusion. Cantwell, Mr. Laver added, left the asylum on the 2nd inst. (2 March 1903), and had not returned.<sup>7</sup>

(Endnotes)

<sup>1</sup> *Westport Times*, 12 July 1870

<sup>2</sup> *Westport Times*, 26 July 1870

<sup>3</sup> NZ Archives, [archway.archives.govt.nz](http://archway.archives.govt.nz)

<sup>4</sup> *Westport Times*, 28 July 1870

<sup>5</sup> Public Records Office of Victoria, [prov.vic.gov.au](http://prov.vic.gov.au)

<sup>6</sup> *North Melbourne Courier and West Melbourne Advertiser*, 23 September 1898

<sup>7</sup> *The Argus*, Melbourne, 26 March 1903

# Marital infidelity – nurture or nature?

Terry Fox | Member # 9646

*This article is in three parts:*

- *The life of the father.*
- *The life of the son.*
- *A plea for help.*

I was recently contacted by a friend in UK. She had long thought that her father was an only child until she started to research her ancestry. She was partly right; he was the only child of the first of his several partners! The NSW Public Trustee had been in touch with her saying that she was a possible legatee of an intestate half-cousin, John Richard FitzWilliams. Could I find out any more?

George Sidney Henry **FitzGerald Williams** was born in London in 1878. He married Emma **Newley** in a Register Office on 25 September 1901 and again in church in 1903; it is not clear why they remarried. Their

son, Trevor, was born in October that year and from here on he adopted the name FitzWilliams. Trevor's birth was officially registered as Williams but the newspaper announcement was for FitzWilliams.

By about 1906, George had formed a partnership with Mary Elizabeth **Sabin** and gave her two children: Clarice Mary Bernice (1908) and Maurice George (1910) FitzWilliams. In 1914, he was cited as the co-respondent in a divorce case, and Mary and the two children left the UK and came to Australia. She soon had a relationship with John Stewart **Helps**, adopted his name and gave him a daughter, Elsa Doveton Helps, in 1916. John Helps returned to South Africa, where he married in 1922. Mary died in 1977 in New South Wales.

I have yet to find out what George Fitzwilliams did during World War 1

but, in 1921, he was living with Cecilia **Cohen** who had a child by him in 1919. With them, as visitors, were her sister Dora and her illegitimate child (probably his). He gave Cecilia another child before leaving her to live with Dora, and fathering her eight children. In 1940, his wife Emma died so he left Dora and her young family to marry Rita Annie **Easman** in 1942.

Maurice George FitzWilliams grew up in Sydney and married Alice Gwendoline **McCorquodale** on 2 May 1936 in Sydney. They had at least two children: John Richard and Elizabeth, who died early. He deserted her and it looks as if she had another child, Patricia, by an unnamed father. She was still alive in 1972.

From 1939 to 1941, Maurice was in Brisbane as a photographer. In 1941, he bigamously married Patricia Meta **Coleman** in Victoria and, by 1943, he

**STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL.**

Please read the Instructions and Examples on the reverse side of this form.

| NAME and RESIDENCE      | RELATIONSHIP to Head of Household | AGE | SEX | STATUS in HOUSEHOLD | BIRTHPLACE and NATIONALITY |             | MARRIAGE | REMARKS |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----|-----|---------------------|----------------------------|-------------|----------|---------|
|                         |                                   |     |     |                     | Place of Birth             | Nationality |          |         |
| 1 George Fitzwilliams   | Head                              | 36  | M   | Married             | London                     | English     | —        | —       |
| 2 Cecilia Fitzwilliams  | wife                              | 27  | F   | Married             | London                     | English     | —        | —       |
| 3 Dora Cohen            | Visitor                           | 21  | F   | Single              | London                     | English     | —        | —       |
| 4 Kathleen Cohen        | Visitor                           | 13  | F   | Unmarried           | London                     | English     | —        | —       |
| 5 Mary Ann Fitzwilliams | Daughter                          | 1   | F   | Unmarried           | London                     | English     | —        | —       |



Marital infidelity (Cont.)

was a photographer at 2 Hilda Street in Subiaco. By then, he was with Merle Ross FitzWilliams.

On 18 January 1946, the death of his wife Peggy Jocelyn **Hansen** of 83 Thomas Street, Subiaco was announced. She was only 21 and died in childbirth: the child was stillborn. I can find no evidence of a marriage. On 28 January 1947, he was given a decree nisi from Alice McCorquodale on the grounds of desertion.

In 1949, he was an elector at 83 Thomas Street and Patricia Meta was living with him. She eventually divorced him on 5 March 1954, on the grounds of desertion: and married someone else in 1957. He almost immediately married Elsie Iolanthe McWhirter; and in 1958 they were both recorded as photographers at 30 Gardiner Street, Belmont. He died on 4<sup>th</sup> June 1958, and is buried at Karrakatta.

Help desired

The events in WA took place in living memory. Do any of our older members recall Maurice and his numerous partners? Are there more partners yet to be discovered? Did he have any children by his many partners? Do any of the younger members have any of these people in their family trees?

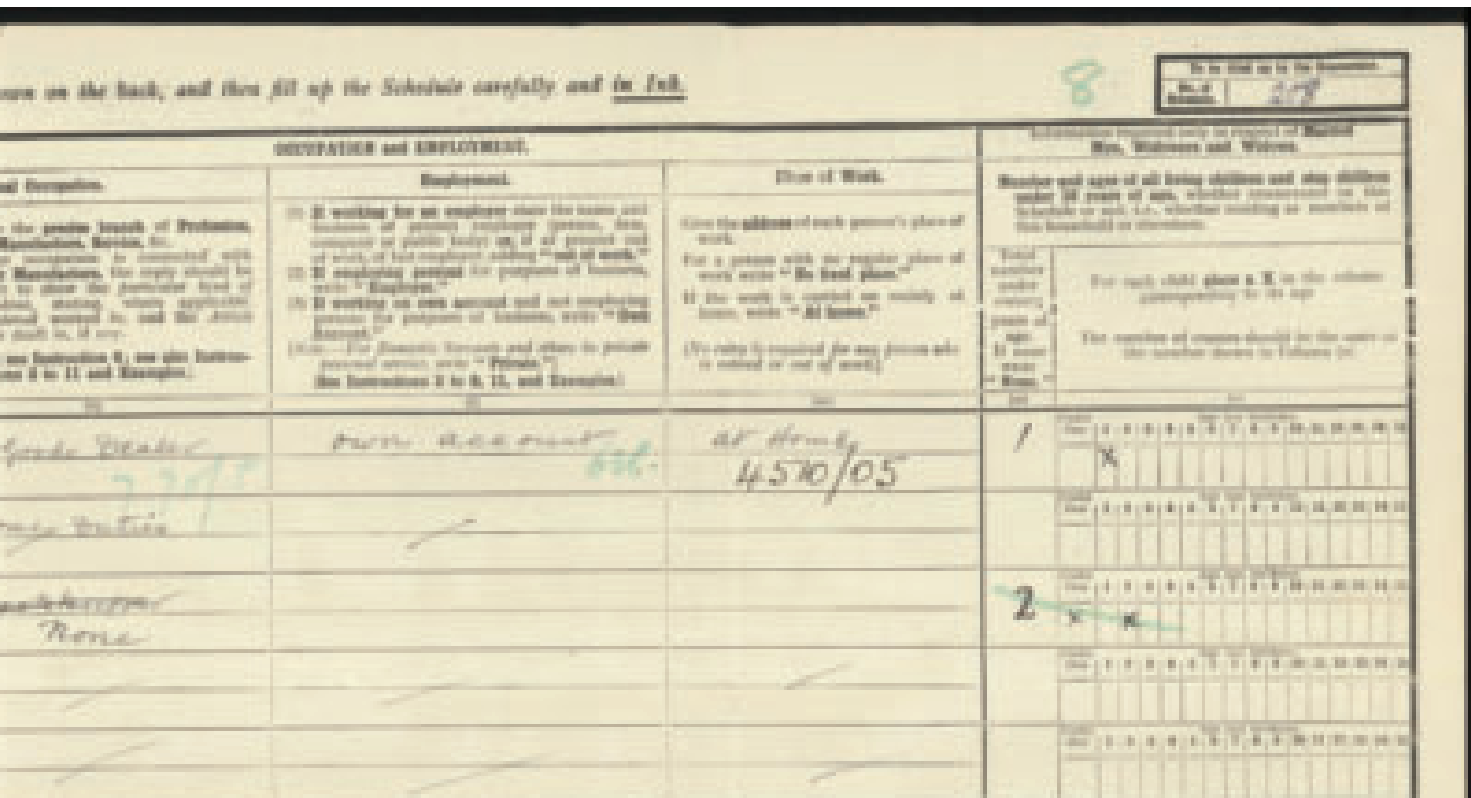
Because Australian states do not release details of births into the open index under 100 years old, it is not possible to track if there were any more children. I only discovered Alice's child Elizabeth because she died young. It is only because of the Public Trustee's interest that we are aware of the birth of John Richard and he seems to have led a life without leaving any traces on the internet. All I can find is his obituary in the *Sydney Morning Herald*.

What happened to Patricia Meta after she married Henry James Baker in 1957? From the electoral rolls it looks as if they split in 1980. Who was Merle Ross who was with him in 1943? What happened to her? What

happened to Elsie Iolanthe? She appears to have retained her name and died in December 2004. Because of the 30 year delay in recording deaths in the open index, their deaths (or re-marriage) cannot be traced without personal knowledge. It is a reflection on our joined-up government here in WA that the Department of Justice will not reveal whether a person has died but the Metropolitan Cemeteries Board will tell you the date of death and where they are buried!

For anyone wishing or able to pursue this further, I have established a tree in *Ancestry* with the name (Fitz) Williams. I will leave it there for any researchers who trace Mary Sabin back to UK but do not make the connection between FitzWilliams and Williams.

The final twist in the story is that the NSW Public Trustee has delayed releasing John's estate on the grounds that Maurice might not be his biological father. Who said genealogy was easy?



# A bigamist in the family?

Terry Fox | Member # 9646

**R**obert Dean Wills **Mecredy** – there's a name to delight genealogists; it is almost unique. Robert was born on the Isle of Man in 1854 and qualified as a surgeon (MB, CM) at Glasgow University. He considered working abroad and, in 1882, passed the exam for the British India Office medical staff but later withdrew. Instead, he went to the North East of England and became a GP, firstly in Newcastle and later in the mining village of Plawsworth, Co. Durham. This is where he entered my wife's family history.

In July 1884, he certified the death of the landlord of the 'Black Bull', John **Vasey**. On the 16 June 1886, he covertly married his widow, Ann, in Newcastle, some 20 miles away. It probably wasn't for her inheritance, which was £127.19s.9d. They did not live together, possibly because of the social values of the time. In 1891, he was living alone on Front Street and she was shown as a widow at the Black Bull.

I was therefore a bit surprised to find another marriage entry for Robert Dean Wills Mecredy in FreeBMD in December 1887 in Lincolnshire. It had to be investigated.

The British Newspaper Archive provided the answer. The *Boston Guardian* of 18 July 1891 reported that there was a curious case against Daniel Mackenzie **Steedman**,



Dr Robert Mecredy & Mrs Ann Vasey

otherwise Robert Dean Wells Mecredy. The charge against him was that he had been impersonating a doctor and was taking steps to get the name Robert Dean Wells Mecredy inserted in the Medical Register for 1889.

The prisoner had written complaining of the omission. Unfortunately for him, Dr Mecredy also complained. In those circumstances, the truth came out.

**Steedman** was charged under the Marriage Act because he had declared that his father's name was Mecredy.

Although he did not deny the charges against him, he was acquitted on a technicality. To be convicted, the offence had to be tried within three years of its commission.

He was popular in the community and continued to practice in Lincolnshire under his assumed name until about 1900, when he moved to Gloucestershire.

Dr. Mecredy continued to practice in Plawsworth and, some time in the early 1890s, he and Ann Vasey made

A Bigamist (Cont.)

their relationship public by living together. It is hard to imagine that they could have maintained their clandestine relationship in a small village without everyone knowing.

We still have a tea service inscribed: 'Presented to Mrs. A. Mecredy as a token of Esteem by the Inhabitants of Nettlesworth & District Oct 1899'. I presume that she received this after she retired from running the pub and rented it to Emersons in August that year.

The couple moved to Darlington in 1904, where he died of thyroid cancer three years later.

*Diligent proofreader, John Olley, comments that FreeBMD has a note, 16/08/2018: This is a false marriage by Daniel Mackenzie Steedman, born Cape of Good Hope c. 1848. He impersonated and assumed the name of Robert D W Mecredy who was a doctor and surgeon. There was a court case in 1891. They had a child Mackenzie in 1889.*

*This shows the value of clicking on the 'Info' button in FreeBMD.*

**Can you help?**

Many thousands of West Australians have been publicly recognised for their service on war memorials, honour rolls, foundation stones or other ornamental tablets around the State.

The FHWA Projects Team is compiling an index to help researchers find their ancestors who have been acknowledged in this way.

If you can provide further information or photographs, please email [Projects@fhwa.org.au](mailto:Projects@fhwa.org.au)



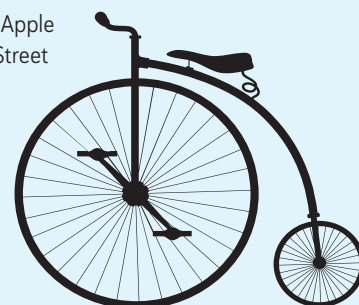
# Getting to FHWA

**By Bus**

The 950 from the Morley Bus Station and the Elizabeth Quay Bus Station goes along Beaufort St and the nearest stop to May St is Chisholm College [just before Coode Street]. Also, bus number 48 goes from the Esplanade Bus Port to Morley Bus Station, via Guildford Road, and the nearest stop is the corner of Coode St & Francis St in Bayswater. The buses are now more frequent, and both stops are a 15 minute walk to FHWA.

**By Car**

If you are driving, Google and Apple maps will help you get there. Street parking and on-site parking is available at FHWA. Please do not park your car in the bays reserved for units 1, 2, and 3 as these are used by other tenants. Thank you for your co-operation.



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# The voyage to Australia

## Steerage passengers – accommodation and food.

CJ Eddington | Member # 14038



Thomas Pengilly - logbook.

**W**hen I first started re-searching my immigrant ancestors and the voyages they made to get here, I was fortunate to be gifted a diary written by Thomas Pengilly who sailed to Melbourne with his brother George on the *Syria* in 1852. But there were some questions about life on board that his diary didn't answer. How did they get to the ship? Where did they sleep? What about cooking? What if they got sick or had a baby? Here is some of what I found out.

Once the decision had been made to immigrate and free or assisted passage arranged, a ship would be allocated by the Colonisation Com-

missioners. The family would almost certainly travel by train to the disembarkation point with very limited personal belongings. Steerage passengers would spend a few nights in an emigration depot prior to departure

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*'...for the past six or seven weeks we take it in turns to be cook a whole week. I am now getting a proper hand at making puddings and made up dishes such as ash, pea soup and preserved potatoes mixed with the preserved meat with butter and pepper and then baked.'*

---

and when allowed on board they had to carry their own baggage and find their own berths. A sailing ship is dependent on the tide and winds, so no one expected a ship to leave at a

utensils such as knife and fork, plate, spoon, drinking mug, &c...'

The *Calabar* sailed from Southampton to Adelaide in 1853. It was a ship of 754 tonnes which was large for its

precise time. It could be tomorrow or in two weeks.

They were required to provide their own 'bedding and the necessary



Hidden Gems (Cont.)

day; nevertheless, the voyage would have been trying. The bunks were arranged amidships with two rows of tables along the sides of the vessel. This was the first time the arrangement had been used on an immigrant ship and gave more air and light to the passengers. Married people had a top berth of 6'x3' with children below and baggage under that berth. Single men had a berth 6'x2' and slept alone and single women had a berth 6'x3' shared with one other. The spaces for single men and single women were separated by the married quarters. This explains why married couples with adult children are listed separately on the passenger manifest.

From 1836, the food served to steerage class passengers was based on the rations given to convicts on convict ships and outlined in the Passenger Act. Rations were given out weekly, (twice weekly for meat – half pound serves).

*A loaf of bread (2-3 pounds)*  
*6 ounces of suet*  
*1 pint of oatmeal*  
*2/3 pint of dried peas*  
*1/2 pint of preserved cabbage*  
*7 ounces of sugar*  
*1 pound of preserved meat*  
*1 ounce of tea*  
*1 pound of salted pork*  
*1 1/2 ounces of coffee*  
*1 pound of salted beef*  
*A little mustard*  
*3 pounds of flour*

Live animals were taken on board for fresh food. Robert Hall, during his voyage in 1856 on *Herald of the Morning*, records that there were 'one nanny goat, 4 pigs 3 sheep... 20 couple of ducks, 20 couple of chickens and 2 dozen geece'. He had also caught two fish on Christmas Day.

But sometimes, as Robert Miller onboard the *Othello* in 1833 records, after eight weeks at sea the food goes bad or the best is given to the cabin passengers '[the salt beef] is very bad, the best is taken to the cabin... Our potatoes are all rotten... the biscuit is course and bad tasted. The pork and fish are both stinking.'

All food was cooked in a common galley generally housed on the deck. The fireplace was entirely enclosed in brickwork to reduce the danger of fire. The cook was nearly always assisted by a few migrants. In some ships though the migrants prepared their own food in teams of 8-10 – either with an elected cook or on a rota.

Thomas Pengilley notes that a common meal was boiled beef and plum pudding cooked in salt water. He left England in August and by November he says that 'for the past six or seven weeks we take it in turns to be cook a whole week. I am now getting a proper hand at making puddings and made up dishes such as ash, pea soup and preserved potatoes mixed with the preserved meat with butter and pepper and then baked.'

It sounds like he fared better than Miller.

(Endnotes)

1 Thomas Pengilley transcribed by LA Pengilley, *T Pengilley's log book*. Victoria, privately published, 1852. Copy held by CJ

Eddington.

2 Ronald Parsons, *Migrant ships for South Australia 1836 -1860*, South Australia, Gould Books, 1999.

3 A ship (strict maritime usage) is a vessel with a bow sprint and three masts each with top mast and top gallant mast and square rigged on all three masts. Other smaller sailing vessels used for migrants are barques and brigantines.

4 South Australian Government Gazette 20 Oct 1853. 'Surgeon -superintendent report on *Calabar*.'

5 Parsons, *Migrant ships*.

6 Robert Hall, transcribed Robert Wilson, *Diary of Robert Hall 1856 -from Liverpool to New Holland*. Maryborough, privately published, 1856. Available at FHWA library 920 HAL.

7 Robert Miller, transcribed by Jim Miller, *Miller family tree register, 1833-1977 - Robert Miller's Diary - 1833*. Nowra, privately published, 1833. Available at FHWA library 929.2 MIL.

8 Parsons, *Migrant ships*.

9 Pengilley, *T Pengilley's log book*.



**VicGUM is a not for profit organisation which provides technical support to its members with their use of family history software.**

VicGUM members receive a monthly newsletter, connection to Gumnet (which is a members' only web based chat site) and ongoing technical support.

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# Book Reviews



Review by Elaine Forrestal

Albert Facey *A Fortunate Life*, Fremantle Press, 1981.

Many years after Albert Facey's death in 1982, his nephew, who had lived with him in his later years, was asked if the events described in his famous autobiography were true. 'Ah, well,' he replied. 'Let's just say Uncle Bert always had plenty of tall tales to tell around the camp fire.'

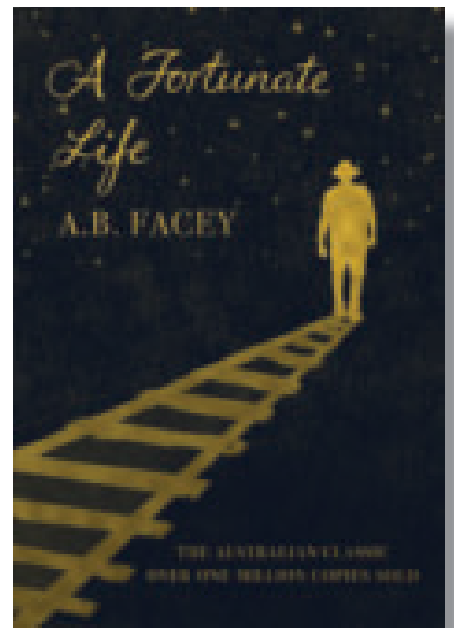
True or not, Albert Facey's *A Fortunate Life* was an instant publishing success and quickly became a classic and now has sold more than a million copies.

In the opening chapters of his autobiography, Facey describes family life in Wickepin where his family took up land in 1902 and began clearing it for farming. He begins to tell his story from a young child's point of view. But later, after two world wars and the Depression, his narrative takes on a

more mature tone while maintaining its direct, uncluttered style.

Facey's biographer, JB Hirst, describes his writing as passing 'beyond plainness into an elemental purity'. Certainly this quality adds to the appeal of the text and highlights the insight it gives into the stoic attitude to misfortune displayed by many a bushman of his era.

Abandoned by his mother at the age of five, and brought up by his grandmother, his brothers and various other relatives, Facey learned to become independent very early in life. The picture we get is of a pioneer family, in the earliest years of Wickepin in the Western Australian wheatbelt. It was a life of grim determination in the face of poverty and hardship; interrupted by a different sort of struggle. Even after two world wars, both of which he fought in, Albert still regarded himself as having had a fortunate life.



His autobiography is full of tales of adventure and misadventure. His straight-forward style, ironic humour and muted exaggeration, makes them entertaining and immensely readable.

*A Fortunate Life* has been transformed into a movie, an audiobook, a novel for young readers and eBooks of both print editions.

Reference:

JB Hirst, 'Facey, Albert Barnett (Bert) (1894-1982)' *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, vol 17, Melbourne UO, 2007, p.372.

Review by Peter Forrestal

*These are my war time Diaries: Sumatra 1942-1945*, Dr Marjorie Lyon.

History West Shop \$50

This book is an important documenting of a brave Australian doctor's successful efforts to care for more than 2500 Dutch and British internees entrusted to her care for three years in wartime Sumatra.

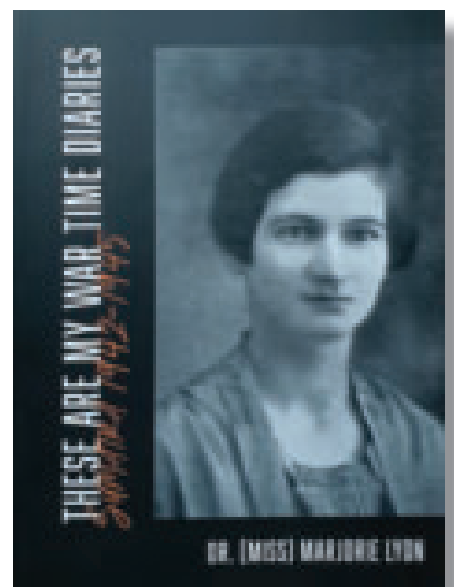
The book, itself, is very heavy and needs a desk on which to rest it while reading, so it lends itself to being read in a library. That said, it deserves a place in every Western Australian library. It is well-written and reads

easily, documenting Marjorie Lyon's working life during the War in great detail. Its division into various journals with a listing of the topics covered in that section making it more accessible.

While the book might not appeal widely, I would urge all to read the entry on Marjorie Lyon in the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*. Imagine someone being dux of MLC twice!

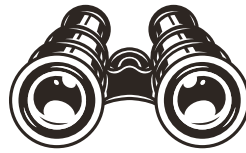
*Australian Dictionary of Biography, Volume 15*, Melbourne University Press, 2000.

<https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/lyon-marjorie-jean>



# Where in the West?

Ian Barnes | Member # 9003



Trying to second guess our members is a tricky business. I thought no-one would know last issue's building - but Julie Martin, Member # 5454, was swift with pounce with the correct answer. I'm guessing this time that everyone will know the July issue's building. Let's see how well the membership knows the state.

## Where is it? What is it?

Western Ancestor Editor, Peter Forrestal, is planning to announce the winner of the prize as the member who is first to make email contact after 12 noon on Tuesday 1 August. If you know the answer to this issue's quiz, wait until precisely 12 noon and then send an email to the Editor at [westernancestor@fhwa.org.au](mailto:westernancestor@fhwa.org.au).

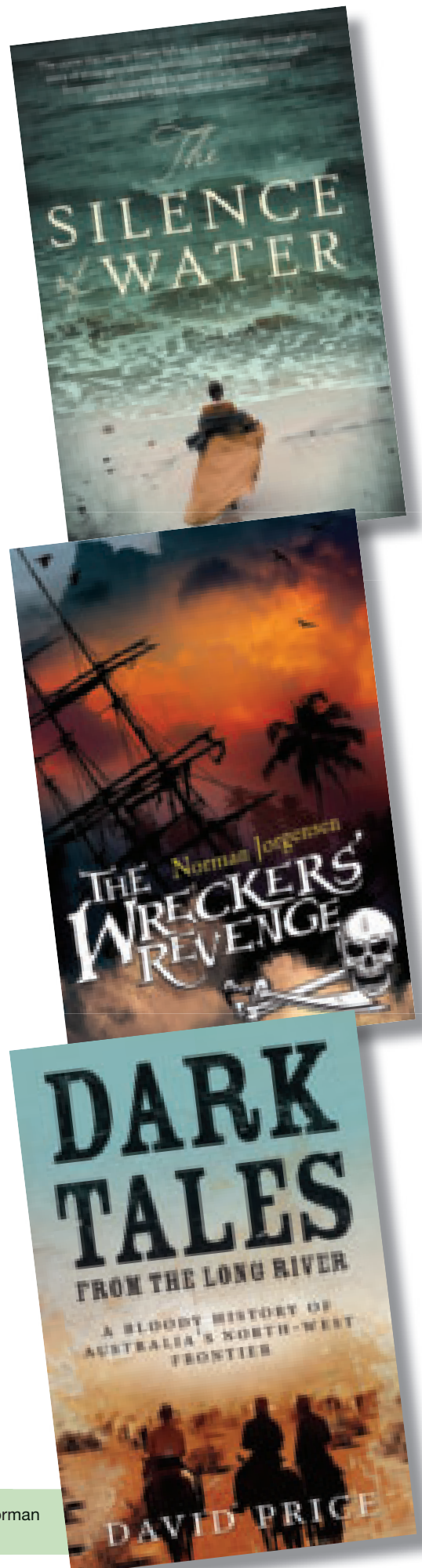


The prize is donated in conjunction with Fremantle Press, our not-for-profit, Western Australian publishing house which is a great promoter of local authors and family history. In each issue of the Journal, we will feature the covers of three Fremantle Press titles which we expect to be of particular interest to our members. I'll be in touch to see which three books from Fremantle Press the winner would like to choose. They'll have the choice of any (or all) of the newish releases featured on this page, or other titles from the Fremantle Press catalogue [fremantlepress.com.au](http://fremantlepress.com.au).

Julie Martin choices are interesting. She chose *The Petticoat Parade: Madam Monnier and the Roe Street Brothels* by Leigh Straw and explains that 'Leigh Straw was researching prostitution in WA for her PhD when I was working in Battye Library, and this book won the most recent Margaret Medcalf Award, so it has relevance for me on several fronts. I will pass it on to the FHWA Library when I've finished reading it.'

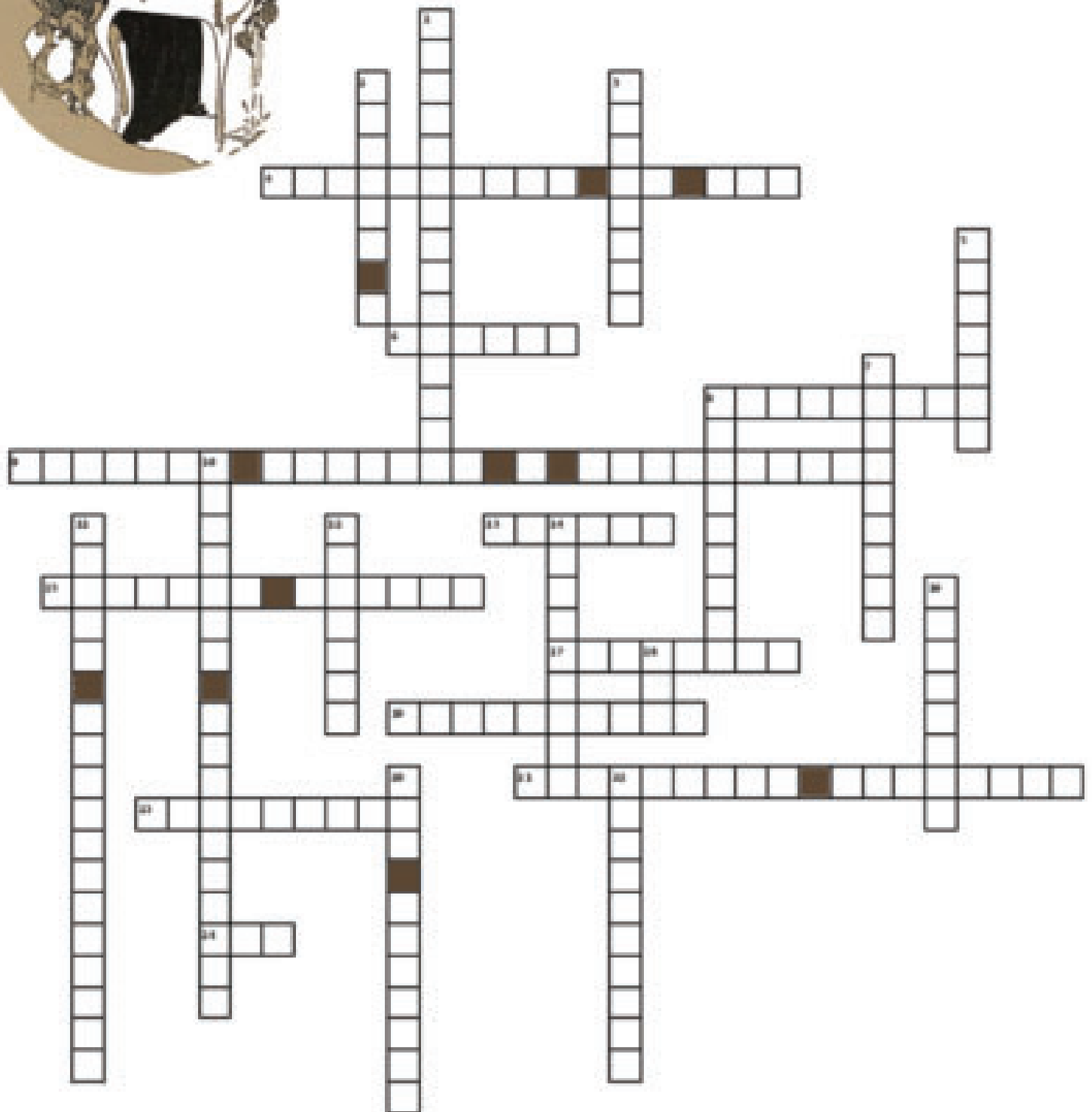
Her choices also included *Sam, Grace and the Shipwreck* by Michelle Gillespie - 'for my granddaughter Grace and *Return Ticket* by Jon Doust - for me. I know he's an accomplished writer and I think it will be an interesting read?'

Fremantle Press titles: *The Silence of Water* by Amanda Curtin, *The Wreckers' Revenge* by Norman Jorgensen, *Dark Tales* by David Price.



# Family History Crossword

Crossword by Louise Clarkson | Member # 12644





## Crossword clues

### Across

- 4.** We don't know the reason she died so suddenly (three words)
- 6.** The golden rule for your family history research
- 8.** A savvy researcher uses this technique when seeking records using a surname which could be misspelled
- 9.** This journalistic phrase for births deaths and marriages appears to have an American origin, around September 1857 (three words plus ampersand)
- 13.** Family history month in Australia
- 15.** A warm, fleecy undergarment featuring rubber buttons down the front.
- 17.** Smallest official geographical division used in Ireland
- 19.** This man managed to get extra money from the Government and all the credit for the discovery of gold in Australia, despite his previous business deal
- 21.** A compromise between ecclesiastical, civil and astronomical worlds in eighteenth century Great Britain resulted in a new way of managing time – so watch your dates! (two words)
- 23.** Its huge, and it's held in Salt Lake city every year
- 24.** A method of building using mud and straw which sheltered many pioneers in Australia and New Zealand

### Down

- 1.** The go-to place for family history records in Scotland
- 2.** Used at the beginning or in the middle of a word and causes much confusion to first time readers of old manuscripts. It's the... (two words)
- 3.** But these can't be cousins, we share too much DNA. What could I be suspicious of?
- 5.** Ships captains had to pay a poll tax for which ethnic group arriving in Victoria 1855-1861
- 7.** A Lord Chancellor with this surname instituted a controversial Act which made finding our married ancestors so much easier
- 8.** Māori family heritage is called this
- 10.** 58,002 convicts in this database had tattoos, and you can search by type and place (two words)
- 11.** Which church in Perth was, at one time, a homeless men's refuge? (two words)
- 12.** A judicial process whereby a Will is accepted as a valid public document that is the true last testament of the deceased, or whereby the estate is settled
- 14.** While these may be thought of as collected information concerning the geographical makeup, social statistics and physical features of a country, region, or continent, thematic ones can be surprisingly useful for family historians
- 16.** The oldest free online community genealogy research website
- 18.** The feminine past participle of naître, "to be born."
- 20.** This free, and historic, official public record for London, Belfast and Edinburgh is invaluable for family historians (and Australia has one too) (two words)
- 22.** A contender for the least reliable of family history resources

For the crossword solution, go to our website address:

<https://www.fhwa.org.au/western-ancestor>



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dull moments?  
Feeling bored out  
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## Where in the West?

*Last issue: Marracoonda Baptist Church*

**M**arracoonda is on the Great Southern Highway 270 kilometres from Perth and just 10 kilometres from Woodanilling. The stone building with a steeply-pitched corrugated iron gable roof was completed in time for the foundation stone to be laid in June 1903. The front porch was added in about 1920 with bricks fired in the nearby Coates brickworks. At the rear, a supper room was constructed with a tongue and groove wooden ceiling. The interior features wide jarrah tongue and groove flooring and a raised altar.

The name 'Marracoonda' comes from the Aboriginal words 'marr' (hand) and 'coonda' (Coonac or claws) after the Marracoonda Pools in the Carrolup River. The church has been part of the Katanning circuit of the Baptist Church since it was opened: this also includes Carrolup, Coompatine, Ewlymartup and Wernup.

<https://lostkatanning.com/marracoonda/>

### FRONT COVER IMAGE

Josie Millwood.

### BACK COVER IMAGE

Office of Michelle Roberts MLA

### BOOK REVIEW IMAGES

Fremantle Press.

### ARTWORK AND IMAGE CREDITS

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## Western Ancestor

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Please email to [westernancestor@fhwa.org.au](mailto:westernancestor@fhwa.org.au), or post to The Editor, 6/48 May St, Bayswater 6053, or place items in the Editor's box in Unit 4 at FHWA. Preferred in MS Word, or similar format, as an email attachment. Send images separately, not embedded in the document. For more details, see Contributions and Copyright under 'Journal' at [www.fhwa.org.au](http://www.fhwa.org.au)

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Our research team will carry out limited research for non-members at \$40 per hour or \$25 per hour for members living outside the Perth metropolitan area. A non-refundable deposit of \$20 must accompany all enquiries. Members living more than 500 km from Perth can access two hours free research per year.

Contact [research@fhwa.org.au](mailto:research@fhwa.org.au).

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[armymuseumwa.com.au](http://armymuseumwa.com.au)

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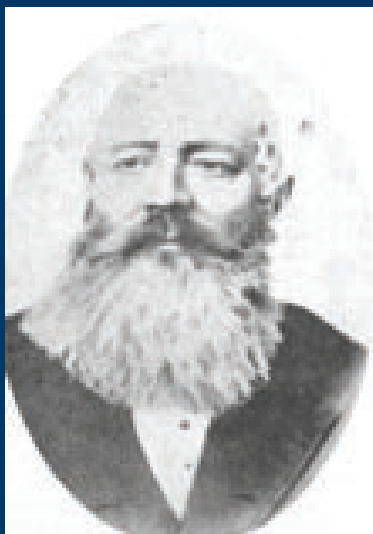
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*Charles Wisbey, first mayor of Bunbury, a country policeman for two decades in the nineteenth century, and great-great-great grandfather of Michelle Roberts, who served the state as Minister of Police for more than 10 years between 2001 and 2021.*

