

Tasmanian Ancestry

**TASMANIAN FAMILY HISTORY
SOCIETY INC.**



Volume 46 Number 2 — September 2025

TASMANIAN FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.

PO Box 326 Rosny Park Tasmania 7018

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Tasmanian Ancestry

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

From the Editor

Hi

I am pleased to have two Help Wanted requests in this issue. I hope that people can take the time to offer some suggestions, and I would be happy to publish the results.

In this issue I have also included 2 reprints of articles from past *Tasmanian Ancestry* journals. I hope that you will find the information in them both entertaining and useful.

I read with interest the notes from the meeting about the early Quakers in Tasmania. Last year I visited Swarthmoor Hall, the home to Thomas and Margaret Fell and their eight children. Margaret Fell was an early Quaker leader and the hall was a hub of Quaker activity, particularly during the very early years of the movement. I have used a photo I took on this issue's cover.

Please take note of the judges' remarks in relation to journal articles set out in the Society Awards for Family History Writing article on page 77. It would be a particularly good idea to have someone read your manuscript before submitting it.

Isobel Williams

Cover:. Swarthmoor Hall, Ulverston, Cumbria, private collection Isobel Williams

Journal Address

PO Box 326, Rosny Park, TAS 7018
email editors@tasfhs.org

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

Deadline dates are:

1 January, 1 April, 1 July and 1 October

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

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

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President's Message

I would like to start this message with my personal thanks to the other members of the State Executive Committee and the Launceston Branch Committee who filled in for me in various ways when I was unavoidably absent (both physically and intellectually) for some months earlier this year. My intended one-month overseas trip turned into a much longer absence when my husband was injured during the trip and spent about six weeks in hospital in Hanoi (he is home now and recovering well).

I am writing this shortly after our annual conference / Annual General Meeting which was held on 21 June 2025 at "The Grange" Campbell Town. There were a little over 50 attendees who heard three very interesting talks followed by the Annual General Meeting (AGM). Many thanks to everyone who helped make the day a success. At the AGM the Executive positions of President, Vice President, and Treasurer were readily filled (as the incumbents were eligible to continue in the role and happy to do so); the role of Secretary was a little more difficult. For the last year Andrew Cocker has been Secretary with John Dent assisting as Minute Secretary; at the meeting it was agreed that John would be Secretary with Andrew assisting in various ways. This is not really a tenable situation, both Andrew and John have numerous other responsibilities both in their branches of the Society and elsewhere;

they have both indicated that they are reluctant to continue in this role beyond the current year.

This is a serious problem for the Society, without a Secretary we cannot legally continue to exist. I would urge members to think about whether they may be able to contribute to the Society in this way. The current Executive Committee are willing to provide as much information and support as possible. Anyone who would like to know more about the role and what it entails could contact me (in the first instance) at president@tasfhs.org and I will facilitate discussions for them to learn more about what the role entails.

Robyn Gibson

President

Branch Reports

Burnie

www.tasfhs.org/burnie.php
President: Peter Cocker 0427 354 103
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email: petjud@bigpond.com



Our AGM and day meeting was held on Monday 28 April. Members gave some interesting talks on their ancestors who served in WWI as ANZACs. We also saw a presentation on the National Anzac Centre at Albany WA.

We were able to announce that finally the new version of Family Tree Maker was now available for those that want to upgrade.

The process to purchase, download and install the software was shown as well as demonstrations of new features available. One of the new features is a new app for use on IOS phones and iPads. This app works in conjunction with TreeVault Cloud Services and enables you to share your family tree with other members of your family. Those that you share with cannot alter any data but can attach a sticky note advising the owner of the tree any possible corrections or omissions.

Family Tree Maker was due to be released early 2024 but due to some technical problems as well as some of the software engineers living in Ukraine final release was not until 2025.

Members were asked to bring along photos of themselves as a young person in

a group photo at our June Meeting. These were projected onto a screen and members were asked to identify the person concerned. Many laughs and comments were had as we inspected the school and other group photos of our members from years ago.

Member Joanne Ainsley gave us an interesting talk on Canadian prisoners who were sent to Tasmania as convicts,

Our computer theme from the last meeting was continued with a presentation and discussion on producing a Family History Book using Family Tree Maker 2024 and the Plug in Family Book Creator. The group was also shown how to change the relationship status, at the one time, on a number of people in your tree.

Hobart

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At our AGM in April, the Office holders and Committee were all returned unopposed except for our treasurer Geoff Mason who had decided to retire after eight years of keeping our accounts in good order. Tanya Tisdale stood unopposed as Treasurer, another of her many skills. Lindy Mollineaux was

welcomed onto the committee. All the appointed positions were filled except for the role of coordinating the speakers for our monthly General Meetings.

After the business part of the branch AGM, Richie Woolley gave a fascinating presentation, 'More Recherche Bay Archaeology', where he combined his detailed explorations of the area with the history of various ventures from shore-based whaling to coal mining. Many ruins and relics associated with these activities still survive. (See summary elsewhere in this publication). This talk was recorded and will be available on the Members-only section when volunteer time permits.

We are working to complete a comprehensive review of all our resources, including books, electronic records and databases, files and maps. Once complete, we are planning to start 'in-service training' for our library assistants so that they can all more confidently assist visitors and know what resources might be worth looking at. We also want to make the induction of new library assistants more structured and comprehensive. And recruit more library assistants!

At the Female Convicts Research Centre's annual seminar in May, we had a table of information – brochures, etc. and our lovely new banner.

In May, George Cresswell told us about 'A 175 year old grandfather clock and its link to Green Ponds in Van Diemen's Land'. He became interested in the clock at a friend's house in NSW because it was inscribed *Hy Speak, Green Ponds*

Vandiemens's Land on its face. His research identified the Speak family and the family home, grain mill and church they had built. This talk was a great example of research inspired by an article.

In April, Kathy Rundle shared her vast knowledge of the 'Early Quakers and the Friends' School'. So much we didn't know, and so interesting – especially how they got their name. Several of us thought the Quakers originated in the US, but it was George Fox, in England in the mid-C17th. He was a religious dissident who argued against the beliefs and practices of the people of the 'steeple houses', the Established Church. The first Quaker Meeting in Australia was held in 1833, but the Friends' school could not be established until 1889 when finally, there was funding.

The branch was well represented at the recent Society AGM. Responsibility for organising the AGM was shared between the branches, with Hobart branch organising – amongst other things – the three speakers. Alison Alexander spoke on her most recent book, 'Land of Rogues and Scoundrels'. , Helene Chung told us about 'Two Unconventional Tasmanian Chinese families', and Richie Wooley presented 'Amy Sherwin and her family'. The three presentations were all very different and were well received. All were recorded and will be available on the Members-only section of the website when volunteer time permits

Launceston

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Launceston Branch
Annual General
Meeting was on
Wednesday 16 April
2025 with Julian
Burgess speaking about
56 Frederick St, the

1836 kindergarten building that will be the site for the Launceston History Centre in about a year's time. This excellent address highlighted how the building was used as one of the earliest public meeting venues in Launceston. Many organisations were founded with initial public meetings held in this hall. This included the Launceston Mechanics Institute which was formed there on 8th March 1842. It is indeed appropriate that the collection of books and other material from the Launceston Mechanics Institute will be returning to this very site, hopefully in 2026, about 184 years after the institute was formed in that very hall.

Our special interest group, the DNA Discussion Circle, meets regularly. We have welcomed a number of new members so far this year and, of course, new members are always welcome. If interested, please contact the Branch for more details. The new branch publications are selling well, so if you want *The Examiner BDMs, Vol 16, Births 1966 -*

1970, in two volumes and an *Index to Launceston Court Records 1827, 1838 and 1832* they can be obtained from our branch library or by email. The Card Index transcription is nearly completed thanks to many volunteer hours and work on the JA Dunn Funeral Records continues. Transcription work is only possible with the generous donation of time we receive from our dedicated volunteers, and we can always use more.

We are currently cataloguing our collections in the library ready for our move to the new premises in 2026. We welcome help from volunteers to complete this project over the next year. Our next seminar is on 13 August where Andrew Cocker will be speaking on DNA for family history research at the Elderly Citizen's Club in Landale Street, Invermay.

Mersey

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Our sad news is of the passing of Peter Marlow, a Vale is included in this issue.

Lynnie and Ros had the pleasure of attending the Conference and State AGM held at The Grange Campbell Town on Saturday 21 June. The Grange was warm, and

comfortable with an enjoyable morning tea and lunch. Our guest speakers Alison Alexander, Helene Chung and Ritchie Woolley were diverse and interesting. Such a happy, interesting and enjoyable day.

Family History Month in August will show a display of wonderful old photos of Devonport. These include homes and business, parades and incidences and scenes. Always a pleasure to put together, and bring interest and enjoyment to the library patrons.

Our index projects continue with *The Advocate* personal notices by Lynnie. With Rhondda collating information on the History of the Latrobe Odd Fellows Hall. Broadfield Funeral Directors records are being scanned to computers by Gay (a possible future publication.)

The Writers Group Latrobe project is *History of Latrobe* taken from entries in a

competition in 1931. Members of the group continue to write interesting and often amusing stories for us all to enjoy. The latest “What Event in your Family History was a Surprise?” It really made us think and revisit our family details.

Presentation and workshop will be held on Saturday 18 October covering how to search Tasmanian Police and Government Gazettes and other online sites.

In November a walk is planned at the Ulverstone Cemetery with Helen Emmett.

Ross and Neville have added more shelving due to several donations of books.

Enquiries regarding presentations, workshops and cemetery walks please contact Secretary Gay 0408 059 990 or Ros 0476 008 531

Scotlands People website new additions

Thousands of remarkable Ordnance Survey (OS) Name Books and tax rolls are now available to search on Scotland's People.

The OS Name Books provide a unique tour of 19th century Scotland. They record every place name on Victorian maps. Many Gaelic place names were formally written down for the first time.

The new tax rolls offer a fascinating snapshot of daily life in the 17th-19th centuries. Servants, horses, dogs, fireplaces and even clocks in households across Scotland are listed.

Search these records in the Virtual Volumes area and browse transcriptions of most records for easier reading.

<https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/news-and-articles/ordnance-survey-name-books>

<https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/news-and-articles/historical-tax-rolls-window-past>

Vale Peter Marlow

TFHS Inc Mersey Member 6651



Members have been saddened to hear of Peter Marlow's passing. Peter died Sunday 1 June 2025.

Peter was the organiser of our Publication Committee and over the years he contributed to the production of *The Advocate* Newspaper Index, Ulverstone Cemeteries Books 2 and 3 and Latrobe Cemetery Book 1. He was the Editor of Mersey branch newsletter, ILMO and his input of articles, pictures, cartoons etc made for many, an interesting read.

His private publication *Penguin General Cemetery : Penguin North West Tasmania* utilised Mersey branch holdings with the library assistants help.

Always supportive of our activities, presentations and outings Peter donated his time and of course his succulents to fund raising. He was the photographer at all events, keeping a record for our archives.

Knowing his own Polish heritage was most helpful for others researching. He was able to advise and help with enquiries.

Peter played an important part as a committee member for approximately 15 years and a member of the Society since 7th September 2007.

Unbeknown to us Peter had macular degeneration which he admitted to just two years before his retirement as well as other medical problems. Peter still managed a long walk nearly every morning and he used his 'gopher' when he visited the branch for a talk and a cuppa.

Peter was missed after his retirement and knowing he won't be 'popping' in for a chat will certainly be strange.

Mersey Branch is appreciative of all Peter's input over many years.

Notes from Branch Meetings

More Recherche Bay Archaeology' Richie Woolley 12 April 2025

Richie grew up in the Huon district and has spent more than ten years locating and documenting the many surviving ruins and relics associated with the whaling, coal mining and sawmilling industries in the south Huon area, 1830 to 1950.

Rocky Bay at the south end of Recherche Bay, with settlement at Cockle Creek, was the site of the whaling stations. Catamaran on the north end of Recherche Bay was the site of timber milling and coal mining.

John Petchey had a whaling station on the southeast shore of Rocky Bay for several years during the 1830s, the expanse of rock shelf close to the shore would have suited this purpose. Later he expanded his business to include processing of wattle bark for tanning.

His try-works supported the shore based whaling industry, which was carried out in the early 19th century until whale numbers were decimated. But to early settlers' timber must have seemed a limitless resource.

Ships using distant hunting grounds found safe refuge there in hard weather and processed their carcasses. The connection with these ocean whalers survives in the local place name, Evoralls Point. Domingo Jose EVORALL from Cape Verde Islands was a crew member on whaling ships operating out of Hobart and left the sea to settle in the area, with other whaling mariners also making their home in the south Huon.

Being at a distance from the eye of authority in Hobart, there was an amount of rogue activity in the conduct of settlement and business. Fishers Point at the northern end of the Cockle Creek Peninsula was the site of the government pilot station. Station manager John BRUCE was concerned at the encroachment of nearby landowners, including John PETCHEY, into the station precinct. Shallow trenches can be seen in the ground, an attempt to clearly define the area and remove any confusion about land boundaries.

William Charles McDOUGALL and brother John Henry, sons of convicts, operated a sawmill at Catamaran from 1884 until it was destroyed by fire in 1914. The sawmill was a serious commitment of capital and supported a population of about two hundred people.

During this time the Catamaran Coal Mines started operation near Driscoll Creek, with the McDougall brothers as significant shareholders. The tramways used for their timber mill were included in the track system used to move the coal to the jetty for loading to Hobart. Remnant timbers of a tramway across the Catamaran Creek can be seen today. However, the coal mine gave poor returns, and the McDougall's continued involvement was subsidised by money from their timber mill.

The coal and timber businesses were a big investment of money. New mine owners, and expansion during the last 15 years of operation, saw construction of an electricity plant to power the conveyor belts, and the pumps to extract the water from the mines. It was hard labour in an isolated location and the population of 150 would have enjoyed the bath house that was included in the new works. A nod to status gave electricity to the house of the mine manager, but no others. The timber mill also used this electric power.

Coal mining continued on a reduced scale with new and smaller investors. Poor quality coal with a limited market, and problems transporting it saw production cease in 1939. With the closing of the last sawmill at Leprena the same year, this part of the timber industry also ended in the area. The disruption of the war sealed the fate of many marginal businesses. Richie Woolley's research chronicles speculative ventures, prosperity and business failures in these industries.

'A 175 year old grandfather clock and its link to Green Ponds Van Diemen's Land' **George Cresswell 20 May 2025**

A grandfather clock at a friend's home in NSW sparked George's interest in *Hy Speak, Green Ponds Vandiemens Land* (sic), the inscription on the face of the clock which was manufactured in England. George then directed his attention to finding out who Henry SPEAK was and where he lived. He managed to identify the location of several structures, domestic, community and agricultural, which Henry financed and built at Constitution Hill, Dysart and Green Ponds, Tasmania.

Thomas Speak, father of Henry, arrived in Hobart, 1812 on the *Indefatigable* under sentence of 14 years transportation, leaving behind a family in England. In VDL, Thomas married Ellen KENSLEY in 1816. This couple had an allotment in Hobart and a land grant at Green Ponds. At Thomas's death in 1827, son Henry from his first family arrived from England. Being a beneficiary of his father's estate, Henry's farming interests were directed to the Green Ponds area, now Kempton.

Henry Speak built a mill to serve the local crop farming business. By 1849 He was advertising his recently expanded 'Grainfield Mill', Constitution Hill. The Speak family's close association with the Baptists saw Henry build the Dysart Baptist Church, Constitution Hill, in 1863.

An uncle, Rev. John GREENWOOD arrived from the USA in 1860. A diligent diarist and observer of all around him, his letters survive and give a useful record of life in the colony. He died, 1866 at Wattle Grove, Constitution Hill, home of his nephew. Henry Speak died in 1874, aged 87 years, at the same family home. By this time Henry's siblings had arrived and were long settled in Tasmania.

George CRESSWELL has made good use of land records, drone images and his walking boots to locate remnants of the chapel, family home and grain mill. The means by which

the clock arrived in NSW is unknown. However, the vagaries of business might have seen Henry Speak part with the clock to settle financial commitments. The clock is in good hands, under the custodianship of a family who would also be interested to uncover its journey to Australia.

‘Early Quakers and the Friends’ School’ Kathy Rundle 17 June 2025

Kathy Rundle’s interest in the Quakers and their presence in Tasmania comes from many years as a teacher and archivist at the Friends School. In retirement she has expanded her interest in The Hobart Meeting House Archives and Burial Grounds.

In mid-17th century England, George FOX, a prominent religious dissident, argued against the dominance of the Church of England, and particularly its assumed authority in doctrinal matters and the excessive use of adornment and decoration in priestly garments and church architecture, interiors and artefacts. He believed that a person’s dealings with their god should be direct, simple, with no deference to class or social structure. Their testimony to Simplicity extended beyond religion; domestic life was to be functional and practical. As well as apparel. He attracted many others of like mind, and this loose collection evolved to become The Religious Society of Friends or Quakers. They observed honesty in business and became known for Quaker Integrity. Another of their precepts was Equality which extended to equal participation by women and peoples of all races. Silent worship is a well-known feature of the Quakers and encourages contemplation and honest insight. Their identified values are integrity, equality, simplicity, pacifism, social justice and, in the 21st century they added stewardship of the natural environment.

Their campaign of civil disobedience saw George Fox and his supporters appearing often before a magistrate where their display and animated trembling earned them the soubriquet Quakers, which name survives in common language for the organisation formally identified as The Religious Society of Friends.

The English Government reacted to this rejection of authority by banning Quakers from tertiary education at the universities. Fox and other Quakers knew there was a need for Quaker children to be educated to earn livings, so Quaker schools were started. The promotion of scientific enquiry, practical education in manual skills, and business and finance acumen as well as mathematics were important subjects. An interest in the arts took some years to evolve. Fox planned regular organised meetings for the Society.

Other Quakers hoping to provide an alternative to pubs and alcohol, opened coffee houses later offered drinking chocolate, a better-quality beverage. Quakers were prominent among successful businesses, the most well-known being confectionery and chocolate, baking banking and insurance.

James BACKHOUSE and George Washington WALKER travelled through the Australian colonies from 1832, “under concern” to gain information to inform the British

Quakers and government about social matters such as the treatment of indigenous people and prison conditions. During their three years in Tasmania, they were given access to convict road gangs and Aboriginal settlements. They also carried out much botanical recording.

The first Quaker Meeting in Australia was held in 1833 at the Bathurst St home of prominent Methodist George CROUCH. From that first Meeting the Quakers in Tasmania grew, and a Hobart Meeting House developed. This mutual assistance between the Quakers and the Methodists continued with the gift of a burial ground and included the support of the newly established Friends School by the Baptists Union.

Efforts to establish a Quaker school in Hobart were unsuccessful until financial support was received from England. Quaker children no longer needed to be sent back to England for a Quaker education. A school was established, in Warwick Street in 1887 quickly moving to occupy *Hobartville* on the edge of the city in 1889. The founding Principal, Samuel CLEMES, was a pioneering educator who valued science, technical skills and physical education.

Leaving the Friends' school in 1900, Clemes established the *Leslie House* school, later named *Clemes College* situated in the old Boa Vista House. In 1945. The *Friends' School* and *Clemes College* schools amalgamated to be the *Friends' School* that exists now. It has known outstanding administrators and loyal teachers who have continued and expanded the values of the Quakers in educational, social and civic matters.

Christine Spry

Tasmanian Family History Society Inc.
Lilian Watson Family History Award
for a **Book**

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

Entries Close 1 December each year

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

or

www.tasfhs.org

or

The Secretary
PO Box 326 ROSNY PARK
TAS 7018

email: **secretary@tasfhs.org**

Tasmanian Family History Society Inc

45th Annual General Meeting

21 June 2025

President's Report 2024 / 2025

All the branches of the Society have been active this year. There have been talks on a wide range of subjects (West Coast hospitals, Aerial photography, Gallipoli soldiers, maps to mention a few) which all impinge in various ways on family history; sessions to familiarise members with (some of) the many online resources available; excursions to places of historical interest; special interest groups (DNA groups at Hobart and Launceston and a Writers group at Mersey) for members to follow up their particular interests in greater depth; activities organised as part of Seniors Week and Family History Month. Branches have been working in various ways to improve the facilities and resources so that members and others visiting the branch libraries have to best experience possible. There are groups in all branches working on transcribing, indexing, and generally trying to make as many records as possible readily accessible to researchers. Help with research both in person, when people visit the library, or from requests that may come from anywhere in the world is an important part of the work of our branch libraries. All of these activities depend on the hard work and expertise of members who volunteer their time. I would like to thank all of these people and encourage any members who have any time to spare

to become involved in activities at their local branch libraries – the work is both interesting and rewarding.

There have been a number of branch publications this year:

Mersey

F E Watts & Son Pty Ltd Funeral Directors
Latrobe : index to undertaker's
information 1924-1980

Hobart

Undertakers of Hobart Vol V, Part 4 -
Index to Hooper & Burgess Funeral
Records: Sep 1984 - Oct 1992

Launceston

Index to Court Records of Launceston
1827, 1828, 1832

Index to The Examiner Vol 16 parts 1 & 2
(1966 – 1970 births)

Members were saddened by the death in September of Maurice Appleyard (1941 – 2024) who was a mainstay of the Society (especially the Hobart Branch) for many years and the immediate past President of the Society. His work is remembered in many ways by many people and his name is perpetuated in the *The Appleyard Property and House Names Index* (available on the Members only website) which is an index of property and house names from real estate pages and other

sources that Maurice worked on for many years.

The State Executive has met (as usual) throughout the year. One important task that was accomplished was a revision of the Society Bylaws – there were very few substantive changes required, but a number of items needed to be brought up to date, members are reminded that this means that the 2024 version of the Bylaws (available online) is what should be referred to when any reference to Bylaws is required.

Development of the members only website has been continued – the number of resources available there continues to increase. Many thanks to Andrew Cocker who is responsible for this development. Many thanks to Andrew for this work.

The number of members for this year was 907, a small increase on the previous two years. The number of interstate and overseas members (222) makes this the second largest “branch”; we are actively investigating ways in which these members can make use of the resources of the Society – the Members Only website is a first step in this direction.

I would like to thank the members of the Executive Committee (office bearers and branch delegates) who have made my work as President go smoothly, and to all the volunteers who work in various ways in their branches to achieve the aims of the Tasmanian Family History Society Inc.

Robyn Gibson

UNDERTAKERS OF HOBART

Vol. V Index to

Hooper & Burgess Funeral Records.

Part 4

September 1984 - October 1992

This follows on from Parts 1–3 of Hooper & Burgess indexes 1935–1984 and often includes name of spouse and/or parents, place of birth, and cemetery where buried.

Price: \$25.00 + \$6.85 p. & p.
(Members - 10% discount.)

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TASMANIAN FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.
ABN 87 627 274 157

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE
For the Year ended 31 March 2025

	31 Mar 2025	31 Mar 2024
INCOME		
Donations	275	315
Collection Branch Membership	15,681	10,815
Collection Branch Donation	220	453
Interest Received	226	--
Journal - Advertising/ Sales	50	160
Journal - Subscriptions	1,235	1,235
Membership Subs - Interstate	8,417	12,475
Membership Subs - Branch	2,505	4,140
State Sales - Books, CD's, Fiche	--	61
State Sales - TAMTOT Sales	40	99
AGM Registrations	--	1,760
TOTAL INCOME	28,649	31,513
LESS EXPENSES INCURRED		
AGM Expenses	--	2,102
Audit Fees	165	165
Bank Charges	355	270
Executive Travel	78	82
Insurance	5,298	4,651
Journal Postage/ Printing	15,709	13,997
Lilian Watson & Other Awards	200	200
Computer Costs	--	30
Postage, PO Box, Phone, Internet	269	1,500
Printing and Stationery	600	155
Room Hire/ Meetings	263	159
Subscriptions (AFFHO & FFHS)	387	215
Tfer Collection Branch Membership	--	4,993
Tfer Collection Branch Donations	--	1,035
NET SURPLUS	5,325	1,959

TASMANIAN FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.
ABN 87 627 274 157

BALANCE SHEET
As at 31 March 2025

	31 Mar 2025	31 Mar 2024
CAPITAL		
Opening Balance	25,784	23,825
Surplus for Year	5,325	1,959
TOTAL	<u>31,109</u>	<u>25,784</u>
THESE FUNDS ARE REPRESENTED BY:-		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash at Bank - Westpac	25,883	20,784
Cash at Bank - Westpac Deposit	5,226	5,000
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	<u>31,109</u>	<u>25,784</u>
WORKING CAPITAL	<u>31,109</u>	<u>25,784</u>
TOTAL WORKING & FIXED CAPITAL	<u>31,109</u>	<u>25,784</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>31,109</u>	<u>25,784</u>

Index to **The Examiner**

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Society Awards for Family History Writing

The 2025 Conference and Annual General Meeting of our Society was held at The Grange in Campbell Town. The winning entries of the three Society awards for Family History writing were announced.

LILIAN WATSON FAMILY HISTORY AWARD winning entry is:

Helene Chung, *Gin Chung Henry, Willi Chung Sing*

Helene CHUNG provides a general history of her family in Australia, then introduced other family members who tell the stories of their Chinese forebears: parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles, their lives in China and Australia, with plenty of anecdotes which make their ancestors come alive. The HENRYs ran various Hobart businesses which are described in fascinating detail. Many people will remember them and it is most interesting to have early memories fleshed out like this. Remember your first, very exciting, Chinese meal at the Golden Dragon? Buying lovely little presents at the Pekin Gift Store?

The origin of the name Henry came about quite by accident. 'Grandfather asked a signwriter to write "HEN LI and Co." outside his business', writes Chung. This means 'Doing well' or 'Making a profit'. But the Australian signwriter assumed that like other Chinese, Grandfather could not pronounce the letter 'r', and wrote 'Henry and Co'.

Helene Chung became a well-known ABC television personality. At 72 she returned

to China to find the homes of her ancestors; a visit vividly described. This most interesting book is plentifully illustrated with family photographs.

Other LWFHA 2024 entries were:

Lucille Anadel, *From Privilege to Poverty*

This book is a biography of Henry James EMMETT, born in 1782, who in 1819 migrated with his wife and six sons to Van Diemen's Land. Emmett was given a land grant but did not farm. Instead he became editor of the *Hobart Town Gazette*, then principal secretary in a government department. Henry SAVERY gave him an unflattering description: 'an appearance not gentlemanly or prepossessing' as he censured one of the clerks 'pouring forth his phials of wrath'. He was several times found guilty of embezzling money and was eventually dismissed, and it was downhill from there.

The Emmett sons had varied careers in Tasmania and the mainland, and Anadel describes them in interesting detail. This book is a good reminder that not everyone flourished in the new country.

Carol Bacon, *Letters to Pituncarty, Tasmania: colonial correspondence of Christian (Taylor) Buist including letters from Ellinthorpe Hall.*

The TAYLOR family arrived in Hobart in 1823. A fellow-passenger, Arthur BUIST, ran off with Christian Taylor; a child was born and six months later they were married. Two more daughters followed. The family lived on their property of Pituncarty on the Macquarie River, but

Arthur Buist was an alcoholic and they ran into financial difficulties. Arthur committed suicide in 1836 and Christian brought up the girls and ran the property until her death aged 97.

Bacon has included chapters on the lives of people mentioned in the letters and the school (Ellinthorpe Hall). Then come the letters, for the most part from Christian's daughters, telling of life at school. This is fascinating. Girls had to work hard, with little time to spare; they also did a great deal of walking, from 5.30 until 6.45 just for a start. There was an emphasis on good behaviour and only girls who were 'perfectly obedient and attentive' could share in some treats, such as parties with dancing and games. There were few holidays, and the girls counted the days until they could go home.

The most exciting event was an attack by bushrangers, when the girls hid in an upstairs room, keeping their heads low to avoid being shot at. 'We were very much frightened', wrote Mary Buist, not surprisingly.

Brian Rieusset, *Rachel Hoddy Williams*

In 1790 Rachel HODDY was sentenced to transportation for theft, and Rieusset includes a fascinating transcript of her trial. She sailed on the notorious *Lady Juliana* and was sent to Norfolk Island, where she had children with fellow-convict Isaac WILLIAMS, who disappeared. Rachel and her five children were taken to Van Diemen's Land in 1808, and Rachel was given a grant of 35 acres near Forcett, but she might not have ever

seen it as she lived in Hobart, running a pub.

'The story now takes an interesting turn', comments Rieusset at one stage, and the tale of Rachel, her partners and children, and their lives has many fascinating aspects, including a most interesting link to Robert KNOPWOOD's ward Elizabeth MACK.

Louisa Ryan, *Edward Innes: A Tasmanian public servant*

In London the INNES family's business was failing, and young Edward at the age of fifteen sailed to Van Diemen's Land with a friend. Fifteen! He did have a letter of introduction to Jane FRANKLIN, the governor's wife, and she helped him find a job as a clerk. He worked for many years in the public service and the books tells of his ups and downs, as well as his marriage, family life and other interests. There are interesting family photos of people in the sometimes-extraordinary clothes of the period.

Jesse Sinn, *Oswald Ernest Sinnott*

Jesse Sinn's grandfather Oswald SINNOTT was born in Geelong in 1881. The family moved to Tasmania in 1914, and Oswald worked as a commercial traveller, then became the Tasmanian manager of the Texas Oil Company. He became well known in commercial circles with links to many associations and businesses. When he died aged only 56, he was running a service station in Hobart. His obituary stated that he was a keen bird fancier, winning prizes for his poultry exhibits, and raising homing pigeons.

This book is illustrated with many photographs from family albums, not just of family members but of, for example, the visit by Prince of Wales in 1920 and Hobart dock scenes. I was sorry that the author did not include reminiscences of his grandfather, but possibly the old gentleman died before Jesse was born.

BEST JOURNAL ARTICLE AWARD for Volume 45 was awarded to Elizabeth Hartnell-Young for her article *Finding Thomas Foster*, which stood out for the unusual range of sources used in her research. It is an intriguing tale, starting from a series of family stories which she had initially viewed with some cynicism. Thomas FOSTER's movements from England to New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land were discovered and traced through records of his military pension and land transactions, and the discovery of a valuable document. Elizabeth acknowledges having dismissed too early the reference to Thomas being a Mason – a result of searching Australian, rather than English, records.

Although she is still on the hunt – Thomas's death record remains elusive – Elizabeth has woven many threads into a colourful tapestry.

Reviewing the year's articles has led the judges to offer a few recommendations to article authors.

Before submitting an article, it is suggested asking at least one person who knows nothing about the subject to read it and check that it flows well. An uninvolved person may also pick up errors of spelling and grammar that have escaped notice of the author.

Some articles could have benefited from culling extraneous detail. Consider whether readers will be interested in every single name and date revealed in your research.

The judges, Elizabeth Spiegel and Jenny Croxton wish to thank everyone who has helped to make *Tasmanian Ancestry* such a valuable resource.

PATRON'S AWARD 2024 which is offered each calendar year for the best article published in *Tasmanian Ancestry* and submitted by anyone who is or has been enrolled in the University of Tasmania Family History Program.

The winning entry was awarded to Judith Meehan for her article, *A Fighting Spirit – Thomas Dixon: A Convict Case Study*.

Her story was very interesting, well written and a good model for how to write an account of a convict, thoroughly researched and appropriately referenced.

There were three other entries, and they were also of a notable standard but edged out by a narrow margin.

Meet my Ancestor James Freeman Transported to Van Diemen's Land

Leonie Mickleborough (Member 20)

Prosecuted by Mr. RUSH on 29 May 1825 at the Kent summer assizes at Maidstone, 23-year-old James FREEMAN, late of the 'Parish of Leybourne in the county of Kent' was convicted of stealing a mare worth £10 at Ryarsh. The mare belonged to John USHER, and James, a coachman, was sentenced to be 'Hanged by the Neck until he be dead'.¹

Those convicted of horse stealing were frequently ordered to be hanged, but about half did not go to the gallows, and instead, were either sentenced to transportation to the colonies or were imprisoned. The grounds for mercy were that the offence was minor, the convict was of good character, or the crime committed was not common enough in the county to require hanging.²

At the Kent Assizes on 25 July 1825, James' sentence was commuted to transportation for 'Life', and on 19 September he was moved to the hulk, *Retribution* at Sheerness while awaiting transportation.³ He was 5'4¼" tall, had a

fresh complexion, dark brown hair, small bushy whiskers, and a hairy forehead. His eyebrows were dark, and his eyes were light hazel, and he had a large mouth with prominent lips. He had two hair moles on his right cheek, one on each side of his neck and a brown hair mole on the back of his left arm.⁴ He was not married; he drove a 4-in-hand carriage for Mr HOWE and lived with Squire BOOTH at Barnett (Barnjet?).⁵

On 1 August the 503-ton Calcutta-built *Bengal Merchant* with 166 male convicts including James Freeman, arrived, four having died on the passage, after leaving Plymouth 138 days earlier.⁶ According to James, his parents lived at East Farley (East Farleigh?) near Maidstone, where his father, Thomas, was a sawyer. One convict record notes James' native place as Eltham, and searching for his mother's name, the only promising birth located was one on 6 July 1802 at Eltham, son of Thomas, but no mother's name was

¹ PRO ASSI 35/265/3, PFF1950

² Douglas Hay, 'Property, Authority and the Criminal Law', in D. Hay, P. Linebaugh, J.G. Rule, E.P. Thompson and C. Winslow, *Albions Fatal Tree: Crime and Society in Eighteenth-Century England*. London: Penguin Books Ltd 1975, pp.22, 42-44.

³ PRO Home Office 11/6 p.169; Kent County Archives Maidstone, Maidstone Goal Records, 'Convicts for Transportation'.

⁴ TAHO CON 18/1/1 image 16; ML5 Ident.

⁵ TAHO CON 31/1/13 image 120 Conduct

⁶ C. Bateson, *The Convict Ships 1787-1868*, Sydney, 1988, pp.385-86; CON 18/1/1 image 16 Description.

recorded.⁷ However, the future family's use of 'PRINCE' as a surname raises the possibility that 'Freeman' might have been an alias.

James' arrived during the assignment period (1803-40) when most convicts were allocated to settlers as a cheap form of labour, and James was first assigned to Mary LAKELAND (née ARNDELL), wife of John Lakeland, Principal Superintendent of Convicts.⁸ The Lakeland family was living at Pitt Water (now Sorell) so it is likely that was where James was employed. John Lakeland died suddenly on 26 November 1828, and it is likely James remained in Mary's service.

James' behaviour report is brief. On 9 October 1828 after he was found drinking in a public house, he was sentenced to seven days on the treadmill. On 20 August the following year, he was again sentenced to seven days on the treadmill, this time for two days, for absconding without leave from his service at 9 o'clock the previous night. After this, his behaviour was clearly satisfactory, because in 1831 he was permitted to withdraw £5 10 10 from his Convicts' Savings Bank account. The British Government had directed that money and property which convicts possessed when they arrived in the colony be taken from them and deposited in the bank, for which they received 10% interest.⁹

At the time of both the 1832 and 1833 musters, James was a javelin man – an attendant of the court who carried a spear or pike. This was a position granted to prisoners of the Crown, in which the sheriff, under the direction of the gaoler, employed them on a small salary. Around this time James met Mary Ann BOYER/BOWYER who arrived on 6 September aboard the *Princess Royal*, an immigrant ship with 300 females, who were first lodged in the Female Orphan School at New Town.¹⁰

Mary's first assignment is unknown, however it was probably somewhere near James, as on 21 May 1833 they were married by Reverend William BEDFORD at St David's Church. Unable to write, both James and Mary signed with an 'X'. The witnesses were William TREMAINE of New Town who also signed with an 'X', and one of Mary's fellow *Princess Royal* passengers, Ann NICHOLS (née FORTNAM).¹¹ The Freeman marriage produced ten children between 1834 and 1858.

James was granted his conditional pardon on 9 March 1835. The reason given in support was that he 'has served as a Javelin man in the Sheriff's Department, with a good character', and was entitled to it under the 'Regulations of the service, existing at the period of commencing such

⁷ IGI 1992 edition Kent p.10,412

⁸ CON 31/1/13 image 120.

⁹ *Historical Records of Australia (HRA)* series III Volume vi p.126 for J.T. Bigge's recommendation; *HRA* III p.783, note 294

¹⁰ PRO Reel 291, CO280/38 pp.126-35. Enc No. 1 in Arthur to Viscount Goderich 12 October 1832.

¹¹ RGD 36/1/2 no.2122 image 82.

service'. On 3 June 1839 James was granted his free pardon.¹²

When their first child, Sarah Anne, was born in 1834, James listed his occupation as 'gardener'. The family remained living in Hobart, with addresses in Murray, Patrick and Warwick Streets and also Lansdowne Crescent. On each occasion James gave his occupation as either gardener or carrier. Seven of their ten children lived to adulthood, but the years between 1850 and 1858 were difficult for them, as three of their last four children died at the ages of eight months, three months and one month.

Maybe in an attempt to start a new life free from his convict past, or if 'Freeman' had been an alias, and to return to his birth name, sometime between 19 June 1849 and 12 January 1850 James changed the family surname from 'Freeman' to 'Prince'. Their son James William Freeman (my great grandfather) was the only one of the nine living children at the time to remain as 'Freeman'. James could not possibly have anticipated the difficulties I have had in attempting to discover why, in late 1849 he and his family, except for one son, seemed to disappear from all records.

James William Freeman, my great grandfather, married Mary HENDERSON in Hobart in 1865, and they had seven children. My grandfather David Henry (Harry) Freeman (1872-1957), their third-born child, started the newsagency in Harrington Street between Collins and Liverpool Streets, and gained an apprenticeship in bookbinding. He outlived three wives and he and his second wife, Clara DANKS (née MERRIMAN) had four daughters, my mother being the second born. There are now very few, if any, descendants of James with the surname of Freeman. The decision, in late 1849 or early 1850, has, I think some 175 years later, meant the end of this particular Freeman line.

James Prince (formerly Freeman) died on 27 February 1860 at Lansdowne Crescent, where the family was living, and his wife, Mary Prince, died on 9 April 1871, aged 56. Her funeral left from her late residence, opposite the *Joiner's Arms* (corner of Weld and Macquarie Streets) South Hobart, and was buried at Holy Trinity of England Burial Ground (currently Campbell Street Primary School), but intrigue with James, my ancestor as Freeman or Prince, continues. No record of his burial or the location has been found.

¹² CON 31/1/13, image 120

Vernon Alexander Dowie (1883-1968) And

Dorothe(y) Kate Tidey (1898-1957)

Part 2: 1920-1968

Tony Dell (Member 8110)

After their marriage, Vernon and Dorothe Kate moved to Launceston, Vern changed occupation, and they started a family.

In Launceston, at Nurse Field's, 1 Hillside Crescent on 23 December 1920, Vern and Dorothe's first child, Beverley Esther (my mother), was born.

Sadly, on 25 April 1921, Vern's mother, Sarah Ann McCORMACK, died at her home 30 Cimitiere Street, Launceston,

aged 72. She was buried on 27 April 1921,¹ I believe at Evandale.

By 1921 they were living at 12 Batten Street, Launceston². Vern's two sisters, Ethel and Fanny, had also moved from Evandale and were living in near-by Charles Street.

By mid-1922, Vern had a new job. He was Truant Officer for Launceston! The *Weekly Courier* of 15 June 1922 announced his appointment from a field of



*Vern, Dorothe and family, 5 Eglinton St, Launceston, c. 1953
Rear: Garth, Molly (Hall), Vern, Brian, Dorothe (Tidey) Dowie,
Bev Dell (Dowie)*

*Front: Tony, Sue, Judy Dell
(Family photo in the possession of Tony Dell)*

¹ Examiner (Launceston, Tas.: 1900-1954),
Tue 26 Apr 1921, p.1

² Australia, Electoral Rolls 1921 for
Launceston Central, Bass, Tasmania

86 applicants. His salary was £102, with a marriage allowance of £20.³

Interestingly, the same article fills in another blank: Vern's employment after leaving Evandale. For 18 months prior to this appointment, he had been a clerk in the Quartermaster's Department of the Hornsey Military Hospital, Launceston.

Vern continued as Truant Officer for 30 years in the position. His first prosecution of parents for the truancy of their children was reported in the Examiner of 26 August 1922, resulting in two convictions and an adjournment.⁴

The year 1922 also brought an increase in Dorethe and Vern's family with the birth of their first son, Garth Henry Butler Dowie, on 24 October 1922.⁵ The family were still living in 12 Batten Street, Launceston at that time⁶.

Over the course of 1923 and 1924 Vern was reported in the Examiner as conducting 12 prosecutions for truancy, some of those involving multiple parents. On 19 March 1924, he was permanently appointed by Executive Council as the Education Department's Truant Officer for Launceston.⁷

On 29 December 1924, Vern's older sister, Ethel, who had been living in Launceston

with her younger sister Fanny, married Thomas Alfred LEATHAM (1886-1955) at Holy Trinity Church, Hobart⁸ and moved to New Norfolk. Ethel had previously given birth to a son, Max (Bill) Dowie, on 28 October 1912 in Launceston⁹, whom Thomas adopted.

From 1925 through 1926 and 1927, Vern's truancy work continued, with regular prosecutions of parents. In addition, he was involved in the setting up of an Employment Bureau for boys and girls who had completed their education, which he apparently subsequently ran from his office in the Public Buildings, Launceston.¹⁰ The aim of the bureau was to provide businesses with a single point where they could seek appropriately qualified youngsters to work in their businesses. There is no later press comment to find out whether, or how well, the scheme operated, or how long it lasted.

Vern was a keen poultry keeper and during the period from 1925 to 1929 was deeply involved in various egg laying competitions. I found 68 mentions in the Examiner of his involvement, his favourite breeds being Black Orpingtons and White Leghorns. It would seem that wherever he was living in those years - it seems to have

³ Weekly Courier (Tas.), 15 Jun 1922, p.29

⁴ Examiner (Launceston, Tas.: 1900-1954), Sat 26 Aug 1922, p.6

⁵ Australia, World War II Military service Records, 1939-1945 for Garth Henry Butler Dowie

⁶ Australia, Electoral Rolls 1922 for Launceston Central, Bass, Tasmania

⁷ Examiner (Launceston, Tas.: 1900-1954), Sat 20 Mar 1924, p.5

⁸ marriage registration 358/1924, Names Index: 1965812

⁹ birth registration 5908/1912, Names Index: 2107947

¹⁰ Examiner (Launceston, Tas.: 1900-1954), Fri. 13 Nov 1925,

been 12 Hampden Road - he must have had sufficient room for a fair-sized flock!

He was also still active in the 40th Battalion Association, being noted in 1925 as a Vice President and auditor.¹¹

From about March to early September 1928, Vern was on 6 months leave from his truancy job as a 14 September 1928 *Examiner* article reports that, in his absence, "... quite a number of children have grasped the opportunity to 'play the wag'." The report goes on to say that a "... vigorous campaign..." has commenced to correct the situation with several parents convicted in the City Police Court for not ensuring their children attended school.¹²

On 14 January 1930 Dorothe gave birth to her and Vern's third and last child, Brian Vernon Dowie, at Nurse Hodges, Canning Street, Launceston.¹³ The family was still living at 12 Hampden Street. Brian's older siblings, Beverley and Garth were, by this time, both attending East Launceston School.

Importantly for the family, the year also saw Vern take up his entitlement for a War Service Homes loan. On 3 March 1930 the Launceston Council received an application from Waugh Brothers Builders to construct a dwelling at 5 Eglinton Street¹⁴ which was to become the long-term home of Vern, Dorethe and their

family. The contract amount for the dwelling was £715. The council did not, at that time, require inspection or approval on completion but it is likely to have been ready for habitation by the end of the year.



*5 Eglinton Street, South Launceston,
14 July 2016(Photo: Tony Dell)*

Business was brisk on the truancy front in 1930 with the *Examiner* recording Vern prosecuting multiple parents at the March, April, August, October and November sittings of the City Police Court.

Sadly, Vern's eldest sister, Ethel Marion Leatham, died on 24 June 1931 at New Norfolk and was buried at the local cemetery the following day.¹⁵

Truancy prevention carried on at a similar pace over 1931 to 1933 for Vern as previously, from this time on he is mainly referred to in the *Examiner* as the "truant inspector."

In 1934, the issue of neglected children became a somewhat more pressing public matter. The Special Magistrate of

¹¹ *Examiner* (Launceston, Tas.: 1900-1954), Fri 17 Jul 1925, p.6

¹² *Examiner* (Launceston, Tas.: 1900-1954), Fri 14 Sep 1928, p.8

¹³ *Examiner* (Launceston, Tas.: 1900-1954), Wed 15 Jan 1930, p.1

¹⁴ Building Section, Launceston City Council, email to me dated 21 February 2024

¹⁵ *Mercury* (Hobart, Tas.: 1860-1954), Thu 25 Jun 1931, p.1

Launceston, Mr P P PIKE, convened a meeting in early July to "... discuss the Children's Charter, absconders from Ashley Home, truancy, and other matters concerning the better working of the Children's Court."¹⁶ Vern Dowie was one of the invitees and, following the meeting, was appointed to a committee whose task was to "... revise the Children's Charter, make any alterations considered necessary, and submit them to the Minister."

On the home front, Dorothe and Vern's eldest child, Beverley, had completed primary school and had been successful in that year's state-wide Education Department scholarship exam, winning a place at the Launceston State High School.¹⁷ By 1936, Dorethe and Vern's second child, Garth, had finished Primary school and been accepted into the Launceston Junior Technical School.¹⁸

The Electoral Rolls for Launceston East, Bass of that year confirm that Vern and Dorethe were living at 5 Eglinton Street¹⁹ and a press report notes that eldest daughter Beverley was bridesmaid at her cousin Jean BRYAN's wedding to Hector

EYLES at Evandale on Saturday 28 November 1936.²⁰

By January 1937, eldest child Beverley had completed her schooling, gaining passes in seven subjects in her Intermediate Certificate,²¹ obtained her first paid employment in the office of P A Harvey Radio Accessories, Launceston,²² and flung herself into the social and sporting whirl of 1937 Launceston, attending dances as well as playing cricket in summer and hockey in winter.²³ She continued in this vein through to 1940 with a couple of other successive short office assistant roles.

On 25 June 1939, Vern's half-sister Evangeline died in Launceston.²⁴ She never married and had no children.

By the end of 1939, Garth had finished his schooling and from early 1940 was employed as a temporary porter with the Tasmanian Government Railways in Launceston and was made permanent on 30 December 1940.²⁵ He was also a volunteer member of the 12/50th Battalion Militia during that year²⁶ and a keen amateur cyclist noted in the press as

¹⁶ Examiner (Launceston, Tas.: 1900-1954), Tue 3 Jul 1934, p.6

¹⁷ Examiner (Launceston, Tas.: 1900-1954), Tue 16 Jan 1934, p.3

¹⁸ Examiner (Launceston, Tas.: 1900-1954), Fri 17 Jan 1936, p.11

¹⁹ Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903-1980 for Launceston East, Bass, Tasmania, 1936

²⁰ Examiner (Launceston, Tas.: 1900-1954), Wed 2 Dec 1936, p.3

²¹ Examiner (Launceston, Tas.: 1900-1954), Mon 25 Jan 1937, p.9

²² Reference from P A Harvey, 14 Jun 1938, original in my possession.

²³ numerous references in the Examiner, Launceston, Tas during 1937

²⁴ *Examiner* (Launceston, Tas.: 1900-1954), Mon 26 Jun 1939, p.1

²⁵ Tasmania, Australia, Railway Employment Records, 1903-1977 for G H B Dowie, 1944

²⁶ Australia, Royal Australian Air Force Personnel Files, 1921-1948 for G H B Dowie, S/n 31482

competing regularly in local races. He enlisted in the Air Force on 27 November 1941 and served in Australia and Papua New Guinea until his discharge on 21 December 1945.

Meanwhile, Vern's role as Truant Inspector continued with press mention during the 1940s. He also continued his involvement with the RSL, 40th Battalion Association, the Overseas Comfort Fund, the Presbyterian Church, the Benevolent Society among other community interests.

Unfortunately, in early 1940 Bev was diagnosed with pulmonary tuberculosis. She spent some time at a sanatorium on the Evandale Road, near the main highway just south of Perth.

The incidence of tuberculosis appeared to spike in Tasmania from 1940 and through the remainder of the 1940s leading to the initiation of chest X-Rays, initially to detect and minimise the disease and with the long-term aim of eradicating it.²⁷

Bev had obviously recovered sufficiently by mid-1941 to work again, as she was employed for some months prior to 14 August 1941 as a receptionist at the Metropole Hotel in Launceston.²⁸

During 1941, Bev was also undertaking some further education. She was enrolled in shorthand theory and practice in the

Technical Branch of the Tasmanian Department of Education and passed both her shorthand theory exams and gained a credit in shorthand practice at 80 words a minute.²⁹

She was employed again on 17 May 1943 as a typist and stenographer with the drawing office of the Chief Engineer's Office, Railways Branch of the Tasmanian Department of Transport.³⁰

In March 1944, she received a document from the General Hospital, Launceston signed by C G THOMPSON MBBS saying, in relation to her infection by tuberculosis, that "... as far as can be ascertained her condition is now cured."³¹

On 26 November 1943, Dorothe's elder sister, Henrietta SMITH died at Wynyard, Tasmania.³² She and her husband Richard, had adopted Jack Dowie (Smith) who was born in 1914 to Fanny Dowie, Vern's youngest sister.

Happier times were ahead with post-War family weddings occurring in quick succession. On 13 May 1944, Dorothe and Vern's eldest daughter, Beverley, married Reginald Robert DELL (1919-2000) at Paterson Street Methodist Church, Launceston, Tasmania.³³ They had three children: Anthony (1946); Judith (1950); and Suzanne (1951).

Then, on Saturday 26 August 1944 their eldest son, Garth, married Molly Lorraine

²⁷ references to tuberculosis in Tasmanian daily papers between 1940 and 1950

²⁸ Reference from J A Gladman, 14 August 1941 (copy in possession of A R Dell)

²⁹ *Examiner* (Launceston, Tas.: 1900-1954), Tue 13 Jan 1942, p.3

³⁰ Reference from Chief Engineer, Railways Branch, J H Golding, (ref. 43.499), ? 1945 (copy in possession of A R Dell)

³¹ Copy in possession of A R Dell.

³² *Examiner* (Launceston, Tas.: 1900-1954), Mon 29 Nov 1943, p.3

³³ *Mercury*, (Hobart, Tas.: 1860-1954), Mon 15 May 1944, p.4

HALL (1922-2002) at Scottsdale.³⁴ They had no children.

By 1944, Vern's title had changed from Truant Inspector to Welfare Officer, signalling a formal broadening of his role which had been evident from preceding press commentary.

At the end of that year, Dorethe and Vern's youngest son Brian had finished his schooling and on 19 February 1945 he began an apprenticeship as a Fitter and Turner at the Railway Workshops in Launceston.³⁵ He completed his apprenticeship in 1950, having also studied and passed relevant subjects at the Launceston Technical School in 1948, 1949 and 1950, when he was awarded a prize for Oxy-acetylene Welding.³⁶

The original Dowie family was continuing to shrink as, on 6 July 1946, Vern's last surviving half-sibling, Edith Mary WILSON died in Hobart.³⁷

The same was true for the Tidey family as, on 21 November 1946, Dorothe's sister, Dorenda Jane MARTIN, died in Launceston.³⁸ Dorenda had married Lewis Edward Martin (1891-1976) and they had one foster child: Shirley Anne (1926-?). Then, on 14 April 1947, Dorethe's brother Henry Albert Tidey died in Sydney.³⁹ He never married and had no children.

From 1948 to 1952, Vern's work as Welfare Officer continued at much the same tempo as previously but the acquisition of a black Ford 'Prefect' in place of his former horse and trap made mobility much easier for him. He continued his involvement with the RSL and was a speaker at the 35th Anniversary Celebrations of the 40th Battalion Association in Launceston on Saturday 10 November 1951.⁴⁰

March 1952 saw Vern prosecuting a case where a boy, aged 14 years and 7 months had rarely attended school.⁴¹ This is the last reported prosecution by him I have been able to find prior to the announcement of his retirement on Wednesday, 22 October 1952 after 30 years in the job.⁴²

Vern was given a formal farewell on Tuesday 28 October attended by a large number of Headmasters, Infant Teachers and senior officers of the Education Department.⁴³ Congratulatory speeches and presentations were made, including a framed illuminated tribute from the Launceston Headmasters Association signed by all Association members, which I hold.

³⁴ *Examiner* (Launceston, Tas.: 1900-1954), Wed 30 Aug 1944, p.6

³⁵ Tasmania, Australia, Railway Employment Records, 1903-1977 for B V Dowie, 1945

³⁶ *Examiner* (Launceston, Tas.: 1900-1954), Sat 8 Jul 1950, p.8

³⁷ *Mercury*, (Hobart, Tas.: 1860-1954), Mon 8 Jul 1946, p.6

³⁸ *Examiner* (Launceston, Tas.: 1900-1954), Fri 22 Nov 1946, p.2

³⁹ *Sydney Morning Herald* (NSW:1842-1954), Sat 19 Apr 1947, p.38

⁴⁰ *Examiner* (Launceston, Tas.: 1900-1954), Mon 12 Nov 1951, p.4

⁴¹ *Examiner* (Launceston, Tas.: 1900-1954), Tue 25 Mar 1952, p.5

⁴² *Examiner* (Launceston, Tas.: 1900-1954), Wed 22 Oct 1952, p.3

⁴³ *Examiner* (Launceston, Tas.: 1900-1954), Wed 29 Oct 1952, p.7

Mary King alias Lock, *Sir Charles Forbes* 1826-1827

Charles R H Wright

On 30 May 1826 Mary KING was found in bed with her “partner” Matthew LOCK at her lodgings at Rose Lane, Spitalfields. King’s landlady, Mary HOLLEY, said “The prisoner King lodged with me; Lock lived with her as her husband, from the 19 May till the time of the robbery.”¹ King and Lock were arrested for burglary, and they were then on the road to the Old Bailey and onwards to the Australian colonies. King was transported to Van Diemen’s Land (VDL) and Lock to New South Wales (NSW).

In the early hours of 30 May it is alleged that King and Lock broke into the Fountain public house and stole items valued at over £5. King then pawned a pair of shoes between two and three o’clock that the afternoon. The shoes were the identified by the owner and the suspects were arrested that evening.² The speed at which these events unfolded is quite remarkable by today’s standards.

There is no evidence that King and Lock were married. The Newgate prison register listed her as Mary Lock, alias King.³ However, all the other records listed her as Mary King, alias Lock. This reflected her assertion that they were not married.⁴ King was described in the Newgate Prison records as, 19 years old and born in Bishops Waltham, Hampshire. She was 5 feet 7 inches tall, stoutish with a sallow complexion.⁵

The pair “were indicted for a burglary in the dwelling house of Thomas BUNNEY”.⁶ They appeared before the Lord Chief Baron ALEXANDER, one of the most senior judges in the English courts, at the Old Bailey on 24 June 1826. The burglary victim was the prosecutor and there were six witnesses. King’s defence was simply “I bought the things of a man in Petticoat-lane; I have had that saltcellar three months.”⁷ Lock’s defence, if any, was not recorded. They were found guilty of the lesser offence of stealing,

¹ Old Bailey Proceedings Online, ‘Trial of Matthew Lock and Mary King, alias Lock, June 1826’,

² Old Bailey Proceedings Online, ‘Trial of Matthew Lock and Mary King, alias Lock’

³ Register of Prisoners Matthew Lock and Mary Lock, alias King, Newgate Prison, London, The National Archives, England, PCOM2 198/393,

⁴ *Mary King alias Lock, Sir Charles Forbes, 1827*, Conduct record, Conduct Registers of

Female Convicts arriving in the Period of the Assignment System, T A, CON40/1/5 Image 246, <https://stors.tas.gov.au/NI/1409516>,

⁵Register of Prisoners Matthew Lock and Mary Lock.

⁶ Old Bailey Proceedings Online, ‘Trial of Matthew Lock and Mary King, alias Lock’

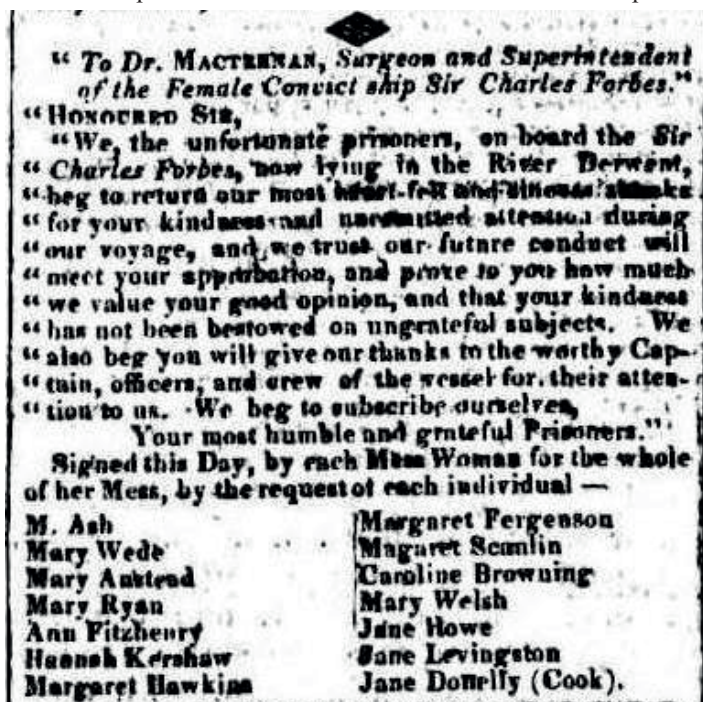
⁷ Old Bailey Proceedings Online, ‘Trial of Matthew Lock and Mary King, alias Lock’

thereby avoiding the death penalty for burglary. Both received 7 years sentences. Seven years was the most common sentence for female convicts.⁸

Lock was transported to NSW in September 1826 on the *Albion*. King had sailed a few days earlier on the *Sir Charles Forbes*, a recently built ship of 364 tons. Although *Sir Charles Forbes* was the smallest convict ship to arrive in VDL in

1832, it also had the quickest voyage of 109 days direct from London.⁹ Along with the 73 female convicts, there were 26 wives and children of convicts already in VDL and some free settlers as well. The largest free family in steerage would have been the 11 members of the family of Robert W GIBLIN, a school master.¹⁰

The health, wellbeing and behaviour of the convicts was the responsibility of the



Letter of thanks to Dr Macternan from the prisoners on board Sir Charles Forbes.

⁸ Ian Brand, and Mark Staniforth, "Care And Control: Female Convict Transportation Voyages To Van Diemen's Land, 1818-1853"

⁹ Charles Bateson, *The Convict Ships 1787-1868*, First Edition, Brown, Son & Ferguson, Ltd., Glasgow, 1959, pp 308-309.

¹⁰ Wilfrid W Giblin, *Kith & Kin, some notes on our branch of the family*, Private Circulation, Hobart, 1945, p 9.

Surgeon-Superintendent James MacTERNAN, RN. King is not mentioned in MacTernan's medical journals, and we may therefore assume that she did not experience any medical problems on the voyage. It is reported at 4 convicts and two free women died on the voyage.¹¹ Nevertheless, the prisoners appreciated the care received from MacTernan during the voyage. On 20 January 1827 the Hobart Town Gazette printed a letter of thanks and appreciation from the prisoners to MacTernan.¹²

The *Sir Charles Forbes* arrived in Hobart Town on 3 January 1827.¹³ The disembarkation process would not have been speedy. First the ship would have been inspected by the local medical officials; then the convicts were issued with new sets of clothes and over a period of at least a week the prisoners would have landed, and the sick sent to hospital. "Most of the women were assigned to settlers before leaving the ship, the rest going to hiring depots until they were assigned."¹⁴ There was not much accommodation for prisoners or settlers in Hobart Town and the Giblin family stayed on board the ship for a few weeks.¹⁵

Most convicts were assigned to settlers, and therefore Hobart Town was effectively an open prison. The reputation of female convicts was a great

disadvantage. In 1833 Henry Walter PARKER wrote "The female convicts ... are, generally speaking, a still lower grade of beings than the men ...".¹⁶

The Conduct Record of King did not include her early assignments. For example, in June 1828 she was caught "absenting herself at night from her master's premises", but no details as to who her master was. For this infraction she was placed in the Female Factory. While in the factory she was involved in a fight for which she had to wear an iron collar for a month.¹⁷ The Cascades Female Factory opened in December 1827, so it is likely that she was sent there.

On 2 March 1830 she was "absent from the Male Orphan School from 9 until 11 o'clock one night without leave – returning by scaling the wall."¹⁸ For this she was confined to a cell on "BandW" for 3 days. "BandW" would signify "bread and water". This would seem a bit harsh for not much more than a minor prank.

While at the Male Orphan School in New Town, King would have been assigned to Robert W Giblin, Master of the School, and her fellow passenger on the *Sir Charles Forbes*. Was this a random coincidence or had he requested her service?

¹¹Bateson, *The Convict Ships*, p 330 and Giblin, *Kith and Kin*, p 9.

¹² Untitled Letter, Hobart Town Gazette, 20 January 1827, p 4,

¹³ "Shipping Intelligence", Hobart Town Gazette, p 2,

¹⁴ Brand, "Care And Control", pp 35-36.

¹⁵ Giblin, *Kith and Kin*, p 9.

¹⁶ Henry Walter Parker, *The Rise, Progress and Present State of Van Dieman's (sic) Land; with Advice to Emigrants. Punishment.*, J. Cross, London, 1833, p 58.

¹⁷ Mary King alias Lock, Conduct record.

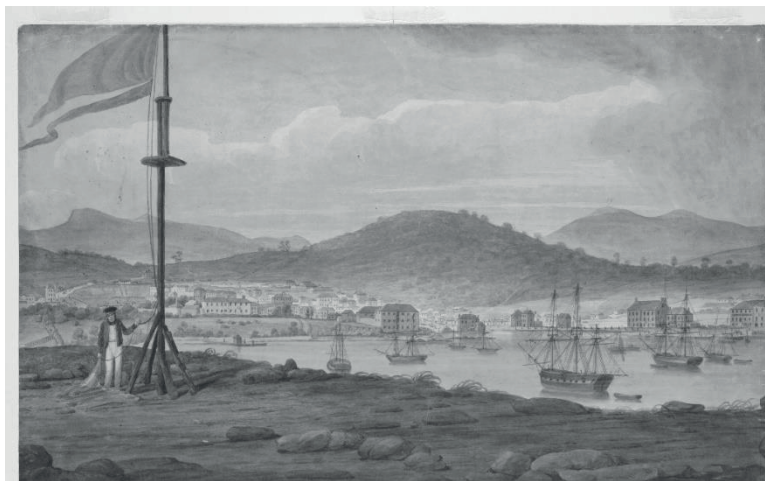
¹⁸ Mary King alias Lock, Conduct record.

On 9 October 1829 Robert WATT, *Maria*, and Mary King sought permission to marry. However, under the column “Sent to Secretary” was written “13 Dec^r not forwarded on account of the woman being in a state of pregnancy + ret^d to the /HC/.” Just a few days later in the next column headed “Governor’s answer” the following was recorded “16 Dec^r approved + Mem forwarded to the Rev W BEDFORD”.¹⁹ Neither the pregnancy nor the approval of the marriage were noted on the Conduct Record. No record could be found for a baptism nor a marriage.

King’s conduct allowed her to receive her Ticket of Leave on 5 January 1832, 5 years

after her arrival in 1827.²⁰ Her Certificate of Freedom was granted in June 1833, seven years after her conviction.²¹ However, according to her Conduct Record, she did not collect her Certificate until 1844.²²

At least four Mary Kings were transported to VDL in the 1820s and 1830s and on the *Sir Charles Forbes* there were two: Mary King alias Lock No. 44 and Mrs Mary King No.45. The prisoner numbers and the extra “alias Lock” were crucial for disambiguation.



Panorama of Hobart Town ca. 1828 - watercolour drawings by Augustus Earle. Source: State Library of New South Wales.

¹⁹ Mary King alias Lock, *Sir Charles Forbes*, 1827, Marriage Permissions, Memorial Book, Image W – June-Dec 1829, [https://stors.tas.gov.au/CON45-1-1\\$init=CON45-1-1P001](https://stors.tas.gov.au/CON45-1-1$init=CON45-1-1P001), accessed 1 June 2022.

²⁰ “Government Notice No. 6”, *Hobart Town Gazette*, 7 January 1832, p 5.

²¹ “Friday’s Gazette. Certificates.”, *Colonist and Van Diemen’s Land Commercial and Agricultural Advertiser*, 2 July 1833, p 4.

²² Mary King alias Lock, Conduct record.

Henry Peever and Associates

David Beswick (Member 4821)



Henry Peever 1815-1890

They said ‘He was only a boy when he was sent out’, but that was not quite all that was remembered of my 2xgreat-grandfather Henry PEEVER amongst the keepers of the family tradition in my youth. Some of my father’s older cousins recalled that he had lived for some time at “Florence Vale”, the oldest part of our farm. It was the home built by my great grandfather, Thomas BESWICK junior with his wife Catherine CLARK or PEEVER at Derby, Tasmania.

Catherine was the illegitimate daughter of Edward (commonly known as Henry) Peever, and an Irish convict woman Mary Ann Clark who was known in the convict records as Mary Ann RAY and the surviving remnants of her story were also significant.¹

Henry was born at Birmingham, England, 3 April 1815². He was the son of John

¹How we identified Henry’s paramour Mary Ann Clark aka Ray as Catherine’s mother is told in ‘Mary Ann’s Tattoo’, *Tasmanian Ancestry*, 20 (4), March 2000, 235-240.

² England, Births and Christenings 1538-1975, Register of Baptisms, parish of St

Philip, Birmingham, 3 September 1822. <https://www.beswick.info/besfam/PeeverFamilyBirmingham.htm>. He was the second child of this couple baptized Edward. He was 7 years old.



*Catherine Beswick nee Peever
1845-1908*

Peever and Catherine COLMORE.³ Mary Ann was born 3 December 1823 at Dromore, County Down, Ireland, the daughter of Hamilton Clark and Ann

CRAIG.⁴ She was transported to Van Diemen's Land from Liverpool, arriving 9 April 1842⁵.

Henry Peever is named as Catherine's father in the record of her baptism shortly after she was born in the Female House of Correction, Launceston.⁶ Her birth was registered simply as that of a female child of Marianne RAY 9 April 1845. We can be grateful for the discipline of the Catholic Church in preserving the names of Catherine's parents in the record of baptism. Mary Ann took the surname Clark again after the completion of her transportation sentence.⁷

Young Henry was aged 16 when he arrived in Van Diemen's Land 18 November 1831 on the convict ship *Lord Lyndoch* after being convicted of burglary at the Worcester Crown Court 5 March 1831⁸. With others he had broken into a house and stolen a considerable quantity of food and clothing. Like his future father-in-law Thomas Beswick senior,

³ John Peever and Catherine Colmore were married at St Bartholomew's, Edgbaston, 20 June 1802.

⁴ Register of Baptisms, Church of Ireland, Dromore, Down, Ireland.

⁵ Tasmanian Archives, Convict Conduct Record CON 40-1-8. She was tried at Liverpool for stealing money "from the person" on 25 October 1841, aged 17, and transported on the *Emma Eugenia*, arriving on 9 April 1842, single, aged 18. See also CON 15-1-1, 256.

⁶ Register of Baptisms, Catholic Church of the Apostles, Launceston 6 July 1845. The father is not named in the registration of Cathrine's birth on 19 June 1845.

⁷ She was named Mary Ann Clark when she married John Anderson 7 February 1853 at St. Johns Launceston. The Clark name was also in the registration of the births of the children of her daughter Catherine who was married as Clark but commonly known as Catherine Peever.

⁸ Conviction report: Burrows Worcester Journal, Thursday, 10 March 1831.

Transportation: Tasmanian Archives Convict Conduct Register CON 31/35 No. 797. CON 18/12 Description: includes labouring boy, height 4 ft. 11 ½ age 16, forehead projecting, marked EP on right arm.

Henry was sentenced to death. Fortunately for us, at that time such death sentences were commonly commuted to transportation for life.

There is evidence of instability in Henry's family of origin. His mother died in 1824 when Henry was 9 years old⁹. His father John remarried in the minimum time required for banns to be read, indicating that another relationship may already have been formed¹⁰. There appears also to have been a half-sister of Henry, Ann Peever, born 29 September 1812 to John Peever with a different mother.¹¹ His brother William, born 24 August 1807¹², was convicted in Warwickshire Quarter Session 17 March 1835 of theft and sentenced to six months with hard labour in the House of Correction¹³. Two of the boys tried with Henry in Worcester were charged in Warwickshire with similar offences.¹⁴ The image I have of young Henry in his adolescence is that of a neglected child wandering the old inner-

city streets of Birmingham with a delinquent group.

The newspaper report added that 'these boys came from Birmingham', correcting the trial indictment which stated that they were from Dodderhill, Worcester, where the crime was committed.¹⁵ In one unfortunate observation, the report tells us that 'A witness was called to speak to Peever's character, but it appeared, upon his cross examination, that the lad had been some months ago in Warwick gaol!'¹⁶

Henry was one of a group charged with 'disturbing the peace of King William' and with burglary. Mr Justice BASONQUET presided over a court in which the bench included, together with a second professional justice, such notable people as the Earl of Plymouth, Lord Acton, Viscount Deersmith, and several knights, as well as several local justices of the peace. There had been a grand

⁹ Buried St Mary's Whittall St Birmingham 21 July 1824.

¹⁰ To Sarah Pimm, perhaps Sarah Ann if Ann the mother of Sarah

¹¹ The baptism registered in the same parish for 3 June 1814 with John Peever as father, and a mother simply named Ann.

¹² William Peever, Baptism registered St Philips Birmingham 13 April 1809.

¹³ William Peever, Warwickshire Quarter Session 17 March 1835

¹⁴ Warwickshire County Record Office, Warwickshire Midsummer Sessions, William Crompton, 13 July 1830, George Troth and another 2 June 1831.

¹⁵ Worcester County Records Office, *Burrows Worcester Journal*, Thursday, March 10, 1831,

under the heading of Worcester Journal, Wednesday Evening, March 9, reporting the proceedings of the Crown Court, Monday March 7, Grand Jury. - Henry Peever, 15, [and others], were found guilty of breaking into and robbing the house of Thomas Jones, at Dodderhill - 'Sentence of death was recorded. These boys were from Birmingham.'

¹⁶ Henry's convict conduct record, in the information received upon arrival in Tasmania, says 'once for stealing apple, one month', but we could not find any record of such a conviction in the Birmingham or Warwickshire records.

entertainment the preceding Saturday and special church services were held on the Sunday. At the Cathedral service attended by the two justices and other dignitaries, the High Sheriff's Chaplain took as his text Ecclesiastes 3:17, 'God shall judge the righteous and the wicked', apparently in the mood of the gathered men of power, 'saying that even if they eluded the sagacity of human tribunals, the wicked would appear before the omniscient Judge.' The two justices 'afterwards dined at the Episcopal Palace together with several leading Barristers, the High Sheriff, his Chaplain,' etc. Imagine a 15-year-old boy facing this demonstration of power and status.

Henry soon found himself living a quiet life in Van Dieman's Land. He did not completely leave behind his propensity for petty theft. He was 'severely admonished' for 'trafficking with firewood' 26 September 1834, and there were a few other minor incidents before he earned a ticket of leave in 1839.¹⁷

In 1844 Henry had a relationship with Mary Ann Clark or Ray who was a convict servant assigned at that time to William SALTMARSH at Longford (Norfolk Plains). Their daughter Catherine was born 19 June 1845.¹⁸ The family tradition

is that Henry took the child and brought her up with the help of the family of Richard JORDAN, a former neighbour at White Hills, long term family friend and half-brother of William Saltmarsh, who had land next door.¹⁹ Mary Ann spent about half of her time in goal for various offences and it was probably when she was serving a sentence of six months with hard labour in Hobart in 1848 for being 'absent without leave and found in a brothel' that Henry took responsibility for Catherine²⁰. It was a caring father-daughter relationship that was still active in reciprocal care in Henry's old age over 40 years later.

Under his original name of Edward Peever, a farmer, aged 30, Henry married Catherine Elizabeth JOHNSON, aged 18, at the Wesleyan Chapel, Launceston, 18 December 1854²¹. She was a local girl from Hadspen whose father worked for many years at Entally House.²² Births of several children were registered. Edward John b. 12 October 1855, Mary Ann b. 21 September 1857, died 30 October 1857, Charlotte Elizabeth b. 11 September 1858, William James b. 20 October 1860, Adelaide Marian b. 10 July 1862, Jane Harriet b. 25 February 1865, and Francis Henrietta b. 24 August 1867, all with the

¹⁷ Tasmanian Archives, CON 31/35 Convict Department Conduct Register. A conditional pardon 1842, extended to the Australian colonies 9 February 1847.

¹⁸ Unnamed child of 'Mariane Ray' named in baptism register noted above.

¹⁹ Family tradition witnessed by interview record from Catherine's eldest grandchild Thora Burton, nee Bottcher. A similar

tradition was maintained in the Jordan family, whose story is told by Alma Ranson in *Jordans of the Three Isles*.

²⁰ Mary Ann Ray Convict Conduct Record 8 February 1848.

²¹ Tasmanian Archives, Marriages in the district of Launceston No. TU527TET.

²² According to Colleen Pounsford.

surname Peever, although the paternity of Adelaide and perhaps Francis (female) may be doubted.²³ When an address was recorded for Henry in those years it was either Oaks or Adelphi, both small farming localities near Whitmore.

A disastrous change occurred in Henry's life in 1861. *The Launceston Examiner* reported 27 April 1861 that, in the Court of General Sessions of the Peace – Criminal Jurisdiction – Henry Pevor (sic) was charged with having stolen a hay fork, value 5s. In evidence at the trial, DC Simpson said he 'met the prisoner driving a chase cart, in which was a man and two women. The constable on searching the chaise found the fork at the bottom of it.' The two women were probably the two Catherine's, his wife and eldest daughter. Henry was sentenced to 12 months in prison, which he served at Port Arthur.²⁴

When he was released from prison in February 1862 after 12 months, less a few weeks remitted, Henry would have found both his wife, and his eldest daughter had

become pregnant. We cannot identify the father of Adelaide, his wife's child, but Thomas Beswick junior married Henry's daughter, Catherine, 1 March 1862.²⁵ Their son Richard Thomas Beswick (named after Richard Jordan), was born 1 October 1862, the first of Catherine's 14 children, of whom 10 survived to adulthood.

Henry's marriage survived the traumas of 1861-62, but a few years later his wife wrote in her Bible, 'Broke up my home 1868'.²⁶ She went to Victoria taking her youngest child Francis (a girl), and probably the youngest three, with her and lived with William Lloyd Pounsford, with whom she had four more children.²⁷

Young Catherine and her husband Thomas Beswick junior began their married life at the old family farm at Paterson's Plains which was granted in 1816 to Alexander MacKENZIE, Thomas' grandfather, a former soldier whose daughter Mary married Thomas Beswick senior²⁸. After a brief time at Adelphi, where Thomas'

²³ Births, Libraries Tasmania, Tasmania Names Index. Re Paternity of Adelaide b. 10 July 1862 and Henry Peever's location in 1861: Tasmanian Archives CON 37/9, page 5196 Henry Peever Tried Launceston 24 April 1861. Sent to Port Arthur. 24.5.61 Prisoner's Barracks, 5.6.61 Port Arthur. 13.2.62 Prisoner's Barracks. 15 days remitted 28.1.1862.

²⁴ Tasmanian Archives CON 37/9, page 5196 Record of Convicts locally convicted.

²⁵ The register of marriages at Westbury has 29 February, 1862, but it was not a leap year.

²⁶ Email from Bob and Colleen Pounsford, 15 April 2000. Eileen Austin, nee Pounsford,

had the Bible seen by Colleen inscribed as given to Catherine Pounsford by her mother Mary Lethaby.

²⁷ Email from Bob and Colleen Pounsford, 15 April 2000. Jane Harriet Peever died in Victoria in 1872, aged 6. Adelaide's marriage was registered in Victoria in 1883. In William Lloyd Pounsford's will Frances Henrietta and three sons are named as his children with the surname Pounsford-Peever.
²⁸ Register of Marriages St John's Launceston 'No. 340 Thomas Beswick, Ticket of Leave, of the Parish of St John, Launceston, and Mary Peck, Free (Widow) - Pattersons Plains ... with the consent of

father was farming, then some years following the miners to various new mining sites in the northeast of Tasmania, they finally settled at Derby in 1877. They came over the hills from Mathinna, past Mt Victoria, when their ninth living child Grace was a new baby, and their heavy goods went by ship from Launceston around the coast to the old port of Boobyalla.²⁹

Thomas was an entrepreneurial character who made his money selling goods and services to the miners. In 1880 he took up forest covered land at Derby across the river from the town and began developing a farm known as 'Florence Vale'. After five years living 'by the riverside' they moved into a new house on the hill Thomas built himself with timber split on the place³⁰. They were active in community affairs. Thomas was a member of The Ringarooma Roads Trust, their first local governing body. Catherine was recorded as President of the Derby Horticultural Society, bringing to my mind the sad remains fifty and more years later,

around 1950, of the avenue, orchard and flower garden at 'Florence Vale'. Her father Henry Peever was remembered by his grandchildren developing the vegetable garden in the 1880s.³¹

There are descendants of Henry Peever in many parts of Tasmania and other states. Two interstate movements are of note. Three of Catherine's children, Thomas, Grace and Maud Beswick went to Western Australia, first to the goldfields and later Northam and Perth. They ran hotels and managed property.³² Three sons of William James Peever, son of Henry, i.e. Vernon, Edward, and Vere Peever and a grandson Harold RODMAN (son of Harry Rodman and Ethel Peever daughter of William), went to Queensland cane cutting, settled near Cairns, and lived at Gordonvale and Babinda.³³

Henry Peever died at Launceston 12 September 1890, aged 75, when he was living with his daughter Catherine and Thomas Beswick at 'Florence Vale', Derby.³⁴

Government, 6 May 1834 ...' Mary was a young widow nee Mary Mackenzie whose first husband Jerimiah Peck had died a few months before.

²⁹ Family tradition written down in part by my father Richard David Beswick. See also Beswick, John, *Brothers' Home: the story of Derby, Tasmania*, R J and D M Beswick, 2003.

³⁰ According to Ada Gandy 'Memories of Florence Vale' in *The Family of Thomas and Mary Beswick*, a report prepared for the Beswick Family Re-union, 1992, <https://www.beswick.info/besfam/beshist4.htm>.

³¹ From interviews with Doris Ranson, and Thora Burton.

³² John Warry, 'Beswicks in Western Australia' in *The Family of Thomas and Mary Beswick* Chapter 5. <https://www.beswick.info/besfam/beshist5.htm>

³³ Family group sheets by Loraine Smith.

³⁴ Obituary 'Launceston Examiner' 13 September 1890. This notice gave his age incorrectly as 85 years. For more on Henry Peever and associates see the Family History section on website [beswick.info](https://www.beswick.info).

Retribution without Redemption: The Misadventures of John Martin, “a very industrious man”.

Dr John Spurway (Member 7390)

On Monday 6 Dec 1830, “a vast assemblage of labourers ...armed with very formidable bludgeons” assembled in the rural parish of Flitwick (pronounced Flittick) in Bedfordshire, England. The would-be rioters formed a local manifestation of a widespread rural malaise then prevalent in England, a malaise occasioned by poor wages and the advent of “machinery” which, although it lowered the costs of primary production, resulted in widespread unemployment and reduced wages among England’s rural proletariat. In Flitwick, the mob’s intention was to confront local employers and force them to concede improved conditions and monetary returns for their farm workers. Although the men eventually “gave up their weapons and returned to their homes” after being prevailed upon by local gentlemen, including a clergyman, four of them were arrested and would stand trial for having “riotously and tumultuously assembled...illegally to demand an increase of wages”.¹

At the trial, the four charged men were convicted, albeit with a recommendation for mercy from the jury. Among the various witnesses to describe the men’s rampage through part of Flitwick was John SQUIRES, who was employed by a farmer named John ABBOTT, owner of Ruxox farm in the parish. Squires stated that John MARTIN, a Flitwick-born ploughman and pit sawyer, had been one of the discontented men, although Martin was not among those charged.² This was the first occasion since his baptism at the parish church in 1806 that John Martin’s name appeared in the public record.

The oldest son of William Martin and Elizabeth née JUGGINS, John was born at Flitwick on 19 Dec 1805.³ He was still living there when, ten days short of his eighteenth birthday, he married Amelia “Milly” WIGGINS in the parish church.⁴ Milly’s death five years later left John as the sole parent of two children, a situation he remedied in 1829, when he married Phoebe WORKER, another older woman,

¹ *Cambridge Chronicle and Journal*, 14 Jan 1831.

² William Barnes et al to answer a charge of misdemeanour, QSR1830/502-504, Bedfordshire Archives.

³ Flitwick Baptisms Register, 2 Feb 1806, Bedfordshire Archives,

⁴ Flitwick Marriage Register, 9 Dec 1823, Bedfordshire Archives.

in the contiguous parish of Flitton.⁵ Evidence of the poverty that was to follow John throughout his life is found in the report of a misfortune that befell him on 9 August 1838 when, in company with a fellow labourer named William HORNE, he set out on foot from Flitwick, seeking work. Having trudged as far as Shefford, a large village about 13 kilometres away, without success, the two men decided to lodge at the Kings Arms Inn, where they arrived late at night. On their way into Shefford, John had taken out his purse and counted his money, which amounted to about eighteen shillings. At the inn, he and Horne drank two pints of beer and, after deciding against spending the night, John took a shilling from his purse to pay. As he did so, a man named John BURNS quickly removed the purse from a pocket of John's breeches. In an ensuing scuffle, during which John and the thief emerged on to the street outside, John was thrown down and had his head slammed against the pavement by Burns, who escaped with the purse. He was quickly apprehended by a constable summoned by William Horne and taken into custody. Because Burns could not be positively identified as the thief, he was acquitted at his eventual trial. It is not clear from the record whether John regained his money.⁶

John Martin was, in 1838, the victim of a brazen robbery; three years later, he became a thief himself. While the term highway robbery can suggest masked horsemen holding up a coach and four, with the lady passengers reaching for their smelling salts, the reality was usually very different. On the evening of 4 May 1841, nineteen-year-old Alfred TINGEY, a servant living at Ruxox Farm, the same farm whose employee had identified John as a rioter in 1838, was walking home along a path outside the nearby village of Maulden, accompanied by Abiatha ASHWELL, a fellow servant. Without warning, Tingey was accosted from behind by two men, who knocked him down, robbed him of his hat and handkerchief and attempted to steal his shoes. One of his assailants was John Martin. During the ensuing struggle, Tingey was stunned by a blow from a "stick" and took some little time to regain his senses. Abiatha Ashwell, who knew Martin, recognised him at once and testified to that effect at Martin's trial, held at the Bedford Quarter Sessions on 29 June 1841. Alfred Tingey's evidence was that Martin had struck him several times and had threatened to murder both him and Ashwell. Found guilty of highway robbery, and with a previous conviction noted, John Martin was sentenced to transportation for ten years.⁷

⁵ Flitton with Silsoe marriage register, 28 Nov 1829, Bedfordshire Archives.

⁶ Depositions and examinations, Michaelmas Quarter Sessions Bedfordshire, 10 Aug 1838 : John Burns charged with stealing a canvas

purse..., QSR 1838/4/5, Bedfordshire Archives; *Bedfordshire Mercury*, 20 Oct 1838.

⁷ *Cambridge Independent Press*..., 3 Jul 1841, unpaginated; *Hertford Mercury & Reformer*, 3 Jul 1841, 3; Bedford Gaol Registers, BLARS QGV 10/2, England and Wales Crime,

John's poverty was shared by his parents William and Elizabeth who, when aged 61 and having brought up seven children, sought admission in 1840 to the Workhouse at Ampthill, three kilometres from Flitwick, with William described as "a labourer out of work (lately on the roads)". John, by then also the father of seven, was recorded as a family member able to assist them.⁸ Any such help must have been problematical because, three months earlier, John himself, still unemployed, had also applied to the Workhouse, with his wife Phoebe and the seven children subsequently ordered to join him, although "they did not come in". The immediate cause of John's application was recorded as "illness of wife", for which they were offered eight shillings per week in relief.⁹

The situation had not changed in March 1841, only two months before John committed his offence, when he and his family again sought admission to the Ampthill Workhouse, once more because

of Phoebe's illness.¹⁰ The family were apparently still in residence in June, when John was convicted. At the Quarter Sessions, after his sentence was pronounced and before he was taken down, John declared that he was "sent away wrongly but would have a blessed Saviour with him".¹¹ There was to be no blessing, since Phoebe died the following September, with John incarcerated in Bedford Gaol, awaiting transfer to a prison hulk.¹²

In prison, John seemingly failed to impress his gaolers, who recorded that his recent conviction was his second and that his conduct was "very bad". After being "disposed of" to the hulk *Justitia*, moored in the Thames at Woolwich, John earned a commendation for good conduct, before his final move to the transport *Duchess of Northumberland*, which departed Sheerness for Hobart via the Cape on 2 Oct 1842. Employed on board as a washerman, he was to be described as "orderly and industrious".¹³ How well this

Prisoners, Punishment 1770-1935, HO 27; Indent of Duchess of Northumberland, Jan 1843, TA CON14-1-19, Images 82/83; County of Bedford, Register of Persons charged with Indictable Offences at the Assizes and Sessions held within the County during the Year 1841. Bedfordshire Archives, For the fullest account of the trial, see 1841 Depositions and Examinations, John Martin, QSR1841/3/5/21, Bedfordshire Archives. Martin would state in Van Diemen's Land that his accomplice was Thomas Woodland (TA CON14/1/9, images 82-83).

⁸ Ampthill Workhouse Application and Report Books 1840-1841, for the week ending 20 Jun 1840, Bedfordshire Workhouse and

Poor Law Records, 1835-1914. Bedfordshire Archives, accessed through Ancestry.com.

⁹ Ampthill Workhouse Application Report Book for the first Week in Quarter ending 21 Mar 1840.

¹⁰ Ampthill Application and Report Books, week ending 20 March 1841, Bedfordshire Archives.

¹¹ *Cambridge Independent Press*, 3 Jul 1841.

¹² Phoebe was buried at Flitwick on 14 Sep 1841. Flitwick Burial Registers, Bedfordshire Archives, accessed through Findmypast.

¹³ TA CON 69-1-1, images 38/39; CON 33/1/36, image 150, accessed through TNI. I can find no record of his earlier conviction.

augured for his servitude in the penal colony remained conjectural.

On arrival in Hobart on 18 Jan 1843, John was recorded as a Protestant who could read. He was 5 feet 8 inches tall, with two scars on his face and inoculation marks in both arms.¹⁴ He at once became part of the Probation System, a scheme of convict management operating in Van Diemen's Land since 1840. Conceived in Whitehall with little regard for conditions prevailing in the colony, the Probation System envisaged convicts progressing through five stages of punishment, the first of which involved working in gangs, principally on public works. John's incomplete convict record indicates that he spent fourteen months in gangs, being based initially at Long Marsh Probation Station from March 1843 and continuing to Stations at Fingal, Perth and finally Launceston.¹⁵ With "Conduct good" noted on his record for January and February 1844, he completed the first stage of his probation the following month.¹⁶

One of the many failings of the Probation System was that once convicts attained the third stage and were eligible to seek private employment for wages, there were

far too few settlers able to make use of the available men, many of whom were compelled to remain in Probation Stations and continue to labour on public works, principally road making. The early failure of the System was enunciated by Lieutenant-Governor William DENISON as early as 1847: "...with few exceptions, the convict issues from the probation station a worse man than when he entered it".¹⁷ Whether or not John Martin was "a worse man" in June 1844, he was fortunate three months later to enter the service of Thomas Lloyd BUTTON, who operated a long-established tannery in Launceston. Engaged initially for a period of twelve months, John was to remain employed at the tannery for more than eight years.¹⁸ In the Convict Muster of 1846, he was recorded as holding a third-class employment pass and as still working at the tannery.¹⁹ T.L. Button, as John's employer was widely known, was a friend and business associate of James FENTON, the first European settler along the Forth River, an association that appears to have influenced John Martin's future. Now, with a relatively stable existence for the first time since his transportation, John was looking for a partner. He had been

¹⁴ For his full description, see Description Lists of Male Convicts, TA CON 18-1-34, Image 111.

¹⁵ For a list of the eighty Probation Stations operating at various times in VDL, and a map of their locations, see Ian Brand, *The Convict Probation System: Van Diemen's Land 1839-1854*, Hobart 1989, pp 224-226.

¹⁶ TA CON 33-1-34, Images 38-39; CON 33-1-36, Image 150 ; CON 69-1-1, Images 38 and 82.

¹⁷ Quoted in Brand, *The Convict Probation System*, p. 4.

¹⁸ John was engaged for one year, commencing on 2 September 1844. *Hobart Town Gazette*, 8 Oct 1844, p. 1270.

¹⁹ Register of all Convicts transported to Van Diemen's Land, 31 Oct 1846, HO 10/38, accessed through TA; TA RGD 33-1-24, No. 3743, Image 53; Convict Musters Ledger Returns 1846, TA.

twice widowed before he left England and knew that there was no realistic prospect of seeing his seven English children again. His choice fell on fellow convict Jane BAILEY (properly BAYLIFF), who had arrived in Van Diemen's Land on the *Royal Admiral* with a seven-year sentence in 1842, following a conviction for shoplifting. They were to remain together for life.

It is not known how John first encountered Jane, who had led a very unsettled existence during her three years in the colony, working in domestic service at various locations.²⁰ She was born in Cumberland, probably in 1817, daughter of Luke Bayliff and his wife Elizabeth, née TINNING.²¹ In Van Diemen's Land on 15 May 1845, with Jane pregnant with twins, she and John were accorded permission to marry, "if the clergyman satisfied female third class".²² Seemingly, he was not satisfied, since no marriage eventuated. Jane was only first class, the lowest classification, at the time, although she was raised to third class shortly afterwards, and she had stated on arrival in Hobart that she had a husband named

William in Cumberland²³. Similar difficulties were frequent among transported convicts but, in the case of John and Jane, their union, which lasted until Jane's early death in 1857, would produce ten children, six of whom survived to adulthood.

On the last day of 1847, John and his family were settled in a timber house in Elizabeth Street, Launceston, within walking distance of his place of employment.²⁴ Two years later, having "completed seven of a ten-year sentence without recorded offence", John was recommended for a Conditional Pardon.²⁵ That privilege came while he was still recovering from what must have been his most traumatic experience in the colony. On Tuesday 20 November 1849, while John was still in the employ of T.L. Button, he and Jane, each carrying one of their children, were proceeding homewards along Bathurst Street, Launceston when they were set upon by two police constables, who wrongly accused them of being intoxicated. John was twice knocked to the ground and "violently beaten", while Jane was also

²⁰ For Jane's convict record, see TA, CON 15/1/2, image 4.

²¹ Jane was baptised at Arthuret, Cumberland on 25 Feb 1818, her parents having married earlier that day. Arthuret baptisms register, Cumbria Archives Service, accessed through Findmypast.

²² Marriage Permissions 1856-1846, TA CON 52/1/3. Twins Luke and Jane Martin were born in Launceston on 1 Oct 1845. TA RGD 33/1/23, no. 105, accessed through TNI.

²³ The "husband" was William Martin, no relation to John Martin, with whom Jane had

cohabited for several years in Cumberland and Northumberland but whom she never married.

²⁴ 1848 Census, Van Diemen's Land, TA CEN1/1/99.

²⁵ Schedule of Recommendations for Conditional Pardon, signed by W. Nairn, Assistant Comptroller,...; Comprehensive register of convicts (Core Series), 4 Dec 1849, TA CON 22/1/5; New South Wales and Tasmania, Convict Pardons and Tickets of Leave, 1834-1859, HO 10/61, p. 137.

struck as she tried to help him. When one of the constables brought John before the Police Magistrate the next day on a charge of disturbing the public peace, the charge was summarily dismissed, with the magistrate stating it was evident “that Martin had not created any disturbance”. An enquiry was ordered, and two days later, John Martin, under medical care and still bearing the marks of the vicious assault, attended Launceston Police Office “to lay an information against the officers who assaulted him”.²⁶

The “information” involved charging Constables HOLMES and CARLINE, both Ticket-of-Leave men, with having assaulted both John and Jane Martin. A medical practitioner, Dr MADDUX, deposed that John had received numerous cuts about the head and abdomen and would be unable to work for several weeks. It emerged in evidence that another constable, named MORRIS, had sought to bribe John to remain silent about the affray, but John refused, with the support of his employer Thomas Button, who placed the matter in the hands of his own solicitor, Mr DOUGLAS. Police Magistrate William TARLETON sentenced Holmes and Carline to fines of five pounds each, with two months’ imprisonment in default of payment.. Tarleton’s remarks made it clear that John

Martin was entirely innocent of any criminal conduct. Mr Douglas, acting on John’s behalf, brought a charge against Constable Morris, who received a twelve-month sentence. All three constables were “dismissed the police”.²⁷

The case received further publicity the next day, when a letter from “Observer” appeared in the Launceston press. The writer described John Martin as “an honest, industrious man, the father of a young family, who had been six years with his present employer, [and] who had been victimised by wretches with truncheons [who] shewed their training to perfection”. In his statement, as reported by “Observer”, John spoke of his assailants, stating “they have...been fined five pounds and dismissed, but what recompense is that to me, I have been all but killed...I am losing my earnings...and the doctor says my head is in a very dangerous state. My wife...is near her confinement, and I quite expected she would have been killed”. Clearly referring to the manifold failings of the Probation System, “Observer” described the Martins’ ordeal as “a fearful exhibition of what a convict constabulary can do...Men whose better feelings have long since been buried under the present system...inflict irreparable wrong on innocent persons”. The Martins’ sixth child, a son John, was

²⁶ *Cornwall Chronicle*, 24 Nov 1849, p. 1033. <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article-65975493>. Constable Carline was incorrectly named as Coulson in the newspaper report. The Martins then lived in a timber house in Bathurst St; see 1851 Census, TA CEN/1/1/112. See also Assessment Rolls for

Launceston, 1853, https://libraries.tas.gov.au/Record/Library/S_D_ILS_968089 and *Hobart Town Gazette*, 4 Apr 1953, p. 269.

²⁷ *Cornwall Chronicle*, 1 Dec 1849, p. 1051; <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article-65975361>.

born safely in Launceston on 29 January 1850, seven weeks after the assault on John and Jane.²⁸

The Martins' eldest daughter Jane had died in 1846, while daughter Phoebe, born in 1848, seemingly also died in or before 1851, since she is not included with the family in the Census of that year, although no death was registered. With five surviving children, John continued in T.L. Button's employ until about 1854, when he took up the lease of fifty acres of farmland near the Forth River, east of the present village of Leith. The move might well have been prompted by Button's previous association with the area, because several years earlier, he had funded a timber-getting party near the mouth of the river.²⁹ The fifty-acre plot leased by John was part of two contiguous grants, totalling 700 acres, made to James BROWN, apparently a Canadian.³⁰ While the precise location of John's lease cannot be determined from surviving records, it must have been in the north-western part

of Brown's original grant, immediately east of the present village of Leith and bordering Bass Strait.³¹ The prospects for a large family on such a small holding could only have been hazardous.

While we have no knowledge of how the Martins fared as farmers, their last two children, Robert and Eliza, were born on the farm in 1855 and 1857 respectively.³² Their rural existence was to come to a sudden end just two months after Eliza's birth, with her mother Jane dying of consumption on 22 August 1857. Baby Eliza, stricken by the same disease, followed her mother to the grave one week later.³³ In December 1858, John's name was removed from the Port Sorell Valuations Roll "in respect of the fifty acres he occupied east of Forth". The house and land were valued at six pounds ten shillings.³⁴ There is no record of where the family lived in Launceston after their return, or where John was employed, but their family life ended with John's death

²⁸ Letter, "Observer" to Editor, *Launceston Examiner*, 1 Dec 1849, p. 4.

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article-36259052>; Tasmania Registrar-General RGD 33/1/23, no. 2625.

²⁹ James Fenton, *Bush Life in Tasmania fifty Years ago*, facsimile edition, Launceston, nd, p. 43.

³⁰ Lots 385 and 580, Deeds of Land Grants, 1804-1935, RD 1/1/021 – RD 1/1/023, accessed through Ancestry.com. TA reference AF955/1/6 BRO-BRO-3. See a diagram of survey of Brown's land, dated 7 Jun 1853, Libraries Tasmania AG341-1-381_DEV3_48. Brown acquired the land officially in 1854; see Purchase Grant of 600 acres (Lot 385),

Libraries Tasmania, AD956/1/1, p. 13 and RD 1/1 Book 29, p. 130.

³¹ I am indebted to Hanna Glowacka of Tasmanian Libraries, Launceston branch for this information.

³² Robert's birth was not registered, but his month of birth (July 1855) is confirmed by records of his admission to the Queen's Orphan School in Hobart in 1862. See below, n.33. Eliza was born on 22 Jun 1857 RGD 33/1/35, no. 1809, accessed through TNA.

³³ Tasmania Registrar-General, RGD 35/1/26, no. 667 (Jane); RGD 35/1/26, no. 668 (Eliza).

³⁴ Port Sorell Valuations Roll, No. 4042, p. 708, *Hobart Town Gazette*, 18 May 1858.

in Cornwall Hospital on 9 December 1862, aged only 56.³⁵

Apart from the standard registration of John's death, the family's dire circumstances and consequent dispersal are documented in the archives of the Queen's Orphan School in Hobart, where the youngest surviving child, six-year-old Robert, was sent. He and the other five children (Luke, aged 17, Richard, 15, Betsey, 13, Annie, 11 and John, 9) were initially cared for by a Launceston woman named Catherine REILLY, apparently a family friend, but for reasons unknown, Catherine quickly applied, through the Launceston Police Magistrate, for Robert's admission to the Orphan School. The then Mayor of Launceston, John FAWNS, seemingly moved by the family's plight, wrote to the School's superintendent "The father was a very industrious man, and a fortnight before his death, left home for the purpose of earning wages by harvesting, but was obliged to return in a dying state".³⁶ John Martin, the man once described as "bad in every respect", had continued his efforts to provide for his family until the very end of his life.

In what might be seen as a footnote to that life, among the official correspondence accompanying Robert's arrival at the Queen's Orphan School, there is a letter from the Launceston Police Office to the

Acting Colonial Secretary in Hobart regarding the boy's admission. It reads, in part, "...it has been ascertained from the [coach] guard ...that in consequence of the child's not going on the 16th, he took it on to Hobart Town and left it at the coach office there". Here we have a bewildered and frightened little boy, grieving for his father and longing for the company of his brothers and sisters, whom he would never see again. To read the heartless and brutal words of the bureaucracy of the day, the "child" being conveyed on the long coach journey from Launceston to Hobart might well have been a sack of coal.

As was customary with Orphan School inmates, Robert, still a child, was "apprenticed" to various farmers in the colony, chiefly as a source of free labour to the employers. In March 1868, when aged twelve, Robert was gaoled for three months after absconding from his "master", Robert George HORNE of 'Bowerbank', Deloraine. In time, after spending eleven years incarcerated in the Orphan School, a period that included several "apprenticeships", Robert was released and, in common with many of his fellow inmates, left Tasmania never to return³⁷. He would eventually become settled on his own farm at Walla Walla, in the Riverina of New South Wales, where he and wife Ellen JACKSON successfully brought up a family of ten. Robert rarely spoke of his childhood experiences in

³⁵ Tasmanian Registrar-General, RGD 35/1/31, no. 26, accessed through TNI.

³⁶ Letter, Mayor of Launceston to superintendent of the Queen's Orphan School, undated [Mar 1862], Robert Martin,

Application for Admission, TA Health and Welfare, SWD 26/1/5, image 136.

³⁷ TA Health and Welfare, SWD26/1/5, Images 133-139.

Tasmania, leaving a collective amnesia to settle upon his family. The Van Diemen's Land experiences of his parents, whom Robert was never able to know, far exceeded whatever punishment their earlier crimes had warranted. Robert's father John knew continued retribution, but never redemption, which would be achieved only by his descendants, generations hence.

I would like to acknowledge assistance received from the following people: Hanna Glowacka of Launceston Library, Libraries Tasmania for information about James Brown's land acquisitions near the

Forth River; my English kinsman Richard Webb, a fellow descendant of the Martin family of Flitwick, for guiding me to several of the cited archival sources in Bedfordshire; Colette McAlpine, Elaine Crawford, and their esteemed colleagues at the Female Convicts Research Centre in Hobart, for their help in deciphering the records of Jane Bailey; Ewan Maidment in Canberra for valued technical assistance, and to Robert Spurway Banda in Malawi for his continual encouragement and his faith in me. Any errors in the article are entirely mine.

An advertisement for Ancestry.com.au. It features a light blue background with a subtle floral pattern. On the left, there is a black and white illustration of a branch with several leaves. The text is centered and reads: "Australia's largest online family history resource*" in a large, black, serif font. Below this, in a smaller, grey, sans-serif font, it says "Research and build your family tree online". At the bottom right, there is a logo consisting of a stylized leaf icon followed by the text "ancestry.com.au" in a bold, black, sans-serif font. Below the logo, in a very small font, it says "*comScore, 2011".

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The Downs – Where is it?

W Allan Jones

Reprinted from Tasmanian Ancestry vol16 no1 June 1995

How many of our members know where *The Downs* is located? For some time, I just did not know either, perhaps in hindsight I should have known where to look. I recount the following story to illustrate.

Ships of course, brought all the earliest settlers to Australia: passengers embarked and departed from major seaports all over England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland. Convicts were embarked from gaols or hulks. The ships passenger lists stated that they sailed from Plymouth or Liverpool, which was usually the last port of call in England. Sometimes it was stated that the ship sailed from *Downs* or *The Downs*.

Whilst searching the convict Randall RISELEY, who was transported for life on the *Minerva*. The shipping records showed that it sailed from *Downs* on 1 August 1821, arriving in Sydney 16 December 1821.

Wishing to know more about *Downs*, I first looked up several UK road maps and could not find the port of *Downs*. I then asked for assistance from local family historians who told me the location would be somewhere near Southampton or Plymouth, but this was not correct.

Next a trip to the local public library to look up *Downs* in a gazetteer found the meaning – North and south ranges of chalk running east west across southeast England – but this was not a seaport

On the next trip to the library, I looked up the Gazetteer of Sydney Shipping – this gave me the answer. *The Downs, England – Channel and anchorage between the east coast of Kent and Goodwin Sands, near the station and shipyards of Deal*.

In the meantime, I had written to a town planner in Chichester, West Sussex, for the information and whereabouts of the *Downs*. Further reading about Goodwin Sands, Kentish boatmen and the port of Deal, brought forward some interesting facts.

For more than 1000 years ships have used the Downs as a major anchorage off Deal. looking at the map you can see that it is sheltered by the Goodwin Sands. It is 8 km long and 6 km wide and a good anchorage in six to ten fathoms of water, sheltered on all sides except south.

Passengers travelled to London to board the ship which proceeded or was towed down the Thames to the *Downs* for anchorage and watering while waiting for suitable weather conditions to commence the long voyage to Australia.

This small corner of the British Isles has played an important and quite remarkable role in the maritime history of the country. It is reputed that Caesar, and his Roman army landed in Deal in 55BC. *HMS Sirius* and other First Fleet ships sheltered there in February 1787.

The anchorage was used by naval and merchant shipping from the seventeenth century until the Napoleonic Wars

Checking Ian Nicholson's book, *Log of Logs*, we find that the *Minerva* ship's log reads as follows

Master	John BELL
Surgeon Superintendent	Charles QUEADE
22 July 1821	at London – loaded prisoners from Middlesex Gaol
26 July 1821	departed London – dropped estuary pilot at Deal
1 August 1821	Sailed from the Downs
12 August 1821	Called at Madeira Island in Atlantic Ocean 32°40" North 16°45" West, where it remained for one day then continued her passage around the Cape of Good Hope.
Sometime after 8 December	Called at the Derwent River, Hobart Town for a brief stay before sailing to Sydney.
16 December 1821	Arrived in Sydney – where it disembarked 169 male prisoners

Late in World War II the writer was in the RAAF, an Old Bod, attached to an RAF squadron. A few times on operations we used the North Goodwin Lightship to set or alter course. Perhaps I should have known where the Downs was situated!

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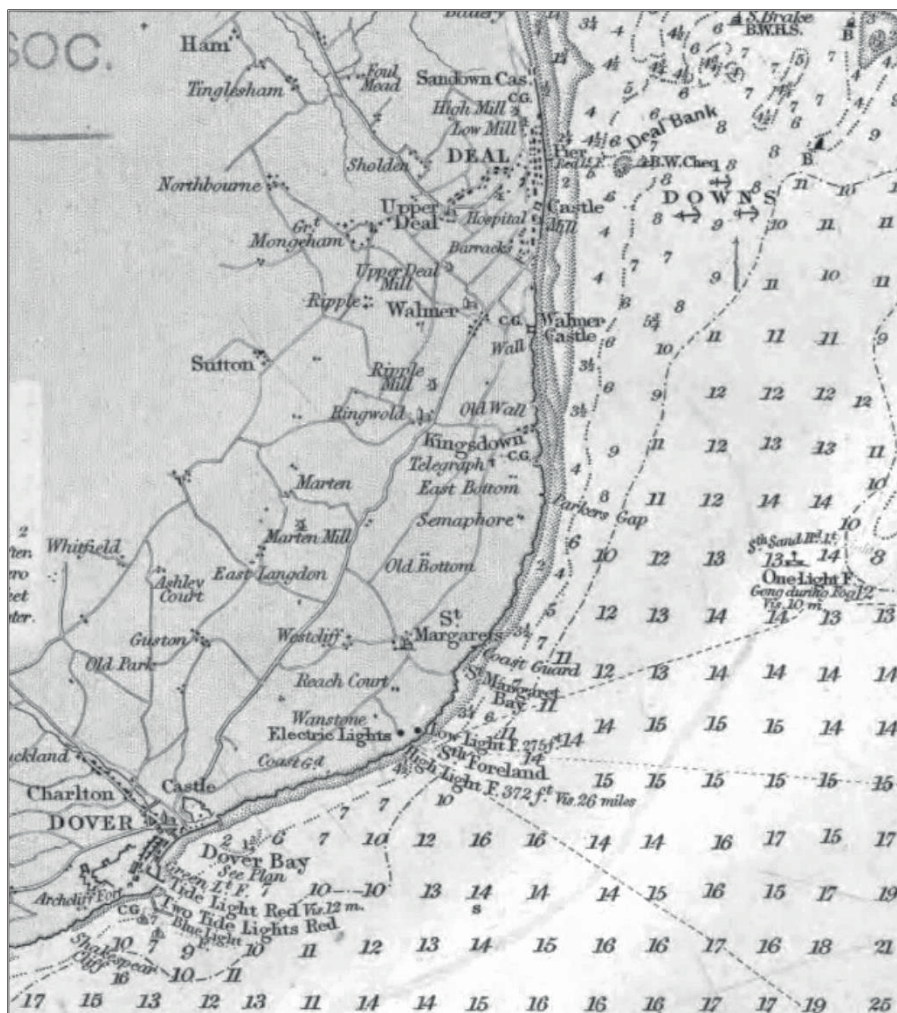
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1848 chart showing the position of the Downs off the coast of Kent. NB: depths are in fathoms

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Downs_\(ship_anchorage\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Downs_(ship_anchorage)).

Note: the original map was not clear enough to reproduce

When I was Very Young

Colleen Read (Member 1938)

Reprinted from Tasmanian Ancestry vol16 no4 March 1996

George Henry READ was born at Seton near Richmond in 1864, son of Henry Edward Read and Elizabeth Petchy RUSSELL, and grandson of George Frederick Read and John TERRY, early VDL colonists. This is an excerpt from notes reminiscing on his childhood which he wrote some four years before he died in 1939.

I was a naughty boy – I must have been, and you will agree with me when I tell you how I spoilt an old woman's after tea smoke. It was this way. Old Kate was my mother's lady in the kitchen and I had often noticed an old pipe of my fathers on a shelf near the stove. Well, I had my suspicions, so I planted myself, having sneaked out of bed for the purpose, inside the V of the clothes horse which was standing in the kitchen full of airing clothes. I hadn't long to wait. Old Kate finished the washing up, pulled a seat up near the stove, then produced some tobacco and carefully loading the pipe, lighted it with a piece of bark from the lighting box and proceeded to enjoy a comfy smoke. Now here is where the naughty boy come into the picture. The clothes horse began to slowly move forward. By and by it attracted the old lady's, eyes, which began to come out of her head. Then the pipe dropped to the floor and with a piercing yell the poor old woman rushed up the passage towards the sitting room yelling all the way, the clothes horse following. She burst into the room

yelling "the devil's after me he's in the clothes horse". Investigation followed, the "devil" was bent over a knee and as the late Charles Dickens would have said "there was a sound as of applause"!

Still another practical joke. This time played on two young ladies, sisters who came along to take the place of Kate who had resigned. This is how it was done. I, with some others, found growing on a log in the bush, some fungus which had a strong phosphorescent glow. With the help of half a dozen pins, eyes nose and mouth were pinned up on the wall in the girl's bedroom. They were not noticed, being the same colour as the wall, till after the candle was extinguished. Then the fun began. Two girls in hysterics and night apparel rushed into the drawing room. Much to the surprise of the company assembled, which included some visitors. It took some time to get out of them what was the matter. Then it appeared that the devil was looking at them over the foot of the bed and "Please Mum, we are frightened to go back, shure he wad be getting us"

Investigation again unearthed the culprit – more applause followed and peace and quiet was restored. I am afraid that I had to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, and I really wouldn't say I didn't enjoy the whole thing, I did.

It went off better than expectations and was worth the price.

Help Wanted

Jarmy

Richard and Ruth (née Patterson) JARMY and their daughter Elizabeth Liguria Jarmy, who was born on 9 March 1886 on the voyage from London to Australia aboard the *Liguria*, arrived in Melbourne in 1886. I am searching for information how and when they arrived in Tasmania, possibly in Launceston. Any help will be greatly appreciated.

Shirley Crossingham (Member 8387)

Margate

Phone 0488 138 634

Old Photos

In the June issue of *Tasmanian Ancestry* the article on Dating old Photographs sent me to dig out a very old photo album given to me by my mother in law. How she had this she could not remember. The owner of the album was Violet E OSBORNE, a birthday present from Florrie PAGE on 25 April 1885. There are no names on the photos. Most were taken by Anson Bro Bishop Osborne and Wherrett & Co.

Any help in putting names to these photos
would be much appreciated.

Carol Rodway (Member 3)

Contact editor

[illegible]

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- TFHS Inc Launceston Branch, *Examiner: Index to Births, Deaths & Marriages Volume 16 Part 2 1966-1970 Births*
- Thomas, Harold (Edit- Thomas B T), *The Story of North Down 1826-1910*

*Denotes donated item

New Members

A warm welcome is extended to the following new members.

3736	RIDLER Mr Peter	Not for publication			
7547	PEARCE Mrs Vicki	1/33 Drew St vickipear@outlook.com	EAST DEVONPORT	TAS	7310

The above members have re-joined after a break and have been allocated their original number

8527	JACOBSON Ms Maureen	Unit 1/49 West Park Grove mjacobson3@bigpond.com	PARK GROVE	TAS	7320
8528	IRWIN Mr Gregory	8 Walker Street greg.irwin.59@gmail.com	WYNYARD	TAS	7325
8529	CRESSWELL Dr George	67 Gepp Pde gcresswell1@bigpond.com	DERWENT PARK	TAS	7009
8530	PATON Mr Ian	PO Box 70 safetyman181@gmail.com	ASPLEY	QLD	4034
8531	PATON Mrs Sandra	PO Box 70 safetyman181@gmail.com	ASPLEY	QLD	4034
8532	GREY Ms Rebecca	560 Horwood Road rebecca.grey@icloud.com	SWAN VIEW	WA	6056
8533	BURNET Mrs June	196 Windermere Rd junehb46@internode.on.net	WINDERMERE	TAS	7252
8534	FAZACKERLEY Mr Karl	3 Maplewood Pl karlfaz80@gmail.com	COOLOONGUP	WA	6188
8535	FINEARTY Ms Cheryl	452 Brooker Hwy cjfinearty@gmail.com	DERWENT PARK	TAS	7009
8536	LEBSKI Mrs Sarah	3 Danbury Dr sarah.lebski@gmail.com	LEGANA	TAS	7277
8537	DAHLVID Mrs Yvonne	23 Malcombe St dahlvid@live.com.au	LONGFORD	TAS	7301
8538	FARROW Mrs Rosemary	23 Malcombe St dahlvid@live.com.au	LONGFORD	TAS	7301
8539	MacFARLANE Mrs Michele	8 Partridge Dr davidmichelem78@gmail.com	LEGANA	TAS	7277
8540	GOODING Dr Janda	janda.gooding@yahoo.com			
8541	CHUNG Mrs Helene	House 2, 10 Bective St hchungma@gmail.com	SANDY BAY	TAS	7005
8542	KAY Ms Edwina	63 Belsie Avenue edwinakay1@gmail.com	CARNEGIE	VIC	3163
8543	OLDFIELD Ms Karin	21 Ebdon Street oldfieldlakm@gmail.com	CLAREMONT	TAS	7011
8544	MANEY Mrs Jennifer	215 Gilbert Street jennylmaney@gmail.com	LATROBE	TAS	7307
8545	DUNSTAN Mrs Jean	34 Back Beach Road jeandunstan34@gmail.com	SAN REMO	VIC	3925
8546	TAYLOR Mrs Kristine	PO Box 10 kristyb56@gmail.com	LAVINGTON	NSW	2641
8547	TAYLOR Mr Bruce	PO Box 10 kristyb56@gmail.com	LAVINGTON	NSW	2641

8548	ROBERTSON Ms Kirsten	456 Gillies Rd kmrobertson84@gmail.com	GRANTON	TAS	7030
8549	PHILP Ms Lisa	71 Rialannah Rd philp.lisa@gmail.com	MT NELSON	TAS	7007
8550	MOORFIELD Ms Amanda	71 Rialannah Rd philp.lisa@gmail.com	MT NELSON	TAS	7007
8551	BEAMS Ms Amanda	Unit21 359-361 Hobart Rd amarelavita68@gmail.com	YOUNGTOWN	TAS	7249
8552	TURNER Mr Lee	7 / 5 Waveney St lee-tee@bigpond.com	SOUTH LAUNCESTON	TAS	7249
8553	BANKS Ms Karen	4 John Close karen.ann.banks@bigpond.com	ECHUCA	VIC	3564
8554	MOIR Ms Sue	73 Doyle Ave suemoir@bigpond.com	LENAH VALLEY	TAS	7008
8555	THOMPSON Mr Max	Not for publication			
8556	HASSING Ms Mollie-Rose	mollie_hassing@live.com.au			
8557	CAMPBELL Ms Denise	2 Whipboard Court denisecampbell4@bigpond.com	HERVEY BAY	QLD	4655
8558	WASS Mr Robin	3/32 Van Morey Rd robinhazwass@gmail.com	MARGATE	TAS	7054
8559	BISSETT Mr Rod	9 Aurora Pl exorstdd@gmail.com	DEVONPORT	TAS	7310

New Members' Interests

NAME	PLACE/AREA	PERIOD	MSHIP NO.
AYTON Robert			8544
BANKS George Charles	Wynyard TAS AUS	1885 - 1943	8553
BANKS Thomas James	Sorell TAS AUS	1942	8553
BANKS Thomas James	Redpa TAS AUS	1922-1942	8553
BARRETT	Beaconsfield, TAS AUS		8551
BEAMS Henry David	Flowery Gully, TAS AUS		8551
BENT Allan Raymond			8527
BISSETT Mungo	Tasmania AUS	c.1800>	8559
BLAIR	Fingal Valley TAS AUS		8557
BOSWORTH	Fingal Valley TAS AUS		8557
BUCKLEY/BUCKLY/FLINN Mary	Mallow (?) Co.Cork IRL	1809 - 1885	8536
BUCKNEY Richard	Hobart TAS AUS	1835-1889	8528
BUCKNEY/BEACHAM Mary	Hobart TAS AUS	1835-1889	8528
BURDON Mary	Hobart TAS AUS	1848-1918	8554
CHALLIS Jean Margaret			8527
CHALLIS William Augustus Henry			8527
CLEARY Thomas	Ireland	1815-1900	8556
CONNELL	Fingal Valley TAS AUS		8557
CONNOLLY Thomas	Glengarry TAS AUS	1831-1900	8540
COOPER James	Hobart TAS AUS	1831-1900	8540
CRANE John Isaac	Sorell, TAS AUS	1832-1909	8535
CULLING Susan Eleanor (Susellen)	Longford/Cressy TAS AUS	1827-1922	8546
DAVIDSON William	Scotland UK	1700-1850	7547
DIPROSE			8551
DOBBIN, HAYDEN, Ellen	Oatlands, TAS AUS	1824-1887	8535

DODGE			8534
DOWLING			8551
DUTTON Thomas	Windermere TAS AUS	1824>	8533
ELLIOT James	Ulverstone, TAS AUS	1816-1902	8535
EVERETT Susan Teresa Amelia	Smithton, TAS	1866-1927	8535
FAZACKERLEY			8534
FITZPATRICK Francis	Mallow, Co Cork IRL/TASAUS	1804-1886	8536
FORRESTER Jane	Port Louis, MAURITIUS	1815-1846	8543
GLEDHILL David	Hobart TAS AUS	1860-1880	8545
GLEDHILL Charles	Glenorchy TAS AUS	1865-1890	8545
GOWANS Agnes Snr	Glengarry TAS AUS	1831-1900	8540
GREY Stephen	Sheffield, ENG	1806-1858	8532
HARLEY Margaret	Coal River TAS AUS	1831-1900	8540
HARRIS Isabella	Tasmania AUS	1863-1935	8554
HOGAN Sarah "Sally"	Glengarry TAS AUS	1831-1900	8540
HORNE Charles Henry			8544
HYDE George			8544
IRWIN William Hilton	Hobart TAS AUS	1891-1977	8528
KEEP Charles	Nook & South Spreyton TAS AUS	1860	7547
LAWLESS	Fingal Valley TAS AUS		8557
LEARY			8534
LEATS Susan	Tasmania AUS	1805-1871	8554
MCCARTHY James	Fingal Valley TAS AUS		8557
MCNAB Angus	Scotland UK		8551
PARSONS Rose	Smithton, TAS	1872-1958	8532
PATON Ian	Wynyard, TAS		8350
PATON Beverley	Wynyard, TAS		8530
PATON Emily	Tasmania AUS	1860-1934	8554
PEARCE James Bartholomew	Hackney, London ENG and TAS AUS	1848-1910	8552
PEARSALL, LUDBEY Susannah	Hobart, TAS AUS	1823-1895	8535
PENNINGTON, Susannah	Hobart, TAS AUS	1776-1852	8535
PLUMMER Eleanor	Tasmania AUS	1826-1911	8554
RAINBIRD Samuel	Gretna TAS AUS	1795-1886	8553
RIDGE William	Middlesex ENG UK	1790-1846	8543
ROBERTSON (NEE BAKER) Clara	Tasmania AUS	1868-1931	8548
SHIREIFF Benjamin	ENG UK		8544
SHIRRIFF Benjamin	ENG UK		9544
SMITH George			8544
STACEY			8534
STYNES James	Coal River area TAS AUS	1831-1900	8540
SUMMERS Celia			8544
TATNELL			8534
TAYLOR Robert	Longford/Cressy TAS AUS	1810-1895	8546
THORNE George	Green Ponds TAS AUS	1875-1915	8553
TIDSWELL James	Sorell, TAS AUS	1792-1843	8535
UPTON			8534
VINCENT Alison/Alice			8527
VINCENT James Toomer			8527
WATSON Charles Chapman	Hobart TAS AUS	1872-1962	8528
WATSON	Launceston TAS AUS		8557
WATTS Agnes	Hobart TAS AUS	1860-1890	8545
WELCH, WIGGINS, Susannah	Hobart, TAS AUS	1776-1852	8535
WELLS Mary	Dover TAS AUS		7547
WELSH			8551
WHITE	Oatlands/Apsley TAS AUS	1856<	8528
WICKS/WEEKS	New Norfolk/Kempton TAS AUS	1849<	8528

WIGGINS, MCDOW, Ellen	Oatlands, TAS AUS	1824-1887	8535
WILLIAMS (BANKS) Kathleen Eliza	Redpa TAS AUS	1889-1859	8553
WILLIAMSON Edward			8544
WILLING Eliza	Tasmania AUS	1857-1904	8554

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- § Please include your membership number.
- § We prefer authors to send their contribution as a Word document attached to an email addressed to the editor.
- § We prefer short items of about 500 words with a maximum of about 2500 words for longer contributions. Long articles can be broken into parts for publication in subsequent issues.
- § Do not indent paragraphs. Do not use tabs or spaces to indent whole paragraphs.
- § Use only **one space** at the end of a sentence.
- § Please use footnotes to provide references. DO NOT use a reference list or end-notes. We do not mandate a particular style of footnote but expect sufficient information in a footnote to allow the reader to locate the source.
- § Place footnote intext number at the end of a sentence after the full stop.
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- § Write dates in the format “number month year” - no th or nd or rd, and no commas. e.g. “3 April 2021”
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Library 58 Bass Highway Cooeee
Monday 11.00 am – 3.00 pm
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Night Dinner Meetings are held in winter and end of year, check with Branch Librarian for details.

HOBART Phone: Enquiries (03) 6245 9351
Library 19 Cambridge Road Bellerive
Tuesday 12.30 pm – 3.30 pm
Wednesday 9.30 am – 12.30 pm
Saturday 1.00 pm – 4.00 pm
Meeting Old Sunday School, St Johns Park Precinct, New Town, at 7.30 pm on 3rd Tuesday of each month, except January and December.
Check the website **www.hobart.tasfhs.org** for the latest information.

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Tuesday 10.00 am – 3.00 pm
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