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- Praise for one of our finest family histories
- Family sagas at home and abroad
- Opera in the nineteenth century North-West

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From the President

Garth Walter

At the end of June, we celebrated the great achievements of our volunteers at our Annual General Meeting. I proudly announced our Life Memberships recipients for 2024 were Ian Barnes and Nigel Tyson: in recognition of their outstanding contribution to Family History WA. We also recognised the work done to start the Ghosts Towns Project which has nearly reached 10,000 records for the Pilot Towns. Treasurer, Neil Bradley, has also taken the care necessary to achieve a modest profit for our society. It was really nice to see so many of you joining us in person at May Street and online for the AGM. These hybrid events are becoming more relevant as technology is advancing.

I also launched FHWA's 2030 Strategic Plan. Many of you contributed to the development of our 2029 Strategic Plan by telling me what you wanted to Start doing, Stop doing or Keep doing. I thank all of you who have contributed to this process and taken the time to email, phone or speak to me and your Management Committee about this. The overarching strategy will be shared on our website and in a one-page document so it is easily accessible to all members.

The main aspects are summarised below:

Purpose: Inspiring and Fostering Family History Research

Vision: FHWA members are skilled in genealogy and family history with convenient and affordable access to local and worldwide records

Mission: To be the leader in Western Australia, promoting and fostering genealogy and family history

Our Value Proposition: As WA's biggest Family History network, we promote and encourage the study and development of family histories. We

SHARE knowledge and information

CONNECT families with their history

INSPIRE the recording of family history and study of genealogy

Our Values are:

PASSIONATE as we build our family histories

COLLABORATIVE as we share knowledge and expertise

INCLUSIVE as we seek diversity and equality in all we do.



A special thank you to the Management Committee members who are stepping down: Wendy White, Beth Perry, and Garry Keath. Welcome to Peter Forrestal and Jean Campbell who are joining Chris Harris, Neil Bradley, Diane Thornton, Anne Giles, Robert Atkins and Edwina Shooter as part of the team.

Finally, thank you to all of our volunteers. FamilyHistoryWA exists only because of the efforts that you put in.



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An Editorial

Peter Forrestal

It is a rare day, indeed, when I have the opportunity to salute a new family story which makes such a significant contribution to what the author, Rod Quin, describes as ‘the complex history of Western Australia.’ I rate *Rod Quin: A Western Australian Story* alongside Jeff McGill’s *Rachel* (Allen & Unwin, 2022) as among the finest family histories produced in this country. No one who has read one or the other could regard the notion of *terra nullius*, quashed anyway by the Mabo decision, as anything but fanciful. Yet, it had been the basis of the English occupation of the continent.

In describing his family’s arrival in the colony in 1863, the author makes it clear that the land had been ‘under the custodianship of Aboriginal people for fifty thousand years’ and interweaves the European names used to describe the places they came across with those used by the local Whadjuk Noongar.

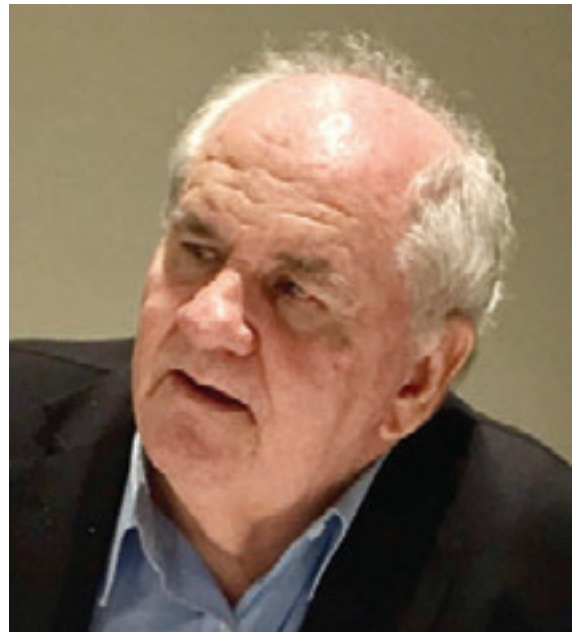
Quin makes it clear that there was a sizable population of Aboriginal people living in and around Perth at the time when his ancestors arrived. He quotes James Kennedy saying ‘We used to go fishing and swimming and skylarking with the native boys and they used to come shooting with us.’

It’s a meticulously documented, well-written family history which illuminates the early history of the colony in a way that is, indeed, rare.

See the review on page 354.

There’s unquestionably a sense of community at FHWA perhaps evident in the takeoff of the Ghost Towns Project. In *Western Ancestor*, we are seeing increasing links between the current issue and articles published earlier. Here, Terry Fox responds to reading CJ Edington’s ‘Watermen and Lightermen’ by looking back and finding another survivor of Trafalgar in his family. In letters to the editor, Proof Reading Team Member, Karen Murdock, muses on her family connections to several of the stories we have published recently.

There are two family epics covered in this issue. The story of five generations of John Olleys provides the framework for a compelling family saga. I was particularly moved by his (almost) casual reference to his grandfather becoming a POW after the Fall of Singapore and spending time on the notorious Thai Burma Railway. For many Australians,



these were life ending or life changing experiences. The fact that John Olley⁴ was able to visit Japan more than 20 years later and find no bitterness or anger with the Japanese people is indeed remarkable. And heart-warming.

Robert Atkins family saga begins and ends in Ireland, criss-crossing the Pacific from Tasmania to Hawaii and British Columbia in the nineteenth century. He documents an action-filled family story of epic dimensions. Margaret Sermon’s stories adds chapters to this state’s early history: with the story of Gallop Brothers revealing the sources of the names of some of our more affluent suburbs.

VOLUNTEER TODAY!

FamilyHistoryWA (FHWA)
relies on its volunteers

To learn more about these opportunities, please contact the Volunteer Liaison

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Five John Olleys—More Than Names

John Olley | Member # 7374

When our first child was born in 1963 my paternal grandmother could not accept that we called him David with John as merely his second name. My father was John Jeffrey George Olley (b. 1913) and his father was John Keith Olley (b. 1886), both alive at the time. I had been told that my great grandfather and his father were also John Olley, so we were breaking a long tradition!

Five generations of John Olleys—in the following I will use John1 (the earliest) to John5 (that's me). I grew up knowing that my great grandfather, John2, had been a printer with the *Mercury*, Hobart's major newspaper, and that his father had come to Tasmania in the 1850s as a soldier. The past sixty years have been a journey of adding details that make them all more than names!

In the mid-1960s, I saw Tasmania Registrar-General's certificate extracts for John1's 1860 marriage at age 25 to

Emmeline Bourne, age 21, and his death in Hobart 1862, 'accidentally suffocated by fumes of Port Arthur Coal'. I (wrongly) assumed that as a soldier he had been guarding convicts at the coal mine.

My grandfather (John3) had a gold watch presented to his father (John2) inscribed: 'A tribute of appreciation, John (Cotton) Olley, from Proprietors of *The Mercury* after 46 years service Dec 1918'. Why 'Cotton' in his name?

Visits to London in 1985, 1992 and 1996 included many hours scrolling through microfilms—census returns and English Birth, Death and Marriage indexes—and then paying and waiting for certificates. The Pay and Muster Details of the 12th Regiment of Foot (Suffolk Regiment), 1st Battalion were an unexpected rich source.¹ I later found microfilm copies of records of the War Office were available here in Perth at the Battye Library, as part of the Australian Joint Copying Project (AJCP)— now digitised.



John Olley - Four Generations 1964.

Five John Olleys (Cont.)

In the 1990s and early 2000s much time was spent in the Tasmanian Government Archives and State Library, as well as utilising CDs and other material in the FHWA Library. More money spent on birth, death and marriage certificates! A boon has been the rapidly increasing amount of material online. A major resource is the diverse material included in the Tasmanian Names Index, a superbly indexed collection of digitalised original documents, available for viewing and free download. To avoid an excessive number of endnotes, I have not given source details when such can be easily found in the Index or with searches of newspapers by Trove. Searching on names and keywords in newspapers digitalised on Trove has in the last decade led to unexpected stories.

John1: John Olley (1834–1862)

John Olley was baptised in Great Barton, Suffolk 30 March 1834, the second son of Abraham Olley (c. 1805–84, an agricultural labourer, and Frances Foulger (1809–26). In December 1853, he enlisted in the 12th Regt of Foot (Suffolk Regiment), his trade being ‘groomsman’. After training in Belfast, the regiment embarked for Australia on 27 July 1854. After a year in Melbourne, he served in Hobart from 1856 till his death in 1862. Other than a brief stint at Port Arthur (April–August 1858) and six months in Sydney (January–July 1859), he was at Anglesea Barracks as a ‘staff servant’, batman to Major Edward Hungerford Eager, Assistant Adjutant-General. In late 1854, a detachment had been sent to the Eureka Stockade and during 1856–57 detachments were in Swan River and Adelaide, but John1 was not part of these.

He was consistently awarded ‘good conduct pay’. Quite different was the experience of his older brother Charles, also a private, who had enlisted in 1851. He was in Melbourne, Sydney and Hobart at the same time as John until he was in the detachment that went to New Zealand, and was stationed at Otahuhu (1860–63; January–March 1862 at Pokino). After two days

on have Emmeline Christina. The marriage seems to have been frowned upon by Emmeline’s family (a Bourne family letter in February 1861 speaks of “unhappiness caused by our connections” with Emmeline and the coroner’s inquest on John1’s death is not complimentary).

John1 died on 16 June 1862 when John2 was only six months old (see

The marriage seems to have been frowned upon by Emmeline’s family (a Bourne family letter in February 1861 speaks of “unhappiness caused by our connections” with Emmeline and the coroner’s inquest on John1’s death is not complimentary).

in hospital (sick or wounded?), on 11 March 1863 he embarked for Sydney ‘to be discharged’, followed by thirteen days on ship and eight days in hospital in Sydney. He was not, however, discharged as he continued serving. Military service for him was clearly irksome as he was AWOL and/or in prison for some days in most pay and muster periods, apart from the period January to December 1862 (no days in cells). In 1865, he was in prison in Sydney for a civil offence (29 January–31 March). The last military record is a statement that he ‘deserted’ in Sydney (14 April 1866; after 7 days confined to cells). He died in 1893 in Tamworth, NSW, with no evidence of a wife or children.

John1 married Emmeline **Bourne** 23 May 1860 at St George’s Church, Battery Point, Hobart. She had been baptised at St Philip’s, Birmingham, England and the Bourne family migrated to Tasmania after April 1851,² probably due to her father’s respiratory health (Thomas Bourne, a scalemaker, died in Launceston of consumption in January 1852). Emmeline is baptised as Christiana Emmeline but records from 1884

below). Lengthy details are in the coroner’s report and the newspaper account of the inquest.³ In the middle of winter, he had been sleeping in the harness room of the stables, with a portable stove burning Port Arthur coal, but it seemed that he ignored advice to ensure a window or door was open. The newspaper account mentions that John and Emmeline had ‘separated voluntarily’ and ‘the deceased had slept in the (harness) room (of the stable) since last July (1861)’. Major Eager commented that ‘the deceased was a quiet, steady man, but his wife was not a well-conducted woman, as far as the witness knew’ (we have only his view!). The same report continues, “Emmeline Olley ... proved that she last saw her husband alive on Saturday night, at the lodgings where she was living. He complained of nothing and was in good spirits. There was no quarrel between them.” He was found on Sunday morning “in violent convulsions” and despite attempts to keep him alive ‘languishing he did languish’ until he died on Monday.

Two years later, on 7 April 1864, Emmeline married James Henry

Five John Olleys (Cont.)

Cotton (c. 1829–84) in the Chalmers Free Presbyterian Church, Hobart. His occupation is variously cited as ‘porter’ (1864), ‘broker, general dealer’ (1868), ‘labourer’ (1884). They had five children. She died of heart failure and influenza on 1 May 1893 (and was buried at Sandy Bay).

John2: Jeffery John/ John Jeffrey (1861–1934)

John2 was born in Hobart 19 December 1861. The name on the birth certificate is ‘Jeffery [sic] John’, but on his marriage certificate (1883) and death certificate (1934) and on marriage certificate of his son, John3 (1913) it is ‘John Jeffrey’. [An aside: We were not so bad after all using

John as the second name for our son.]

As he was only two years old when his mother remarried, John2 may have been known at times by his stepfather’s name, and hence the name on the retirement watch. He was one of the first apprentices at the *Mercury* newspaper and worked as a printer for 46 years. On leaving in December 1918, he was presented with ‘a case of pipes, tobacco pouch, and travelling rug’ and the gold watch.⁴

He married Catherine Jane (Kate) **Hall** 8 October 1883 at the Congregational minister’s residence, 287 Liverpool Street, Hobart. Kate had been born in Hobart on 15 Dec 1864, the fifth child of William James Hall and Mary **Brady**, and died 21 November 1894 from pneumonia.

Kate’s parents:

William and his parents, James Hall (1792–1862) and Martha Lane (1794–1875), and seven siblings arrived in Hobart from London on the *Boadicea* on 23 February 1836. James was born in Devonshire and Martha in London, his occupation throughout his life being a gardener. William from his teens was a shoemaker, living in Risdon Road, Hobart.

In 1831 the British government had started to encourage immigration by poorer Britons due to unemployment problems in the UK.⁵ It is likely the Hall family came under the ‘£20 advances’ scheme for skilled married men with young families, and, later agricultural labourers. The



Holy Innocents, Great Barton, Suffolk.

Five John Olleys (Cont.)

government trialled large-scale family emigration, but their arrival created a glut in the labour market so most could not find work. The Colonial Government suspended assisted immigration in 1837 until there was a better scheme.

Mary Brady was one of 200 female convicts on the *Duke of Cornwall* which left Dublin on 1 July 1850 and arrived in Hobart on 27 October. The ship's convict record states that she was 23, with her "native place" being Co. Wicklow, Ireland; and that she was tried in Dublin, on 20 October 1849 for arson and sentenced to transportation for 15 years.⁶ The earlier Kilmainham Gaol (Dublin) record states she was 19 (a 'county servant') committed on 6 July and tried on 20 Oct, charged with stealing two heifers (other details show this is the same person).⁷ She was transferred on 22 October 1849 to Grangegorman Female Convict Depot to await a ship. The records there say her crime was "arson".⁸ [Grangegorman Female Convict Depot's 'main function with respect to convicts was to provide employment training for them so that they might satisfy the ever increasing demands of the Australian authorities

that they be fit to earn their living on arrival.⁹]. Her description is: '5'3½, fair complexion, very light hair, long head, long visage, dark blue eyes, large nose, mouth large, chin long". Relevant for further exploration is that her convict records have an annotation that her 'proper name' was Bridget **McGrath**.

The convict record has later information including:

1 April 1851:

William Hall granted permission to marry her. The marriage took place on 21 April.

15 August 1854:

Ticket of Leave.

16 September 1856:

Conditional pardon approved (conclusion of 7 years of her sentence)

17 November 1864:

Certificate of Freedom.¹⁰

William and Mary had six children, Kate being the fifth. He died in 1879 from bronchitis, but I have been unable to find details of Mary's death.

Sonme years after Kate's death in 1901, John2 married Mary Onslow, a nurse, and lived at 54 Arthur Street, New Town. She died in Hobart on 21 June 1918 (aged 65) 'after a long and

painful illness which she bore with Christian fortitude'.¹¹

Following her death, in 1924 John2 moved to NSW to be with his children. He died in Wagga Wagga, NSW on 20 November 1934 (coincidentally the date of his grandson John's 21st). He was buried in the Methodist Cemetery. His obituary recorded that he had lived variously at Sydney, Moss Vale, Paddington, Nyngan and Wagga (the country addresses are those of his daughter Emmeline; Violet and Charles lived at Paddington).¹²

John3: John Jeffrey Keith (1886–1968)

John and Kate had five children, the second child being the first son, John Jeffrey Keith, born 14 February 1886, in Patrick Street, Hobart. He used to speak of his Irish grandmother, Mary, for years the only Irish information I had.

Conspiracy, the centre of court and media attention:

From February–July 1903 John3 (then 17) was involved with his older sister, Violet (just married at the time of trial), Alfred Edward Cotton (father's half-brother) and his wife Dorothy Ada Cotton, and Elizabeth Walker in a much publicised and extended series of trials relating to a



Soldiers' Barracks, Anglesea.



Grangegorman, Female Convict Depot, Dublin.

charge of conspiracy arising from an action of alleged slander. Violet and Mrs. Cotton had been accused by a draper of stealing some art muslin worth 1s 9d and the others agreed to counter with an accusation of slander and sought £100 compensation. Juries were unable to agree and in the end the case provided some legal precedents. John was 16 at the time of the offence (July 1902).

Due to the process of the trials the defendants 'were reduced to poverty'. Each was sentenced to six months, 'excepting John Olley who [on account of his youth] was discharged as coming under the First Offenders Act, on his own recognizance for good behaviour'. It was also asked that the Executive of Government 'exercise mercy' regarding Violet so that 'her child should not be born in the precincts of the gaol'. In the event, because of the expected child, all the convicted were released from gaol a day or so later.

This was a surprising find! My

grandfather had always seemed to me a gentle, kind and upright person—but he was only young at that time and his life was to change in many ways.

Sometime prior to 1913, he moved to Sydney and began work as a hotel cellarman, returning to Hobart to marry Elsie Blanche **Middlebrough** (1893–1968) on 12 February 1913. [My article centring on her father tells of her family background.]. Throughout their marriage they lived in Sydney suburbs, initially Alexandria and then Waverley until around 1930. Their first child was John⁴, my father, John Jeffrey George (born 20 November 1913), followed by Alan Keith (1916) and Daphne Sybil (1919). He was offered the position of chief cellarman but decided that living in the hotel, a requirement of the position, was not suitable for a young family, and so by the 1920s he began work as a carter. It was at Waverley that a neighbour invited the children to Sunday

School. My grandparents became regular churchgoers at the local Baptist Church, a pattern that has continued through the generations.

In 1930, he became a grocer with a shop at 24 Clyde Street, Granville, moving to 88 View Street, Annandale around 1936. My childhood memories include the delight of being able to choose lollies from his Annandale store whenever we visited! That corner shop and residence is still there, now a café. After he retired around 1950, they moved to Kingsgrove, close to my parents' home.

John⁴: John Jeffrey George (1913–90)

It was at the Granville Baptist Church that John⁴ met my mother, Dorothy Elizabeth Ellen **Allison** (1914–2001; I tell her parents' story in another article). In November 1936, he started work as a clerk at the Sydney County Council (electricity producer and network operator for much of metropolitan Sydney), so when they

Five John Olleys (Cont.)

were married on the Saturday of the next Easter weekend (27 March 1937) he was not eligible for leave. They went to Katoomba in the Blue Mountains for their honeymoon: Monday was a public holiday, but John travelled to work other days by train from Katoomba! They then moved to 11 Ellen Street, Randwick. I was their first child, born 26 July 1938. (My second name is William, after my maternal grandfather.)

John⁴ served in Singapore and Malaya, becoming a POW in Changi Prison after the fall of Singapore 15 February 1942.

Following the start of World War II, on 24 June 1940 he enlisted in the AIF, joining the Australian Army Service Corps, posted to Headquarters of the 8th Division.¹³ With overseas posting imminent, the family moved to Dorothy's parents' home in Granville, then to a house around the corner. Prior to his leaving for Singapore, John and Dorothy said their farewells on 1 February 1941 and he embarked on the *Queen Mary*, converted to a troopship. Pamela Joy was born the next day while the ship was still in Sydney Harbour. The family was not to be together until 7 October 1945.

John⁴ served in Singapore and Malaya, becoming a POW in Changi Prison after the fall of Singapore 15 February 1942. He also spent time on the Burma Railway. Somehow through all this period he was able to keep carbon copies of "orders of the day" from the Commander in Chief, Far East and GOC Malaya, leading up to and immediately following surrender, communications from the

'Nippon Army', a 12-page lecture on 'The Malayan Campaign', a 10-page (A3 single-spaced) report on 'Rations—Changi POW Camp' and 4-page report (A3) on 'Conditions—Prisoners of War—Thailand—May—Sept 1943'. It is likely he had typed all these.

More pleasant reading are copies of 'Translation of pamphlet in Japanese dropped by Allied planes on Changi internment camp, 3 p.m., Aug 28th, 1945: Instructions to Japanese Guards', and 'Special Order' from the Colonel, Commanding, Prisoners of War, Malaya on 9 Sept 1945, saying that 'At long last Changi and other Prisoner of War Camps will, very shortly, be no more'. He embarked at Singapore on the *Duntroon* 16 Sept 1945, disembarking Sydney 7 Oct 1945 and was formally discharged 'at own request on compassionate grounds' on 22 November 1945. His final rank was Staff Sergeant. Years later, in 1969, my parents visited us in Hong Kong and he deliberately planned a time in Japan 'to see how I would react to Japanese people'. He said afterwards that he found no bitterness or anger.

He resumed work at the Sydney County Council, retiring 10 July 1978 as Senior Audit Clerk (Grade 6)—a total of 41 years' service (war service was included). In October 1947, the family moved into a house they built in Bexley North, near his brother Alan's. It was 3-bedrooms and all electric, including stove and hot water. Air conditioning was rare in houses, but John's office at the Sydney County Council (in Queen Victoria Building, near Town Hall) was—so Dorothy's day-time conditions in summer were quite different to his!

From their first weekend at Bexley North, the family were all actively

involved in the Kingsgrove Baptist Church. John⁴ became Sunday School Superintendent and Dorothy a Kindergarten Sunday School teacher (her leadership of that department continued well into her 70s). He also became organist and choirmaster (he had a good tenor voice).

His health was affected by war service (heart and kidney) and he died in the Concord Repatriation Hospital on 19 August 1990 (age 76).

All John Olleys are now more than names. It has been worth the journey to find details of people who clearly persevered through difficulties.

Notes

- 1 War Office WO12/ 2970–2994.
- 2 England and Wales Censuses: 1841, HO107/1198/21; 1851, HO106/2060/17.
- 3 <https://stors.tas.gov.au/SC195-1-46-5322>; *The Mercury* (Hobart, Tas.), 18 Jun 1862, p. 2; <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/8807812>.
- 4 'Presentation to a *Mercury* Employee', *The Mercury* (Hobart), 21 Dec 1918, p. 6. <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/11423100>.
- 5 <https://www.linc.tas.gov.au/archive-heritage/guides-records/Pages/Immigration.aspx>.
- 6 Libraries Tasmania. Conduct Registers of Female Convicts arriving in the Period of the Convict System and Indents of Female Convicts. Ship lists.
- 7 'Ireland, Prison Registers, 1790-1924: Dublin, Kilmainham Gaol', 5 July 1849, Prisoner no. 993. Accessed through Ancestry.com.
- 8 'Ireland, Prison Registers, 1790-1924: Dublin, Grangegorman Female Prison', 1849, Convict no. 2110. Ancestry.com.
- 9 <https://irelandxo.com/ireland-xo/history-and-genealogy/buildings-database/grangegorman-female-convict-depot>.

Continued page 339

Thomas & Eliza Little

by Stephen Lally

In November 2019, *Western Ancestor*, reviewed Stephen Lally's family history *Thomas & Eliza Little, Irish Pioneers in India and Western Australia*.

As happens, further information has come to light as a result of that publication, we thought our members might find this of interest.

Addendum No.1

Thomas' family background and their status in Irish society.

The meticulous records of each soldier kept by the East India Company show their town and county. The recruitment register, states that this was their place of birth. Linda Sue, who began this investigation of Thomas and Eliza, looked for Littles in these areas of their birth, around 1800, and came up with remarkable results that affect our understanding of Thomas' character.

In 1800, Thomas Little was born in Kiltullagh, so the supposed birth story on page 7 could be feasible. This location also fits with connections to the Lally and Brett families and to the marriage of Thomas' parents in Loughrea. There is now evidence that William and Robert were *born* in Dromoland, about 40 miles south of Kiltullagh, in 1802 and 1807. Thomas' father, Robert Little, and other Littles, almost certainly related, were in business in the Dromoland, Newmarket on Fergus and Sixmilebridge area.

The Clare and Ennis local papers carried adverts for Robert Little, nurseryman, which show him as an established and substantial businessman in his own right. One of these, by R Little for grass and garden seeds in the Clare Journal of 24th October 1805, stated that he was gardener to Sir Edward O'Brien, Bart. Sir

Edward was 4th Baronet and 12th Lord Inchiquin, member for Clare of the British House of Commons. He owned nine houses and estates in Clare and Limerick. To be gardener to such a man was a rare privilege, showing Robert's personality and professionalism. R Little's advert says that he is running his own business, while using the name of Sir Edward.

According to the House of Commons Library, Sir Edward was a life-long supporter of Catholic relief while his 'devoted' and 'exasperatingly pious' wife supported local Protestant schools. So this was a marriage with sympathies across religions, just as was the marriage of Robert and Judith Little.

Linda Sue has also found that Michael Little, the brother who stayed in Ireland, continued in his father's business as nurseryman but was bankrupt in 1841. His son, Robert, Thomas' nephew, became an eminent priest and fighter for Catholic causes and justice. He was described as '*a tall fine-looking man of a Saxon rather than a Celtic type, and, I daresay, comes of the Cromwellian stock*'. (Jayme Keogh, Clare County Library)

What does all this tell us of Thomas Little? Firstly, Thomas's father was a businessman on a large scale so not one of the poverty-stricken masses. He mixed and did business with the upper classes. Thomas, at least to the age of ten, would have mixed in this society and learnt their entrepreneurial spirit. This spirit would be unknown to the majority of the soldiers in India, and is likely a reason why he stood apart from them, and progressed.

Thomas was a staunch Catholic but with a Protestant attitude. Also, it seems unlikely that the Little family



Five John Olleys (Cont.)

owned their land in 1823 when the three brothers emigrated. The brothers gave their occupations as gardener and labourers. This may support the fact that the Littles, like so many in Ireland, were in decline financially. Lack of prospects was a good reason for emigration.

Addendum No.2

The Dardanup Park house that Thomas and Eliza built.

The photo is of the Little's house in 1873, with Thomas Little standing in front of it, was found recently in the Western Australia State Archives. A later, 1899, photo shows a larger double-fronted house with a wide porch and a veranda, the house having been extended in 1885/6, after Thomas' death. Imagine the house seen here with a mirror image extension to the left which doubled its size.

The roof line was also raised then and this can be seen in the brickwork today. The house was extended again in about 1908. Thomas and Eliza's staircase was not grand, as suggested in the book and their dining room was typical of such a house. Eliza's kitchen was probably a separate building at the back to guard against any fire spreading to the rest of the house. Thomas had the wine cellars because we know they were used as dormitories for Chinese workers and the original house was behind because we know it was used as the schoolroom. Dardanup Park was practical rather than palatial and, as we see from the new information of his life in Ireland, it was of the type Thomas knew there.

What does this change in our story? The house built by Thomas and Eliza was clearly smaller than that described in the book. This does not detract from his achievement as, by standards of the time, this was still a substantial residence and a masterpiece of craftsmanship. This

photograph adds an image in a day of Thomas' life. Here he is with vines right in front of his house, ten years after his main crops were destroyed by disease. There is a loaded ox waggon with its workers; a girl looking through the porch, and domestic clutter of a normal life going on.

As more information is discovered and comes on-line, so we will learn more about the lives of Thomas and Eliza Little. Perhaps, when the British Library digitises its Bengal newspapers, we may even be able to plot their rise in Indian society.

A message from the Treasurer

Neil Bradley, Treasurer

Management is aware of the financial challenges facing many members and we have focussed on trying to save money and to find other ways of earning income. Sadly, our membership numbers have declined by 400 since our last fee increase in 2020/21 and our running costs have increased. Management has regrettably had to increase fees from 1 July 2024.

Members can pay at the old rate up to that date and we do accept payments for more than one year. However, if you wish to pay in advance, you can't use the online payment gateway. You need to use direct deposit.

To soften the blow, we will be introducing 3 month and 6 month memberships, although they will only be available online. More details to follow.

The new fees will be:

Single Membership (12 months)	\$90
Joint Membership (12 months)	\$135
Internet Membership	\$60
Student Membership	\$45
Affiliate and Institutional Members	\$110

To help members get to most out of the FHWA website, we have added some short videos. Look under 'Membership' or 'About Us.

Five John Olleys (Continued from page 348)

10 For general details of female convicts in Tasmania see https://www.utas.edu.au/library/companion_to_tasmanian_history/F/Female%20convicts.htm and 'Female Convicts Research Centre Inc.', <https://femaleconvicts.org.au>.

11 Death and funeral notices in *The Mercury*, 22 June 1918, p. 1; <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/11398203>.

12 Mr. J. J. Olley, *Daily Advertiser* (Wagga Wagga, NSW), 21 Nov 1934, p. 4.; <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/143632929>.

13 National Archives of Australia: Series B883: Personnel service records for the Second Australian Imperial Force 1939-47: NX 53216.

Journeying from Ireland to Australia and Beyond The Atkins Family

Robert Atkins | Member # 10908

Why am I telling this story? There is nothing extraordinary about families emigrating from Ireland in the mid-nineteenth century.

However, there are eccentric twists in the behaviour of my 2x great grandfather, Stephen Hastings **Atkins** (1793–1870), which led to his children settling in three countries: Canada, the United States of America and Australia. One of his sons, William Atkins, my great grandfather, was the first of our family to come to Western Australia.

This story commences with life in Ireland, then travels to Van Diemen's Land. Stephen Atkins spent a relatively short time there before setting off to the Hawaiian Islands and British Columbia. Only patchy records of his journey from Tasmania have been found, so the exact route and timeline to North America can't be confirmed. Some Canadian researchers have found indications that the Atkins were in Toronto before travelling to the west coast and the Hawaiian Islands.

Ireland

Our Atkins ancestors are believed to have migrated to Ireland from England in the mid-seventeenth century, settling in County Cork. Five generations later, my 2-x great grandfather Stephen Hastings Atkins was born on 29 March 1793, probably at Firville, near Mallow, in County Cork. His parents were Major Robert Atkins J.P. (1749 – 1827) and Mary **Hastings** (1756–1841). He was the eighth born of ten children and the second of four sons. His older brother, Robert (1775 – 1839), inherited their father's Firville estate.

It has been difficult to track down Stephen Atkins' early life. He first married Elizabeth Margaret **O'Reilly** (1795–1816) in 1815 and they had one son; and secondly Mary Anne **Greene** (1808–1903) in 1825. They had nine children, eight of whom reached adulthood. He mostly lived in houses as tenant of various family members or similarly-held farm tenancies which he either farmed himself and/or let to other tenant farmers. Stephen Atkins appears in local newspapers winning prizes for



Stephen Hastings Atkins 1793–1870.

agricultural produce including cattle and pigs.

On 16 September 1834 a newspaper reports the formation of the Limerick Agricultural Society the committee of which included Stephen Atkins and, interestingly, a William Smith **O'Brien**.¹

William Smith O'Brien was one of a group of Irish political prisoners transported to Tasmania in 1849. He was the son of Sir Edward O'Brien, baronet County Clare. Two pages of hand writing, which appear to be drafts of two letters likely to have been written by Stephen Atkins in August and September 1850 from Sydney, have passed down through the family. They refer to a number of the Irish political prisoners in Tasmania and to William Smith O'Brien's failed escape bid from Maria Island at the time.² This, together with some of the assertions made at the time of SH Atkins' removal from the Tipperary magistracy in

The Atkins Family (Cont.)

1835 (detailed below), suggests he had republican leanings.

Stephen Atkins was variously a Commissioner of the Peace and a Magistrate for the counties of Tipperary, Clare and Limerick and, at times, a Grand Juror in Tipperary. He lived at Birdhill House, Tipperary from about 1824, as a tenant, firstly of Arthur Ormsby then of his wife Margaret Ormsby (Stephen's sister) who inherited Birdhill after her husband Arthur Ormsby's death in October 1846.

On 27 May 1835, Stephen Atkins was accused of abetting and encouraging breaches of the peace by acting in a manner inconsistent with his magisterial functions, and derogatory to his duty. Apparently, he had paid the fine of a man in the employ of the Birdhill Inn keeper (a tenant of his) as well as two other men convicted of assault. He was asked to respond to the allegations by Lord Donoughmore and he was subsequently removed from the magistracy of County Tipperary on 17 September 1835 as reported in the *Leinster Express*.

Following a failed bid to have his dismissal reconsidered, Stephen Atkins formally resigned his magistrate commissions for the counties of Limerick and Clare. *The Leinster Express* continued, 'The circumstances of the Conservative efforts of Mr Atkins having been opposed to the nominees of the Whigs and O'Connell, in the late Tipperary election, afforded sufficient motive for this extraordinary dismissal, made without conceding that enquiry

which public justice demanded and which Mr Atkins had loudly but in vain reclaimed.'³

An incident occurred on Saturday 16 May 1846 when two servants of a George Mansell, a tenant of Stephen Atkins who farmed some 70 acres of the Birdhill estate, were shot and killed by a police contingent.⁴ Mr Mansell along with a number of other tenants, had been issued an eviction notice as he had fallen behind in his rent due to a succession of crop failures. Not willing to vacate, Mansell barricaded his residence leaving seven or eight people inside. The police in carrying out the eviction order, fired on the house killing the two servants.

We can only speculate the reasons for

the family leaving Ireland. However, having lost his magistracies, a falling out with his sister and his landlady, as well as all the social upheaval with tenant farming and crop failures and his apparent republican leanings, remaining in Ireland must have been losing its attraction.⁵

The family departed London on the 1 July 1847 on the barque *Calcutta*, arriving in Van Diemen's Land on the 17 October.^{6,7}

Tasmania

The family appeared to have settled initially in the Launceston area. *The Launceston Examiner* (March 1848) reports Stephen Atkins as the protenant and occupier of the Entally



Mary Anne Atkins (nee Greene) 1808-1903.

The Atkins Family (Cont.)

estate, near Launceston. He appeared before a magistrate for illegally passing a toll gate without paying, and assaulting the collector.

On the 22 May 1848, he bought a one-thousand-acre farm called Storth on the Break O' Day Plains, just west of St. Marys and south of St. Helens, in northeast Tasmania for an estimated £2,300 (purchase price £1,000 plus costs and an annuity to the executors of the seller's estate).⁸

It was described as: 'a very valuable

Remus Henry, Romulus Robert, Edmund Arthur and Henrietta left Launceston for Melbourne. His wife Mary Anne and their remaining children - Adele Elizabeth, Mary Anne and William - were not on the list and assumed to have remained in Tasmania. Some days after arriving at Melbourne, they were recorded on a passenger list for the *Marco Polo* bound for Liverpool. All the evidence is that those who remained in Tasmania in 1855 never left Australia; eventually moving to Victoria, New South Wales and, in the case of William, my great grandfather, to Western Australia.

Stephen Atkins and his sons seemed to have travelled between Hawaii and Vancouver living between the two places. Trevor Williams²² in his detailed account of the Atkins' activities as early colonists made the observation that they were largely absentee claim-owners.

estate... 400 acres in English grasses; 45 acres in wheat, oats, turnips and potatoes, and sub-divided; 800 acres of cleared land, rich in clover, also sub-divided; and the remainder open bush of the best description for grazing purposes. a good dwelling house' and with a dairy and irrigated land. 'As a dairy farm Storth is not surpassed by any in the colony... always obtained the highest price in the Hobart Town market.'

After less than four years, Storth was advertised for sale by public auction on 16 December 1851. The auction of the entire dairy stock, including over 100 cattle and six bulls, 100 sheep and 20 pigs, farming implements and household furniture and goods was held on 28 and 29 January 1852.

On 17 July 1855, Stephen Hastings accompanied by four of his children:

Across the Pacific Ocean

Hawaiian Islands, Hawaiian Kingdom [United States of America]

We next find the travellers on a passenger list of 17 August 1857 in San Francisco, California bound for Honolulu in the Hawaiian Islands on the barque *Fanny Major*.

Within a few months of arriving in Hawaii, Stephen Atkins purchased land for \$2,000 on 25 January 1858 from members of the Hawaiian royal family - K. Kapaakea his wife A. Keohokalole & son David Kalakua. The property was called Kealakeakua and was in the district of Kona on the island of Hawaii.^{9,10} At the same time, he obtained a 5 year lease on a dwelling, premises and 10 acres on land for an annual rental of \$1.

Although Stephen Atkins had bought

land and leased a house, he still had wanderlust. He and his three sons and daughter left Honolulu on 4 Oct 1859 for Victoria, Vancouver Island per the *Gomelza*. Passenger records are sparse for this period: however, it seems that there were a number of trips between Hawaii, Vancouver and the west coast of the USA over the next 10 years. Within this period, there was a record of one trip from the USA to Sydney: Stephen Hastings, cabin passenger, and his son Romulus were crew on the *Ellen Southard* in 1865.¹¹

On 16 April 1863, the land known as Kealakeakua on the island of Hawaii was sold to Revd. John D Paris for \$3,400.¹² On 4 May 1863, Stephen Atkins left Honolulu for Victoria with two of his sons per *N.S. Perkins*.^{13,14} A few months later on (12 December), Henrietta left Hawaii for Melbourne via San Francisco per the *Trieste*. She remained in Victoria until her death in 1893. At some later time, Remus Henry returned to Hawaii where he settled permanently. He married Alice Wight in 1870, and started the Hawaiian branch of the Atkins family.

Vancouver, British Columbia

Having not long arrived in Vancouver, Stephen Atkins wrote to Col. Moody, Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works, on 16 December 1859: 'Like many other Irish proprietors the Encumbered Estates Act has washed me out. With the exception of 3 sons, and a daughter now with me in Victoria, my other and elder children received an ample education. My wife, our eldest son aged 24, and our second daughter, will follow me here in a few months.' He sought employment for his wife as a governess in residence

The Atkins Family (Cont.)

with the Moody family, including accommodating their children. He goes on to state his credentials as an accomplished agriculturalist. There is no evidence that those mentioned in his letter ever went to Vancouver.

The colony of British Columbia was proclaimed on 19 November 1858. The first European families settled in the Coquitlam area in mid-1859. Stephen Atkins pre-empted 160 acres on the Coquitlam River (Lot 174) and a number of other lots in January 1860. Drew records that 'SH Atkins and his three sons sailed up that river in a boat they had built, landed and built a house'.¹⁵ Stephen Hastings and two sons Romulus and Edmund made several pre-emptive claims most of which were either sold on or given up.

Stephen Atkins and his sons seemed to have travelled between Hawaii and Vancouver living between the two places. Trevor Williams in his detailed account of the Atkins' activities as early colonists made the observation that they were largely absentee claim-owners.¹⁶ Judge Chartres Brew was critical of the Atkins family because they didn't clear and fence more than five acres. At times, the youngest son, Edmund Arthur, known locally as 'Ned', aged 16 in 1860, was left to hold the Lot 174 claim. Ultimately, the Atkins lost part of that claim to an adjacent Indian reservation and neighbouring claimants.

According to Williams, Stephen Atkins wrapped up his business dealings in British Columbia and left the colony in mid-1869. By then, his son, Remus, had established himself

in Hawaii. Romulus seems to have become a seaman, eventually settling in Victoria, Australia. Ned Atkins remained in Vancouver, recognised and respected as a pioneer.

Stephen Atkins Epilogue

Having spent more than 20 years travelling buying and selling property, abandoning part of the family in Australia in the process, Stephen Atkins returned to Ireland late in 1869 where he died on 23 May 1870 at Tullylish, County Down, aged 77.^{17,18} Behaviour that can only leave us pondering his eccentricity and questions like; why did his wife Mary Anne Atkins stay behind with the older children when he embarked on this extraordinary journey? He clearly still harboured thoughts that she would come to Vancouver in 1859. However, she remained in Australia and died in Sydney in 1903. How did she support herself for almost 50 years in Australia after he left? My great grandfather William Atkins farmed for a short time in Tasmania before working in the timber industry in Victoria. He married Emily Mary Munce in Tasmania in 1870. The family came to Western Australia in 1881 when William was appointed Manager of the Jarrahdale Timber Mill, a position he held until 1885. He then had a successful career in building and construction throughout the State until he retired six years before his death in 1920 aged 84 years.

Children of Stephen Hastings Atkins

Notes

- 1 *Dublin Evening Packet and Correspondent*, British Newspapers Archive, Find My Past.
- 2 'Robert Atkins. Fragments of history: another link to the Irish Republican

Movement', *Western Ancestor*, Vol. 15, No. 6, November 2022.

- 3 *Leinster Express*, 24 December 1835, Irish Newspapers Archives, SLWA.
- 4 *Sydney Chronicle*, 17 October 1846, p. 4.
- 5 *Tipperary Vindicator*, 21 April 1848.
- 6 E-mail from Michelle to Robert Atkins, dated 9 Feb 2011, State.library@education.tas.gov.au.
- 7 *Colonial Times Hobart*, 19 October 1847.
- 8 *Launceston Examiner*, 23 May 1848.
- 9 Copy of original Deed (No 3607): sale of land, granted by Kapaakea et al to SH Atkins, Hawaii, 25 January 1858, Bureau of Conveyances, Hawaii, unknown repository reference.
- 10 California Farmer and Journal of Useful Sciences, *California Digital Newspaper Collection*, <https://cdnc.ucr.edu/>, Vol. 9, number 6, 19 February 1858.
- 11 Passenger lists, Ancestry.com.au
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- 13 *Ulukau Hawaiian Electronic Library*, <http://ulukau.org/algene/cgi-bin/algene>.
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- 15 Ralph Drew, 'Stephen Hastings Atkins, JP - Early Pioneer Settler on the Coquitlam River', Belcara, British Columbia, November 2018, [http://www.ralphdrew.ca>articles>Stephen Hastings](http://www.ralphdrew.ca>articles>Stephen%20Hastings). Accessed 13 June 2024.
- 16 'Tyhee Conomody, Atkiso, and Kwikwetlem First Nation, *British Columbia History*, Vol .52, No.2, Summer 2019.
- 17 Unknown author, *Launceston Examiner*, Tuesday 16 August 1870.
- 18 'Ireland, *Civil Registration Indexes*, 1845-1958, <https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1408347>.

Mr Stanley's Opera Troupe

Josie Millwood | Member # 14304

Cossack in 1886 was a frontier town in one of the most isolated colonies in the world. It was a centre for pearling and pearl shell fishing and the entry point for pastoralists who established extensive stations. By 1886, Cossack had a stone wharf and several other stone buildings such as the Post and Telegraph Office and a Mercantile Store, but not a lot of other substantial buildings. How did it attract an operatic performance by the most popular Opera Troupe of the decade?

Perth loved Mr Stanley's Opera Troupe. It played to huge audiences and received mostly glowing reviews. The Railway employees took up a collection so they could present Mr and Mrs **Stanley** a gold ring and earrings as a token of their esteem and appreciation.¹ A Fremantle harbour official stole flowers, roses, and bouquets to bestow upon sundry members of Stanley's Opera Troupe before they left Perth.² An ode of farewell to the players was written and published in the *Daily News* in October 1885.³

Mr Stanley's Opera Troupe and other itinerant theatre groups used coastal steamers to travel around Australia.⁴ In early 1886, Mr Stanley was taking his Opera Troupe to Singapore and to get there travelled on a coastal steamer that called in at Champion Bay, Gascoyne, and Cossack before leaving Australia.

Ever the entrepreneur, Mr Stanley used his time in port in Cossack to his advantage and had his Opera Troupe perform two shows at Roebourne and another in Cossack. There, the feature was a performance of Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Pirates of Penzance* which took place on Saturday 13 March 1886.⁵



1893 photo of Cossack SLWA.

Costumes and stage setting for Gilbert and Sullivan's, *The Pirates of Penzance*. Early 1900s. <http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-148796629>

I have been unable to find a review of the Cossack performance of this opera, but when it was performed in Perth the previous October its longer review said:

'The acting was very spirited, the costumes pretty...the children acquitted themselves admirably in their dancing', but the choruses were taken, as a rule, too fast and the words were nearly always inaudible'.

Who was Mr Stanley and how did he get into show business? The only biography I can find of Harry Stanley was supplied by him to a Perth newspaper in 1885.⁶ His life had so many self-reported highlights that one wonders if he embellished his life story a little.

Stanley was born in England, but after a childhood supposedly touring Europe, he joined the Royal Navy and served in the Crimean War. He came to Australia in the mid-1850s, worked on a steamship out of Melbourne before heading for the goldfields, where he was accosted by the notorious bushranger, **Black Johnston**. After failing to find his fortune, Stanley joined a Theatrical Troupe where he found success playing the character of Rob Roy. He moved from troupe to troupe, in various roles before forming his company and managing the Lyceum Theatre and Hotel in Sandhurst.

Stanley travelled to South Africa in 1870 with the American War Panorama Troupe but was unfortunately shipwrecked on the way. Luckily, he saved the Panorama



Costumes and stage setting for Gilbert and Sullivan's, *The Pirates of Penzance*. Early 1900s.

Mr Stanley's Opera TroupeCont.)

and happened to be on the diamond fields of Kimberley when the British flag was raised there. Stanley was received by African presidents and kings during that trip. He spent time as a guest of the Nizam at Hyderabad and was asked to lecture on war to the Sikh regiments. Stanley then went to Burma, where he was presented with a medal from the King and subsequently travelled to Siam, where he stayed at the palaces of the kings.

Perhaps colourful renditions of life stories come with show business. After leaving Cossack, it was reported that Mr Stanley was struck insensible by lightning for three hours while on deck of the SS *Natal*.⁷ Fortunately, Stanley had recovered by the time he reached Singapore.

Stanley and his Opera Troupe seem to have spent the next few years performing in the East, visiting 'the colonial port cities with large European populations where there was a high demand for the sort of shows he staged'.⁸

Stanley returned to Australia to settle some business in 1896, but while in Newcastle his heart condition suddenly worsened, and he died (without a will). Stanley was nearly 60 years old.⁹ The Freemasons in Calcutta raised money for his wife and daughters to return to Australia. Entertainments such as Mr Stanley's Opera Troupe were facing competition from newer forms of entertainment such as roller skating.

The story of Harry Stanley and his Opera Troupe is a colourful one. What other larger than life people's stories are awaiting discovery by Western Australia's Ghost Towns Project?

Farewell to Stanley's Opera Troupe

poem as published in *The Daily News*, 6 November 1885, p. 3.

Notes

- 1 'Presentation to Mr and Mrs Stanley', *The Inquirer and Commercial News*, 10 February 1886, p. 5.
- 2 'Perth Local Court', *Western Mail*, 2 January 1886, p. 10.
- 3 'Farewell to Stanley's Opera Troupe', *The Daily News*, 6 November 1885, p. 3.
- 4 YU Elysia, 'Australian Itinerant Theatres as Colonial Cultural Assimilation', <https://www.tca.hku.hk/>
- 5 'Roebourne Letter', *Western Mail*, 13 March 1886, p. 16.
- 6 'Biography of Mr. Harry Stanley', *The Herald*, 26 September 1885, p.
- 7 'Local', *The West Australian*, 13 April 1886, p. 3.
- 8 YU Elysia, 'Australian Itinerant Theatres as Colonial Cultural Assimilation'.
- 9 *Newcastle News, The Maitland Weekly Mercury*, 2 May 1896, p. 5.

FAREWELL TO STANLEY'S OPERA TROUPE. I am asked before you leave us To bid farewell to you in rhyme, And tell you though from us you're parting We'll remember you in "Auld lang syne." Long may recollection aid us To recall afresh to mind, All your graces and your faces When you've left us far behind. In after years, when this fair City Has Opera houses filled each night, We will think of those who started To afford us such delight. Perhaps once more we'll have the pleasure Of seeing you again ere long, And gladly would once more we welcome In our midst such birds of song. I am asked to tell the ladies, Ere they leave our Western isles, Numerous friends send their well-wishes, Will you tell them, Amy Childs? Each of you have won admirers— Thoughts of others with me lodge— Many are the farewell misadventures I might send Amelia Hodge. And the charming Dolly Inman, Inman's mind will ever rest, Gladly do I pay this tribute To her ere she leaves the West. And the little Miss Schlerika Captured many a wayward heart, Every time in acting Wanda Many a spell she did impart. I might praise you each and singly, But 'twould be a waste of time, Since the public showed so plainly Their appreciation in your pantomime. Young Favarger and Willie Driscoll, From all hands have won renown, Youngsters cherish up in memory, Thoughts of Pantaloon and Clown. Farewell, Armand! little shaver, You need never have no fears, That your conique will be graver When you reach maturer years. When again we hear such music, On our ears so sweetly borne; When we do we may forget you Not before farewell Herr Braun, To one more I must say something, If 'tis short it should be sweet—	If 'tis short it should be sweet— Mr. Farmer, when you leave us, We are losing what's a treat. Every one who came in contact, With you in or outside plays, Say they all would like to contract For some of your pleasant ways. Last, not least, there's Harry Stanley, The leader of this clever band, To you we wish a hearty farewell Ere you leave our native land. In our midst we sincerely hope You have met with that genuine luck You deserve; for in bringing your opera here You have shown most genuine pluck. Good-bye once more, farewell to all, Take with you good wishes the best, In future years may we both recall To memory your trip in the West. Should Stanley's Troupe be e'er forgot, And never recalled to mind, The one that so the Troupe forgets, They want leave here behind, Good-bye, girls, and good-bye, boys, May your return trip be fine When you're all singing bye-and-bye, Just think of "Auld Lang Syne." May the "Raven" make a speedy trip With Captain Valentine, Now go below and take a nip For the days of "Auld Lang Syne." A.S.O. W.A. Perth, October 27, 1885.
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A waterman at Trafalgar

Terry Fox

Motivated by C J Eddington's article on 'Thames Watermen and Lightermen' in the March issue, I re-investigated some of my Thames waterman ancestors and found that more records are now available online. I discovered, too, that there was another survivor from the Battle of Trafalgar in the family.

Susannah **Reeves** was born on 21 Dec 1763 at St Katherine's in Middlesex and is my 4xgreat grandmother. She married a lighterman named George Galloway at St George in the East on 27 April 1784 and gave him two daughters and two sons. Only George survived infancy. His father was only 35 when he died and George Galloway was buried at St Katherine's on 3 May 1791. Clearly Susannah needed someone to support

the young George and she married Isaac Chant at St George in the East on 7 August 1792.

Isaac (son of James **Chant** and Jane **Robinson**) was baptised on 31 Jul 1757 and became a waterman. He was bound to Emmanuel Robinson at St Katherine's on 10 Nov 1775 and completed his apprenticeship on 28 November 1782. Having set up on his own account, he apprenticed his step-son, George Galloway, on 23 Jul 1801. Perhaps George ran the business whilst Isaac was in the navy, as George was not released from his apprenticeship until 1812 - five years longer than usual.

In 1803, Isaac was pressed into the Royal Navy. His service included:

- OS HMS *Utrecht*, 16 Apr 1803 - 11 May 1803.

- AB HMS *Victory*, 11 May 1803 - 15 Jan 1806. Whilst on board, and before Trafalgar, he made a will on 23 Aug 1805. [see log of HMS *Victory* 1805]
- AB HMS *Ocean*, 17 Jan 1806 - 28 Feb 1808.
- Qtr gunner HMS *Ocean*, 1 Mar 1809 - 16 Jul 1809.
- AB HMS *Salvador del Mundo*, 17 Jul 1809 - 17 Oct 1809. (This ship had been captured from the Spanish and was kept permanently in harbour.)

Isaac was discharged on 4 Nov 1809 for harbour duties.

There is perhaps more yet to be discovered. When he was admitted to the Royal Naval Hospital at Greenwich in 1837, it was based on a service of 11 years and 2 months as a seaman, his last ship being HMS *Ocean*. This leaves some five years of previous service, probably during the period 1782-1801.

Isaac died at the naval hospital at Greenwich and was buried there on 19 Mar 1841. His wife, Susannah died in Dec 1816, after which he married a widow, Elizabeth **Callow**, in Aug 1817. She survived him, dying in 1847. His stepson, George, continued the business for a while but diversified: in 1841, he was a fishmonger; in 1850, a mariner; and, in 1851, a shellfish dealer. It looks as if he, too, was responding to the decline in trade on the river.



THAMES LIGHTERMEN.

[From a sketch.]

Illustration from "London Labour and the London Poor", 1851. commons.wikimedia.org

Walter Benson: A French convict delights with his religious murals

Margaret Sermon | Member #1407

Many residents of York in Western Australia were involved in the design and building of the first St Patrick's Catholic Church there, constructed in 1860. Joseph **Nunan** (also Noonan) was the main architect of the second church built between 1874 and 1883. Numerous other convicts donated their time, labour and materials. The church windows were painted with religious murals by convict Walter **Benson**.

Who was Walter Benson?

The England Census of 1851 mentions a Walter Bensoine, Male, Age 23, as a lodger in the house of Edward and Rebecca **Patterson** in Luecocks Square, Saint Leonard, Yorkshire. Although Walter told the judge that he had left his wife in Leeds before travelling to Kingston upon Hull there is no record of a marriage in England. He may have stated his marital status as a way of establishing an alibi regarding his whereabouts.

His birthplace was listed as Rowen (Rouen), Normandy with an occupation as a Ticket Writer. His parents were possibly Aime Eugene Benjamin Benony and Francois Emelie **Le Comte** who married in the Rouen area of Le Havre in Normandy in 1828. If these were Walter's parents, then his mother Francoise died in 1831 aged 24 years.¹

Walter was convicted of receiving money in Kingston upon Hull in Yorkshire in 1852. There was a link between the receiving of money and a murder. His trial appeared in the local newspaper, *The Hull Advertiser* of 23 October 1852. It was referred to as 'The Drypool Murders' and involved the death of William Francis **Maplethorp** in May 1851. Two people had already been arrested for the murder. Benson became a suspect because he had acquired a five-pound note which was known to be among Mr Maplethorp's possessions. It had markings which had been recorded and was therefore easy to trace.



St Patrick's church York Western Australia

Walter Benson (Cont.)

John Smith alias Snape and John Smith, both aged 21, and Ann Smith, aged 20 were on trial for the wilful murder of Maplethorp on 21 May 1852. Walter Benson was named as having received a five-pound note knowing it had been stolen from Maplethorpe on the evening of his murder.²

The trial was lengthy and was reported in detail in several newspapers. Walter was found not guilty regarding the murder but guilty of receiving a stolen five-pound note and was sentenced to fourteen years transportation to Western Australia. The other three people charged were found not guilty. When the verdict was delivered, it was stated that Walter smiled.³

Walter Benson, born in 1828, and described as an unmarried, literate clerk, was taken to the Portland goal to await transportation on the convict ship *Stag*. It departed London on 5 February and arrived in Fremantle on 25 May 1855. He was allocated convict number 3385 and was incarcerated in Fremantle Goal. Benson received his ticket of leave on 15 September 1856. The character book described Benson as reading and writing well, married and with an occupation as a French Polisher.⁴

He was sent to the Resident Magistrate at York on the 14 June 1860, but, prior to this, had been employed by John and Mary **Donovan** as a tutor to their six children.⁵

In April 1859, an employee of John Donovan went to investigate a disturbance. He was carrying a loaded gun and was accompanied by Donovan's eldest son John, aged nine years. This person tripped and a bullet struck John, who died almost instantly. His father, John, wrote a letter to the newspaper correcting the circumstances of his son's death. Reference was made to 'a person in my employ who was in the house with my other children'.⁶ This person may have been Walter Benson.

In October 1860, Walter offered to paint the York Catholic Church windows with religious murals. All the windows were then painted with biblical scenes which were impressive according to a report from Father Salvado to Bishop Salvado: Of particular merit was the round east window which was dedicated to the apostles as described by AM Clack.⁷

Father Salvado was disappointed when Benson left in November to go to New Norcia as he was hoping more paintings would be done in the church.

During his short stay in York, Benson was mentioned as

painting some of the early settlers' homesteads, a church in York and scenes of Aboriginal dances and corroborees. It is not known where these art works were painted and, if indeed they were painted by Walter, what became of them.

Two views of New Norcia were originally attributed to another convict artist, James **Walsh**, who at the time was in Fremantle goal. It wasn't until the examination of the New Norcia Monastery records that the identity of the artist was revealed. The images include the current church, monastery, old flour mill, mission cottages and land under cultivation.⁸

The following letter, dated Tuesday, 6 November 1860, was sent from Father **Salvado**, who was based in York, to Bishop Salvado in New Norcia.

This comes with Walter Benson, the artist mentioned previously who wishes to paint a few prospects of New Norcia. Salvado was hoping he would do more work in the church at York, but he insisted on going to New Norcia, where he would like to stay until he leaves the colony.

He has no great talent, but it was enough to astound people at York, and the windows he painted have even attracted the attention of the local bigots. The round west window, dedicated to the Apostles, looks very well, as do other windows. He will make no charge other than to be allowed to paint some views of the Plains to take to Europe, but Salvado thinks it would be advisable to pay him at servant rate. He is a free man, with a conditional pardon, and appears to have overcome his liquor problem. He has some education, especially history. He prefers the Gothic style, though he will do what is asked of him. He would like to decorate the church at New Norcia when it is finished, and also paint the Aborigines in their dances and corroborees, some of which he has done here, with some success. He has a strong desire to see the History of the Mission. He knows French.

Greetings to Garrido and Martinez.

*Salvado*⁹

The New Norcia Archives Expenses Book for the year commencing February 1857 lists four payments to Wm Benson in 1860 and 1861, which ranged from 2 shillings to 1 pound 10 shillings. shillings.¹⁰

Notes continued page 352

The Gallop Brothers - Richard, James & Edward

Margaret Sermon | Member #1407

After the Napoleonic Wars, the 1820s were difficult for agricultural workers in England and there was a great deal of poverty. The demobilisation of soldiers and the introduction of the Corn Laws caused severe hardships: the parish of Sullington in West Sussex was not alone in being hard hit. A workhouse was built in nearby Thakeham. Parishes were struggling to provide poor relief and so emigration was encouraged.

As part of a colonisation scheme (which ultimately failed) to secure labour in Western Australia, three ships were chartered to bring labourers to WA. These were the *Calista*, *Marquis of Angelsea* (both arriving in August 1829) and the *Lotus*. Among the 23 parishioners who left from the Thakeham workhouse (ex-Sullington) were three Gallop brothers. These were Richard (20), James (18) and Edward (15) who arrived at the Swan on 6 October 1829, aboard the *Lotus* which carried a total of 60 passengers.¹ They were the sons of Thomas Gallop, a shepherd from Sussex, and Sarah Howell and left behind their parents, a sister, Sarah, and a brother, Henry.

The Gallop brothers were recruited as indentured agricultural labourers to Colonel Peter Latour who was a veteran of the Peninsular Wars and the Battle of Waterloo. He was inept in his financial affairs, was declared a bankrupt, spent time in the Kings Bench Prison in London, and never made the trip to the Swan River.

Latour had planned an immigration scheme to bring labourers to develop a land tract of 100,000 acres in the Leschenault area. His agent was Richard George Wells. Within a year, the scheme failed and Wells was unable to supply food, clothing or employment to the indentured labourers including the Gallops. Fortunately, Governor Stirling absolved Latour (and many others) of his obligations and released the labourers from their indenture. As there was a shortage of labour in the colony, the Gallops had no difficulty in obtaining employment.²

Richard Gallop

Richard had been born on 9 September 1809, and his wife to be, Margaret Drew in 1814 in County Cork. She arrived in the colony under the protection of her brother-in-law on

the *Ganges* in 1841. They were married in November, 1842 and had six children: Richard (1843-1899), Mary (1846-1877), Anne (1848 - 1867), Thomas (1851-) John (1854-1890) and Walter Edward Joseph (1857-).³

Richard and James worked as free labour for several employers before taking over the management of Henry Sutherland's property on Swan location 87, at Crawley Park for a 50% share in the profits.⁴

Richard realised his dream of land ownership when he purchased a four acre block in Brisbane Street, Perth known as 'Orange Grove'. He established a profitable market garden, orchard and vineyard and became a member of the Perth Horticultural Society in 1875.

His obituary stated that he lived in this house for over 60 years and preferred a quiet life at home to being involved in public life. He amassed many properties including at one time a portion of the land on which the Perth Railway Station was built.⁵



Gallop House 1971 (SLWA 345521PD).

Gallop Brothers (Cont.)

He was included in a list of the 100 most influential leaders (1829-2013) published in the *West Australian* for his contribution to the development of agriculture in the colony.

Richard was the great, great uncle of Geoff Gallop, Premier of Western Australia (2001-2006).⁶

Richard died on 21st June, 1898 aged 88 and was buried in the Roman Catholic portion of the East Perth Cemetery. Margaret died on 12th February, 1882 aged 66 years and was also buried in the East Perth Cemetery. Both have unknown gravesites.⁷

James Gallop

James married Elizabeth Spencer (b 1826) on the 19th October, 1843. She was the daughter of Charles Philip Spencer & Elizabeth Weston from Essex and arrived on the *Calista* in October, 1829. Charles was an indentured labourer assigned to Lionel Samson.⁸

James & Elizabeth had thirteen children (seven girls, five boys & one unnamed). Their children were Sarah (1844-1906), James (1845-1928), Ann (1852-1940), Charles (1849-1920), Edward (1854-1878), Caroline Hannah (1855-1856), Elizabeth Emily (1857-1931), John Richard (1860-1880), George Frederick (1862-1952), Mary Jane (1863-1864), Jane (1865-1955), and Alice (1868-1868).⁹

James and his brother Richard worked for James Sutherland at location 85 prior to Captain Adam **Armstrong** taking up the property. It comprised 320 acres of land near the Swan River. Armstrong built a five room limestone cottage and grew vegetables and fruit. He called it Crawley Park.

After encountering financial difficulties, it was leased to James Gallop who eventually bought it in two lots - the cottage and 65 acres in 1841, called 'Dalkeith' and the balance of 320 acres in the mid-1860s.

The land became known as Gallop Gardens and James grew a wide variety of fruit and vegetables. With the help of convict labour (he employed 16 ticket of leave men between 1851 and 1878) the production was extended

to include grapes, figs, mulberries, peaches, rock melon and sugar cane. He supplied produce to residents in Perth and Fremantle.

James qualified as a Juror in 1860 with 150 pounds of real estate. He moved his family to Fremantle in the late 1850s, and by 1867, had established a home and premises at Lot 67 Henry St which was known as their city house.¹⁰



James and Elizabeth Gallop and their children, 1880s

Gallop Brothers (Cont.)

Between 1872 and 1877, he built Gallop House (pictured) in Nedlands as a wedding present for his son James.¹¹

Elizabeth died on 22 November, 1872 and James on 21 January, 1880.¹² Both were buried in the East Perth Cemetery with a headstone.

Edward Gallop

Edward (born April, 1815)¹³ married Ellen Kelly at Guildford on 24 June, 1837. Ellen had been a widow for six years having been previously married in England to Thomas Kelly. She was seventeen years senior to Edward.¹⁴

Ellen's first husband was born in Lancashire England about 1801 and was a stonemason. Thomas & Ellen emigrated on the ship *Nancy* in 1830 (as indentured labour to John

Bamber) with their three children.¹⁵ Margaret Mary Kelly (1825 - 1899), William (1826-1894), and Thomas (1828 - 1873). All children were students at Fremantle in 1834.

Thomas purchased a Fremantle Town Lot 332 (later inherited by his son William) and eleven months later died of dysentery on 3 November, 1831. He was the 140th burial in the colony; although the graveyard at either Alma or Skinner Streets in Fremantle no longer exists.¹⁶

Edward Gallop, who had emigrated from England on the *Lotus* in 1829, appeared on the colony's census of 1 July, 1832 as '18 years of age single from Sussex England, Farm Servant' and 1837 Census of 30 December 1837 living in Guildford, 'shepherd, born England'.¹⁷

Edward worked for a period on Swan location 25 for John Morgan and later

journeyed to York (probably soon after his marriage to Ellen) to work for Revett Henry Bland who later became the Government Resident.

In September, 1836 an Aboriginal was shot dead while in the act of stealing flour from the barn of Bland and Trimmer. It was thought that Arthur Trimmer had set a trap to lure the Aboriginals to the barn and had requested Edward to fire the gun.¹⁸

Soon after Edward returned to Guildford. In 1838, he was grazing sheep on the Helena River when he was accused of stealing a sheep. Although he was found not guilty, his brother James compensated the accuser.¹⁹

Ellen ran up debts in Edward's name and on 19th October, 1842 he issued a notice in the newspaper stating he would no longer be responsible for his wife's debts.



Dalkeith Estate and Gallop Gardens (SLWA- ACC 9663A125).

Gallop Brothers (Cont.)

His brothers Richard and James tried to assist with the debt but he was declared bankrupt in Guildford in 1849.²⁰

He moved to York soon after and was living at Glen Irwin (near Gwambygine) in the Avon District.

In January 1852, the *Perth Gazette* reported that Edward Gallop lost fifteen acres of wheat and 4 to 5 tons of hay to 'native fires'. A subscription was opened for donations for financial assistance.²¹

In May 1852, he was charged by the police in Fremantle with being drunk and having boarded the ship *Mary* with the intention of becoming a stowaway.²²

On 8th July, 1852, he boarded the *Louisa* for Adelaide and disembarked after a voyage of 21 days.²³

In 1855 an advertisement appeared in the *Argus* newspaper in Melbourne which read: SWAN River: If anyone should meet the eye of Edward Gallop, he will hear of Thomas Kelly by directing to the Post Office, Beechworth. Thomas Kelly was his stepson.²⁴

He was listed in the South Australian Biographical Index page as possibly dying after 1859. He supposedly drowned but despite searches for possible deaths in all states except Queensland and Tasmania the circumstances or date of death has not been discovered.

The 1859 York Census listed Ellen as being in the house of John Lott (her son- in-law) with a note 'husbands whereabouts unknown'. She died at 'Mile Pool' York on 25th August, 1881 aged 81 years.

Notes

- 1 *Lotus* passenger list (<http://membership.wqags.org.au/1829-ships/104-lotus>).
- 2 Peter August Latour 1787-1866, [fremantlestuff.info](https://fremantlestuff.info/people/latour).
- 3 Richard Gallop, Rica Erickson: *Dictionary of Western Australians*, p. 1144.
- 4 Rica Erickson, *Dictionary of Western Australians*, p. 2904.
- 5 Digitised Newspapers and Gazettes, <https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article33155255>.
- 6 Richard Gallop, in 'Business Leaders who Shaped WA, 1829-2013', *The West Australian*, <https://info.thewest.com.au/westadvertising/feature/20131129/downloads.feature>, p. 4, Accessed 17 June 2024.
- 7 Richard and Margaret Gallop, East Perth Cemetery Database, <https://www.eastperthcemeteries.com.au>
- 8 Charles Philip Spencer, Rica Erickson, *Dictionary of West Australians*, p. 2904.
- 9 James Gallop, in *Dictionary of West Australians*, p. 1144.

- 10 'Stories and People', East Perth Cemeteries stories and people, Gallop Family by Bob Couzens, <https://eastperthcemeteries.com.au/explore>, Accessed 17 June 2024.
- 11 Rica Erickson, *Dictionary of Western Australians*, p. 1534.
- 12 Elizabeth and James Gallop's death records, W.A. Births, Deaths and Marriages Online Index.
- 13 Edward Gallop, Baptism. 'England, Sussex, Parish Registers, 1538-1910', database, Familysearch.com.
- 14 Greg Scannell, Wikitree, <https://www.wikitree.com>, Accessed 17 June 2024.
- 15 <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/148584952>.
- 16 Thomas Kelley, Alma and Skinner Street Burial Records 1831-, No. 43, City of Fremantle, <https://fremantle.wa.gov.au/default>files> (PDF), Accessed 17 June 2024.
- 17 Edward Gallop, 1832 & 1837 Census of W.A.
- 18 *Swan River Guardian*, 25 May 1836, p.124.
- 19 *Perth Gazette and Western Australian Journal*, 7 April 1838, p.55.
- 20 *Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News*, 14 February, 1849, p.1.
- 21 *Ibid*, 2 January, 1851, p. 4.
- 22 *Inquirer*, 28 April, 1852, p.8.
- 23 <http://nla.gov.au/nla.nes-article66449253>.
- 24 *The Argus*, 7 August 1855, p.8.

Walter Benson (Continued from page 348)

Notes

- 1 Ancestry, France Deaths and Burials, 1546-1960, Data base, Family Search *The Hull Packet and East Riding Times*, 22 October 1852 p. 6.
- 2 *Ibid*
- 3 Ancestry, *Western Australian Convict Records 1846-1930*
- 4 *Ibid*
- 5 1859 York Census p. 424.
- 6 *The Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News*, 20 May 1859 p.2.
- 7 AM Clack, *Glorious Apostle: a history of the Catholic Church in York*, 2009, National Library of Australia, p. 36.
- 8 *Australiana* August 2017 Vol 39 No 3 p.20.
- 9 Robert Stevens Report, *James Walsh convict artist in Western Australia*.
- 10 Correspondence with New Norcia Museum Collections Manager, Marina Baker.

Letters to the Editor



Karen Murdock reflects on her reading of articles in *Western Ancestor*.

On Ern Levitzke and his brothers being sent to boarding school.

My grandfather was sent to St Ildephonsus' College at New Norcia in 1913. He had been born in August 1907 and was in its first intake of students. His enrolment card shows his birthday as about 6 months earlier. He was only allowed to go on condition his older brother dressed him and tied his shoe laces.

My grandfather remembered going with his father and brother to see the school being built. His parents, Paddy and Mary McCaul, ran the Australia Hotel in Fremantle and the Spanish monks who stayed there told them of the school. Eventually all 7 children went to the boarding schools, only returning to Kalgoorlie at Christmas. They did not see their siblings of the opposite sex as they had chapels in each school. My grandfather was used as a model for the angels on the ceiling of the chapel of St Ildephonus' School.

They all had deformed feet from wearing the same shoes for a year.

Remembering the Cameroons

The short piece about Andrée growing up in Africa interested me as she had been my French teacher at night school at Perth TAFE. I know her as Vanda! Her story reminded me of my extremely literal grandson. His Chinese grandmother offered me food. I asked grandson to tell her that I had already eaten. He turned to her and said, "She has already eaten!" I had to explain that I could have said

those words to her, I wanted him to translate.

As we know, the understanding of language is often dependent upon previous experience and culture. When he was about 4 years old, I made a cake with this child. I told him when I had finished that he could lick the bowl. He did; the outside of the bowl. He'd never seen a cake being made before. And was soon deciding that about one third of the mixture made up 'the bowl'. Smart child.

Lighterman

The article on Lightermen interested me as my husband's great great-grandfather was a Thames lighterman, James Walter Toddhunter. This is apparently a surname associated with the occupation. I was happy to learn the different roles of various water craft and their crews. James ended up in a workhouse in London for about 20 years before his death. The decline in need for his services probably assisted this downfall. He absconded to London - abandoning this wife and child in Brisbane. I found a British newspaper notice asking for information of his whereabouts in about 1880.

The Cup

I was amused by the article about the Melbourne Cup. It sent me looking for what I thought was a miniature Melbourne Cup in our possession. It's not a miniature, but it is a small engraved cup, given to my mother-in-law, June Percival. She received it to commemorate her father, the jockey, Neville Percival, winning the Melbourne Cup in 1931 on White Nose. It beat the legendary Phar Lap

which had been given a crippling weight!

At the time, June was 9 years old and well-known at the tracks.

The inscription reads:

To June Beryl Percival
From Vict. Sportsmen &
Sportswomen
To commemorate her Father's
victory on 'White Nose'
Melbourne Cup
3-11-31

Karen Murdock | Member # 12042

Marjorie Burton is keen to follow a lead

I was reading the story in *Western Ancestor* [Nov 2022] at Family History Society of Rockingham & Districts Inc. of which I am a member. The article was about the Dean Family who were featured in 'Punjab to Perth' written by Robin Robinson.

I would like to know the person whom Robin Robinson was talking to as I would like converse with the Deans myself.

I remember going to their house (I think in Leslie Street) and visiting them because they also had a shop in the country town that I came from.

I have a half sovereign which the 'night watchman' (who rode his bicycle around Perth) gave to our mother as well as a very old photograph of a person: behind him is the shop that they had in Watheroo.

Sometime early last year, one of the Dean descendants visited my brother in Jurien Bay. Unfortunately, he has since died.

Looking forward to a reply.

Marjorie Burton |

Member FHSR&D #10

Book Review



Review by Elaine Forrestal

Robert Quin : A Western Australian Story by Rod Quin

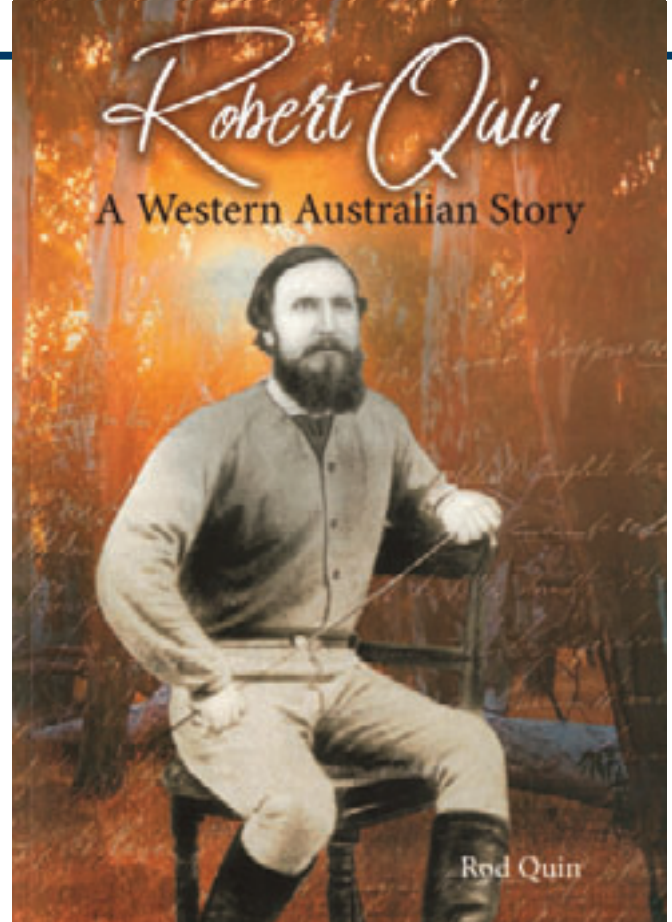
In most family history stories you will find a sizeable amount of plain, unembellished text. This is perhaps necessary to cover the writer's need to present as many facts and figures as possible. However, in this case, Rod Quin has managed to combine a lively story; that of his great, great, grandfather Robert Quin, with a veritable feast of interesting and unusual facts and figures.

This account of the eventful life of a young man of Scottish/Irish man who brought his wife and four children on a long and hazardous voyage across the sea to Perth, Western Australia, in 1863. The story not only gives us a unique insight into the life of the still rough and ready Colony. It shows the extremes of hardship and luxury that existed. Many things such as basic tools, and manufactured goods that were taken for granted in Scotland did not exist, or were in short supply in western Australia. On the other hand there was a bountiful supply of fresh produce, clean air and sunshine readily available in this new world.

The author, Rod Quin, has been so thorough in his telling of the story, he even includes the Aboriginal names for key landmarks around the settlement, and relates stories of some of the settler's kids playing with Aboriginal kids in the streets of Fremantle. 'All of us kids messed around together. We went swimming in the river. They taught us how to fish, Noongar way, and we took them out shooting with us,' he says.

Snippets from the stories of other settlers are also used to add variety. For example, Quin borrows from Nathaniel Ogle's rather poetic account of the sea journey from London to Fremantle in 1839. A journey of the same duration, at the same time of year and in similar weather conditions to Robert Quin's family. These changes of pace and narrative voice give colour and hold the reader's interest. Stylised layouts of text on the page and changes of font for effect also serve to enhance the experience and help navigate the book.

The Quin family expanded in size and wealth. This did not happen by accident or simple good luck. Robert Quin was a hard worker and a talented surveyor who spent a significant part of each year away from his wife and family to earn his



living. He and Margaret were able to buy and sell land as it became available. Slowly, they built up wealth and status in the Colony; an ambition Robert had always held.

Although the average life expectancy was better in Western Australia than in the slums of London or Glasgow, there were still hazards to be faced. Isolation and lack of medical facilities were ever present and neighbours were very important. John and Ann York were neighbours of the Quins for a time and the two families lived on properties next door to each other. The York's were a particularly fecund family. Each of John and Ann's 13 children had between 12 and 15 of offspring of their own. Eventually the couple had 73 grandchildren while they were still living.

Others were not so fortunate. At the age of 68, Michael Burke, who had been employed by Robert Quin as a Surveyor's Assistant, was living a solitary life out in the bush. He was, by then, working as a charcoal burner just outside the town of York. Sadly, when his body was discovered it was so badly decomposed, the cause of his death was declared unknown.

Rod Quin has told his grandfather's story in a masterful way. He has given his readers enough facts and figures to satisfy a dedicated historian while keeping their interest and even entertaining them along the way. *Robert Quin: A Western Australian Story* is an important addition to our written history.

Ghost towns of the West

Ian Barnes | Member # 9003

We have refocusing this competition so that it becomes part of FHWA's long-term project, Ghost Towns of the West. Here's the second in the series. The first wasn't a wild success: no one picked it. We thought Woop Woop, though a quintessential example of a ghost town might be too easy. So, we chosen Wilga, just down the road from Woop Woop, between Donnybrook and Boyup Brook in the South West. It was a timber town which began as a railway siding just after 1915.

The wonderfully successful, local, independent publisher, Fremantle Press, will again sponsor the competition by offering a prize of three of their books (value \$100) which the winner can choose from the Fremantle Press catalogue.

We feature covers of three of Fremantle Press' new releases. They include the 25th anniversary release of Kim Scott's Miles Franklin winner, *Benang*. Many of our members who haven't read it already may well be tempted.

Western Ancestor editor, Peter Forrestal, will be drawing lots to determine the winner from the first dozen correct entries emailed to westernancestor@fhwa.org.au by our members.

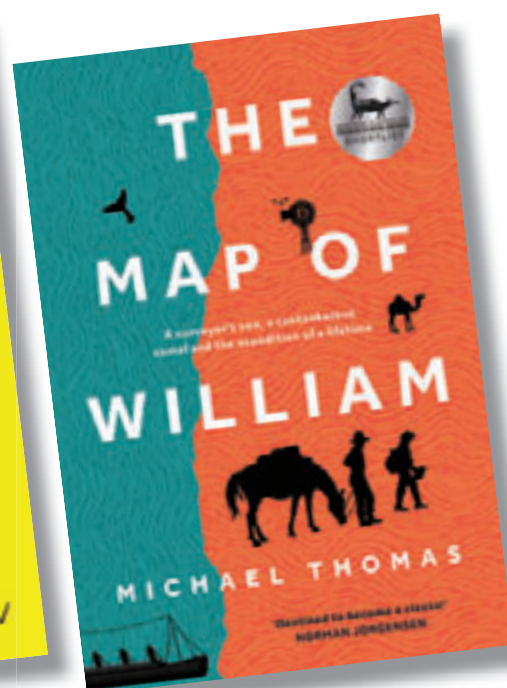
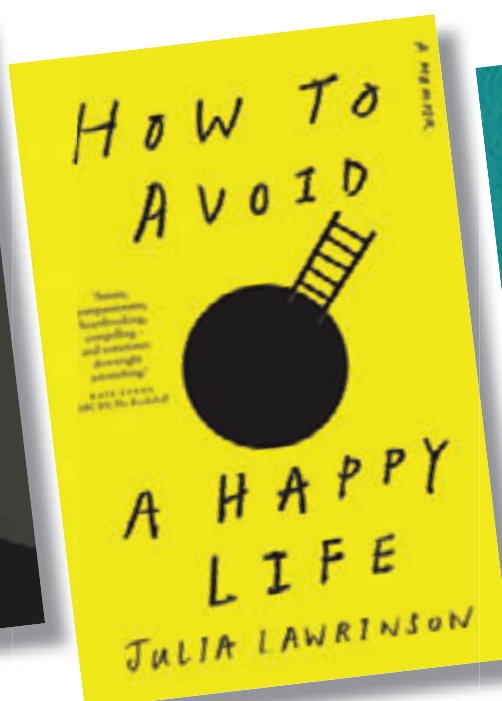
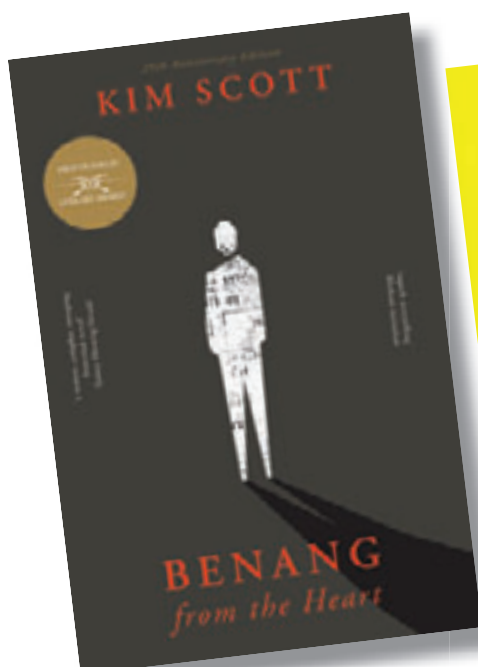


As the first town that we selected proved tricky, we are offering something much easier this time. It's not actually a ghost town, but just about.

Those running the Project comment that the aim is to document the lives of those who lived in Western Australia's Ghost Towns. The correct term may well be 'communities': because not all of them are, or were, towns. The popular term, however, captures neatly what they are.

Which town is this? The Rotunda in the main street offers a huge clue.

New releases from Fremantle Press



Getting to FHWA

By Bus

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

By Car

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



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

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

Our regular user group meetings for FTM and Reunion are held using Zoom. This allows any interested member to log in. Monthly events are also shared with members using Zoom. They will be recorded and will be viewable by members through the members' section of the website. For details of member benefits visit the website: www.vicgum.asn.au and join on-line

E: info@vicgum.asn.au

P: (03) 9807 2509

Suite 4, 318 Stephenson's Road Mt Waverley Vic 31491

FRONT COVER IMAGE

Gallop Family Photos

BACK COVER IMAGE

The Pirates of Penzance poster (c1882)

BOOK REVIEW IMAGES

Fremantle Press.

"Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless; but because they're priceless."

Sherry Anderson

Volunteering Opportunities

Have you thought about volunteering! It's one way for you to give back to FamilyHistoryWA; and enable it to continue to provide its wide range of services which promote family history in the community.

New opportunities are available!

Volunteer Coordinator

It's the key role in ensuring that we have volunteers in the wide range of areas that FHWA services. We need someone who is enthusiastic, organised and hard working.

As leader of the volunteers, you will need to recruit thoughtfully, maintain records, and collaborate closely with volunteers to enhance their ability to serve the aims of FHWA.

Group Coordinator

This position involves working with house group convenors to help them plan their group's activities, events, and projects. You will facilitate quarterly meetings of the convenors to keep them aware of any changes at FHWA that might affect their work. As well as this, you will be involved in inducting new convenors.

It's an opportunity for someone who loves family history and working with people.

Other Opportunities

There is a range of challenging roles that may appeal: Property Officer, Activity and Event Support, Project volunteers for the People of WA's Ghost Towns including library and editorial team members. Most roles provide a high degree of flexibility and can easily fit within your personal commitments. Consider!

Don't miss this chance to share your enthusiasm for family history and help FHWA make a impact on the community!

Contact the Volunteer Liaison Coordinator by email (volunteers@fhwa.org.au) today to express your interest any of the above roles. Or, if you simply wish to volunteer with FHWA in order to share your experience and knowledge.

FHWA MEMBERSHIP FEES PER ANNUM

Joining Fee (once only)	\$15
Single Membership (12 months)	\$90
Joint Membership (12 months)*	\$135
Internet Membership (those living outside WA)	\$60
Student Membership (full time)	\$45
Affiliate and Institutional Members	\$110
Journal Only Members (includes postage)	\$50

* Two people at one address receiving one journal.

THE JOURNAL OF FHWA: WESTERN ANCESTOR

Published three times a year, in the first week of March, July, & November. Print run, approx 1500 copies per issue. Also available to members as an e-journal.

Contributions

Please email to westernancestor@fhwa.org.au, or post to The Editor, 6/48 May St, Bayswater 6053.

Preferred in MS Word, or similar format, as an email attachment. Send images separately, not embedded in the document. For more details, see Contributions and Copyright under 'Journal' at www.fhwa.org.au

Closing Dates for Contributions

March issue: 20 January

July issue: 20 May

November issue: 20 September

Advertising Rates (Full Colour)

One eighth page \$50; Quarter page \$100; Half page \$200; Full page \$400.

There is a 10% discount given if booking advertising space in two or more editions. There is also a 20% discount for members.

For details about advertising, please contact the Editor at westernancestor@fhwa.org.au

FHWA RESEARCH SERVICES

The FamilyHistoryWA research team will carry out limited research for non-members at \$40 per hour or \$25 per hour for members living outside the Perth metropolitan area.

A non-refundable deposit of \$20 must accompany all enquiries. Members living more than 500 km from Perth can access two hours free research per year.

Contact Ian Barnes at research@fhwa.org.au

FHWA MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Management Committee now meet, on-line, on the FOURTH Tuesday of each month at 4pm. Members are welcome to submit suggestions or questions, in writing, for the Committee's consideration. These need to be emailed to the Secretary (secretary@fhwa.org.au) at least ten days prior to the meeting.

AFFILIATED SOCIETIES

Albany Regional FHS Inc

Albany Public Library, York Street, ALBANY WA 6330
www.albanyfamilyhistory.org.au
albanyfamilyhistory@gmail.com

Australind FHS Inc

Australind Library Complex, Mulgara St, AUSTRALIND WA 6233 (Tel: 9796 1050)
www.australindfhs.org | alindfhs@inet.net.au

Busselton FHS Inc

First floor, City of Busselton Community Resource Centre, 21 Cammilleri Street, BUSSELTON WA 6280 (Tel: 9752 3979)
busseltonfhs.com.au
secretary@busseltonfhs.com.au

Collie FHS Inc

Miners Institute Building, Throssell Street, COLLIE WA 6225
c.f.h.s@westnet.com.au

Esperance FHS Inc

Esperance Museum, cnr James & Dempster Strs, ESPERANCE WA 6450
efhs@westnet.com.au

FHS of Rockingham & Districts Inc

Suite 8, Ground Floor, Lotteries House, 6 Civic Boulevard, ROCKINGHAM WA 6168
fhsrd.org.au | fhsrd.sec@gmail.com

Geraldton FHS Inc

The Geraldton Cultural Trust, 321 Marine Terrace, GERALDTON WA 6530
geraldtonfhs.wordpress.com
gfhsecretary@gmail.com

Mandurah FHS Inc

Corner of Third Avenue and Jack Ireland Park Road, MANDURAH WA 6210 (Tel: 9586 9760)
mfhs.org.au | mfhs@westnet.com.au

Swan River Pioneers 1829-1838 Inc

PO Box 2672, ELLENBROOK WA 6069 (Tel: 9296 9520)
www.swanriverpioneers.com
swanriverpioneers@gmail.com

INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERS

Albany History Collection

221 York St, Albany, WA, 6330
library.albany.wa.gov.au/programs-collections/albany-history-collection/albany-history-collection.aspx

Army Museum of WA Foundation

Artillery Barracks, 2 Burt Street, Fremantle, WA, 6160
armymuseumwa.com.au

Bassendean Local Studies Collection

46, Old Perth Rd, Bassendean, WA, 6054
library.bassendean.wa.gov.au/local-studies.aspx

Bunbury Museum and Heritage Centre

1 Arthur St, Bunbury, WA, 6230
bunburymuseum.com.au

Capel Districts Cemeteries Project

Ron Maidment Archive Room, Forrest Road, Capel, WA, 6271
capeldistrictcemeteriesproject.com.au

City of Belmont Museum

213 Wright Street, Cloverdale, WA, 6105
www.belmont.wa.gov.au/discover/places-to-go/ruth-faulkner-library-and-belmont-museum

BakTrakn2

14 Smith Street South Hedland WA 6722

Birtwistle Local Studies Library

Armada Shopping Centre, Shop 64/10 Orchard Ave, Armadale, WA, 6112
library.armadale.wa.gov.au/birtwistle-library

Broome Public Library

PO Box 44, Broome, WA, 6725
<https://www.broome.wa.gov.au/Community/Broome-Public-Library>

Carnamah Historical Society & Museum

10 Macpherson St, Carnamah, WA, 6517
www.carnamah.com.au/

Claremont Community Hub

327 Stirling Hwy, Claremont, WA, 6010
www.claremont.wa.gov.au/places/community-hub-and-library/

Fremantle Local History Collection

Walyalup Civic Centre, 151 High St, Fremantle, WA, 6160
www.fremantle.wa.gov.au/fremantle-history-centre

Inglewood Library

895 Beaufort St, Inglewood, WA, 6052
www.stirling.wa.gov.au/leisure-and-culture/libraries-and-hubs

Jewish Historical & Genealogical Society of WA

61 Woodrow Ave, Yokine, WA, 6062
<https://jhgsa.org.au/>

Joondalup Local History Collection

102 Boas Ave, Joondalup, WA, 6027
www.joondalup.wa.gov.au/category/community-and-libraries

City of Kalgoorlie Boulder Local History Archives

Boulder Town Hall, 116 Burt St, Boulder, WA, 6432
mailbag@ckb.wa.gov.au

Relationships Australia

Level 2, 156 Railway Pde, West Leederville, WA, 6007
www.relationshipswa.org.au/services

Tuart Place

24 High St, Fremantle, WA 6160
www.tuartplace.org

Victoria Park Library

27 Sussex St, East Victoria Park, WA 6101
www.victoriapark.wa.gov.au/Around-town/Facilities/Library

Vincent Local History Centre

99 Loftus St, Leederville, WA, 6007
library.vincent.wa.gov.au/local-history-centre.aspx

Wanneroo Regional Museum

3 Rocca Way, Wanneroo, WA 6065
www.wanneroo.wa.gov.au/wannerooregionalmuseum

Yorgum Link Up

176 Wittenoom, East Perth, WA, 6004
<https://yorgum.org.au/services/link-up/>

York Research & Archival Centre

Sandalwood Yards, Cnr Avon Tce & Ford St, York, WA, 6302
www.theyorksociety.com

HOUSE GROUPS

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South of the River

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W. S. Gilbert and Sir Arthur Sullivan
THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE
IN FULL SCORE



New Edition by Carl Simpson and Ephraim Hammett Jones