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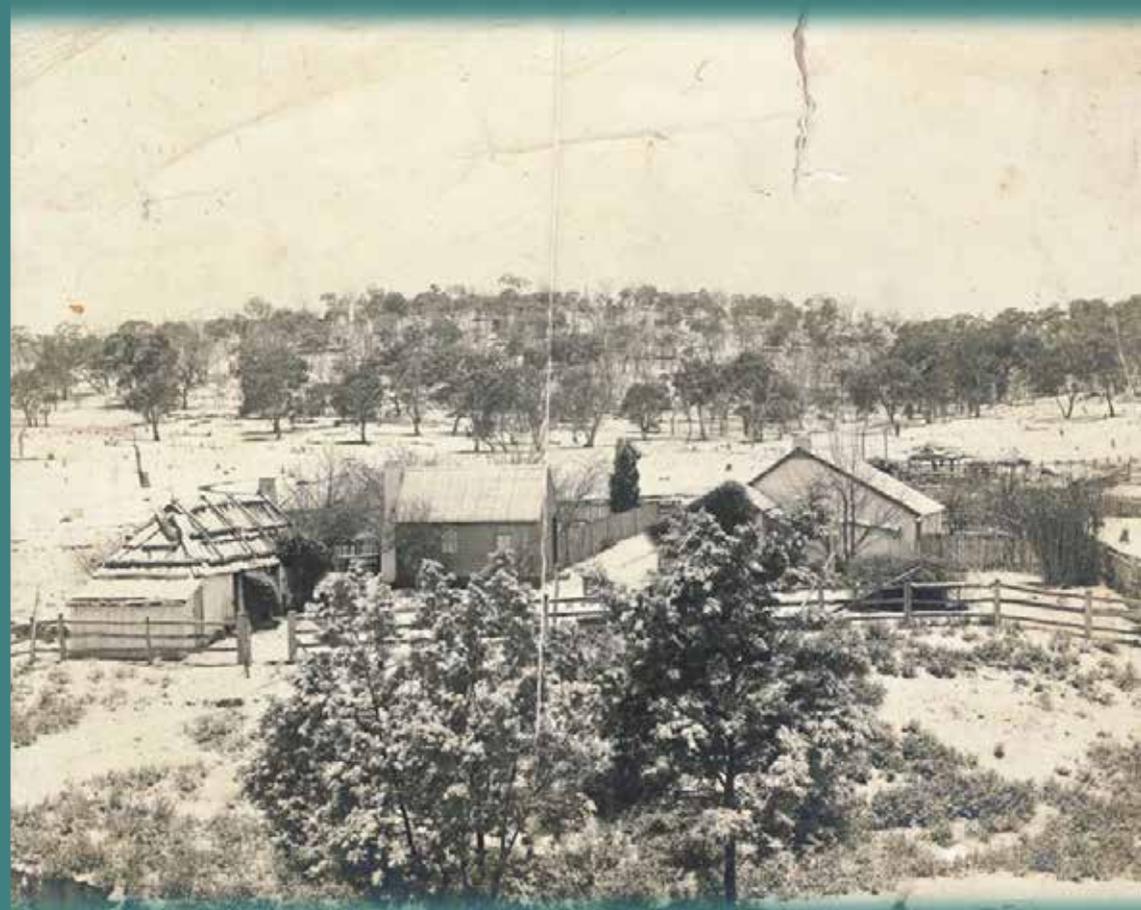
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*The objectives of the Society are:  
To promote and encourage the study and preservation  
of family history, genealogy, heraldry and allied  
subjects, and to assist members and others  
in research in these areas.*



# THE ANCESTRAL SEARCHER



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President: Nick Reddan 02 6257 8755  
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Treasurer: Neville Morrison treasurer@familyhistoryact.org.au

Councillors: Anne Beasley 0402 162 827  
Rosemary McKenzie editor@familyhistoryact.org.au  
Fran Morrison  
Susan Pillans 0402 251 348  
Michele Rainger

**Non-Committee Posts:**

Archivist June Penny 02 6241 1942  
Bookshop Manager vacant bookshop@familyhistoryact.org.au  
Computer Manager Howard Viccars computermgr@familyhistoryact.org.au  
Editor Rosemary McKenzie editor@familyhistoryact.org.au  
Education and Events Clare McGuinness and Susan Pillans  
registration@familyhistoryact.org.au  
Education Room Bookings Robyn Coghlan roomhire@familyhistoryact.org.au  
Facilities Manager vacant  
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**Front Cover:** Isabella CAMERON and Margaret CAMERON's home at Majura, Canberra district,  
approximately 1900. NLA 7339761; PIC BOX PIC/20212 nla.obj-396764103. (Used with permission.)

**Society Library and Headquarters:**

41 Templeton Street, Cook, ACT Telephone: 02 6251 7004  
The Secretary, HAGSOC. PO Box 152 Jamison Centre ACT 2614  
e-mail: secretary@familyhistoryact.org.au Webpage: http://www.familyhistoryact.org.au

# THE ANCESTRAL SEARCHER

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# From the Editor

Rosemary McKenzie

Merry Christmas! Or it will be soon. What a busy month November was: renovating a new house and then moving house, and putting together all our wonderful convict contributions for this quarter. Thank you to everyone who has put together their articles and statistics on their convicts. Also, a big thank you to our regular columnists and the authors of the 'non-convicted' stories. There are DNA articles, the Majura Cameron's, a device for unloading coal patent, workhouse and asylum experiences and an Irish road trip.

My first convict I talked about last quarter. My second (and last) convict Thomas SKELTON arrived in Van Diemen's Land, per *Tortoise*, in 1842. He had been convicted of sheep stealing and sentenced to fourteen years. After his sentence he spent some time on the hulk *Justitia* where the gaoler said he had 'doubtful character'. Thomas was 26 years old and left behind a wife and 4 young children in Lincolnshire, the youngest was 2 months old when he sailed. Thomas arrived under the probation system and was assigned to the Jericho Probation Station, between Hobart and Launceston, where he served two years. By the 1846 muster he was bonded to Mr ARMYTAGE in Bagdad, between Jericho and Hobart.



L-R: Stables on George Armytage's property in Bagdad where Thomas Skelton would have worked (before renovations); Stables after renovations now used as a bed and breakfast www.armytagehouse.com.au photo taken on a visit in 2011; Another original farm building on the property.

The following year he offended and was removed from assignment, but returned 6 months later. In 1848 he received his Ticket of Leave (6 years after sentence) and two years later received a Conditional Pardon. That same year he departed on the *Shamrock* for Melbourne classed as 'Free by Servitude', continuing to work for George ARMYTAGE in the Geelong area. In 1853 he married Charlotte RICHARDS fresh off the *British Empire* from London. Over the next 18 years they had ten children, two dying as babies and one who died aged 10 after being rolled on by a horse. In 1871 Thomas accidentally poisoned himself with strychnine leaving Charlotte with 7 young children, the eldest my ancestor, Helena aged 14, and the youngest, Richard, 2 months old. Thomas was 56 years old. Charlotte lived in the Birregurra area and died aged 72 in 1900.

I hope you enjoy reading about our large collection of convicts. I wish you all a safe and joyful Christmas break on whatever travels you have planned and happy times with relatives and friends.

# President's Report

Nick Reddan

Another year is fast drawing to a close. At the AGM the members elected the Council for the coming year. The new Council has a combination of continuity and new faces. I, Jenny Higgins, Gina Tooke, Anne Beasley, Sue Pillans and Rosemary McKenzie remain in our roles. We have a new Treasurer Neville Morrison, and Michele Rainger and Francine Morrison have joined Council. I congratulate all the people elected to these important volunteer roles. I thank all the retiring and continuing council members for the work they did for our society over the past year and look forward to working with the new Council in the coming year.

There are many other people who contribute to our society through volunteering in many ways. I thank them for their efforts whether big or small as our society depends on their contributions to function. We are always looking for new people to volunteer and I am sure there is a role for everyone to contribute.

Rhonda Kerr, a former president and fellow of our society passed away on 5 November. Her contribution to our society is well remembered and our condolences go to her family. There is an obituary later in this publication.

This seems to have been a busy year. In March quite a few of us attended the AFFHO Congress hosted by the Society of Australian Genealogists in Sydney and in September a number attended the state conference at Batemans Bay. One of our fellows, Cora Num, was the keynote speaker at that conference.

I have not made any major breakthroughs in my own research but by main Registry of Deeds Index Project Ireland continues to grow steadily and its main index will soon have 300,000 entries. The project has had a great boost as the microfilms of the registry are all now on-line through FamilySearch meaning anyone can research the registry of deeds from anywhere in the world.



While in England and Ireland in May, I photographed the 1799 census of Carrick-on-Suir. I have put these data into a database and gave a talk on some of the gleanings at the November Irish Special Interest Group. I hope that something interesting turns up in a newspaper, deed or other record as more and more of these are made available on-line.

I hope you had some successes in your research through 2018. Some of you were able to take advantage of the courses our society offered during the year to improve your research skills. We hope to have some interesting courses for you in the next year.

If any of you or yours are travelling over the holiday period, I hope you and they have safe travels, and you start 2019 fresh and enthused about doing more on your family history. May the new year bring some splendid surprises in your research and I look forward to seeing you at a meeting or other event in 2019.

Have a merry Christmas and a happy new year.

# An Irish Road Trip

Susan O'Leary

Our ancestral quest began in Carrick-on-Suir, an old river port town in County Tipperary. First mission was to find anything we could about Edward O'LEARY, my husband's great grandfather. We know about his Australian life, but prior to that his life remains a mystery, apart from two facts - he was born in Carrick-on-Suir around 1841 and his father's first name was James.

We were sure something would show up in this town about his family, especially in the graveyards, but we were disappointed. Volunteers at the Heritage Centre checked documents and old residential lists and said they had no record of O'LEARYs in the area and concluded that they probably left during the famine. We were told that even before the famine economic times were tough in the area due to high taxes and levies on the woollen industry. The crop failure simply accelerated the exodus of people trying to escape the growing poverty and high unemployment.

The front wall of St Molleran's Church on the Waterford side of the township reminds everybody of those desperate times. An old plaque says: "This wall was built in 1846, a year memorable by the failure of the potato crop and the consequent scarcity of food". Peasants had constructed this mighty wall as part of a work for food project.

The Carrick-on-Suir people referred us to the Cobh Heritage Centre where we were supposed to have a good chance of discovering the ship Edward left on. Disappointment again. The resident genealogist however, told us that the O'LEARY name is most prominent in West Cork along with the SULLIVAN name. This was an interesting piece of information because Edward married Catherine SULLIVAN in Auburn, South Australia in 1866.

On to Cork city and the Family History section of the Library and once again there was no specific local information about O'LEARY families. We were directed to the on-line Catholic Parish registers but with only two weeks left we didn't want to waste precious hours searching online records when there was so much more to see and do. In any case being in the areas where our ancestors once lived and worked, walking the paths they may have walked, and travelling the roads they may have travelled was starting to feel very satisfying.

Real satisfaction was to come however. While googling for O'LEARY information I read an advertisement announcing that - Carrignacurra Castle, Inchigeelagh, County Cork was "Under Offer". It said the Castle was a four-storey tower



*A not so secure entrance!*



*Four-storey tower house – the 16th century O'LEARY stronghold*

house built in the late 16th century and was the seat of the O'LEARY family. This was a great find.

Unable to resist, I punched 'Inchigeelah' into our sat-nav and the next day we headed north-east into a remote part of County Cork. Even with the sat-nav we started to feel as if we were hopelessly lost in a maze of narrow, winding roads, T-junctions and intersections with no signposts. We finally came across a person building a dry stonewall and asked him if he could tell us where we'd find the O'Leary Castle. He told us with typical Irish humour that he couldn't tell us, but he'd build one for us.

Motoring on and after many twists and turns we eventually came to a sign with a picture of a castle saying: "The Parish of Inchigeelah". The castle was "Carrignacurra" and it also said: "... the first O'LEARY Castle to be built." We were on the right track. But before we could go any further, we were drawn to an intriguing natural rock formation towards

the right of the sign featuring several religious statues and offerings. It was the Rossmore Holy Grotto, a place where the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to Fiona TIERNEY from 1987-1997. We decided that there were many interesting aspects to Inchigeelagh – not only the O'LEARYs and their castle.

The castle was an imposing sight through the trees as we drove into the village, but it wasn't easy to get to. After asking directions we once again found ourselves driving along narrow local lanes that didn't even register on the sat-nav. Eventually the castle came into clear view. Wrapped in ivy and standing in an overgrown field beside the River Lee it oozed medieval charm. We parked the car and walked the rest of the way. But, only after asking a neighbouring farmer if we could check the building out. We assumed he meant ok when he said: "Best to seek permission first, than seek forgiveness later."

There was nothing to keep us out of the castle, so we risked going in. Being inside the thick stone walls in the dark and silence we couldn't help but feel connected to the O'LEARYs of the deep past - wondering about their lives after the Reformation outlawed their Roman Catholic faith and then the bloody days of the Cromwellian invasion.

According to a booklet on Irish families O'LEARY chief, Auliffe O'LEARY and his kinsman Mahon O'LEARY became rebels and travelled northward to fight in the Nine Years War with the O'NEILLS. Guerrilla warfare tactics were used against Crown forces and several major battles were won. However,



*Single-file to the fourth floor*

the resistance didn't hold up and as punishment for their active role in the rebellion, it was ordered that land belonging to the O'LEARYs and other rebels should be confiscated.

A sign at the five-hundred-year-old local cemetery said that it took many years for Reformation changes to: "... reach remote places such as Inchigeelagh, and the local Chieftains, the O'LEARYs and their followers, clung fiercely to their old Religion. After 1700 the old lands of the O'LEARYs were sold by the Hollow Sword Blade Company to a number of new and Protestant Landlords, and they in turn brought in Protestant tenants, when they could be persuaded."

We found out that Americans have bought the Castle and we sincerely hope that they are interested in preserving and respecting the history contained within the walls and in some small way keep the O'LEARY legend alive.

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Marriage Certificate of Edward O'LEARY and Catherine SULLIVAN

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## "Lost in DNA"

*Hosted by Society of Australian Genealogists 3-4 Nov. 2018*

**Marilyn Woodward**

As co-convenor of the HAGSOC DNA SIG I felt I couldn't miss the opportunity of hearing some of the best and most knowledgeable Australian "gurus" on genetic genealogy at a 2-day conference in Sydney recently. Presenters included Louise COAKLEY, Michelle PATIENT, Kerry FARMER, Veronica WILLIAMS and members of SAG's DNA Research Group. In addition two webinars, one from Maurice GLEESON (Ireland) and the other from Diahn SOUTHARD (USA) added to the attraction.

The weekend did not disappoint and, on review, it was amazing the range of DNA topics that were covered.

DNA Success stories, personal research undone by DNA, and case studies that baffled these experts were wonderful to hear. I must say the personal stories that were presented made me realise that most of us have ancestors who had complicated and sometimes astonishing lives which, looking back from our present day, can baffle and confuse us. My lot aren't that bad after all!

There were a number of presentations over the two days on methods of analysing your own and your relatives' DNA results and using chromosome mapping to confirm where matches fit. We are so fortunate to have brilliant minds who love genealogy working to produce such tools. These brilliant people, often voluntarily, help us sort and confirm our genealogy by turning what is essentially extremely

complicated science and mathematics into "user friendly" and fun tools. Thank you Blaine BETTINGER, Jonny PERL, Dana LEEDS, Leah LARKIN, Roberta ESTES and all those unknown GEDMatch volunteers! The Programs covered included GEDMatch, DNA Painter, DNA Gedcom, Genome Mate Pro, Using Evernote with Genome Mate Pro, and not to forget - Microsoft Excel.

There was a presentation on Y-DNA and mtDNA but there was a general consensus that Autosomal DNA was the most powerful DNA test for genealogical research, bearing in mind that even 10% of 3rd cousins will not share any DNA.

One of the most interesting presentations was "The Ethics of DNA Testing" by Louise COAKLEY. Not only was privacy, ownership of DNA and dealing with an unexpected result covered, but also the responsibilities of managing others' DNA results. For example if you ask your 90 year old Aunt to test and she does and allows you to manage her results – what happens when she passes? Does she have to stipulate in her Will what is to happen to her DNA?? (Actually yes – it's a good idea; or at least get a witnessed letter that states she allows you to keep working with her results). Another example – your DNA is made up of part of your parent's DNA – what if Mum has a secret and says no she doesn't want anything to do with DNA testing? It is not only Science where DNA Testing is pushing boundaries. Everyone should familiarise themselves with the Genetic Genealogy Standards, which were developed to provide ethical guidance and to help prevent or reduce the occurrence of ethical dilemmas. <http://www.geneticgenealogystandards.com> .

Those still wondering about the value of DNA in genealogical research will be gratified to know the weekend presentations stressed the value of a diligently researched family tree. However DNA does not lie and if you ignore DNA you might well be researching someone else's family. Examples from the weekend were cited where whole branches of trees developed over 20 years or more needed to be "chopped off" after a DNA test.



Finally this quote was used by two different presenters over the weekend and encapsulates how we should be using DNA in our family history research: "DNA alone NEVER proves anything. When you ask others to evaluate your genealogical conclusion, providing just the DNA evidence is pointless. Do not divorce one type of evidence from all the other evidence supporting your genealogical conclusion." Source: Blaine Bettinger <https://thegeneticgenealogist.com/2016/12/17/the-dna-era-of-genealogy/>

The overall message of the weekend was that DNA, while a powerful tool for genealogy, requires diligent "traditional" research, and a lot of hard work, patience and LUCK!

Thank you to the SAG DNA Research Group for their organisation.

# Robert Campbell and the Majura Cameron's of Canberra

Jenny Wood

Robert CAMPBELL was one of the wealthier settlers on the New South Wales Limestone Plains, his initial land grant turning into a large estate. CAMPBELL established a sheep station, calling his property Duntroon.<sup>1</sup> Young, healthy and skilled workers were required for the early landholders as servants, shepherds and farmers. Unlike most settlers CAMPBELL did not have convicts work his land as he considered this to be slave labour. Instead he brought in Highlanders from Scotland, so they could work on his estate.<sup>2</sup> The Majura CAMERON's were one of the families which CAMPBELL brought out to work on his land. They made up part of the 700,000 free immigrants who arrived in Australia during the nineteenth century purely from assisted passage.

Scotland's population in the mid nineteenth century was increasing at an unsustainable rate, partially due to the influx from Ireland because of the famine. Sarah CAMERON of Locaber in the Scottish Highlands decided to come out to New South Wales with some of her siblings. In 1854 Sarah arrived in Australia with John, Samuel, Angus and Margaret CAMERON aboard the *Stamboul*. Their younger brother Allan following them the next year. Another sister Mary joined them in 1860 after moving to the district, from Victoria, after the death of her first husband Donald MCDONALD. Three other sisters, Ann, Lucy and Katherine and a brother, Ewen remained in Scotland. Emigration from Scotland was at a high in the 1850's with Scotland providing 15% of the immigrants to Australia, around 2/3rd of these being families.<sup>3</sup>

Once the immigrants had arrived in the new colony, there was the question of gaining transportation to their new home. The necessity of delivering mail meant there was an opportunity to provide public transport using light carts. In the following excerpt from a letter to Miss Cameron from Sarah Cameron, Duntroon via Queanbeyan New South Wales written 26 March 1855, Sarah describes how she arrived in the County of Murray.

*We took the mail coach from Sydney to this place which is 200 miles Melbourne ward. The road between here and Sydney leads through a thick bush you would think whether (sic) a man or a beast could live in it but still there are some beautiful plains.*

By the time the CAMERON's arrived at Limestone Plains there were more than 2,500 residents in the Queanbeyan area which included Bungendore, Gundaroo, Michelago and the Canberra area.<sup>4</sup> In 1856 there were several CAMERON families in the district, of no relation to one another and their names were prefixed by their locality. They were known as the Water Hole CAMERON's, the Glebe CAMERON's, Ginninderra CAMERON's and the Majura CAMERON's.<sup>5</sup>

Travelling around the vast stretches of land in New South Wales was difficult and generally expensive. Horses would come to be an important way to traverse the countryside in Australia. A horse was well suited to covering long distances and was five times as fast as undertaking the journey on foot.<sup>6</sup>

In her letter, Sarah CAMERON says that she works for:

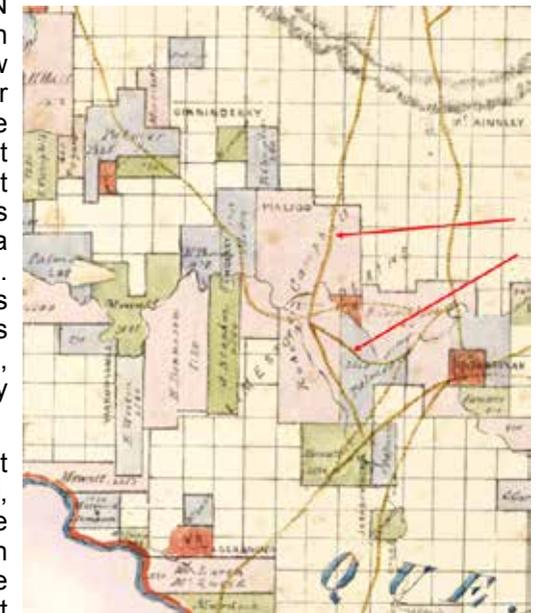
*One Mr. PALMER. My wages is (sic) 30 pound a year but I get paid by the month. When I engage first I had only 22 [pounds]. We have great reason of thankfulness, we are all within five miles of one another. They are all with the same master [presumably Sarah's brothers].*

Examination of the county of Murray map reveals that PALMER had several portions of land, one adjoining CAMPBELL's holding. Land owned by G.T. PALMER, son of John PALMER, a first fletcher<sup>7</sup> is possibly the PALMER referred to by Sarah CAMERON.

Sarah's brother, Angus CAMERON was employed on the Duntroon estate as a shepherd and oversaw two flocks of sheep at £60 a year and rations.<sup>9</sup> Each morning the sheep were taken to pasture at dawn and were brought back at sunset to the main station. Droughts and floods have long been a part of the Australian landscape. Bushfires were prevalent in Yass and Canberra in 1858.<sup>10</sup> Angus CAMERON, working on Duntroon, saw stacks of wheat, oats and hay go up in flames in that bushfire.

The shepherds also helped at shearing time. Duncan CAMERON, the son of Angus and Catherine CAMERON, was given a lesson in shearing at Duntroon by George CAMPBELL, a son of Robert CAMPBELL. Samuel SHUMACK recalls:

*Shortly after shearing commenced, George CAMPBELL caught a sheep CAMERON had released and shorn it again, taking three ounces of wool off it. He then weighed the wool and hung it over CAMERON's stand together with a ticket giving the weight and value of the wool that would have been lost. This incident afforded much amusement, and CAMERON enjoyed it although at his expense.<sup>11</sup>*



Part of the map of the County of Murray. nla.obj-230980255<sup>8</sup> (used with permission)

To entice workers to stay with him, Robert CAMPBELL had stone cottages built for his employees and their families not far from the big house. This gave them a small plot, so they could grow vegetables and house a dairy cow. CAMPBELL also encouraged his employees to save money from their wages for eventual purchase of their own land.<sup>12</sup>

The passing of the 1861 Crown Lands Acts reformed land settlement in New South Wales. Under the Act small freehold farms could be created from an area which hadn't been surveyed. These small holdings could be established despite pastoralist's leases of Crown Land.<sup>13</sup> The selectors who applied for land under the Act were often people who worked on the larger estates. Their holdings were small due to their limited finances and generally had to be paid off before receiving the freehold title.<sup>14</sup> Sometime in the 1860s a portion of land in the Majura valley became the home of Angus CAMERON and his family, it was named 'Limekilns'. A stone cottage was built, consisting of three equal sized rooms and a separate kitchen.

In 1901, the colonies, including New South Wales agreed on their transformation into a single country. A new city, purpose built as the capital to govern the new nation was proposed.<sup>15</sup> After seven long years of arguments a compromise was reached and in 1908 the Yass–Canberra region was chosen as the site.<sup>16</sup> Everything would change for the Majura CAMERON's. Surveying of the land to make up the Federal Territory commenced in 1910 and took five years to complete.<sup>17</sup> By 1915 the CAMERON holding totaled 942 acres as freehold land or by conditional purchase. The Commonwealth Government started resuming land for its new capital from landowners,<sup>18</sup> including "Limekilns" which by then belonged to Donald David CAMERON, son of Angus and Catherine CAMERON. Donald's sister, Miss Isabel CAMERON was administratrix of the estate for her brother and applied for compensation for herself and the four next of kin. Great stress was caused to the CAMERON family in the way the process was



Isabella CAMERON and Margaret CAMERON's home at Majura, Canberra district, approximately 1900. NLA 7339761; PIC BOX PIC/20212 nla.obj-396764103.<sup>21</sup>

handled as Isabel and her siblings had made a deposit to purchase a property at Paramatta in Sydney, New South Wales and would lose their deposit if the moneys from the compensation claim were not released in time.<sup>19</sup>

The CAMERON's would not have had their farm at Majura if it was not for Robert CAMPBELL. Without CAMPBELL insisting on Scottish Highlanders being brought out to Australia and then providing opportunities for them to have their own home and land the CAMERON family would have had a different life altogether. The establishment of Canberra as the capital city of Australia impacted greatly on the pioneering families of the area. A community of people was affected by the decisions of government, which highlights the need for consultation, timely information and appropriate levels of compensation when people are expected to give up their homes and land.<sup>20</sup>

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# Experiences of Convicts Aboard Vessels

David Le Roy

Following an inquiry by William REDFERN in 1814 into the voyages of the transports *Three Bees*, *General Hewitt* and *Surrey* (commissioned due to the condition of the convicts when they were landed), naval surgeons were appointed to transports from 1815 charged with managing the moral discipline and medical care of convicts.<sup>1</sup> Approximately 153,000 convicts<sup>2</sup> benefited from the care provided by the naval surgeons with death rates reducing from an average of 11.3/1,000 before 1814 to 2.4/1,000 from 1814 to the end of transportation in 1868.<sup>3</sup> This article compares the management of the health of the women aboard vessels managed by William Conborough WATT to determine factors impacting on the success of this process in minimising convict casualties.

The *Edward* set sail from Cork on 1 January 1829 carrying 177 female convicts<sup>4,5</sup> from Ireland to New South Wales. This was Dr WATT's first commission and he served aboard 3 subsequent vessels – *Roslin Castle* (1830 – female transport), *Exmouth* (1831 - male transport) and *Mary* (1832 - male transport)<sup>6</sup>. In total, Dr WATT was responsible for managing the health and wellbeing of 460 male convicts and 305 female convicts, suffering the loss of only 3 male convicts (1 from the *Exmouth* and 2 from the *Mary*) and 3 female convicts (all from the *Edward*)<sup>7</sup>. While the majority of illnesses across these transports were reported and treated at sea, there was a small number of convicts who presented to the surgeon prior to sailing.

As part of the embarkation process, convicts were mustered to enable the naval surgeons to inspect those to be transported and any convicts deemed not to be fit enough to travel became the source of discussion with “the presence of unwell, frail, or elderly convicts (posing) a particular source of friction”.<sup>8</sup> Pre-existing illnesses were likely due to the conditions of the day in their previous home life<sup>9</sup> (likely exacerbated by the conditions of the gaol) and could be also as a result of the transport from gaol to vessel.<sup>10</sup>

Maria JOHNSON was one of three convicts who boarded the *Edward* with a pre-existing illness. On 10 December 1828 (3 weeks prior to sailing) she was diagnosed with “Phthisis Pulminalis” (tuberculosis) with the surgeon noting that she had been “in confinement for fourteen months”. She had received treatment since Newgate and continued treatment until she died 33 days into the voyage on 3 February<sup>11</sup>. Phthisis was a troublesome illness and was not able to be properly treated until many years after transportation ceased<sup>12</sup> and, in 1828, Maria would have been prime candidate for embarking as she would have no longer be the responsibility of the authorities.

The journals for later vessels on which Dr WATT served indicated that they also had convicts embarked with pre-existing illnesses, all of which were successfully treated:

- the *Roslin Castle* embarked one female convict with venereal disease<sup>13</sup>,
- the *Exmouth* embarked one male convict with pneumonia<sup>14</sup>, and
- the *Mary* embarked two male convicts, one with cholera and the other with pneumonia<sup>15</sup>.

During the voyages, a range of illnesses were treated, with pneumonia being a common ailment across both the male and female transports. While venereal disease was treated on both female vessels on which Dr WATT served, it wasn't recorded on the male vessels. Conversely, scurvy appeared to be found on the male transports and not the female (refer to the table following). This is in line with observations of more general convict morbidity rates, with sexual diseases affecting more female than male (63.71/1000 vs 7.55/1000), scurvy affecting more males than female (110.63/1000 vs 31.93/1000) and diseases of the respiratory system being within similar range (134.20/1000 for males and 153.33/1000 for females).<sup>16</sup>

Management of convict health and well-being aboard the *Edward* was supported by a daily routine which saw the women undertake reading, writing, sewing, knitting and other activities with wine being served after lunch each day (supervised by Dr WATT “to prevent the chance of any improper use being made of the same”) and the surgeon visiting each sleeping cabin after 8pm to ensure each woman was in her bed after which “the gates were secured each by a double padlock and business of the day ended”.<sup>17</sup>

By comparison, prisoners aboard the *Roslin Castle* found the voyage more of a challenge with the ship being generally leaky, to the point where water broached the prison and conditions “were of a most appalling nature and calculated from their depressing effects to produce disease amongst subjects whose constitutions had been debilitated by a long continuance of every species of debauchery, and whose mental powers were reduced to the lowest ebb from the contemplation of their degraded situations”. With the same routine used on the *Edward* being put in place, and supplemented by their ensuring their surroundings were kept as clean and dry as possible, Dr WATT was able to calm their fears and land all but one convict in good health.<sup>18</sup>

The male vessels provided other challenges for the doctor, with his noting the effects on the general mental state of prisoners aboard the *Exmouth*, due to their separation from country and family while being imprisoned with “companions of the vilest description of their species and objects of suspicion to the rest of mankind”<sup>19</sup>. His final assignment, aboard the *Mary*, saw him come into conflict with the master of the ship who provided “every specie(sic) of annoyance ... to render the convicts discontented and uncomfortable”. This included not providing the prisoners their full rations and storing goods on the deck to the extent that exercise was not possible.<sup>20</sup> Convict mental well-being appeared to be more an issue aboard male vessels when compared to the female vessels.

The journey from Britain to Australia provided a number of challenges in ensuring as many convicts as possible were transported and disembarked

in as good a health as possible. Issues for the surgeons started before the voyages commenced, with prisoners being put forward for transport who were not in the best of health. During the voyage, surgeons needed to not only treat a range of illnesses, but also be mindful of the effect separation from family and a long voyage could wreak on their mental state. That surgeons were able to successfully manage the movement of such a large number of male and female prisoners halfway across the globe with as few a number of casualties as there were is testament not only to the successful implementation of this process but also to the skills of those involved.

*Convict illnesses treated aboard Dr Watt's vessels. Sources: Medical journals for the Edward, Roslin Castle, Exmouth, Mary www.ancestry.com.au*

	Edward % (female)	Roslin Castle % (female)	Exmouth % (male)	Mary % (male)
Apoplexy	6.7%			
Arthropyosis			2.9%	
Catarrhal Ophthalmia			5.9%	
Chlorosis	13.3%			
Cholera	6.7%			11.1%
Constipation	6.7%			
Diarrhoea	13.3%			
Dyspepsia	13.3%			
Fever		16.7%	2.9%	
Hepatitis		16.7%		
Jaundice	6.7%			
Lichen(?)			2.9%	
Obstiphelio				11.1%
Phthisis	6.7%		2.9%	11.1%
Pneumonia	20.0%	16.7%	5.9%	22.2%
Psora				22.2%
Scurvy			67.7%	11.1%
Sycosis			2.9%	
Tabes Mesenterica		16.7%		
Unknown			5.9%	
Venereal	6.7%	33.3%		
Vertigo				11.1%

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*One of our members, Cynthia Worringham sent in this Google Earth picture showing a plane flying over The National Archives in Kew.*

*The date of the Google Earth image was 3 Sep 2014.*

# Emily Jane Skelton

Gillian Kendrigan

Emily Jane was the youngest sister of my great grandfather Josiah SKELTON. She was born in August 1851 at Plaistow, East London where her father Thomas SKELTON was a ship's draughtsman working for the Thames Iron Works Shipbuilding Company. I had found Emily in the 1871 census when she was 19 and recorded as a dressmaker but her subsequent life stubbornly remained a mystery.

Recently I revisited this brickwall and checked the censuses using only Emily's initials for all given names together with her place of birth. One match in 1881 listed a 27 year old servant as an inmate at Warley House in Essex, the County District Lunatic Asylum at Brentford. Could this be her? The death indexes led to a possible death in 1889, the certificate recording Emily Jane SKELTON, aged 34, servant of West Ham had died of enteritis at Essex County District Lunacy Asylum. Not the correct age for my Emily, but Plaistow was definitely in the district of West Ham.

With the release of the lunacy asylum admission and discharge records by Ancestry.com, I found Emily J SKELTON listed twice. Her first admission was on the 15 November 1878 to Colney Asylum being discharged on the 28 February 1879 as 'relieved' and again admitted to Hoxton Asylum in 1884 and once more discharged as 'relieved' in December 1888.

Research undertaken by the Essex Record Office was illuminating and somewhat depressing. They had the reception orders and case notes from Warley House which are not included in Ancestry's lunacy records. It was definitely worth the five weeks wait and the hour's charge of £25 which had required payment by phone during their office hours.

The reception orders for Warley House, which was situated in Brentwood, Essex, included two pages packed full of Emily's history. These included that she was a domestic servant about 25, that it was her first attack which had lasted for the previous twelve months whilst in Constantinople, where she had undergone treatment. Emily suffered neither from epilepsy nor suicidal thoughts and she wasn't a danger to others. She had just returned to London on the SS *Vortigern* (Capt. KING) and her next of kin was her brother Josiah SKELTON of 1a Christendom Place, Barking Road E. The separate casebook notes describe her general physical health and her



Warley Hospital, Essex County Lunatic Asylum

behaviour in detail and gave a glimpse into the extreme difficulties faced by families before surgical and medical treatments became available in the 20th century.

Although the Ancestry records listed Emily's discharge as 'relieved' from Colney Asylum on 28th Feb 1879 and from Hoxton House on 17th Dec 1888, she was not relieved in the sense of 'got better' but simply transferred to the asylum at Brentwood. Case notes at Warley House were recorded every month for the first year, then every second month, with absolutely no improvement in Emily's debilitating condition over the years.

*20th May 1880. Is noisy at night but comparatively quiet during the day although she is excitable, mischievous & very incoherent in language.*

*25th Jan 1883. Suffers from recurrent mania the paroxysms being characterised by the extremest degree of passionate roaring with desire to destroy or smash. At these periods she is allowed to stay in her room at discretion and is quieter. Health fair.*

In 1884, for administrative reasons, Emily was transferred to Hoxton House in West Ham together with a number of other patients, where her family would have been able to visit her more frequently. In December 1888 she was transferred back to Warley House, Brentwood where she died and was buried three months later.

Although my original request of the Essex Record Office was only for information on Emily Jane, I was also sent the reception order for another person of the same surname also from Plaistow, Elizabeth SKELTON. Amazingly this was Emily's older sister Elizabeth, who had been admitted back in 1866 for melancholy, her father Thomas being notified as next of kin. Elizabeth had been rescued from drowning after spending many days and nights wandering in Epping Forest while staying with friends. Her concerned family had her admitted for care, perhaps at the suggestion of their next-door neighbour Archibald MACDOWALL, the relieving officer & Justice of the Peace for the Parish of West Ham, who signed her admission forms. Elizabeth spent over three years at Warley House before she was discharged back into the community. She lived to her mid-seventies but as mentioned in her reception notes, she was always kept under the watchful eye of various family members as subsequent censuses proved.

And why was Emily in Constantinople? Well I believe she had accompanied her brother Josiah and his young and growing family to Turkey where he had spent about 7 years instructing the Turkish Navy in naval draughtsmanship. In early 1877 the Russians were threatening war in the region and many British people returned to their homeland including Josiah and his family. It seems that Emily remained in Turkey under treatment despite the threatening political turmoil. Another sister Sarah was married to James MATHEWSON, one of the two British Captains on a monthly alternating roster manning the lightship stationed in the Black Sea at the mouth of the Bosphorus. With no children of their own and the importance of the lightship for the safety of merchant ships James and Sarah probably made the difficult journey back with Emily on the

*Vortigern* during his month off duty, the ship docking at Gravesend in London a few days prior to her admission.

Society has had to cope with people suffering from challenging mental health issues forever and most people have either had or encountered friends or family with such a condition. In developed countries the 20th century saw huge strides in both care and available treatments and the 21st century heralded greater understanding and acceptance of people with both temporary and permanent mental conditions. It was only in the later half of the 19th century there was gradual recognition in Britain that the mentally ill should be treated more humanely.

## “This is wonderful!” A DNA Success Story

Geof Watts

Like most people doing family history research for some time, I have hit a few genealogical brick walls. These impediments to genealogy research are known as brick walls as they can often appear impossible to work around. It was difficulties with these brick walls that encouraged me to do a DNA test with Ancestry.

The photograph of my aunt's wedding is part of this story but its relevance will be revealed later.

One of these brick walls involved my great grandfather (and Trixie and Gwen's maternal grandfather) Ernst Gottlieb BENSCH.

I understood that Ernst was born in South Australia around 1848 and was of German descent but I was unable to locate a birth certificate for Ernst. On Ernst's wedding certificate, his father is listed as Louis Hugh Johann BENSCH. However, I was unable to locate anyone with this name at that time in South Australia. The identity of the parents of Ernst BENSCH was therefore one of my genealogical brick walls.



*The 24 November 1934 wedding of my aunt Trixie May HARDING to Arthur Edward Douglas (Doug) FREEMAN. The bridesmaid on the left is Gwen HARDING, my mother and Trixie's sister. Trixie's best friend, Bernice HOSKING, is the bridesmaid on the right.*

An obituary for Ernst on page 2 of the *Kapunda Herald* dated 18 July 1930 stated:

*Mr. Ernst G. BENSCH ... was born at Langmiel, near Tanunda, in 1848. His father died when he was quite young, and he then went to live with the late Mr C. H. ROENFELDT, near Greenock.*

So perhaps he was too young when his father died and he did not know his actual name, or perhaps he incorrectly recalled his father's name which he probably heard in a strong German accent.

Further research revealed that a married couple Christiane and Samuel Ludwig BENSCH were the only German couple named BENSCH that I was able to locate in South Australia at that time. They arrived at Port Adelaide, aged 35 and 38 respectively, on the barque *Catharina* from Hamburg on 22 January 1839 <http://www.theshipslit.com/ships/australia/catharina1839.shtml>. Samuel BENSCH died in South Australia on 11 March 1853 when Ernst would have been about 5 years of age. Therefore, Christiane and Samuel appear to be a possible set of parents for Ernst but without a birth certificate for Ernst this relationship lacked the usual documentation.

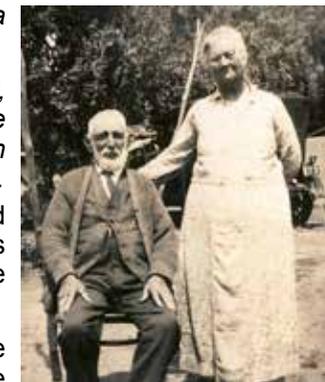
One of the first strong DNA matches notified to me by Ancestry was with a Peter from South Australia. His family tree on Ancestry was maintained by his wife Angela. So, Angela was my main contact for Peter's tree. Peter's tree included Christiane and Samuel BENSCH and shows that Peter is descended from Johanne, a daughter of Christiane and Samuel BENSCH. Johanne was born in 1845 and could have been an elder sister of Ernst. It therefore suggests that Peter and I are fourth cousins.

Angela advised that our German ancestors in South Australia usually referred to each other by their second given name, so Ernst's father would have likely been called "Ludwig" rather than "Samuel". In a broad German accent, "Ludwig" may well have sounded like "Louis Hugh" to Ernst.

I passed on these results to my cousin (and Trixie's daughter) Margaret. But it was Margaret's sister Pam who worked out where Angela fits in. As a result, I sent Angela a copy of the wedding photograph above explaining how Trixie and Gwen are related to Ernst and therefore to Peter.

Angela replied: "Wow Geof! You have my Grandma in her best friend Trixie's wedding! I have the original of this photo – in A4 size. I thought I was talking to you about Peter's family ... Oh, this is wonderful."

As Pam had correctly deduced, Angela is the granddaughter of Bernice HOSKING, one of the bridesmaids for Trixie and Doug Freeman's wedding. I must agree with Angela that this was "wonderful", but it was also a remarkable as well as an unexpected result.



*Ernst BENSCH with his wife Emily (nee HARDCASTLE) at their home in Kapunda probably in the 1920s.*

# Convicts in Context

Clare McGuinness

The life of John GILL embodies both typical and atypical features of the Australian convict experience. Convict experiences were of transportation, under sentence and then free. Research has begun in Tasmania to quantitatively analyse this important sector of Australian settler, while outcomes for other states are less well collated.<sup>1</sup> This essay will argue that John was a typical convict in his transportation and sentence phases, but atypical in his free life. John GILL fared well in his life in the colonies compared with many of his fellow convicts of the time and this essay will explore the factors that contributed to his success.

John was 26, a miller, convicted of stealing wheat and sentenced to seven years.<sup>2</sup> He arrived in Sydney in late 1818, a time when details of his family, previous convictions, literacy and even religion were not recorded on colonial arrival papers.<sup>3</sup> John was part of a large upswing in transportation following the end of the Napoleonic Wars and the depression that followed.<sup>4</sup>

He experienced transportation that was efficient and safe. He spent 31 days on a prison hulk when this period could extend to years. Just 3 men of 150 died during his average-length voyage of four months non-stop sailing. Indeed, the surgeon superintendent was well regarded for his competent care of convicts. John's first colonial record is, however, embarkation to Van Diemen's Land in March 1819.

The arrival of skilled convicts to Hobart from Sydney began in 1817, coinciding with the first direct transport of convicts to Van Diemen's Land in 1818.<sup>5</sup> Lieutenant-Governor William SORELL had strenuously requested more 'mechanics' for Van Diemen's Land, with the need to both support settlers already there and to entice more emigrants to build a viable economy.<sup>6</sup> This influx of needed skills and general labour, and some women, came in 1818 to a stagnating colonial trading post.<sup>7</sup> It is possible to imagine John and other convicts at this time being welcomed by the authorities and general population of Hobart.

Under this impetus Hobart did begin to flourish, resembling the idyllic paintings SORELL might need to entice his emigrants.

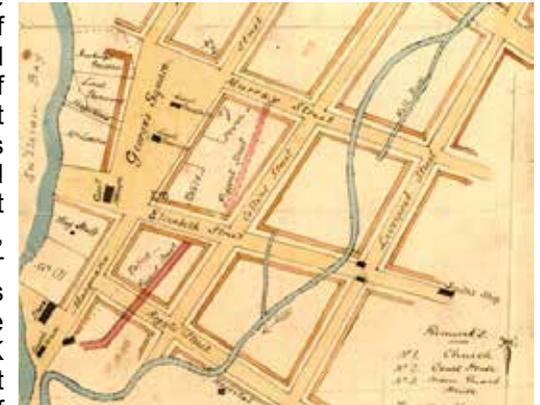
John benefited from serving his sentence in Van Diemen's Land during the capable and benevolent stewardship of William SORELL (1817-24). In recognition of their value SORELL allowed some convicts a private income and autonomy over living



The emerging township of Hobart Town c1821, artist Frederick Bertuch; a bucolic picture of propaganda value<sup>8</sup>

quarters.<sup>9</sup> By necessity convicts existed within society, gaining traction on future prosperity due to real labour shortages. Such inclusionary policies lowered recidivism.<sup>10</sup> John was transported during a time of transition in British law, where transportation became crystalized over the 1820s as 'punishment' rather than previously as (benign) 'servitude'.<sup>11</sup>

Colonial administrators made efforts to make best use of convicts' skills.<sup>12</sup> John's original indent was copied onto a list of 60 convicts aboard a government brig to Hobart in 1819. He was the only man from his ship and the only miller. Thirty-one different trades were represented aboard, with just 25% listed as general or agricultural labourers.<sup>13</sup> John was duly employed by two millers while under sentence, including Mr FISK who supported his 1820 request for land. In 1822 as a victim of theft, he offered a £5 reward and stated his home as Liverpool St. The following map shows the Mill Race, diverted from the Hobart Rivulet, adjacent to Liverpool St, corroborating his continuing trade of miller.



Detail of 1811 Hobart Town map, noting that the Mill Race is along Liverpool St

Documentation within a penal colony is likely to record only punishment and proscribed behaviour. John's conduct record recorded six events - missed musters and Catholic service and one alcohol misdemeanour. He (quite typically) received no lashes, was not sent to secondary punishment, and was not reported in later Police Gazettes.<sup>16</sup> As a tradesman in the 'Food and Drink' category he was less likely to receive such punishments than say a textile worker. His skills were valued. Consequently, he was Free by Servitude exactly seven years after conviction.

This efficient passage through his sentence was potentially more humane than for convicts under later regimes. Assignment following the Bigge Inquiry of 1822 was more regimented, and the Molesworth Inquiry of the 1830s led to the Probation system which mandated time in penal stations and chain gangs for all. His period of 'servitude', in his valued trade, had avoided the more constrained trajectory of 'punishment' of later years.

A successful life, perhaps in terms of control over his life, can be seen in John's progress once free. He had consent from ex-sergeant William LEVISTON to marry 15-year-old Mary Ann; a positive assessment of John's prospects at a time when free women were highly prized. John's marriage was a significant social rise out of his convict class, and into a free settler extended family. Marriage itself was notable given the significant gender imbalance in the early

decades of settlement. Female convicts were able to marry up into soldier or settler families, but males were more likely to marry other convicts. While most female convicts married, perhaps only 25% of male convicts did.<sup>17</sup>

Marriage, providing for a large family, and forming social networks with families are evidence of social cohesion and personal agency – a far cry from the convict stereotype of ‘old lag’. The average family size for convict men was 1.1.<sup>18</sup> Yet John had nine children, all but one surviving infancy. John’s new family held 800 acres around him, but he personally owned just two acres in Glenorchy. Though he petitioned for land four times, the last three applications were made to Governor ARTHUR, whose attitudes to convicts was more punitive than SORELL’s, and land was gone. His final success was perhaps to die an old man, in his home in western Victoria, with family and buried among them.

John GILL had a typical start to his convict life, but it was not marred by hardship. His transfer to Van Diemen’s Land was fortuitous, where he was a much-needed tradesman in a small, emerging community about to enter economic boom. Avoiding secondary punishment, he married well and joined a large family. John was considerably more successful than those convicts who died under sentence, re-offended, died in pauper institutions or were lost to records. The moderate governorship of SORELL supported his progress. It is as likely that he was a sober and industrious worker, well able to maintain strong community links. John’s large family and his descendants carry his personal legacy into the 21st century.



Descendants of John GILL (Convict 1818-1825) and Mary Ann LEVISTON  
First Reunion in Ballarat 1998

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- 13 Including bullock driver, plasterer, rope maker, waterman and weaver; also included were four shoemakers, three painter and glaziers and two coopers. ‘Embarkation Record List of 60 men Embarked on H.M. Brig Prince Leopold for the Public Service in Van Diemen’s Land with their Sentences of Transportation duly Extracted from the Indents and Descriptions as Taken on Musters at arrival in New South Wales – Secretary’s Office Sydney 5 March 1819’ [http://search.archives.tas.gov.au/ImageViewer/image\\_viewer.htm?CON13-1-1,254,212,L,80](http://search.archives.tas.gov.au/ImageViewer/image_viewer.htm?CON13-1-1,254,212,L,80), Accessed 8 May 2018.
- 14 Early Roads of Hobart, Tasmapi online image, [www.tasmapi.tas.gov.au](http://www.tasmapi.tas.gov.au), Accessed 17 September 2018.
- 15 Hamish Maxwell-Stuart, ‘The State, Convicts and Longitudinal Analysis’, *Australian Historical Studies*, Vol 47, 2016, p418.
- 16 Alison Alexander, *Tasmania’s Convicts: How felons built a free society*, Sydney, Allen&Unwin, 2010, p37. She suggests ‘up to 75% of convicts in Van Diemen’s Land were never in chain gangs or penal stations’ (p37), and that ‘10% of convicts were never punished for a second offence while serving their original sentence’ (p40).
- 17 Hamish Maxwell-Stuart, Kris Inwood, & Jim Stankovich, ‘Prison and the colonial family’, *The History of the Family* Vol. 20, Issue 2, 2015, p245-246.
- 18 Hamish Maxwell-Stuart, Lecture delivered as part of Diploma of Family History, University of Tasmania, Convicts in Context, Week 5 ‘Marriage, Migration and Family Formation’.

## Centenary of End of WW1

### Armistice Victory.

#### ARMIES IN THE FIELD.

The news of peace came to the Australian and other armies in the field in this form: “At 11 o’clock to-day, 11th November, the troops will stand fast on the position reached at the hour named. A line of outposts will be established and reported to headquarters. All military precautions will be preserved, there will be no communication with the enemy.” This curt message was on a pink slip, and sufficed to end the fighting. It was sent out at 7.26, and was known throughout the front within an hour.

At 11 o’clock on the morning of 11 November 1918 the guns of the Western Front fell silent after four years of continuous warfare. With their armies retreating and close to collapse, German leaders signed an Armistice, bringing to an end the First World War.

In the four years of the war more than 330,000 Australians had served overseas, and more than 60,000 of them had died. The social effects of these losses cast a long shadow over the postwar decades.

*Armistice Victory. (1918, November 22). The Week (Brisbane, Qld. : 1876 - 1934), p. 8. Retrieved November 29, 2018, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article188932558>.*

# Honora from the Hunter

Barbara Broad

I never met you, Honora. How I wish I could have but that would have meant I was born a few generations earlier than my post WWII birth.

In the early 1800s, you and your baby, Mary, came to the Colony of New South Wales (NSW) from Tipperary, Ireland. Your convict past was hidden from many of your descendants, including my parents and my generation, but we are slowly unfolding your story.

Your story, is one of transportation to Port Jackson (and what tales you could tell), being sent to the Parramatta Factory, marrying another convict, and then somehow arriving in the Hunter River district by the 1828 Census. The Hunter, your home for the rest of your life.

You and your husband are living in different parts of the Colony in 1828. He is still at Richmond and you are at "the island, Hunter River". I am still trying to discover the exact location of your island, your Hunter home. I would love to stand there, feel the earth you trod on, and discover more about you and your life. Will I ever find that exact spot? I do know that the Hunter and its tributaries have changed over many years with frequent floods and land development. A land that is too rich, for miners, developers, farmers and many others, not to bring about major change to this region.

In the 1830s, you are living on Father THERRY's land, next to the Deptford Shipping Yard, at Clarence Town but this is mystery to me, when you already had your own land in 1828. Were you flooded out in some of the massive floods that the early white settlers experienced? Or was it the droughts around 1828-29? This land is tough, always was and always will be.

I now reconsider and wonder was your "island" on the Williams River (a tributary of the Hunter) and not the Hunter River? Why were you even there on Father THERRY's land in the 1830s, with your four daughters? Father THERRY married you and Peter in 1820 and maybe the connections continued. My research unearths more details but also more unanswered questions. Still, I can imagine some of the sights you saw with those beautiful ships being built next door and maybe the journeys you and your daughters took to Newcastle and onto Sydney. That river runs wide there as it turns through the green land at Clarence Town. A clear passageway then for ship building near a bustling town. I see that the railroad to Dungog bypassed this beautiful village of Clarence Town. Now to its advantage, I think.

What caused your husband's death in 1829? And why did the Government refuse you permission to marry again, a few years after your husband's death? Luckily you had your own convicts assigned to you, to help you work your land. Your life as a farmer and dairywoman must have been tough in that era, when men and sons were more valued than women and daughters. You survived

though to cultivate the land and buy more land to help other family members. It appears to me you had a full and productive life but to achieve what you did, you must have also had supportive neighbours and some good people around you in the Hunter Valley.

Some of your life, Honora, unfolds through the courts and newspaper articles. Your Catholic faith was strong and if you were alive to-day, I'm sure you'd say, "God bless TROVE" (which I shout out frequently, as TROVE allows me find out more about you, through the National Library's on-line access of old newspapers). I see you were robbed and held up by bushrangers but survived to tell the tales. You also had great sadness in your life with the death of young family members. But you were a survivor and a true pioneer of the Hunter River district; a woman who cultivated and worked the land. I wonder if you had been a man or had sons to continue your name, would your life have been recorded more in the local history of the district. I expect so.

On another occasion in 1846, when you are described as the "old Mrs DALY" and cross examined in a court case, you say that you have never been charged with cattle stealing. You do admit to "sly grog selling, but that was when everybody did it". It seems to me, you are pretending to have memory loss in this court case, saying you are just an old woman with an "imperfect memory", so that you don't have to fully disclose your convict past. You now want to be the respectable citizen, owing land and contributing to the society. I don't think you are just an "old woman". I think you are an amazing woman. First you survived your convict journey and those early years and then managed the perils of isolated life in the Colony. You carefully wove your way through a judicial system, with the aim to make a good life for yourself and your loved ones. In the Hunter, in the early 1800s, there was a new community emerging and you were one of its workers. I hope you worked in with the local indigenous people as it was their land. I doubt that was considered though in that era. My family's folklore tells me that you were the first white woman on the Williams River but I will never be able to prove this.

Many of your descendants have moved to different regions of Australia but some remain. We, who return to the Hunter for visits, leave our cities and the smog, and reunite as one extended family of yours, Honora. We savour the green country and the fresh air. Did these green pastures remind you of Ireland as they do me?

I know that I may never find that "island" but I have found other places where you have lived and worked. In some wooded forests, I get a glimpse of the original land and see how hard it would have been to clear the land, to cultivate crops and to care for animals in this massive valley. I've walked around some of your green land (at Glen William, Half Moon Flat and Brookfield), saw the site of old family graves, smelt the bush, felt the heat and mist, heard the river rushing, birds calling and cousins laughing. What joy there is within a large extended family – connected by blood, history and life stories?

Your death, Honora, in 1865, was sudden and unpredictable, as were many in that era. A horse cart turned over and you were killed in the accident. What were your last thoughts? Of Ireland? Of the Hunter? Of Home? No. I think you were a woman that lived in the moment – whatever that moment brought you. No longing for the past. No restless yearning for the future. Acceptance of the present moment, what life gives and when life goes. How else could you have lived your life?

How I have searched and searched and how I will continue to do so, to try to answer more questions about you. Your life of survival against the odds and how you raised your family and provided for them is an inspiration to me. I have your blood in me and I hope some of that Hunter pioneer spirit. I am a persistent and strong woman – like you. I will not give up this genealogy search until I have found out more, to share within my family, to honour and remember you, my Honora. My Honora from the Hunter.

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## My Convicts on the *Asia* 1

Jennifer Burgess

The *Asia* was built in Aberdeen 1819<sup>1</sup>. In 1820 192 convicts arrived after a 111 day voyage and were all reported to be in good health although one passenger had died on the voyage. The ships surgeon was James MERCER, but no Surgeons record has survived for this voyage. The *Asia* continued to bring convicts to Australia up until 1840. A later surgeon's record from 1825 notes that James MERCER allowed dancing and encouraged the prisoners to be active.

1. Joseph PRESTON b 1803 trial at Middlesex was the first Joseph PRESTON to arrive in Australia. Joseph is buried in the Old River Cemetery at St Albans. While his headstone says he died 8 June the actual date of death at NSW BDM is 1 August 1863<sup>2</sup>. I have written about Joseph in the last issue.

2. John FERGUSSON b 1802 in Shettleston, Lanarkshire, Scotland to parents Duncan FERGUSSON and Agnes MARSHALL. John and an accomplice were tried at Glasgow Court for the theft of alcohol. John was caught because he was asleep (drunk) on the stairs of the shop. John was tried and sentenced in Glasgow. On arrival John was 5ft 5½ inches, dark brown hair and hazel eyes. He obtained his Ticket Of Leave in December 1825 while living in the Windsor district<sup>3</sup>. On the 1828 census John is a labourer working for William JONES at Lower Portland Head. Later John settled at Mangrove Creek (Dubbo Gully), he owned property and an Inn. John's three sisters came to Australia to live with him before his marriage and another married sister arrived in 1849. In 1844 John aged 42 married Harriet FORNER age 16. They had four children. John

died in 1853 and a Coroner's inquest indicated alcohol was involved in this death. John is buried at St Thomas Cemetery Mangrove Creek.

In 1905 William PRESTON married Alice Maud FERGUSON, if Joseph and John had known each other on the ship, I am sure they would have been delighted with this marriage.

3. William BURSILL (BUSSELL on convict register). William was born 19 Mar 1803,

The Old Bailey transcript 28 Jun 1820: t18200628-167 (online database)

WILLIAM BUSSILL was indicted for stealing, on the 30th of June, one seal, value 18 s., and two rings, value 2 s., the goods of Edward Brannan, from his person.

EDWARD BRANNAN. I am a gentleman's servant, and live in Paddington-street. On the 30th of June my seal and rings were fast to my watch-ribbon, when I was near the bottom of Half-moon-street, near Curzon-street, between eight and nine o'clock at night in a crowd, as the Queen was expected to come down there, the prisoner came and cut my ribbon, and got my seal and rings. I felt a tug at my watch, I put my hand down, caught his hand with them in, and took them out of his hand.

(Property produced and sworn to.)

WILLIAM BUDDEN. I am a labourer. I was in the crowd with BRANNAN, the prisoner came before us and stopped. I suspected what he was after, and saw him cut the ribbon - the prosecutor seized him, and took the seals from him.

Prisoner's Defence. I picked them off the ground.

GUILTY. Aged 17. Transported for Life.

Second Middlesex Jury, before Mr. Common SERGEANT.

William was assigned to the area around Minto and then settled in Airds and Campbelltown. William's first wife had died and he married Hannah SMITH, daughter of Joseph SMITH and Ann GIBBONS in 1834. They had 12 children. William had a shop at Campbelltown and this is in the Queen Street Group if you visit Campbelltown. William and Hannah are buried in the Presbyterian Cemetery at Campbelltown, the graves visible from the street. One daughter Sarah Jane BURSILL married William COOPER, this became part of my maternal line and in 1936 John PRESTON married Mildred COOPER, joining together the three convicts who had arrived on the *Asia* in 1820.

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1 Jen Willetts Free Settler or Felon gives 1819 as built date, Convict Records.com.au state 1818

2 NSW BDM reference 4017/1863

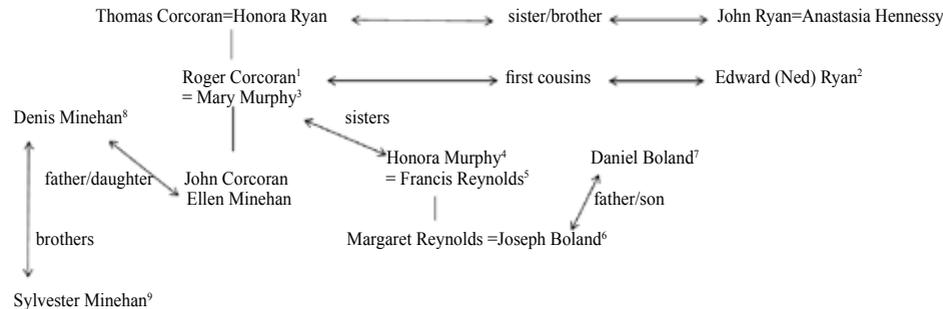
3 Notice in Sydney Gazette 22 Dec 1825

# Eleven Convicts

## Frances Corcoran

As part of the project to write up members' convicts, I thought I'd incorporate my eleven convicts into a short narrative. The convict names are CORCORAN, RYAN, MURPHY (2), REYNOLDS, BOLAND (2), MINEHAN (2), FORD and SHANAHAN.

### NINE CONVICTS IN CORCORAN AND RELATED FAMILIES



- 1 Roger CORCORAN (1792-1859) arrived in Sydney Cove in 1816 aboard the *Surrey 1* (2).
- 2 Edward (Ned) RYAN (1786-1871) arrived in Sydney Cove in 1816 aboard the *Surrey 1* (2).
- 3 Mary MURPHY (1806-1844/5) arrived in Sydney Cove in 1831 aboard the *Hooghley* (3).
- 4 Honora MURPHY (1814-1888) arrived in Sydney Cove in 1831 aboard the *Hooghley* (3).
- 5 Francis REYNOLDS (1806-1854) arrived in Sydney Cove in 1825 aboard the *Henry Porcher*.
- 6 Joseph BOLAND (b 1819) arrived in Sydney Cove in 1832 aboard the *Norfolk* (3).
- 7 Daniel BOLAND (b 1791) arrived in Sydney Cove in 1831 aboard the *Asia V* (2).
- 8 Denis MINEHAN (b 1808) arrived in Sydney Cove in 1832 aboard the *Norfolk* (3).
- 9 Sylvester MINEHAN arrived in Sydney Cove in 1832 aboard the *Norfolk* (3).

The first of my convict ancestors to be transported to New South Wales was Roger CORCORAN (1792-1859) who arrived in Sydney Cove in December 1816 aboard the *Surrey 1* (2). Roger CORCORAN's cousin, Edward (Ned) RYAN (1786-1871), also a convict was transported with Roger CORCORAN. Along with twelve others, CORCORAN and RYAN were convicted of (amongst other charges) "throwing down the house of the Governors of the County Infirmary which was taken for a Barrack" in Ballagh, County Tipperary, Ireland and sentenced to transportation to New South Wales for 14 years. They eventually settled in Galong and Boorowa NSW.

Mary MURPHY (1806-1844/5) along with her sister Honora MURPHY (1814-1888) arrived in Sydney Cove aboard the *Hooghley* (3) in 1831. They were



William Edwin CORCORAN<sup>1</sup>

convicted of murder and conspiracy to murder respectively and both had their death sentences commuted to transportation for life. Roger CORCORAN selected Mary MURPHY at the Parramatta Female Factory to be his wife and they married in 1834.

Honora MURPHY married Francis REYNOLDS (c1806- 1850-54). Francis REYNOLDS was convicted of thieving clothes and he was sentenced to seven years' transportation. He arrived in Sydney Cove in December 1825. Honora and Francis REYNOLDS' daughter Margaret married Joseph BOLAND in 1854. Joseph BOLAND a child convict was only 12 years when he was tried and convicted of stealing sheep. He was transported for 14 years. He arrived on board the *Norfolk* (3) in February 1832. Joseph's father, Daniel BOLAND (b1791) was also transported to New South Wales. He arrived on the *Asia V* (2) in December 1831. Both Joseph and Daniel BOLAND were assigned to masters in the Maitland district so at some stage maybe father and son were reunited.



Mary KIMBELL and William ROWSON<sup>2</sup>

Roger and Mary CORCORAN's fifth child, John CORCORAN married Ellen MINEHAN whose father Denis MINEHAN (b1808) arrived on the *Norfolk* (3) in February 1832 with his brother Sylvester MINEHAN. Both Denis and Sylvester MINEHAN were convicted of administering unlawful oaths. Incidentally the young Joseph BOLAND also arrived on the *Norfolk* (3) in February 1832.

My husband's ancestor, Thomas FORD arrived in Sydney Cove on the *Eleanor* on 26 June 1831. He was convicted along with hundreds of others for taking part in agricultural protests in 1830-1831. These became known as the Captain Swing Riots. Some men were executed for their part in the riots and hundreds were transported to Australia. In May 1838 John FORD and over fifty others of those transported were granted conditional pardons.

My mother's ancestor, Denis SHANAHAN arrived in Sydney Cove on the *Earl Grey* (1) in 1836. He was convicted of grievous assault and sentenced to transportation to New South Wales for seven years. Born in 1811, Denis SHANAHAN was a farm servant from Holy Cross, County Tipperary, Ireland.

- 1 William Edwin CORCORAN (1889-1923), grandson of Roger and Mary CORCORAN and son of John and Ellen CORCORAN. *Photo part of Corcoran Family Collection.*
- 2 Mary KIMBELL (1871-1918), granddaughter of Honora MURPHY and Francis REYNOLDS, with her husband, William ROWSON. *Photo courtesy Ellen Waite, Canberra ACT.*

# From Spirited Rascal to Brushy Creek Pioneer

Wendy Paterson

William GOODALL (c1822 TO 1873)

Conviction: 1842, ten years, burglary, Portsmouth Borough General Quarter Sessions, Southampton, Hampshire

Transported: 1842, *Moffatt* (4), Plymouth to Van Dieman's Land (Tasmania)

Born about 1822 in Ricall, Yorkshire, the only son of Robert GOODALL and Charlotte SHARPE<sup>1</sup>, my great great grandfather William GOODALL was convicted in 1842 for stealing 18/- in coppers, and oddly a bar of soap and other sundries, from William CATHERY, the recently appointed keeper of the canteen attached to the Cambridge Barracks, in High-street, Portsmouth. William was easily identified and caught, as he was based nearby as a general guard with the Hampshire 37th Regiment of Foot. Twice prior he had been convicted and awarded 40 days in gaol for drunkenness and stepping out of barracks. His latest fool hardy escapade led to transportation on the *Moffatt* (4) and a ten year sentence in Van Dieman's Land.<sup>2</sup>

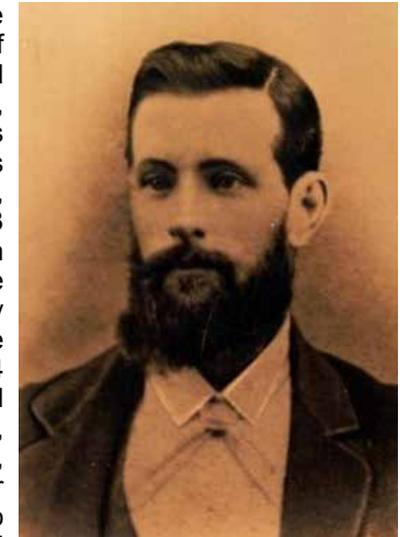
The convict probation system had been in place for three years by the time the *Moffatt* with its 387 passengers reached Van Dieman's Land on 28 November 1842. Introduced to replace the assignment system, male convicts worked as a member of a government gang for a specified period, depending on their sentence. Over time, and dependent on good behaviour, William could progress from third to first class, with a gradual reduction on restrictions. The aim was to eventually achieve a Ticket of Leave. This was a discretionary indulgence awarded by the Lieutenant-Governor, which allowed convicts to work for wages, and required them to report for regular musters.

William's conduct record describes him as being five foot six and a half inches tall, with a fresh complexion, large head, a broad visage and forehead, brown hair, dark brown eyebrows, grey eyes, a medium nose, mouth and chin. Identifying marks were a half moon with seven stars, the initials M.R., a woman on his right arm, an anchor and several blue marks on his left arm, the initials J.N.R.J., the crucifixion, a woman and man on horseback, man with spear on his breast and a scar on his left shoulder. His trade was recorded as a labourer, his native place as Leeds, he could read and write, was Protestant, single and had served with the 37th Regiment for two years. He had four surviving family members – his sisters Ann, Margaret, Harriett, and B\_\_y (? likely Elizabeth).<sup>3</sup>

Despite the challenging circumstances, William's spirit was not easily broken. He served just over two and a half years of his probationary period, mostly at Westbury, and was released from the first stage on 28 July 1846. He was awarded an additional eight weeks for what we might now consider minor

offences – using exciting language in front of the men, insolence, and losing his government waistcoat. William was then hired out to work for free settlers on their properties in the central and north east regions of Tasmania. These included the well-known families of W. P. ASHBURNER at Westbury, David SOLOMON at Longford, and GRANT at Fingal. William continued to be in strife with the authorities. From 1846 to 1848, he was convicted of a further three offences – disobeying orders, bringing liquor on the Ashburner farm at Westbury and being absent without leave when some wool was stolen. These misdemeanours earned William a total of nine month's imprisonment with hard labour, once with chains. Not surprisingly, his first application for a Ticket Of Leave was refused on 26 September 1848, then agreed to on 19 June 1849.<sup>4</sup>

It would be three and a half more years before William finally achieved his Certificate Of Freedom. Nine days later William departed Hobart for Melbourne on 18 February 1853, in steerage on the barque *Helen S Page*, as a labourer, thirty years of age.<sup>5</sup> Eight months later, William married Mary FITZGERALD, from County Limerick, on 21 October 1853 at St Finbars Roman Catholic Church in Brighton, Victoria.<sup>6</sup> He and Mary would have eleven children, born over the next twenty years in Mulgrave, Kilmore, Oakleigh, Lilydale and Yering. Their names were James (1854 to 1919), Mary (1856 to 1933), John Richard (1857 to 1942), William (1859 to 1936), Robert (1860 to 1887), Anne (1862 to 1923), Henry (1864 to 1950), my great grandfather Thomas (1866 to 1952), Richard (1868 to 1896), Alfred (14 May to 21 May 1870), and George Alfred (1874 to 1953).<sup>7</sup> By 1866,



William GOODALL 1822-1873

the family's circumstances had improved enough that William could afford to purchase 40 acres of land at the recently surveyed Brushy Creek (now North Croydon), just over four miles from Lilydale. Over time, he and Mary with the help of their family improved the lightly timbered property by erecting a two roomed cottage, establishing a small orchard, and cultivating and laying down grasses to feed livestock.<sup>8</sup>

To supplement the family's income, William applied for a licence to establish a beer hall at nearby Burts Hill. During the next few years, he and Richard SMITH at Brushy Creek were the only two holders of beer licences on the Melbourne Road in the Lilydale sub-district. In August 1869, Mr TURNER of Green Hills, near Lilydale, wrote to the Chief Commissioner of Police, accusing William of selling spirits purchased from a man named WATSON who was working an illicit still in the Dandenong Ranges. Constable MORRISON advised Superintendent HARE that even after conducting a search warrant of GOODALL's premises he

could find no evidence to support TURNER's claim. He believed the complaint was made to serve TURNER's "own private interests for besides being on unfriendly terms with GOODALL he is erecting a house about 300 or 400 yards from his place, for which he intends applying for a license of some sort, and of course GOODALL is or will be in opposition to him in business."<sup>9</sup> Fortunately for William, MORRISON reported that although GOODALL had been cautioned in the past, no crimes had been committed either near or at his premises since the Constable had been stationed there for the past nine months. MORRISON concluded there was no evidence to support TURNER's accusations.

William's good fortune was to last several more years before he succumbed to stomach cancer after living with the disease for two years. He died at fifty years of age in Melbourne Hospital on 10 December 1873.<sup>10</sup> At the time, Mary was pregnant with their son George Alfred who was born on 15 June 1874. Mary died of heart failure complicated by Brights Disease just over forty years later in 1915 at her home in Lilydale, at around eighty years of age.<sup>11</sup> William and Mary and nearly all of their children are buried at Lilydale Pioneer Cemetery. The naming of Goodall Drive in Lilydale commemorates their contribution and that of their numerous descendants who settled nearby, worked hard to support their families and served in both world wars.

- 1 Ancestry.com, England, Select Births and Christenings, 1538-1975 (Provo, UT, USA, Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2014), Record for William Goodall.
- 2 Tasmanian Archive and Heritage Office (TAHO), Conduct Registers of Male Convicts Arriving in the Period of the Probation System, 1 Jan 1840 to 31 December 1853, Item CON33/1/32, Convict No. 27020, and CON14/17 pp.200-1, transcribed by Port Arthur Historic Site Management Authority. *Hampshire Advertiser and Salisbury Guardian*, 2 July 1842, www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk.
- 3 CON33/1/32; Official website of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 2008, Family Search, International Genealogical Index Individual Record, Batch No.: C009062, 1813-1861, Source Call No.: 0991079, Film, Printout Call No.: 0909682: Elizabeth Goodall, female, 07 May 1820 Ricall, Yorkshire, England, father: Robert Goodall, Mother Charlotte.
- 4 CON33/1/32 and CON14/17 pp.200-1.
- 5 TAHO, Ref. CUS36/1/265.
- 6 Registry of Births, Marriages, Deaths, Victoria, 1228, No. 13, p. 185.
- 7 Sources include Digger – Pioneer Index Victoria 1836-1888; Ancestry.com, Australia and New Zealand, Find A Grave Index, 1800s-Current (Provo, UT, USA, Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2012)
- 8 National Australian Archives, Map of the Hamlet of Brushy Creek, Photo-lithographed at the Department of Lands & Survey, Melbourne, 3Dec. 1866; Sales by Auction – Estate of the Late William Goodall, *The Age*, 1 October 1887, page 3.
- 9 VPRS 937/, Unit 56, File 4, transcription provided by Evelyn Tull (nee Goodall) of Wandin Vic, in my possession.
- 10 Deaths in the District of South Melbourne in the Colony of Victoria, 1873, No. 166, William Goodall. William is buried under the grave of Harald Arthur Duck in Lilydale Pioneer Cemetery. Conversation with Evelyn Tull, Pioneer Cemetery, Lilydale, Victoria, 5 Feb 2014.
- 11 Obituary, Sudden Death at Lilydale, *The Lilydale Express*, 11 June 1915, p.4. Interestingly, the article suggests Mary and William were married at Green Hill (now Oakleigh), which is where Mr Turner who accused William of selling illicit spirits lived. The obituary also suggests that Mary was born in Tipperary, not Limerick, in Ireland. As yet, descendants have not been able to find out more about when and how Mary arrived in Australia, or her life in Ireland.

# Isabella Farrier

David Le Roy

In the early 1800s Belfast was seeing a rapid increase in population, growing from around 2,500 inhabitants in 1700 to approximately 20,000 in 1800. With this increase came the introduction of the cotton spinning industry (courtesy of the industrial revolution) but also an increase in poverty and crime. Isabella FARRIER's story is one of a woman who was born into a Belfast farming family, started working in Belfast's infant cotton industry and found herself transported to the other side of the world to a settlement which was building itself into a new British colony.



High St, Belfast, 1786

Isabella FARRIER (c.1811 – 1876) was the daughter of Andrew and Bessie FARRIER, christened on 12 February 1812 in St Anne's, Shankill (Belfast) in County Antrim, Ireland and at age 18 she was employed as a "cotton winder", threading cotton onto the weaving looms. On 17 August 1827, the Belfast Newsletter reported she had knocked "down a strange woman, whom she had led astray" and robbed her of her cloak. She was tried in the Antrim Assizes on 29 March 1828 and sentenced to transportation for 7 Years.

Isabella was assigned to the transport *Edward*, leaving Cork on 1 January 1829, bound for Sydney. With only one stop at St Jago (Cape Verde islands) they arrived on 26 April 1829.



Parramatta Female Factory c 1880s

Although the voyage saw three female convicts die, the Surgeon Superintendent (William Conborough WATT) noted that the convicts were able to remain largely immune from disease as a result of "their cleanly disposition and ready and strict observances of (his) orders". During the voyage, Isabella was diagnosed with "jaundice" and with the applications of medicines, poultices and dietary changes, her health was improved and she was discharged as "cured" on 11 April.

Upon arrival in Sydney, female convicts were either assigned to a settler or sent to the Parramatta Female Factory to await assignment. The Factory was structured using a class system to manage the convict women:

- First class – recently arrived convicts and the "blameless destitute";

- Second class – pregnant/nursing women and also those in transition between first and third class; and
- Third class – for women who were returned following some infraction either while in service or from second class.

It appears Isabella was not assigned upon arrival so was likely sent to the Factory where she shortly found herself on the wrong side of the law. On 14 September 1829 Isabella was sent to second class for one month for being “absent without leave” but a later incident was to provide a harsher penalty.

On 5 February 1831 the Sydney Monitor reported a “female insurrection at the factory” had occurred on 3 February. The third class inmates broke through walls which separated them from the second class, with 600 women attempting escape. For her part Isabella was one of 15 prisoners sent to Sydney Gaol on 2 March 1831, for “Mutinous conduct and riot at the Female Factory at Parramatta” and subsequently sentenced to three years at the Newcastle settlement.

Isabella found herself back in Newcastle Gaol on 2 December 1831 and sentenced to “21 days solitary confinement and returned to gaol as a Factory rioter for bad conduct in the personal service of Mr BARNES, Maitland”.

Isabella married Thomas Samuel RUTTER on 9 March 1832 in Newcastle, NSW. They settled in Morpeth where Thomas worked as a shoemaker and they had seven children:

- Margaret RUTTER b. c1833.
- Thomas Samuel RUTTER, b. 30 December 1835 in Maitland, NSW
- William RUTTER, b. 1838, d. 2 September 1846 in Morpeth, NSW
- Isabella RUTTER, b. 10 June 1841 in East Maitland, NSW
- Susannah RUTTER, b. 26 May 1847 Morpeth, NSW
- Mary RUTTER, b. 11 August 1849 in Maitland, NSW
- Joseph W RUTTER, b. 4 October 1851 in Maitland, NSW

Another male child has also been recorded but, as we have not been able to locate details of his birth, it is assumed he did not survive birth.



Queens Wharf in Morpeth 1865

Early 1800s Morpeth was a busy river port and paid police magistrates were appointed following the introduction of the Summary Jurisdiction Act in 1832. Petty sessions were held in Morpeth with local landholders being appointed to the court bench. More serious issues were either held in Maitland or sent further afield to Newcastle or Sydney.

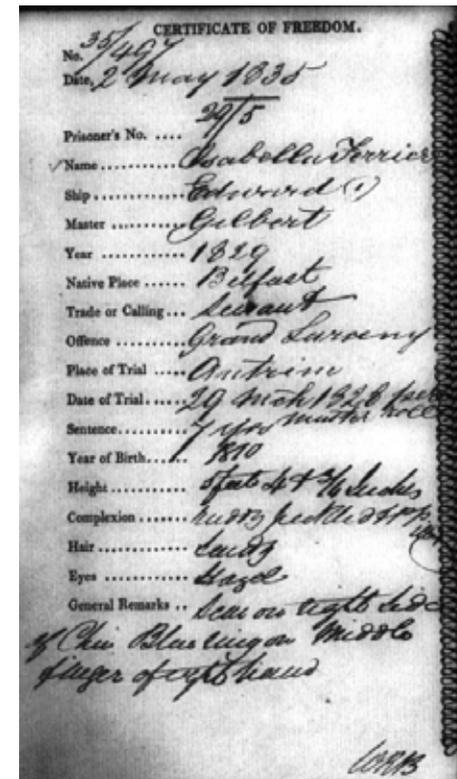
Drunkness, obscene language and riotous behaviour were well represented in a number of records for the area which also indicate that women appearing before the court received harsher treatment than men for similar infractions. This was likely a reflection of attitudes in other parts of the colony where there were also strong anti-Irish and anti-Catholic sentiment. As a female Irish ex-convict, Isabella would definitely have needed to watch what she said and did. Although the entrance books for Newcastle and Maitland Gaols and police

gazettes show that Isabella had been cited on numerous occasions for public drunkenness and obscene language, this may have been due to the attention paid to these misdemeanours and her background.

Isabella obtained her Certificate Of Freedom on 2 May 1835 and the family remained in Morpeth.

On 28 August 1846, tragedy struck when Isabella and Thomas’ son, William, was injured after falling from a timber carriage. Instead of going to school, William and his brother went to the local mill yard where they begged one of the workers to go with him on his timber carriage into the bush. As they passed over a brick kiln the horses started to trot and William fell and was crushed by both wheels of the carriage. His brother took him home and after two days William succumbed to his injuries.

Isabella’s husband, Thomas, passed away on 25 November 1863. Isabella continued living and working in Morpeth until just prior to her death, living in Close St and working as a laundress.



Isabella Farrier - Certificate of Freedom.

Isabella died on 27 March 1876 in Queen St, Sydney from Hemiplegia (paralysis of one part of the body, possibly because of a stroke). She was buried on 29 March 1876 in the Balmain Catholic Cemetery although there is no grave to mark her passing. The Catholic Cemetery was reported as being overcrowded and run-down from around 1897 and there were no burials since 1902. The land has since been re-claimed and St Columba’s Catholic church and school now stand where the cemetery once stood.

# Bridget Murray – My Great Aunt

Danny O'Neill

The eldest of five known children of Michael MURRAY and Johanna HEFFERNAN, Bridget is thought to have been born in May 1859 in the District of Limerick, County Clare, Ireland. Nothing is yet known of her life for the first ten years, until the birth of her youngest brother (and my Grandfather) John William Henery MURRAY on 11 April 1869 in the Tulla Workhouse, Co. Clare, and their father's death later that year on 25 August 1869, also in the same workhouse.

Her father's occupation on his death certificate was 'shoemaker' and he died of 'iliac tumour' - which is better known today as pelvic cancer. It is assumed that life rapidly went downhill for the family to have needed to go into the workhouse. This may have been because of fewer work opportunities as a result of the Great Famine. The Tulla Workhouse was fairly new, having only been built in the mid 1850s. As men and women were segregated in workhouses, conception of my grandfather John Murray indicates they were not in the workhouse prior to late July 1868.

The first sense that Bridget was a determined and independent woman was at 17 when she is recorded in a passenger list on the ship *Strathearn* as a free migrant with no family members, disembarking in Rockhampton, Qld on 3 May 1876.



Men congregated on Charlotte Street, Cooktown Queensland ca. 1874; courtesy of the John Oxley Library, Queensland State Library

Why Bridget travelled halfway round the world alone is unknown, as the rest of her family came out from Ireland on two separate dates to Australia. Her siblings Michael Jnr and Mary Theresa arrived in Townsville in 1881. Her mother Johanna and siblings Margaret and John came to Townsville in 1883 - seven years after Bridget had arrived. Once in Rockhampton, Bridget must have heard of the Palmer Goldfields in Far North Queensland, as she soon made her way up by local coastal steamer to the new village of Cooktown.

This village began life in 1873 as a miner's campsite when gold was discovered in the Palmer River area, and Cooktown proved to be the nearest place to build a coastal port to service the area and export gold. Cooktown was founded on the same site where Captain James COOK was forced to find safe refuge on the banks of the Endeavour River (named after the ship), and undertake repairs after severely damaging the hull on the Great Barrier Reef in July 1770.

The crew lived on the banks of the Endeavour River for seven weeks, and this site is now recognised as where the first act of friendliness between Europeans and Aboriginals took place, unlike what happened in Botany Bay earlier that year. While repairs were being effected, COOK found a passage through the dangerous shoals by climbing nearby Grassy Knoll that afforded a view of the reefs, thus allowing them to return to England.

But I digress.

It didn't take long for Bridget to find her feet in Cooktown, and soon met up with Theophile (Theo) Augustus NAUDIN (who went by his middle name Augustus) a storekeeper at the time who hailed from Paris, and promptly married him in Cooktown at St Mary's Cathedral on 4 February 1877. Although the newspaper announcement has their marriage date as the 14 February, all documents like their children's birth certificates and marriage register say 4 February.

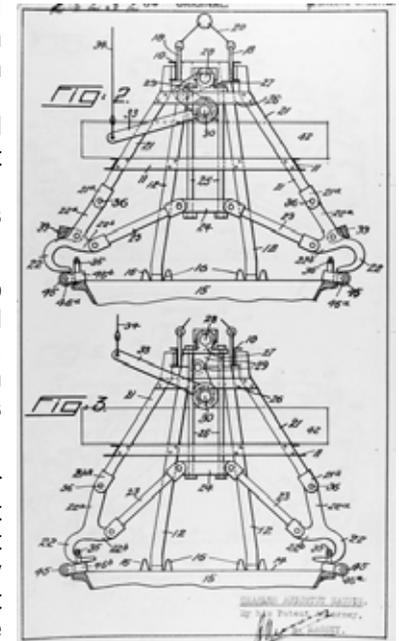
Louis Alexander NAUDIN (1877-1943) was their first child, born 9 Dec 1877 in Cooktown, who joined the Naval and Military Expeditionary Forces in late 1915, was on active war service in Rabaul (island of New Britain, part of Papua New Guinea) and enlisted again in 1917 as a Concentration Camp Guard. Louis didn't marry until he was 63 and then to Iris THORGOOD, and he died a couple of years later at the age of 65.

Their second child, Charles Augustus NAUDIN (1879-1950) was born 22 October 1879 in the European Hotel, Cooktown, of which Theo was the publican, and where they lived. Charles is interesting in that he invented and patented a device to facilitate a more efficient way of unloading coal from railway wagons. He was murdered by his son Victor Augustus NAUDIN in Newcastle in 1950.

In late 1880, it was reported that Theo Augustus was with a party that had sailed in search of bêche-de-mer (Sea Cucumber, aka Trepang) had been attacked and killed in James Bay, Basiliki Island by cannibal natives of a neighbouring New Guinea island.

Conflicting newspaper reports abound over the killings, but one report mentioned Bridget being in Brisbane during that period. What is known is that she moved down to Sydney in 1881 with her two sons, changed her first name to Frances, possibly to start a new life after losing her husband.

She then met up with George Valentine TURNBULL, with whom she had a son Herbert Louis on 19 June 1882 in Woolloomooloo, Sydney. They all moved to



Brisbane, and she married George that same year in Kangaroo Point, Brisbane on 1 November, 1882. They had five more children after Herbert and lived in Kangaroo Point, Brisbane.

When George's father William TURNBULL died in Balmain, Sydney in 1896, George and Frances moved back to Sydney, and Frances bought a house in her own name 30 October 1915 at 17 Rosser St, Rozelle. She died one year later 16 October 1916 in the house of myocarditis (a heart condition), colitis, acute. Her husband George was the informant. Although Bridget/Frances was born a Catholic, George was Anglican and so she was buried in the C of E cemetery, Field of Mars, and her husband later joined her in the same plot.

If anyone knows more about Bridget I would love to hear from you.

## Charles Bannister From the Workhouse to Australia

David Le Roy

Charles BANNISTER was born on 6 March 1907 at 145 Lyndhurst Road, Wood Green, Middlesex, England to Charles BANNISTER (goldsmith journeyman) and Edith Beatrice BANNISTER (née PYE). Wood Green is now one of the metropolitan centres in Greater London (within the London Borough of Haringey) but at the time of Charles' birth was a ward and chapelry in the western part of Tottenham parish in the historic county of Middlesex.



Charles Bannister with baby sister (Edith Beatrice Bannister) - taken about 1910.

By 1911 the family had moved to 10 Halefield Rd, Tottenham, Middlesex. In the census Charles (senior) is recorded as being an Insurance Agent and the family now included a daughter, Edith, who was born around 1910. The family appeared to be having financial difficulties, with Charles abandoning the family around this time and his wife and children seeking support from the parish.

To support the poor of the parish, the Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834 gave the Poor Law Commission the power to unite parishes in England and Wales into "Poor Law Unions". Each Union was administered by a local Board of Guardians. On 14 July 1913 Edith BANNISTER and her two children were admitted by the Board of Guardians to the St John's Road Workhouse in Islington (London). Charles (junior) would speak of these days in later years, describing the horror of drinking water from puddles but also how it brought him and his sister closer. Charles was discharged on 18 July 1913 from the workhouse to the Hornsey Rise Receiving Home. On 18 August 1913 he was admitted into the Board of Guardians school.

During this time his mother continued looking for Charles (senior) and he was eventually found to have left for Australia. Edith made the decision to take her two children and follow her husband, leaving England on 13 October 1914 from London (Tilbury) aboard the *Indrapura*. The *Indrapura* was built in 1911 by Swan, Hunter & Wigham Richardson Ltd in Wallsend (Tyne) and operated until 3 February 1917, when it was torpedoed & sunk by U-Boat U81 when on a voyage from London to Sydney. Charles arrived in Sydney, NSW, Australia with his mother and sister on 3 December 1914.



The New Islington Workhouse, <http://www.workhouses.org.uk/Islington>

Nothing is known of his early time in Australia until he joined NSW Railways on 2 January 1923 as a call boy (Clyde). He progressed to cleaner in 1925, electrical fitter's labourer in 1941 and held various positions until his retirement as a production control supervisor in 1968.

Charles married Elfrida Pauline KONEMANN (b. 30 October 1907) on 4 May 1929 in St Barnabas Church of England, Fairfield, NSW and they moved to Birriwa Ave, Enfield. NSW.

However, as the Depression hit they found themselves unable to afford the mortgage and by 1936 he and his family had moved to 223 River Ave, Carramar, NSW. They named the house "Wemala" to commemorate an incident where Charles was a fireman on a train on the Blue Mountains and, after the drivers lost control of the train they regained control of the train near a property called "Weemala" near Faulconbridge.



Charles Bannister and Elfrida Konemann wedding party. L-R: Charles Bannister (snr), Carl Konemann (jnr), Charles Bannister (jnr), Elfrida Konemann, Carl Konemann (snr), Marie Konemann and Edith Bannister.

Charles and Elfrida had three children:

- Elfrida Pauline BANNISTER born in 1930 at Enfield, NSW. She married Frederick Aloysious DAWSON in 1952 at Lidcombe, NSW;
- Charles Kenneth BANNISTER, born in 1934 at Fairfield, NSW and passed away on 8 July 1950 at Carramar, NSW; and
- Patricia Merle BANNISTER, born in 1936 at Fairfield, NSW. She married John Henry Thomas LE ROY in 1957 at Fairfield. Patricia and John gave Charles two grandsons – David (1960) and Peter (1966). A third grandson, Andrew, was born in 1971, a year after Charles' passing.

Charles was a renowned tenor, performing in the many local productions and events which were usually held at the Fairfield School of Arts. Among the events in which Charles performed, he sang at the annual "digger's smoko" in 1944 and in aid of St Joseph's Convent (where his songs were "well applauded") in 1945.



Charles Bannister dressed as "Nero" for a local production.

With the local government identifying the need for a hospital in the area, a Board of Directors was formed to look at how to proceed and this was followed a year later with the formation of a hospital auxiliary committee to raise funds for equipment and maintenance. The motion to form the auxiliary was proposed to a town meeting in July 1948 by Mr C IRELAND and seconded by Charles, who then continued as a committee member to represent the interests of the Fairfield Bowling Club. In the 1949 Annual General Meeting Charles was elected as one of the vice-presidents of the committee. By 1954 Charles was president of the auxiliary and pursued re-forming the auxiliary, which had ceased functioning. From a meeting he initiated, the Mayor was elected Chair of the Auxiliary and Charles assumed duties as Publicity Officer.

In addition to his serving on the hospital auxiliary committee, he was an active member of the Fairfield Bowling Club, joined the local Freemasons Lodge (to undertake community work) and was also a local Justice of the Peace.

A prominent member of the Fairfield Bowls Club since 1950, Charles sponsored a trophy for "fours" matches in 1956. This trophy was known as the "Charles BANNISTER trophy and was competed for until 1968.

Charles was initiated into the Freemasons on 17 January 1952 at Lodge 669 (Jonathan Green, Lidcombe), moving to Cabra Vale Lodge Number 885 on 19 June 1959. Charles attained the degree of Master Mason (3rd degree) on 10 July 1952 while still at Lodge Jonathan Green. While there is no record of any attainment of any further degrees, Charles did serve on the Investigations Committee in 1963/64 (the purpose of the Investigations Committee is to determine whether those joining the Freemasons are of 'good character' in support of their application to join).

Charles retired from NSW Railways on 10 February 1968 and concentrated on continuing to work on his garden and with his work in the community.

Charles died on 11 October 1970 in Fairfield District Hospital, Fairfield, from a pulmonary embolism, acute myocardial infarction and diabetes. He was cremated on 13 October 1970 at Rookwood Crematorium, Sydney and his remains are in the Memorial Garden at OU98.

## 150 Convicts

*This collection of short biographies is in commemoration of 150 years since the cessation of convict transportation to Australia. Many of our members have convict ancestors and they're no longer a shameful history to be swept under the carpet or lied about. We are hoping over the next three or four of The Ancestral Searcher issues to feature the diversity of the convicts which make up our members' heritage. Please send your entries to editor@familyhistoryact.org.au.*

\* (qv) 'quod vide' in some entries means the person has a bio in this article.

### Matilda FERGUSON (1821 – 1906)

**Michele Rainger**

Conviction: Assault and robbery, 1839, Dublin City, Ireland, 15 years

Transported: 1840, *Isabella* to Port Jackson

Matilda was born in Dublin about 1821. At just 18 she was found guilty of assault and robbery and sentenced to 15 years: apparently this was not her first offence so the penalty was heftier this time. She sailed from Kingstown Harbour aboard the *Isabella* in March 1840 and arrived in Port Jackson in July. Credit must go to Master Alexander MCAUSLAND and Surgeon Henry Walsh MAHON who saw all on board (119 female convicts, 25 children and 32 free emigrants, plus crew) arrive safe and healthy. No information has yet been found about Matilda's early days in NSW but she was received at the Female Factory in Newcastle at Christmas 1841. She was released in February 1842 so that she could marry Richard BONUS (Abt 1812 – 1858) a Ticket of Leave convict who was also from Ireland. Richard and Matilda had two children: Richard Jnr (born about 1844) and Thomas (1849 – 1902). Matilda's Ticket of Leave was issued in November 1846 but cancelled in February 1851 when she moved with her family to Armidale. It is unknown if it was ever restored. The family lived quietly farming land that Richard bought. By 1855 they had moved to the Rocky River goldfields near Uralla. Richard died here in 1858. In 1860 Matilda gave birth to another son known as William BONESS. Matilda disappeared from records after 1860 until her death at 85 years in 1906. But she is mentioned in Jeane UpJohn's book *They Came to Thunderbolt Country* when Bruce Smith, remembering his childhood at Rocky River around the late 1800s, noted that his sister Kate enjoyed caring for sick or elderly neighbours...

*Two of her charges were extremely old women, one known as 'Granny Boness'. Nobody knew how old she actually was, but it was generally believed that she had been a convict. Kate would often spend the night in Granny Boness' cottage for it was feared that the old woman might do herself an injury. She had a great fondness for rum, and a constant watch had to be kept; for no matter how careful her guardians were, she always seemed to be able to find a supply. Pg 23.*

### Aaron HARDING (c1789 -1851)

**Geof Watts**

Conviction: machine breaking (charged with 'having, with divers others, riotously and unlawfully assembled at Headley on the 23 November, and, when so assembled, feloniously pulled down and demolished the poorhouse of the

united parishes of Bramshott, Headley, and Kingsley'), 1830, Special Assizes held in Winchester, Hampshire, originally a sentence of death was recorded but this was commuted to transportation for life, aged 41.

Transported: 1831, *Eleanor* to Port Jackson.

Aaron, an agricultural labourer, was born near East Worldham, Hampshire around 1789. Aaron married Sarah STACEY at East Worldham on 7 August 1810 and they had 9 children. Sarah died in 1829. Although he was probably a leader of the riots that attempted to demolish the poorhouses of Headley and Selbourne, he was only charged with the attempted destruction of the Headley poorhouse. Before his departure from England, Aaron was held in the prison hulk *Hardy* at Portsmouth. Once Aaron arrived in New South Wales, he was assigned to John ATKINSON at his property Mereworth near Berrima. However, for much of 1836, he was held on the prison hulk *Phoenix* at Lavender Bay in Sydney Harbour as a witness for the crown. In May 1838, Aaron was granted a conditional pardon. Subsequently, he took up with Ellis SARGENT (nee PACKHAM) who had separated from her husband. Their son, Aaron, was born at Sutton Forest in 1845 and the three travelled overland to South Australia with the four younger children from Ellis' previous marriage. In South Australia, they had another son, William, born on 2 April 1848. Aaron, aged 62, was killed in an accident on 6 November 1851 while driving a bullock dray near Gawler.



Aaron HARDING, Ellis SARGENT and their son William. about 1848, South Australia

### **William HARDY (1814-1883)**

**June McKenzie**

William was born at Newcastle-on-Tyne in 1814. In 1838 he was tried in the Durham Assizes and convicted of stealing money, a highwayman, and sentenced to 10 years transportation. He arrived per *Lord Lyndoch* the same year. His Ticket Of Leave was issued at Parramatta in 1843 and his Certificate Of Freedom in 1849. He worked as a ship's carpenter in the Maitland area, where he married Sarah MILES in 1851. My grandmother, born in 1866, was their 7th child out of a family of 10. He died at 69 years and was buried at Maitland Cemetery in Telarah.

### **James (Proctor) HARREX (1766 – 1825)**

**Brian Christensen**

*(The middle name was adopted later in life)*

Conviction: Sheep stealing, 1795 Bury St. Edmonds, Sussex Sentenced death later commuted to 14 years transportation Age 29.

Transported 1797 *Ganges* to Port Jackson

Not much is known about James HARREX's first few years in the colony, but in 1810 he was appointed government contractor for roads and bridges. At some point, HARREX was employed as an overseer, and befriended by, the

Revd. Samuel MARSDEN. The relationship between MARSDEN and HARREX was apparently quite strong and MARSDEN was nominated as the executor of HARREX's will. HARREX acquired much land and died a rich man

Transported on the *Ganges* with HARREX was Thomas TABER (qv). In 1807, HARREX married TABER's daughter, Frances Sarah. Together they had seven children, all but one of whom survived to maturity. In 1838, their son, Frederick James, was convicted of embezzling his employer, Thomas CAMPBELL of Duntroon. He was transported from Sydney to Van Dieman's Land. Thus the family has the distinction(?) of having two generations of convicts.

### **Joseph LOWEN (c1811-1907)**

**Helen Cohen**

At the Hertford Midsummer Assizes in 1833, twenty-two year old farm labourer Joseph LOWEN was convicted of stealing and sentenced to seven years transportation. After seven months on the prison hulk, *HMS Hardy*, in Portsmouth harbour he sailed to Van Diemens Land in the convict ship *Arab* (2). Joseph was physically tough and emotionally resilient; he completed his convict sentence, married, raised a family and lived to age 96.

### **John OYSTON (1819-1902)**

**Chris Oyston**

Conviction: theft of a pair of shoes, 1836, age 16, Newcastle Assizes, 7 years.

Transported: 1836, *Lady Nugent* to Van Diemen's Land.

Born 24 May 1819, a native of South Shields, County Durham, England. Parents may have been Cuthbert and Isabella OYSTON. First offence at 14 as accomplice to theft, receiving a silk handkerchief. Sentenced 12 months to House of Correction in Carloli Square but served only two. Then 16 March 1836, was convicted of theft of a pair of shoes and sentenced to transportation. He spent 4 months from March to July on *HMS Euralyus* moored at Chatham. Here he was reported as 'bad, a convicted felon and a repeat offender' also that he was orderly and single. Four months later, the *Lady Nugent* sailed from Sheerness 14 July 1836 with 286 convicts on board, via the Cape of Good Hope. Arrived VDL 121 days later on 12 November 1836, as Convict No 1980, 5 feet 3 inches tall, aged 16 years. His trade was logged as sea boy. Tattoo of woman inside left arm and 'JO' tattooed inside right arm.

Assigned to Marine Department in George Town at Low Head Pilot Station as a Waterman on the Tamar River. His charge sheet shows insubordination, gambling on a Sunday, misconduct – admonished, absent from church muster, late for a muster. Gained his Ticket of Leave in 1841, Conditional Pardon on 24 May 1842, Freedom Certificate No. 216 was confirmed on 31 Oct 1846, ten years after sentencing. Requested three times to marry his woman, Mary SMITH (qv). First two occasions, were refused due to her conduct and 'contry (sic) way'. Finally approved 17 June 1843. Married on 10 July of 1843. They had eight children: John jnr 1843, Mary Jane c1844-45, Henry Cuthbert 1846, John and his family move to Port Adelaide in October 1847. Births in SA were: Alfred Arthur 1848, Sarah Ellen c1850, Thomas (VIC) 1853, Cerina c1854, Eliza Ann 1854, Francis James 1857 and Albert James 1862.

Mary died in 1882 and John became a father again to Jane WILSON 1884 with Hanna WILLIAMS nee WILSON in Port Adelaide. They married 1892. Various occupations listed as Waterman, Carpenter, Chaff Merchant and Carter. Purchased land in the Portland Estate area in 1852. His death reported as 27 Jul 1902 in Port Adelaide SA age 82 and buried with first wife Mary, son Albert and Jane DAVEY (daughter of Hannah). Elevated from convict to respected member of the community, property owner, successful businessman, some military service, local council, Port Adelaide Masonic Lodge and publican.

### Elizabeth PULLEY (c1762-1837)

*Julie Austin*

Conviction: March 1783 Thetford Assizes, repeat offender, found guilty of stealing a large quantity of food and two rolls of worsted fabric from a shopkeeper in Hethersett, England, sentenced to death, later changed to transportation, aged 20.

Transported: 1788, *Friendship and Prince of Wales* (First Fleet) to Port Jackson

Elizabeth was born in Felthorpe, Norfolk, England and was baptised on 21 February 1762 at St Margarets in Felthorpe. Her parents were listed as Tobias and Alice PULLY. She was orphaned at the age of six with three younger brothers. Elizabeth was charged four times for theft during her teenage years, spending 3 weeks in Wymondham Bridewell, publicly whipped in the Wymondham market in 1780 and then in 1781 gaoled for 12 months in Aylsham Bridewell with hard labour.

After being sentenced to death, she spent the next few years in Norwich Castle gaol, with fellow prison mates and first fleet convicts Henry KABLE and Susannah HOLMES, before being put on the *Friendship* in 1787 bound for Botany Bay. During the journey Elizabeth was kept in irons for 72 days as one of the infamous fighting five Elizabeths that Lt Ralph CLARK referred to in his diary as damned whores. In Cape Town she was transferred to the *Prince of Wales* with other female convicts to make way for animals and supplies.

Elizabeth PULLEY died on 9 August 1837 aged 75 years (her stone reads 80 years), her husband Anthony ROPE (qv) died on 20 April 1843 aged 88 years (his stone reads 89 years). Anthony and Elizabeth are buried with extended family members and friends in Castlereagh Anglican Cemetery.

*Extracted from ropepulley.org. Provided by Julie Austin, great x 4 granddaughter of Anthony ROPE and Elizabeth PULLEY.*



*The market place in Wymondham where Elizabeth was publicly whipped in 1780*

### Anthony ROPE (1756-1843)

*Julie Austin*

Conviction: 10 March 1785 Chelmsford, England, found guilty of stealing clothing and coins to the value of 35 shillings, seven years, age 29

Transported: 1788, *Alexander* (First Fleet) to Port Jackson

Anthony ROPE was baptised on 1 August 1756 at St Marys, Norton Subcourse, Norfolk, England. He came from a family of carpenters and bricklayers. He was convicted in 1785 of stealing clothing and money worth 35 shillings and sentenced to transportation for seven years. He would have spent the first two years of his sentence in gaol or the hulks, before sailing on the First Fleet aboard the *Alexander*, the largest convict transport ship in the fleet with 195 other male convicts. In Sydney he was set to work at the brickfields located near where Central Station now stands.

Anthony married Elizabeth PULLEY (qv), a fellow First Fleet convict, on 19 May 1788 in a service conducted by the Reverend Richard Johnson. Robert ROPE, the first of Anthony and Elizabeth's eight children, was born in October 1788 as one of the first white children conceived in the new settlement making him an original "currency lad".

In July 1791, Anthony with 13 other ex-convicts, was granted land at The Ponds, which is now Dundas. This farm was sold and the family moved several times to farms at Toongabbie, Mulgrave Place near Windsor, Badgery's Farm on the Nepean River near Richmond, and Jordan Hill in what is now Llandilo. The nearby suburb of Ropes Crossing is named after Anthony.

Anthony and Elizabeth had eight children: Robert (1788 - c1835), Mary (1791-1872), Elizabeth (1794 - pre 1806), John (1795 - 1845), Sarah (1798 - 1882), Susannah (c1800 - 1883), William (1805 - 1834), Elizabeth Ann (1808 - 1889).

### Mary SMITH (1821-1882)

*Chris Oyston*

Conviction: theft, 1839, age 18, Lancaster/Liverpool Assizes, 7 years

Transported: 1840, *Gilbert Henderson* to Van Diemen's Land

Born County Down, Ireland. Parents possibly James SMITH and Catherine WILLIAMSON. Her offence for transportation was Larceny, pleading guilty to stealing 47 silk articles from a shop. There were 2 previous offences - imprisoned for 3 months each - shoplifting and assault. Arrived VDL April of 1840 and allocated Convict No.404. Four foot 11 inches, scar on left cheek and heart on her left shoulder. Accommodated Launceston, assigned to Mr I. LAMB, Launceston. Convict record makes interesting reading: disorderly conduct, absent without leave, gross obscene language, out after hours, misconduct, having been brought to bed an illegitimate child. Some of these several times and for which she received the birch, hard labour, Criminal Class Female House of Correction and solitary confinement (without food). Her illegitimate child in May 1843 coincides with the birth of John OYSTON junior. Two other children



*Graves of Anthony and Elizabeth in the Castlereagh Cemetery*

*... continued on page 227.*



## Vale Rhonda Aynsley Kerr

*Fellow of The Heraldry & Genealogy Society of Canberra Inc.*

It is with regret that I advise the passing of Rhonda Kerr FHGS on 5 November 2018. Rhonda was a very distinguished, active and much respected member of the Society and always had the best interests of the Society at heart.



*Rhonda Kerr, President, speaking at the HAGSOC 40th Anniversary celebrations.*

Rhonda joined the Society in May 1992. She was a very keen family historian and was always generous with her support to new members in furthering their research.

Rhonda rendered outstanding service to the Society until she needed to reduce her activities due to failing health.

Indicative of her involvement in Society affairs she was a Councillor and Membership Secretary from November 1999 to 2003, Vice President during 2003 and 2004 and President for the period 2004-2006.

During her period of membership Rhonda was convener of the Scottish Special Interest Group, and in 2003, created and was coordinator of the Writers Special Interest Group which encouraged members to write stories of their family. Some members

published their stories and they were bound utilising Rhonda's bookbinding skills. This activity continues today. Rhonda organised several bus trips for members to places of historical and family interest like North Head Sydney and Goulburn. These activities were undertaken at no cost to the Society.

With a small group of members she undertook a project of recording Memorials and gifts in Anglican churches in Canberra, Queanbeyan and Yass. This project culminated in the publication of a Compact Disk entitled Keeping the Faith and is available in the Society's library.

In addition to her other Society activities in 2002 Rhonda was instrumental in forming a group of 12 Society members to volunteer to work one day a week in the National Archives of Australia (NAA) recording details of service personnel and other family related records. This activity continued for 15 years until the NAA was closed for alterations and the construction of new premises. The outcome of the

Society member's efforts resulted in this valuable information being available on the NAA web site to Society and members of the general public.

Similarly Rhonda was very generous with her time in presenting half hour weekly family history discussions on Canberra Radio One Print Handicapped; a program for the disabled.

In 2014, Rhonda compiled a book to celebrate the Society's 50th anniversary, *We are Family, The first 50 years of HAGSOC in Canberra*. A history based on member experiences, the book was a labour of love for Rhonda as she reminisced about members past and present and many of the Society traditions and activities.



Rhonda had a significant book collection and prior to her moving to Queensland for health reasons she donated 20 boxes of her books to the Society; some of which are available to members and the balance are for sale.

The Society will miss this generous, energetic and conscientious member and the attributes she brought to the Society.

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## Writing Competition

The HAGSOC Writing Competition is a new initiative launching in February 2019. Entrants will compete for the E.M. Fletcher Writing Award, named in honour of Society Fellow the late Eunice Fletcher.

Entries for the best short story of 1500 – 2000 words on a family history or genealogy theme will be judged and in contention to win prizes including a monetary award. Our judges for the 2019 competition are:

**Cora Num** is a HAGSOC Fellow, researcher, author and lecturer. Cora is well known throughout the family history community and her website Coraweb is internationally recognised;

**David Coombe** is a HAGSOC member and self-published author. He enjoys writing niche history, has a special interest in Colonial art and maintains a website of his writing interests.

**Mary Lynn Mather** graduated from the University of Adelaide in 2015 with a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), Creative Writing and wrote a novel as research for her PhD. She has worked as a writer, journalist and editor and is presently a lecturer in Creative Writing at CIT Solutions and University of Canberra.

This is a great opportunity for members to share their writing and is a forum to foster the preservation of family history research through stories. Look out for more information about the launch and how to enter the competition in the new year. In the meantime, please direct any questions or feedback to [writingcompetition@familyhistoryact.org.au](mailto:writingcompetition@familyhistoryact.org.au).

# Hot Sites

Cora Num FHGS

## [www.webarchive.org.uk](http://www.webarchive.org.uk)

The UK Web Archive (UKWA) is archiving and preserving selected key UK sites to ensure permanent online access and availability for future generations. The UKWA is a collaboration between the Bodleian Libraries, Oxford University, British Library, Cambridge University Libraries, National Library of Scotland, National Library of Wales and Trinity College, Dublin. Use this site to discover old or obsolete versions of UK websites, search the text of the websites or explore over 100 collections of websites brought together by librarians, curators and other experts.



**TIP:** Use the *Search* box to search for surnames and other key words of interest across all the archived websites.

## [archive.org/details/nationallibraryofscotland](http://archive.org/details/nationallibraryofscotland)

The Internet Archive has 4,859+ digitised items from the National Library of Scotland. These include army, navy and air force lists, directories, Scottish family history books (430+ most are family histories), Scottish gazetteers and much more.



## [www.pressreader.com](http://www.pressreader.com)

PressReader is a subscription site that offers access to 7,400+ current newspapers and magazines in 60 languages from 120 countries. There are 367 Australian publications. Use the hamburger icon top left side to access the publications list. Access is in full colour and page format on your desktop computer, tablet or phone.

**TIP:** PressReader is available for free from home using eResources from the National Library of Australia and all Australian state and territory libraries. The National Library of Australia offers free home access to all residents of Australia. State and territory libraries



offer free home access to residents of that state or territory. All you need is the relevant library card.

## [www.derrystrabane.com/Subsites/Museums-and-Heritage/City-Cemetery-Records-Project](http://www.derrystrabane.com/Subsites/Museums-and-Heritage/City-Cemetery-Records-Project)

The burial registers of Derry City cemetery, Londonderry Ireland, database 1853-1916 offers free access to 36,000+ burial records transcribed by community volunteers. These records list deceased name, parents, birth, residence, age, death date, burial date, grave location, cemetery, proprietor, residence of proprietor and reference.



## [publishing.nla.gov.au/pages/about-nla-publishing.do](http://publishing.nla.gov.au/pages/about-nla-publishing.do)

NLA Publishing is part of the National Library of Australia and has been producing books since 1995. Collaborating with Australia's leading writers, designers and illustrators, NLA Publishing produces over 20 publications a year. There are over 70 eBook titles that can be downloaded for free. Titles include:

*Taken at Tilba* by W.H. Corkhill (1846-1936) documented many aspects of the inhabitants of the tiny twin settlements of Tilba Tilba and Central Tilba, on the south coast of New South Wales — farming, gold mining, shipbuilding and road making — and their rich and varied social life. His rapport with his sitters draws the observer into their world.

*The Gundagai Album* - In 1971 the National Library of Australia was given some 900 glass negatives of Gundagai. Of the collection found by chance, 120 selected plates are reproduced in this book. The photographs were taken at the turn of the century and are believed to be the work of Charles Louis Gabriel, a doctor who added an exotic French flavour to that loyal bastion of the British Empire, Gundagai.

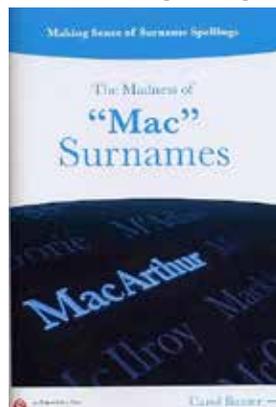


*The Lycett Album* by Joseph Lycett (c. 1775-1828). Joseph was convicted of forgery and transported to Australia in 1814. During the period he spent in the colony Lycett recorded many aspects of the life and landscape of Australia. The album of watercolour sketches reproduced here contains one of the few series of works which document the life and use of the land by Aboriginal people in the early colonial period.

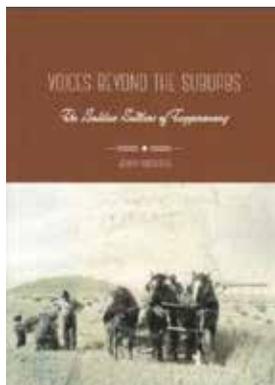
# Hot Sources No. 142

Cora Num FHGS

BAXTER Carol, *Making Sense of Surname Spellings: The Madness of "Mac" Surnames*, Unlock the Past, St Agnes, SA, 2018. 72p. If you have determined that 'Mc' and 'Mac' surnames are the most complicated surnames originating in the British Isles, you need to read this book. And if you haven't already worked that out, you desperately need to read this book. For example, imagine if you were researching the surname McClarence and, to your surprise, you stumbled across a variant McLawrence. And you were researching McLachlan and saw it written McGloughlan. And you were researching McGuigan and found McQuigan, and you saw McQuade written as McWade, and McWright written as McRight and McReady as McCready. By this stage you have gone all the way from 'McC' to 'McL' to 'McG' to 'McQ' to 'McW' to 'McR' and back to 'McC'. You would have every reason for tearing your hair out in confusion and thinking 'This



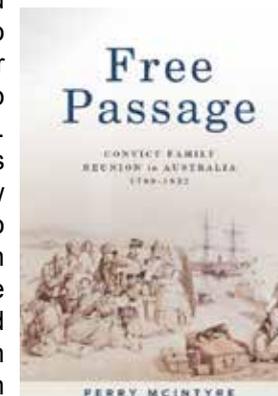
Is All Too Hard!' Well, don't despair. there are logical reasons for all of these spelling exchanges. In fact, they are all predictable once you understand the sounds and letters of the English language and how they influence 'Mac' and 'Mc' surnames. The aim of this book is to communicate that information. The Madness of 'Mac' Surnames is not a surname dictionary. It is a foundational guide to help you find other ways of spelling your 'Mac' surnames of interest. Never again will you feel as if you are wandering around in a confusing maze as you try to work out variant spellings for the 'Mac' surnames of your ancestors.



HORSFIELD Jenny, *Voices Beyond the Suburbs: The Soldier Settlers of Tuggeranong*, Nov 2018, publishing details not available. ISBN: 9780648120919. In 1920, eight men who had served in the Great War took up soldier settler blocks at Tuggeranong, on land that had formerly belonged to the Cunningham family. They faced years of uncertain markets, isolation, drought, weed infestation and the rabbit plague in a decade that was to test the strongest of men and culminate in the Depression. This is their story.

McINTYRE, Perry. *Free Passage: Convict Family Reunion in Australia 1788-1852*, Anchor Books Australia, Spit Junction, NSW, 2018. 195p. This book tells

the story of convict men and their wives who petitioned the government to enable women and their families to immigrate to Australia. These convict men and their families worked the system set up by government to encourage family life in the developing settlements. This book traces the complex and changing regulations governing convict family reunion, showing how personal negotiation influenced the outcome. It also examines the individual experiences of convict men and the families left behind when their menfolk were transported. Petitions from wives in England and Ireland are examined and for the first time these women become key players in the story of immigration, which is linked to transportation and convict reformation.

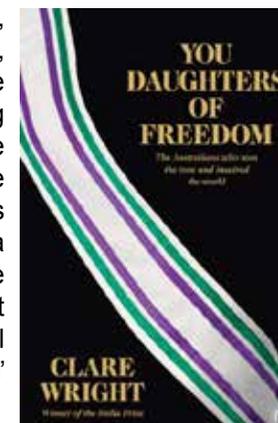


SPEARRITT Peter, *Where History Happened: The Hidden Past of Australia's Towns and Places*, NLA Publishing, Canberra, 2018. 232p. This book reveals



the hidden past of some of Australia's most intriguing towns and places, from mining settlements and whaling stations to monuments and historic houses in our capital cities. The stories that emerge, of remote religious communities, isolated penal colonies, places of Indigenous incarceration and environmental degradation and rejuvenation, describe a vast and complex country, with a heritage worth preserving. Part social, architectural, military, political and industrial history, part road trip travel companion, this book has something for every reader.

WRIGHT Clare, *You Daughters of Freedom: The Australians Who Won the Vote and Inspired the World*, Text Publishing Company, Melbourne, 2018. 553p. For the ten years from 1902, when Australia's suffrage campaigners won the vote for white women, the world looked to this trailblazing young democracy for inspiration. This book tells the story of that victory - and of Australia's role in the subsequent international struggle through the eyes of five remarkable players - the redoubtable Vida Goldstein, the flamboyant Nellie Martel, indomitable Dora Montefiore, daring Muriel Matters, and artist Dora Meeson Coates, who painted the controversial Australian banner carried in the British suffragettes' monster marches of 1908 and 1911.



# From Our Contemporaries

Peter Kennedy & Pauline Bygraves

The items selected for this column are taken from some of the many overseas journals received by the Society - they usually mention Australia in some form or may be of general interest to Australian researchers. If you have an interest in a particular country or location, there will often be other relevant material - recently received journals are on display at the front of the Library.

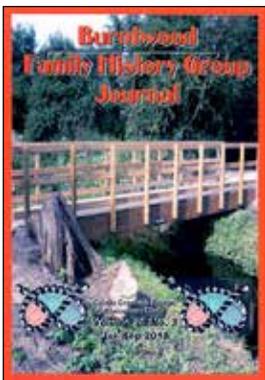
The facts are as stated in the item concerned and have not been separately checked. E-journals are accessible on the computers in the overseas room, where they can be accessed using the Index List. If you have any comments or suggestions, please email the editor@familyhistoryact.org.au.

## AUSTRALIA

- Matthew CLAYSON and Charles John BLACKLEY were two of the Australian volunteers who worked in the UK during World War I under the Australian Munitions Workers Scheme - both died in the UK and are buried there. Sue HOLMES has a list of another 60 volunteers, and asks that people contact her if they have a connection with these volunteers. *Woolwich and District FHSJ Aug 2018 n140 p11 (NKe9/60/04)*.
- Jennifer HARRISON: "Australian Irish Connections: All Creatures Great and Small". *Irish Roots 3rd Qtr 2018 n107 p26 (R9/60/04)*.
- Private Walter TOWERS, Australian Infantry, is shown as a WWI additional name on the memorial in the Bonnybridge Memorial Garden, Scotland. *Central Scotland FHSJ Autumn 2018 no 55 p23 (electronic journal)*.

## ENGLAND

- Donald ALLSHORN (1876-1958), youngest son of Adolphus Hahnemann ALLSHORN (1844-1889) from his first marriage, settled in Australia in 1909. *Suffolk Roots Mar 2018 v43 n4 p301 (electronic journal)*.



- Steve BOOTH: "Chimney Sweeps and Climbing Boys". *Burntwood FHGS Jul 2018 v26 n3 p8 (Nst9/60/01)*.
- Thomas King FLETCHER, born at Bottisham, near Cambridge, and his wife Susan had three children, Charlotte, Susan and Thomas. Charlotte who was born in 1826, married in 1851 and migrated to Australia in 1854. She died of cholera on board ship. Her sister, Susan, who operated under the alias Sally KING, was convicted of pick-pocketing and sentenced to 11 years transportation to Van Diemen's Land. *Suffolk Roots Jun 2018 v44 n1 p37 (electronic journal)*.

- Tony KEMP: talk on history of EMI. *Hillingdon FHSJ Sept 2018 n123 p35 (electronic journal)*.
- Major PAGE (a farmer and not a military officer), his wife Margaret (nee PETTIFER) and children Richard, Dorothy and Margaret emigrated from Bowling Green Farm in Powick (between Malvern and Worcester) to South Australia in 1956. The farm was part of the Croome Estate, then owned by the Earl of Coventry. *Tree Tappers Autumn 2018 v28 p8 (electronic journal)*.
- Selina PASHLEY was born in Goldthorpe, West Riding of Yorkshire in 1911. After her husband retired, he and Selina followed their daughter, Barbara ALDERTON, to Australia. *Domus Historiae Oct 2018 v26 n4 p4 (electronic journal)*
- Coral SUTCLIFFE was born in Hebden Bridge, West Yorkshire in 1906. Coral migrated to Australia in 1923 with her brother (Donald) and her parents. Her brother became friends with Victor METIANEN (who had been born in Leningrad). Coral and Victor married in 1931 and travelled to Russia with a workers delegation - they remained in Russia working, and had a daughter Kaola. In 1938 Carol and Victor were arrested in the purges - Victor was executed and Carol was released in the late 1940s when she remarried, and had a son Valery. Carol died in 1966 in Odessa. *Doncaster Ancestor Summer 2018 v28 n2 p14 (NYo9/60/05)*.
- Henry TREASE, a brewer's agent, married Ann, the daughter of William Bartholomew SALISBURY from Staffordshire. Henry died in 1897. Before Henry died, he and Ann were living apart, and Henry was looking after their children in Dudley. Ann went to Melbourne on the *Orient* in 1884 with William CLARKE, and married him in 1899 after Henry's death. *Hillingdon FHSJ Sept 2018 n123 p24 (electronic journal)*.
- Frank WYATT (who was born in 1872 in Chigwell, Essex) migrated to Melbourne in 1911 on the *Geelong* with one of his sons, Francis George WYATT, ahead of the rest of the family (who came out on the *Ballarat* in 1912). Their fares were paid for by George Frederick WYATT, Frank's younger brother, who had been manager of Robert SCOTT's Antarctic Expedition. *Roots in the Forest Sep 2018 p26 (NLo9/60/02)*.



## GENERAL

- Judith HANKEY: "Using DNA to help your family history research, some personal experience - Part 2". *Shropshire FHSJ Sep 2018 v39 p106 (NSH9/60/01)*.

- First World War timeline: 1 October to 31 December 1918 - this is continuation of previous timelines noted in earlier articles. *Domus Historiae Oct 2018 v26 n4 p25* (electronic journal).

## IRELAND

- Mary CASTELEYN & Bernie KIRWAN: graveyard inscriptions in County Kilkenny. *Irish Roots 3rd Qtr 2018 n107 p22 (R9/60/04)*.
- William MITCHELL was born in 1906 in Ballinree, Tipperary, a son of Alexander McGregor MITCHELL (a land steward) and Isabella Storey LAURIE. William became a railway apprentice and then joined the P&O Company. He worked on a number of P&O vessels on trips to Australia: *Kashgar, Mooltan, Maloja*, and *Strathnaver*. On the outbreak of WWII William was mobilised and placed on active service, finally serving on the *Rajputana*, a P&O vessel that had been converted into an armed merchant cruiser. William died when the *Rajputana* was torpedoed in 1941 between Greenland and Iceland. *Scottish Genealogist 2018 vLXV n3 p85 (P9/60/01)*.
- James G RYAN: "Tracing Your County Tipperary Ancestors". *Irish Roots 3rd Qtr 2018 n107 p10 (R9/60/04)*.
- Claire SANTRY reviews recent Irish genealogical publications. *Irish Roots 3rd Qtr 2018 n107 p20 (R9/60/04)*.

## SCOTLAND

- Alexander BERRY was born on St Andrew's Day 1781 - Alexander was the son of Isabel TOD and James BERRY. In 1801 Alexander BERRY qualified as a doctor. After a trading venture to Australia with the *Rapador*, which was renamed the *City of Edinburgh*, Alexander formed a trading partnership with Edward WOLLSTONECRAFT, a cousin of Mary (GODWIN) SHELLEY. Alexander eventually married Edward's sister, Elizabeth - they had no children. They settled at Coolangatta in the Shoalhaven River valley. Some of Alexander's siblings also came to Coolangatta to help with the management, but they also had no children. Greg BISHOP now runs Alexander's Restaurant on part of the old Coolangatta estate. *Fife FHSJ Feb 2018 n41 p19* (electronic journal).
- Robert BURTON (b1815), son of Robert BURTON and Helen ARMOUR, was transported to WA in 1852 on the *Dudbrook* for forgery. *Fife FHSJ Feb 2018 n41 p33* (electronic journal). (See also issue for *Spring 2016 n36 p37*).
- Andrew CAMPBELL, editor of the Fife FHSJ, has compiled the "Fife Kalendar of Convicts 1790-1880" - over 2,000 pages now available on CD - "an indexing to many of the Courts in Fife, as well as the High Court Records (AD14 precognitions and JC26 Trial Records, which have been indexed up to 1900). ... For those convicts who were transported, we have searched the Australian Convict Records held on Ancestry." *Fife FHSJ Feb 2018 n41 p3* (electronic journal).

- William CLARK (b 1845) was transported to WA in 1866 on the *Corona* for rape. *Fife FHSJ Feb 2018 n41 p33* (electronic journal). (See also issue for *Spring 2016 n36 p36*).
- Thomas Blyth COMLOQUOY, son of Alexander (Sandy) COMOLOQUOY and Ann LINKLATER, was born in 1842. He departed for New Zealand in 1864, but disembarked at Melbourne, drawn by stories of a gold rush. He met and married Mary Ann MONTGOMERY at Ballarat, with whom he had a son, Thomas. He also fathered an illegitimate son, Thomas, with Ann JOHNSTON prior to his departure from Birsay, although he may not have known. *SIB Folk News Sep 2018 n87 p11* (electronic journal).
- Agnes DAVIDSON (born 1813) was transported to Tasmania on the *Duchess of Northumberland* in 1852. Agnes married William MILLS in 1855. *Fife FHSJ Feb 2018 n41 p34* (electronic journal). (See also issue for *Spring 2016 n36 p39*).
- William FIRTH, son of James FIRTH and Jane CURSITER was born in Orkney in 1855. In 1877 he purchased a ticket for his passage from London to Cape Town. In 1886 he arrived at Melbourne on board the *Australasian*. He married Betsey DICKSON there in 1887, a week after she had arrived on the ship *Orizaba*. She too was from Orkney. *SIB Folk News Sep 2018 n87 p3* (electronic journal).
- David Liddle KENNEDY, a tailor, (aged 18 in 1822 - a native of Stirlingshire), his sister-in-law Janet DOUGLAS (from Inverness) and Janet McCULLOCH (the wife of Andrew MORRISON, weaver - now in Aberdeen) were all transported to NSW in 1823 for "uttering forged notes": David on the *Henry*; and both women on the *Mary*. *Fife FHSJ Feb 2018 n41 p35* (electronic journal). (See also issue for *Spring 2016 n36 p39*).
- Catherine LANGLANDS (born 1806), the daughter of Alexander LANGLANDS and Hannah NISH, was transported to Tasmania in 1838 on the *Nautilus* for theft "her disciplinary record as a convict was not good" *Fife FHSJ Feb 2018 n41 p35* (electronic journal). (See also issue for *Spring 2016 n36 p42*).
- Alexander Campbell MACPHERSON, son of Lt-Col Duncan MACPHERSON (1782-1852) and Annie Brodie CAMPBELL (1781-1865), was born at Dublin in 1821 and died at South Yarra, Australia in 1911. *Highland FHS Aug 2018 v36 n4 p6* (electronic journal).
- James McKAY, aged 4, arrived at Sydney, NSW on the *Wanata* in September 1864, along with his parents John and Catherine (nee JACK) and siblings Catherine, William, Barbara, Margaret, John, Ann and Jessie. John's elder brother Ronald was already living at Purfleet, Manning River. *Highland FHS Aug 2018 v36 n4 p12* (electronic journal).
- James MOORE was born in Dysart and married Christian ROBERTSON in 1844. Christian was also born in Dysart. James was transported to WA

in 1855 on the *Adelaide* for assault. At least two of James' daughters - Margaret and Mary - had arrived in WA by 1860. *Fife FHSJ Feb 2018 n41 p36* (electronic journal). (See also issue for *Spring 2016 n36 p43*).

- Alison MORRISON married William GREIG in Cupar in 1830 but the couple separated shortly afterwards. Alison was transported to Tasmania in 1836 on the *Westmoreland* for theft. Alison married Mark EWEN in Bothwell Tasmania in 1850 and they had one son, William EWEN. *Fife FHSJ Feb 2018 n41 p37* (electronic journal). (See also issue for *Spring 2016 n36 p44*).
- Thomas MOYES (born 1795 - native of Dunfermline), son of James MOYES and Mary STRACHAN, married Elizabeth REID, the daughter of Henry REID and Rachel DEWAR. Thomas was transported to Tasmania in 1842 on the *Eden* for assaulting his wife. *Fife FHSJ Feb 2018 n41 p37* (electronic journal). (See also issue for *Spring 2016 n36 p44*).
- James PITHIE (or SPITHY) was born in 1835 in Montrose. James was transported to WA in 1860 on the *Palmerston* for the theft of a silver watch. After a conditional pardon, James remained in Champion Bay WA as a shepherd, hutkeeper and labourer. *Fife FHSJ Feb 2018 n41 p38* (electronic journal). (See also issue for *Spring 2016 n36 p45*).
- Chris PATON: talk: "Genealogy Without Borders: the importance of exploring cousin lines and the overseas Diaspora" *Central Scotland FHSJ Autumn 2018 no 55 p7* (electronic journal).
- William RAMSAY and his wife Mary HUBBARD had four children, including Eliza Alice who married William SHARP and migrated to Australia. Mrs W H SHARP was living at Islington, Redfern, Sydney in 1897, when her name appeared in two death notices in *The Sydney Morning Herald*: one for her father William RAMSAY and the other for her aunt Elizabeth RAMSAY. The notices indicated that RAMSAY family were formerly of Stonehaven, Scotland. *Aberdeen & NE Scotland FHS Aug 2018 n148 p13* (electronic journal).
- James REID (born Fossoway about 1835), son of John REID, was transported to WA in 1867/68 on the *Hougoumont* for theft. After release James remained in Albany WA. *Fife FHSJ Feb 2018 n41 p38* (electronic journal). (See also issue for *Spring 2016 n36 p45*).
- Nathaniel (or Nathan) Donaldson SCOTT (born 1822) was the son of Robert SCOTT (1786-1875) and Elizabeth (or Betty) WOOD. Robert had fought in the Peninsula Campaign and was one of those beside Sir John MORE when he fell. Nathaniel was transported to Tasmania in 1844 on the *William*



*Jardine* for theft. *Fife FHSJ Feb 2018 n41 p39* (electronic journal). (See also issue for *Spring 2016 n36 p46*).

- William SHEDFORTH (or SHADDEN/SHEDDEN) (born 1814 - a journeyman weaver), a son of William SHADFORTH and Jane (or Jean) RUSSELL, was transported to Tasmania on the *Duchess of Northumberland* in 1842 for assault. *Fife FHSJ Feb 2018 n41 p41* (electronic journal). (See also issue for *Spring 2016 n36 p48*).
- Thomas SUTTIE (born about 1807) married Janet RICHARD (from Edinburgh) in 1838. Thomas was the son of an innkeeper in Leven, and was transported to Tasmania in 1844 on the *Sir Robert Peel* for theft by housebreaking. *Fife FHSJ Feb 2018 n41 p42* (electronic journal). (See also issue for *Spring 2016 n36 p49*).
- Ebenezer TEMPLEMAN (born 1818), son of Robert TEMPLEMAN and Grizel CARRINS (CAIRNS) was transported to NSW in 1832 on the *Camden* for theft by housebreaking. After receiving a Ticket Of Leave in 1842, Ebenezer remained in the district of Yass, NSW. *Fife FHSJ Feb 2018 n41 p43* (electronic journal). (See also issue for *Spring 2016 n36 p50*).
- Ashleigh THOMPSON: "Edinburgh City Archives, who we are and what we hold". *Scottish Genealogist 2018 vLXV n3 p77 (P9/60/01)*. (A previous article on Edinburgh City Archives in *Central Scotland FHS Sep 2010 n41 p8 (RSti9/60/1)*).
- James TIVENDALE (born 1826 Lundin Mill, Fifeshire), his wife Janet SKEIL (also born 1826 Lundin Mill, Fifeshire) and their two children migrated to Australia in 1853 on the *Childe Harold*. Amelia LAING (baptised 1814 Cults, Fifeshire) was transported to Tasmania on the *Rajah* in 1840 for the theft of children's clothing. Amelia married John HARRIS, also a convict, in Tasmania in 1843. In 1908 at Officer in Victoria George Frederick TIVENDALE, the grandson of James TIVENDALE, married Ethel Georgeann HARRIS, the granddaughter of Amelia LAING. *Fife FHSJ Feb 2018 n41 p16* (electronic journal).
- More material about Captain James Renton WATTERS and his wife Eliza Ann TITTER who settled at Melbourne in 1874 where eight children were born. *SIB Folk News Sep 2018 n87 p8* (see also *SIB Folk News Sep 2016 n79 p14*) (electronic journal).
- John Gray WILSON, son of John Gray WILSON (Snr) and Mary Jane SHEARER, was born in 1908, five months after his father's death. In 1939 he was working in Australia, before returning to Orkney. Following the unexpected death of his brother, Andrew, in 1954, John returned to Australia. Andrew's widow Wilma Audrey COOK joined him and they married in 1956. John died at Ipswich in 1963. Wilma returned to Orkney in 1990 and died there in 1998. *SIB Folk News Sep 2018 n87 p14* (electronic journal)

# Society Education and Social Activities

## January to March 2019

*Unless otherwise stated, all activities are held in the HAGSOC Education Room at the Cook Community Hub. Bookings not required for Monthly meetings, Special Interest Group meetings (open only to members), or User Group meetings (open to non-HAGSOC members).*

**Education Sessions** – Bookings are required for all Education and Events. Courses, Workshops and Seminars are listed in the President's Newsletter, in the Library, and on our webpage [www.familyhistoryact.org.au](http://www.familyhistoryact.org.au). For courses requiring payment, please register and pay for these events on our webpage, or at the Library. For any last minute changes please check the Events and Courses pages on our website [www.familyhistoryact.org.au](http://www.familyhistoryact.org.au). Write to [registration@familyhistoryact.org.au](mailto:registration@familyhistoryact.org.au) for course or general queries.

### JANUARY 2019

- 12 Sat 2pm to 4.30pm: Seminar DNA with Kerry Farmer will cover a number of ways to get the best out of your DNA matches.
- 17 Thu 10am to 12 noon: Legacy Users Group (convenor Julie Hesse) meets on the third Thursday of each month in the Education room. Contact Julie [bnjhese@grapevine.com.au](mailto:bnjhese@grapevine.com.au)
- 17 Thu 7.30pm to 9.30pm: East Anglia Special Interest Group (convenor June Penny) meets on the third Thursday of the month in January, April, July and October.
- 29 Tue 10am to 12noon: Morning Tea Chats ... at Pauline's Parlour: Having a problem with your research, or not sure where to start? Come along to our round table chats, over a cup of tea, to discuss your problem. You may also just like to come along and join in the discussions on various topics. We meet on the last Tuesday of each month. No bookings required. Contact Pauline [paulineramage@netspace.net.au](mailto:paulineramage@netspace.net.au)
- 29 Tue 12.30pm to 2pm: DNA Drop In Clinic No bookings required. Have you had a DNA Test and don't know what it means or how to use the results in family research? Join in this round table group to discuss your specific questions/problems on DNA. Contact: [dna.sig@familyhistoryact.org.au](mailto:dna.sig@familyhistoryact.org.au)

### FEBRUARY 2019

- 1 Fri 9.30am to 11.30am: Reunion & Mac Support Users Group (convenor Danny O'Neill) meets on the first Friday of every month except January in the Education Room. Contact Danny [60done@gmail.com](mailto:60done@gmail.com)
- 1 Fri 12.30pm to 2.30pm: Digital Assets Management Special Interest Group (convenor Danny O'Neill). To start off the inaugural meeting of the Digital Asset Management (DAM) SIG, we will have three members of the group present a brief look at how they manage their filing systems on both

PC & Mac computers. There will also be time for Q&A, and all HAGSOC members are welcome! This will be popular so to assist us with setting up the room (max 47 seats), please indicate your interest to attend by writing to the email on the Group list on the Society's website.

- 2 Sat 9.30am to 11.30am: Irish Special Interest Group (convenor Barbara Moore). Topic is "There's more to Griffith's Valuation than just names? Valuation revision books? .There are six meetings per year, held on the first Saturday of February, then the second Saturday of March, May, July, September and November. Contact Barbara at [bmoore123@iinet.net.au](mailto:bmoore123@iinet.net.au)
- 2 Sat 12.30-2pm: DNA Special Interest Group (convenors Marilyn Woodward and Elizabeth Hannan).
- 5 Tue 7pm: Monthly meeting Jeff Brownrigg, cultural historian
- 6 Wed 7.30pm to 9.30pm: The Master Genealogist (TMG) User Group (convenor Allyson Luders) meets on the first Wednesday of each even month. Contact Allyson at [allysonluders@gmail.com](mailto:allysonluders@gmail.com)
- 7 Thu 7.30pm to 9.30pm: Scottish Special Interest Group (convenor Robert Forrester) meets on the first Thursday of every even month in the Education Room. All members welcome, especially those with Scottish ancestry.
- 13 Wed 7.30pm to 9.30pm: 11 Wed 7.30pm to 9.30pm: Convict Special Interest Group (convenor Michele Rainger) meets on the second Wednesday of each even month.
- 14 Thu 10am to 12 noon: Family Tree Maker (FTM) Users Group (convenor Barbara Broad). Group meets on the second Thursday of the month except January in the Education Room. Contact Barbara [bjbbroad@bigpond.com](mailto:bjbbroad@bigpond.com) or come along to any meeting.
- 14 Thu 7.30pm to 9.30pm: North of England Special Interest Group (convenor Peter Procter & Tom Bellas) in Library: meets on the second Thursday in February, May, August and November.
- 16 Sat 10am to 12.30pm: Writers Special Interest Group (convenor Gina Tooke) meets on the third Saturday of every month except January and December in the Education Room. All members welcome. For room set up purposes please email Gina if you are attending.
- 17 Sun 10am to 12 noon: Seminar Planning for Research Success with Julia Trainor. Let's kick-start 2019 with a personal research plan! The purpose of this workshop is to inspire participants to make 2019 a successful year for their genealogy research. The workshop will bring together members at every stage of their research, from novice to veteran. Participants will be guided through all the elements of a good research plan. Together we will share our ideas on setting goals, developing strategies, cultivating the discovery of resources, developing our personal expertise, integrating DNA into the plan, and writing and documenting as we go. The aim is for each

participant to take away a personal and realistic research plan that will help make 2019 a successful year for their genealogy.

- 21 Thu 10am to 12 noon: Legacy Users Group (convenor Julie Hesse) meets on the third Thursday of each month in the Education room. Contact Julie bnjhesse@grapevine.com.au
- 21 Thu 8pm: Heraldry Special Interest Group (convenor Niel Gunson) meets on the third Thursday every even month except Dec. For details and venue, contact Niel on 6248 0971.
- 23 Sat 9.30am to 11.30am: Continental Special Interest Group (convenor Raoul Middelman) meets in the Library on the fourth Saturday of every even-numbered month (except December).
- 25 Mon 10am to 1pm: Practical Procedures in the Library – Education Session. Making best use of the HAGSOC Library with Jeanette Hahn. These sessions are not just for those new to the Library but for anyone wishing to improve their knowledge and make the most of our own really fabulous resource. Bookings are required. Four places available per session as we will be using the computers in each room. Register at HAGSOC Library 6251 7004 in the designated folder.
- 26 Tue 10am to 12noon: Morning Tea Chats ... at Pauline's Parlour: Having a problem with your research, or not sure where to start? Come along to our round table chats, over a cup of tea, to discuss your problem. You may also just like to come along and join in the discussions on various topics. We meet on the last Tuesday of each month. No bookings required. Contact Pauline paulineramage@netspace.net.au
- 26 Tue 12.30pm to 2.30pm: DNA Drop In Clinic No bookings required. Have you had a DNA Test and don't know what it means or how to use the results in family research? Join in this round table group to discuss your specific questions/problems on DNA. Contact: dna.sig@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 28 Thu 7.30pm to 9.30pm: London Special Interest Group (convenor Jeanette Hahn) meets on the fourth Thursday of each even-numbered month, except December in the Education Room. For future presentations, check out our Events page at <http://familyhistoryact.org.au> or contact Jeanette on 6288 8126.

## MARCH 2019

- 1 Fri 9.30am to 11.30am: Reunion & Mac Support Users Group (convenor Danny O'Neill) meets on the first Friday of every month except January in the Education Room. Contact Danny 60done@gmail.com
- 5 Tue 7.00pm: Monthly Meeting – Trish Downes. A component of her PhD research "*The other military explorers: convicts on Australian expeditions*".

- 9 Sat 9.30am to 11.30am: Irish Special Interest Group (convenor Barbara Moore). "How can you help me with my Irish brick wall?" There are six meetings per year, held on the first Saturday of February, then the second Saturday of March, May, July, September and November. Contact Barbara bmoore123@iinet.net.au
- 9 Sat 12.30pm to 2pm: DNA Special Interest Group (convenors are Elizabeth Hannan and Marilyn Woodward) meets for the rest of 2018 on the second Saturday of every odd month except for January at 12.30pm to 2pm in the Education Room. This group will meet after the Irish SIG following a lunch break, so bring a lunch if also attending the Irish SIG. Elizabeth and Marilyn can be contacted at dna.sig@familyhistoryact.org.au
- 13 Wed 7.30pm to 9.30pm: South of England Special Interest Group (convenor Dick Stevens) meets on the second Wednesday of every odd month except January.
- 14 Thu 10am to 12 noon: Family Tree Maker (FTM) Users Group (convenor Barbara Broad). Group meets on the second Thursday of the month except January in the Education Room. Contact Barbara bjbroad@bigpond.com or come along to any meeting.
- 16 Sat 10am to 12.30pm: Writers Special Interest Group (convenor Gina Tooke) meets on the third Saturday of every month except January and December in the Education Room. All members welcome. For room set up purposes please email writers\_sig@familyhistoryact.org.au if you are attending.
- 17 Sun 2pm to 4.30pm: New Members Course - Education Session: Where do I Start - beginning your family history with Brian Buckley and The HAGSOC Library with Barb Toohey. Venue is the HAGSOC Education Room for this members-only education event. There is no cost and afternoon tea is provided.
- 21 Thu 10am to 12 noon: Legacy Users Group (convenor Julie Hesse) meets on the third Thursday of each month in the Education room. Contact Julie bnjhesse@grapevine.com.au.
- 23 Sat 2pm to 4pm: Seminar: Contrasting skins. Using family history techniques, Cathy Day is researching the lives of two cousins: Sir John Dring, colonial administrator and Prime Minister of a small country and Joyce Wilding, Aboriginal activist in Brisbane in the 1950s and 1960s. Cathy will cover the biology and cultural impact of skin colour, and the surprising research techniques used to uncover the stories of these cousins. Especially relevant for anyone with Anglo-Indian families or interested in racial aspects of family history.
- 24 Sun 2pm to 4pm: Early Australia Special Interest Group (convenor Pauline Ramage) meets on the fourth Sunday of every odd month in the Education Room.

- 25 Mon 10am to 1pm: Practical Procedures in the Library – Education Session. Making best use of the HAGSOC Library with Jeanette Hahn. These sessions are not just for those new to the Library but for anyone wishing to improve their knowledge and make the most of our own really fabulous resource. Bookings are required. Four places available per session as we will be using the computers in each room. Register at HAGSOC Library 6251 7004 in the designated folder.
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## Exciting Writing at Galong

On the weekend of 16-18 November there was an 'Exciting Writing' residential workshop held at St Clements Monastery, Galong. It was held in conjunction with Yass family history society and 16 people journeyed to Galong for this 48 hour retreat. The last registrant was on the Thursday before after seeing a Chronicle ad! There were seven HAGSoC members and the others were from Yass, Goulburn and Canberra. The small numbers enabled all participants to sit with someone different each meal and to do group activities with different folk.

Rosalie Tivolo was an engaging and responsive facilitator. She stressed aspects of perspective about history, importance of language, engaging the senses. Several small group activities allowed attendees to progress their respective projects and a number of people made breakthroughs in structuring their work.

After dinner lectures were given Clare McGuinness from HAGSOC on not making the same mistake as Captain Cook by running out of time to write his family history, and a more grounded lecture was given by Cheryl Mongan on Saturday night about the history of St Clements and the Galong area.



Attendees at the 'Exciting Writing' workshop, with facilitator Rosalie Tivolo 3rd from left in the back row.

... continued from page 209.

were born in Tasmania: Mary Jane c1844-45 and Henry Cuthbert 1846. All born while she was a convict.

Married John OYSTON (qv) 10 July of 1843 but did not receive her Free Certificate until 26 October 1846. A researcher noted that, on the marriage certificate, she 'made her mark' while John was able to sign his name. Given her pregnancies and her extensive charge sheet, I guess marriage to John was approved only to shift the care and responsibility for Mary and growing brood on to John rather than the government. Mary and family moved to Port Adelaide SA in October 1847. Births in SA were: Alfred Arthur 1848, Sarah Ellen c1850, Thomas (VIC) 1853, Cerina c1854, Eliza Ann 1854, Francis James 1857 and Albert James 1862. Mary spent her entire life in the Le Fevre Peninsula, Port Adelaide. Her lack of education did not stop her from running a successful boarding house and some say the financial brains behind John's various businesses. Her youngest son Albert died in March of 1882, and two months later, aged 61, Mary died of Brights Disease. Mother and son were buried in the same plot in the Cheltenham Cemetery.

### Edward Palmer SEAMAN (1811-1880)

**June McKenzie**

Edward was born in 1811 at North Tuddenham, Norfolk. In 1829 he was convicted at Norfolk Assizes for housebreaking, sentenced to death, commuted to life. In 1830 he was transported on the *Adrian* and assigned to W. MCARTHUR Camden. His Ticket Of Leave was granted in 1839 and Conditional Pardon in 1847. He married Brigit DWYER, a convict, in 1842 at St Saviour's, Goulburn. They had 9 children before Bridget died in 1855. In 1857, Edward married Elizabeth WEEKS who was 2 when her family emigrated from Sixpenny Handley, Dorset in 1837. Another 9 children were born, including my husband, Max MCKENZIE's grandmother, Susannah Rejinda, the youngest, born in 1878. Edward died in 1880 of "old age", being 69, at Fullerton, a well respectable grazier.

### Thomas TABER (1766 – 1825)

**Brian Christensen**

Conviction: Breaking and Entering 1795 Middlesex

Transported 1797 *Ganges* to Port Jackson

From evidence given at the trial, it would appear that Thomas TABER was "framed" to use a modern expression. TABER, a "watch finisher" by trade, and a friend entered an empty shop with the intention of buying tobacco. They were seized upon and brought before a magistrate. The motivating factor seems to have been a reward of forty pounds available to anyone who captured and brought into court a person found breaking and entering a building.

After his arrival in the colony, TABER's conduct and intelligence must have been apparent for in 1798 he was appointed school master in the church school set up by the Rev Richard JOHNSON, the first clergyman in the Colony. He remained a schoolmaster for the rest of his working life, and was granted a pension on his retirement. TABER had the means to bring his wife and family with him on the *Ganges*. His daughter Frances Sarah married James Proctor HARREX (qv).

# Services for Members

## Photocopies

A4 25c

## Microform Prints

A4 45c

## GRO Certificate Service

\$18 members

\$23 non-members

## Translation Service

Translations available for the following languages:

English handwriting c. 1600, Estonian, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Icelandic, Italian, Latin, Norwegian, Polish, Welsh, Yiddish.

Prices: A \$10 fee for assessment of the material is non-refundable. Prices vary according to language and are charged per 100 words or part thereof. Further details in Library or from the secretary@familyhistoryact.org.au

## LDS Film Viewing

The HAGSOC library is registered as a Library Affiliate with the LDS FamilySearch Organisation. This enables members using the HAGSOC library access to the approximately 25% of digital records held by LDS that have restricted access imposed by copyright holders.

## Discounts

Financial members receive a 10% discount when purchasing HAGSOC publications.

Further details in Library

## Research Advice

The Society's Research Officer offers a free service to members, for those facing a "brick wall" in their research. This is a mail-only service. Please post or email your query to the secretary.

**Research Service** (not currently offered)

## Readers' queries

Members may submit queries for inclusion in *The Ancestral Searcher* free of charge. Non-members \$27.50.

Contact: editor@familyhistoryact.org.au

# Notice to Contributors

The copy deadline for contributions to *The Ancestral Searcher* is the 2nd Monday of the month prior to publication.

The journal is published quarterly in March, June, September and December.

The Editor welcomes articles, letters, news and items of interest on any subject pertaining to family and local history.

Please send text files in either MS Word or plain text. Articles should be no more than 2000 words, with one or two quality images. Please limit footnotes to 3-4 per 500 words.

Digital images should be a high resolution and tiff or jpeg images.

The Editor reserves the right to edit all articles and include or omit images as appropriate.

Authors can assist by; formatting dates to '1 July 1899'; months to be spelled out; no ordinals on numbers (no st/nd/rd/th); ship names should be *italicised*; all quotes to be in "double quotes"; and family names should be formatted as ALL CAPITALS. Submissions and questions to: editor@familyhistoryact.org.au.

## LIBRARY

Unit 7, 41 Templeton Street, Cook — 02 6251 7004

Opening hours:	Tuesday	11.00 am	—	2.00 pm
	Wednesday	10.00 am	—	3.30 pm
	Thursday	11.00 am	—	2.00 pm
	Saturday	2.00 pm	—	5.00 pm
	Sunday	2.00 pm	—	5.00 pm

**The Library is CLOSED on all Public Holidays**

**Reader's Access Ticket** for non-members: \$10 for one day, \$20 one week, \$30 one month.

## SOCIETY MEETINGS

Monthly general meetings are held beginning at 7.00pm in the HAGSOC Education Room, Templeton Street, Cook, ACT on the first Tuesday of each month, except January. The Annual General Meeting is held on the first Tuesday of November. Notices of special meetings, and social gatherings are advertised in this journal as appropriate.

## MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Membership begins from the date the member joins and will expire either one or two years later at the end of the month in which the member joined. New members, or members who have lapsed for more than 12 months, are required to pay a joining fee. Joint membership is available for additional members at the same address. The Pensioner concession is available to Australian residents who hold a current CRN or DVA card. Amounts are shown for one year.

Individual	\$ 75.00	Joining Fee	\$ 20.00
Joint	\$ 110.00	Journal Only – Australia	\$ 35.00
Individual – Pensioner	\$ 70.00	Journal Only – Overseas	\$ 45.00
Joint – Pensioner	\$ 100.00		

*All prices include GST*

*Membership forms are available on the website, at the HAGSOC Library or can be posted on request.*

**The Ancestral Searcher** is the official journal of the Heraldry & Genealogy Society of Canberra Inc. The journal is published quarterly and available without charge to financial members of the Society and affiliated bodies. Kindred Societies can receive the journal on an exchange basis. Back copies are available for current year and previous two years at \$5.00 each. Earlier issues are \$3.00 each or \$5.00 for a yearly bundle of 4 issues (price includes postage within Australia).

Reproduction without permission is not permitted. The views expressed in the items in the journal are those of the authors' and not necessarily those of the Society, and the Society cannot vouch for the authenticity of advertisements appearing in the journal.

## ADVERTISING AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Copy for advertising and contributions is required by the first day of the month preceding the month of publication. Advertising in the journal:

Full page for four consecutive issues \$330; half page for four consecutive issues \$175;

Full page for one issue \$110; half page for one issue \$60.

Advertising in non-consecutive issues is charged at the single issue rate. 10% discount is available to advertisers who are members of the Society.

Advertising in the form of flyers can be included with the journal posting. These are to be supplied by the advertiser folded to A5 or smaller in size, cost for A5 20c, A4 30c and A3 or larger 50c per insert.

Readers' Queries up to 60 words: members, no charge; non-members \$35.00.

*Payment is required at the time of submission.*

*All prices include GST*

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