

Tasmanian Ancestry

**TASMANIAN FAMILY HISTORY
SOCIETY INC.**



Volume 46 Number 4 — March 2026

TASMANIAN FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.

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Tasmanian Ancestry

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

From the Editor

Hi

Thank you to members who have contacted me on the revised format of the journal. I have had nothing but positive feedback from them about the new look for the articles.

However, there has been differing opinions on the format of the Branch Reports and this page. Half of the feedback suggested these pages should be in one column like the articles, the other half liked that they were still in the two-column format!

When I was initially thinking about the design for the last issue, I decided to leave the Branch Reports and this page in the two-column format to distinguish them from the articles. The different format indicated that the content of these pages was the administrative or branch information and separate from the family history information.

I would appreciate further feedback on this issue. Should the editor's note, and Branch Report pages be in one or two column formats or left as they currently are?

Please note there are some changes to the contribution guidelines.

Isobel Williams

Cover: . Emma Julia née Nunn

Private collection R Escott

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

Deadline dates are:

1 January, 1 April, 1 July and 1 October

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

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

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President's Message

Robyn Gibson

This is the first President's message for 2026. A little late – but this is my first opportunity to wish all members a Happy New Year and to thank volunteers for their valuable contributions in 2025, our society could not function without you.

March is also the time to remind members that the annual renewal of your subscription will be due soon – there are no increases in the costs of subscriptions. Our preferred method of payment is online using your credit or debit card. This method saves our (already very busy) treasurer and membership registrar a lot of time; if you do not use online card payment (or are uncomfortable with this method) it will still be possible to complete a paper form and pay at your local branch. If you would like to use card payment but find the system a little daunting, you will probably find someone at your local branch who will help step you through the process. (I don't think anyone tries to make these systems daunting – but I know from experience that they often can be!)

Another reminder is about the Annual Conference / Annual General Meeting to be held 20 June 2026 organised by the Hobart branch – details will be available soon.

Late in 2025 I was invited to talk (on ZOOM) about the TFHS to two groups – GSV (Genealogical Society of Victoria) and SAG (Society of Australian Genealogists). I gave a brief overview of the locations, contact information, opening times, and resources available at each of our branches. It may be that branches will receive some enquiries as a result of these talks. During the talks I took the opportunity to talk about the members only site and the growing number of resources available there (thanks to Andrew Cocker).

In the talk to SAG I shared the “podium” (zoodium?) with a representative of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists (NZSG); she talked about an online resource - the Kiwi Collection (linked from <https://genealogy.org.nz/>) that contains a large collection of New Zealand data sets. Access to the collection requires membership of NZSG, but could well be worthwhile for anyone with New Zealand connections in their family tree.

Branch Reports

Burnie

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The September meeting started with a collection of well researched historical presentations based on articles by renowned local historian Wilfred Winter.

The first two presentation were by Members Joanne Ainslie and Sue Sutton on *Burnie's Chinese Gardens* and *Asylum Days in England*. It was followed by Anne Dunham who shared some insights on *Salubrious Hampshire*. Following the presentations there were some interactive activities, including a quiz.

Our October meeting was an account of Judy and Peter Cocker's recent three-month caravan trip on the Mainland. They spoke about highlights and some of the low points of their trip as well as some tips for travellers. The members were interested in some of the more unusual and less known items and facts of some of the towns they passed through in the four states they visited, including *The Rabbit Cemetery* they found in Varley in Western Australia.

The last meeting for the year was held on Monday 24 November. When some of our members presented short talks on some interesting traditions and items of interest about Christmas. After these cameos a trivia section was held, including general

knowledge questions as well as the usual Christmas questions. Members were also asked to bring along any questions that they had about Family Tree Maker or any problems that they needed resolving with this software. A couple of members had issues that we looked into and discussed with some possible solutions for them.

The committee and members of the Burnie Branch trust that everyone had a relaxing and joyous break over Christmas and the New Year and hope that you find some fruitful research outcomes in 2026

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Hobart branch again joined the Bellerive Hub Open Day for Seniors' Week in October, as well as hosting a *Back to Basics* DNA talk which was well attended, and all seemed to appreciate it. These events were promoted through the widely distributed COTA program booklet.

Also in October there was a large Garth/Bellett family reunion with activities lasting all week. We opened our library for them with free admission and those who came were hugely impressed with what we had to offer.

Senior staff from the Female Factory visited the branch library and were also very impressed. They now know the resources we have available and that they can refer visitors to us when they turn up at the Factory wanting help with their convict or family history research.

At our October meeting, Rosie Severs was the presenter, *The Tail of the Tin Dragon*, which was all about mining tin in the northeast of Tasmania in the late half of the 19th Century. She focused on the extreme conditions that the miners had to work in, and the story of the many Chinese who mined tin in the area and the effect they had on Tasmania, then and now. It was very well attended, including by quite a number of the local Chinese community. There was some interesting discussion afterwards and someone from the audience told us how she remembered panning for tin behind the Weldborough pub in her childhood. Unfortunately, the audio-recording of this presentation had some problems and is not available.

In November, Michael Watt did a presentation on The Fingal Valley's German Heritage. His talk focused on a case study he did investigating a clustered settlement of 28 German families and two single men, who arrived in the Fingal Valley in three waves between 1855 and the mid-1880s. It was an interesting presentation because it covered the study method and the organisation of each case history, as well as the demographic characteristics of the German immigrants across five key characteristics: religion; education; occupation; language use; and intermarriage and social interaction. The

project led to a book which is available for sale – details of how to purchase are on the last slides. The audio-recording with the PowerPoint is available on the TFHS members-only website.

This was our last meeting for the year and was again well-attended. Many in the audience had German ancestry and found it particularly interesting. It was followed by our usual Christmas supper. The next General Meeting is on the third Tuesday in February.

We have decided not to continue with the longer summaries of our monthly meeting presentations in Tas Ancestry, and will instead record most of them. We encourage you to listen/watch them on the members-only website.

Our end-of-year thank you outing for our volunteers was at the Channel Heritage Museum at Margate. It is well worth a visit even if you have no connection to the Channel area. It has a wealth of fascinating items from the past, carefully arranged in settings such as a schoolroom, a little church, a 50's kitchen, a workshop, a forge, etc.

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Our last event at the end of 2025 was our Christmas afternoon tea. It was held at The Garden Table at Glebe Gardens this year and was well attended by 14 people

who enjoyed the gathering and the food.

The DNA Discussion Circle meeting was held on 19 February with a full room of members enjoying an interesting discussion led by Helen, Pat and Mary.

The first workshop for the year is planned for Thursday 19 March at the Launceston Library, Civic Square. This will be the first of a series we are conducting this year on getting best use out of online resources, with the first workshop focussing on Tasmanian and member resources. Participants are encouraged to bring their laptops and work along with the presenters.

Our Branch AGM will be held on Wednesday 15 April at the Elderly Citizen's Club in Landale Street. Our guest speaker is Maureen Martin Ferris who will be talking about the use of Artificial Intelligence in Family History Research...certainly a topical subject. Members are asked to consider standing for a position on the Branch committee, as there are always vacancies to fill.

Meetings are for about 1.5 hours, on the first Tuesday of every month commencing around 3:30 pm, after the library closes. The committee provides essential support that enables us to operate the library and provide a much-needed service for family history researchers in the Launceston area.

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This report, the first for 2026, cannot commence without a brief report on the final activities of 2025.

Mersey branch had a very happy and successful Christmas at Thai Imperial, Latrobe. Thirty-five mainly members and a few friends attended. An enjoyable time was had by all. Our special guest was Josie Badcock. Josie has given Mersey branch permission to print her wonderful sketchbook series. Working in conjunction with Impress Printing Devonport these books (some being sold out) most will soon be available to purchase from Mersey branch. Enquiries to Secretary Gay re availability.

Secretary Gay has been busy scanning the Broadfields Funeral Directors records aiming to have them on our computers early this year.

During the holiday break, members Ross, Lynnie and myself – summer cleaned our branch house of excess paperwork. My goodness what an accumulation of ‘stuff’. Copies of copies, of copies of documents were removed and the ‘I might use that someday’ went. Ross and Neville cleaned outside windows, fridge defrosted and the building fumigated. Branch building looks great - clean, neat and tidy ready for a positive year.

Writers Group starts on the first Saturday of the month 10am-12noon. We have had two months to complete our next exercise – A ‘Find’ in your family – person, place or thing. If you would like to join this relaxed and casual group, just come along. The stories are always interesting. Our abilities range from telling a yarn to deeply researched material.

Our programme for 2026 starts with our BBQ on Saturday 14 February at 6pm, held in the park area at the back of Mersey Branch.

Saturday 14 March will be Rosie Marshall and Neville Bingham’s guided tour of the cemeteries at Sassafras. These will be popular and we suggest you register early to attend.

A visit to Tiagarra Aboriginal Cultural Centre at the Bluff and the Maritime Museum is planned for early this year.

Please contact Secretary Gay for details of meeting times & costs if required on mobile 0408 059 990 or secretary.tfhsdev@gmail.com or Ros mobile 0476 008 531

Corrections to Branch Presentation Report

What a new kid on the historian block discovered about the VDL convict archives Rebecca Read

Published Tasmanian Ancestry Volume 46 Number 3 p129

1. In paragraph 4: 'PO' indicates that the convict was being assigned in lieu of one who had been appointed to the post office.
2. In paragraph 4: The letter 'R' indicated that a convict was being reserved for settlers giving up convicts for the pursuit of Aborigines.
3. In paragraph 5: It was **not** said that it was "possibly due to skill limitations relating to physical or intellectual capacity". **Nor** was it said that "juveniles might have a delayed assignment for better consideration of their safety and usefulness".
4. Paragraph 6, It was **not** said that "musters were compiled at the end of the year". What **was said** is that the documents commonly referred to as the 1830, 1832, 1833, and 1835 'musters' are not records of assemblies, that each is the result of clerical reconstruction, and that the evidence suggests that a clerk began the time-consuming task of compiling them with quill pen well before the end of the year and sometimes concluded a few weeks after the beginning of the next year.

I remain, Dear Mother

Isabella Jordan

Reprinted with permission of *Cleveland Family History Society*,
first published in 1994.

The following is an abridged copy of a letter sent by Isabella JORDAN to her mother in Northallerton, North Yorkshire from Tasmania shortly after her arrival in 1830. Unfortunately, other correspondence mentioned in this letter have not survived.

Mrs Wright, To the care of F Hirst Esq. Golden Lion Inn, Northallerton, Yorks, England.

Hobart Town Van Diemen's Land Dec 13, 1830

My Dear mother,

You will no doubt be surprised at receiving this from Van Diemen's Land, but we have heard at the Cape of Good Hope such dreadful accounts of the Swan River Settlement that the Captain & the Super Cargo said that, if all the passengers would agree to go to Hobart Town, they would take them for what they had paid, and the vessel would proceed direct.

I wrote to you from the Cape, which letter I expect you will have received ere this. We left there on the 10th of September & had a very rough, uncomfortable voyage to this place, which we reached on the 7th of November, all of us in good health & high spirits when we cast anchor at ½ past 12 at noon. It would be ½ past 2 in the morning at Northallerton, most likely all of you laid comfortably in bed. I assure you I got very little sleep from the Cape to here, though several times I had to lay in bed with the children all day on account of the sea dashing so over the vessel that the water poured so down the hatchway that we could not sit on our berths, and two or three times it wet us in bed. But thank God we got safe and well to here, though for the last month they allowed us no flour, butter, pork or peas & no potatoes (nor rice instead) from the Cape, but we had excellent water.

On the Sunday afternoon Jordan went ashore to buy us some bread for tea. You may be sure it was a great treat as I have not had any tea for some time, not having flour to make cake. And I never could eat the biscuit except in broth or gruel. But fortunately we had some rice & oatmeal, so the children and I had rice in the mornings, and I had gruel with a little grog in it before I went to bed, which I generally did between 5 & 7 o'clock. You will recollect Mr Stockdale giving us a letter to his brother which was to the care of a Mr Stokell. We called with it as We went into town as he lives in a very handsome house near the jetty, and keeps a large shop and sells hardware, groceries, draperies, paints and silver plated and tinned goods, glasses, pots, pans, etc etc. In short, it is the custom here

as at the Cape of Good Hope to be able to purchase at one shop. what in England you would have had to go to ten or a dozen for.

Mr Stokell's is one of the largest shops in Hobart Town, it is his own property. He was busy, but we got some bread, cheese and port wine with Mrs S. She appears a very nice woman. She has two children. She asked us to stay for dinner, but we thought we would go further into town and try and meet with a house. Mr Stokell offered us two rooms in his timber yard, rent free until his lease was out. We should have come sooner, but we did not like to leave the ship till we had either got the meat, bread and rum that we had saved out of our allowance or money in lieu, and we agreed to let the Super Cargo have hours for four pounds; if we had left the vessel we should never have got anything. It was very kind of Mr S to make his such an offer. Indeed, he appears to be a most amiable man, everyone speaks well of him. Jordan and he have had a great deal of talk about people who live in the county of Durham, as he came from Sedburgh, near Darlington. He has been in the colony eight years.

Jordan has commenced being a painter. Mr Stokell sent him to paint at a farmhouse he has four miles from here. The week after we came, he gave him 7 shillings a day and his meat. The week following he sent him to a public house he has and he was there three days. This last week he has been at nothing, but Mr Ward has taken the Dallas Arms Inn, and Jordan has agreed with the owner to paint the walls of the best room for £12. He advertised in the newspaper the week after we got here. There are three papers published here one of them twice a week.

We heard of the King's death at the Cape and expected to have brought the news the first here, but the *Royal George* had arrived before us. The Governor with the soldiers had gone after the Aborigines who had met with some white people and killed them, consequently nothing was done till he returned, which was last Friday week, when he gave the orders for general mourning to commence on the Sunday and to continue for six weeks, so yesterday week I had to put on a black gown.

Macquarie Street is the best one in town; it is more than a mile long and most of the houses have gardens before them. There are very few shops in it, but the Governor, his private secretary, and most of the quality live in it, and it contains the church, the courthouse, the Jail, the Barracks, the Gallows, and the King Store house, The Head Inn and the Bank. The church is a very squat white building., the ground around it is green grass with shrubs and flowers in different parts, similar to a small pleasure ground in England. The burial ground is some distance from it.

The funerals here please me highly, they are conducted with so much propriety. The company follow the corpse by two and two, they stay by the grave till it is nearly filled up, and return in the same order as they went, without ever speaking to each other. The service is the same as with you, part of it being read in the church and part by the

graveside. The company is small but generally very respectable in appearance and everyone has the pall and the minute bell.

December 21st. Today here is the longest day, it is a very wet one and when it does rain it is generally very heavy. Saturday before last we had what is called a hot wind, when the heat was most excessive, particularly of a breath of air blew upon you, it was fit to burn the skin off you. I kept within doors with the children as much as I possibly could, and as it was very windy except the day I have mentioned, the weather has never been too hot for me, though it is the middle of summer. Indeed, we have had some cold days, but I suppose there is not much difference between summer and winter.

Thank God, all of us had had our health very well. Eliza Martha. She began to walk by herself the Sunday week after we came ashore. She has a great look of my poor Aunt Carter and is a very smart looking child. Francis Thomas has grown a great a great stout boy. He is a bad talker, but very noisy. He is quite proud at present as yesterday and I and today I have been making him some trousers.

25 Christmas Day.

Last night I made some furmety, but as Jordan was tipsy. I did not enjoy it. Today we have had a plum pudding to dinner, and all be well I intend to treat us next Saturday with either a gooseberry or a red currant pudding, but gooseberries are one shilling a quart., raspberries 1/6d, oranges are 6d each. Strawberries three a penny, green peas 1/3 a peck, new potatoes 2d a pound beef, 8d mutton, 5d veal 6d, bacon, 1/6d, salt butter 2/-, fresh 2/6d and 2/9d. Lard, 1/6d. Cheese 1/- to 1/6d per pound. Most of the tea here is green. I like it much, but it does not go more than half as far as the tea in England. It is from 2/- 6/- a pound. Coffee is little drunk in the colony. It is 2/6 unground, 3/- a pound ground. Common using sugar 5d, currants 1/3d, candles, 8d soap 6d starch 2/8d, rice 3d to 6d, flour 4d, very common raisons which are here are called plums 10d to 1/-, oatmeal. 8d.

The shopkeepers give no paper; whatever you buy, you have to take something with you to put it in. Paper is very dear. Vegetables a rather high, geese about 6/- a piece. Nutmeg, pipes and eggs 2d each, pearl barley 8d a pound, new milk from 10d to 1/- a quart skim milk, 5d. Bread is sold in loaves at 1d and 2 1/2d, 5d and 10d each. Scarcely any person makes their own. We intend buying some corn and trying which is the cheapest. You get a very small loaf for 10d we eat one or more every day and I have it always two or three days before hand. Oh, how I should enjoy a piece of brown bread, you see nothing but white here, no course meal is made. I wish it was, and you see no ovens except one Mrs Stokell's has. It is the only one in the Colony. People send all to the bakehouse and pay 3d for a pie, pudding or a piece of meat in it. Whether large or small, no difference is made. A little cake would pay 3d as well as a great loaf.

Fire is certainly very dear, a small load of wood cost 7/- or 8/- in summer, and very often 20/- or 22/- in winter. What in England a donkey would draw in a little cart. Coals are

not allowed to be burnt in the Colony, as if they were, it would prevent the wood from getting so soon cleared away. The reason it is so dear is labour is high or else wood is in great plenty.

Clothing varies much, some things being very high and some nearly as cheap as in England, but not being in want of any, I have not asked the prices of many things. Women's shoes are about 8/- a pair but they do not wear like English shoes that are ordered. The generality of people here dress uncommonly well, much better than in England. Veils, parasols, and silk stockings are very common; the making of a plain dress is 7/- or 8/-, trimmed 10/- or 12/-. If Jane was to come here she would make an excellent living. I should be glad if she would. I wish I had been a clever dressmaker.

I have not yet fixed upon beginning a school. We seemed scarcely settled till we know where we shall live. Indeed, I have not done washing, ironing and mending. I understand washer women have 4/- a day and those are soldiers' wives. Mangling is 6d a dozen. Common schools are 1/- a week; like most places at home, there are a good many.

December 26th. Francis Thomas has been with his Father at the Scotch Kirk. So, he had his trousers put on and I assure you he strutted about and vastly. He looked both smarter and much taller. He had a blue frock with a black sprig in it, white trousers, nankeen topolet and sleeves, nice black half boots and his round Black Hat. He behaved very well. He is to begin now to go to some place of worship once every Sunday. (To be continued)

Index to
The Examiner

The Index to Births, Deaths and Marriages Vol 16, Part I & II
1966 -1970 Births, compiled from The Examiner newspaper
is now available

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RECENT PUBLICATION
Hobart Branch
UNDERTAKERS OF HOBART
A Combined Index
to
Hooper & Burgess Funeral Records
Vol. 5 Part 5
Nov 1992 - Dec 1995
&
Turnbulls Family Funerals
Vol. 6 Part 1
Dec 1995 – Dec 2000

This volume contains the combined index to the last of the Funeral Records for Hooper & Burgess and the first Funeral Records for Turnbull Family Funerals, from when the company was taken over in December 1995.

The combined index often, but not always, names the spouse and/or parents, place of birth, cause of death and the cemetery where buried or ashes interred. Scanned images of the records are available on Hobart Branch computers. Many have attached Death and Funeral Notices from *The Mercury* newspaper often naming other family members.

This new publication is now available for **\$25.00 plus p. & p.**

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A tale of two men and one wife –

(or one man and three wives)

The Reynolds/Lamprill saga

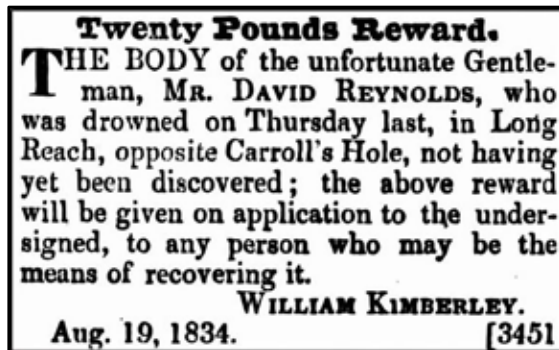
Christine Burgess (Member 8433)

PART ONE

A tragic accident?

On 12 August 1834, David REYNOLDS, accompanied by two of his servants, free man William GIBBS and an un-named convict set sail on the sloop *Lord Howe* to transport 150 bushels (around 4083 kg) of wheat down the Derwent River to Hobart Town.¹ They didn't make it. On approaching Austins Ferry a sudden squall caused their sloop to capsize and sink. According to newspaper reports, all three 'sunk to rise no more.'²

Initially only one body, that of William Gibbs, was recovered.³ No-one seemed concerned about the fate of the convict, but in an effort to recover David Reynolds' body, advertisements appeared in local newspapers offering a £20 reward.⁴ *By way of comparison, in Van Diemen's Land in 1834, £20 would employ a shepherd for twelve months.*⁵



The Tasmanian, 29 August 1834, p. 8.

Nearly four weeks elapsed, and on Sunday 7 September 1834, David's remains were located a short distance from where his vessel had floundered.⁶ He was buried five days later, on Friday 12 September – a full month after the incident.⁷

So, what became of the third man? Against all expectations, he somehow survived ... and according to Robert William Carl LEVIS and Family Working Papers, his name was William LAMPRIILL. Historians, Jill Cassidy and Keith Preston agree. They state the

Ticket-of-Leave convict William Lamprill, was ‘lucky enough to survive the overturning of the boat which had led to Reynolds’ drowning’.⁸

Who was William Lamprill?

Records held at the Tasmanian Archives claim William Lamprill originated from South Hawkington. Since no such place exists, this appears to be a misspelling of South Ockendon, in Essex, England.⁹ Information available on the internet records William was born there around 1795, and his parents were William Lamprill and Mary BUTTELL. Further, at the time of his arrest he was married to Mary Ann BISHOP.¹⁰

On 12 March 1827, William Lamprill was prosecuted at Essex Assizes by a Mr HORLICK. William’s Crime? Stealing a lamb. William, who was Protestant, and employed by a Mr BARKER, received a sentence of fourteen years transportation. William departed Portsmouth, England on 13 August 1827, aboard the *Asia*, bound for Van Diemen’s Land. The brig, which carried 200 passengers, arrived on 7 December that year.¹¹

While initial reports from his gaolers in England portrayed William’s attitude as one of indifference, subsequent reports from his incarceration on the hulks and during the sea voyage described him as orderly. Likewise, there were no offences recorded against him during his servitude in Van Diemen’s Land.

By August 1833, William was stationed at Brighton on the eastern shore of the Derwent River. In March 1834, and just over four months before David Reynolds’ fateful drowning, William was granted his Ticket-of-Leave. Henceforth, providing he remained in the Brighton area, he was able to work for himself and at the time of the boating incident he was employed by David Reynolds as a boat man.¹²

David Reynolds (who had an equally interesting background) ...

According to the Levis family research, David REYNOLDS was born in Plymouth, England in 1790 to Henry and Sarah Reynolds.¹³ However, these records contain date and age inconsistencies, so it seems likely other accounts, available on the internet, are more reliable. According to these records, David Reynolds was born on 1 October 1794, in Greater London, England, and was one of seven children born to Sarah GOODSON and Edward Reynolds.

Edward Reynolds, who was born in 1765, was a freelance gardener. He also had a side hustle – cattle rustling. His extra-curricular activities brought him before the old Bailey on three occasions. His first two appearances resulted in acquittals, but his nefarious endeavours eventually caught up with him. In February 1798, he was sentenced to death by hanging for stealing three cows. This sentence was subsequently commuted to transportation for life.

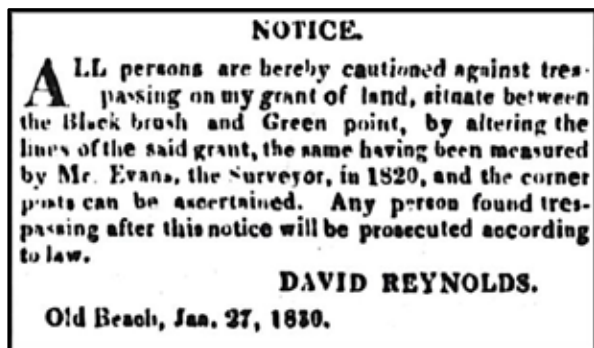
Edward arrived in Sydney, New South Wales on 20 November 1800, aboard the *Royal Admiral*. In 1806, following six years of servitude, he was granted a Ticket-of-Leave and acquired work as a gardener in the Hawksbury area.

In April of that year, his wife Sarah and four of their children (including David, who was then aged six) arrived from London aboard the *William Pitt*. It was hardly a joyful reunion. Sarah was six months pregnant. Although Edward agreed to being named as the father on the newborn's baptismal certificate, the couple also agreed to a formal separation.

David subsequently grew up in Sydney, where he served his apprenticeship as a cooper. Then, in 1813, at the age of nineteen, he set sail for Hobart Town aboard the *Mary and Sally*, arriving on 9 September of that year. As a free settler in Van Diemen's Land, David was granted sixty acres (24 hectares) of farming land in the Melville region, between Black Brush and Green Point – the area surrounding Brighton. His neighbour and future father-in-law, Daniel STANFIELD, had a grant of 310 acres (125 hectares) at nearby Green Point.¹⁴

On 5 November 1816, at the age of twenty-two, David married Daniel Stanfield's youngest daughter, Mary Ann Stanfield. Mary was seventeen when they married, and the couple would have six children. Tragically, their fourth child, Daniel 1st died when he was five.¹⁵

In the early 1800s, issues surrounding land ownership and boundaries were problematic. For example, on 30 January 1830, David placed an advertisement in the *Hobart Town Courier*, cautioning against trespassers passing onto his land and altering the boundaries of his grant.¹⁶



Hobart Town Courier, 30 January 1830, p. 3.

This wasn't David's only land holding. A newspaper article dated 7 February 1834, refers to a tract of 500 acres [over 200 hectares] of land on the west bank of Great Lake, 'recently occupied by David Reynolds'.¹⁷

Following his death, David Reynolds was described in the press as ‘an old and respectable settler’. He was also involved in maintaining law and order. In July 1820, he was appointed Constable for Herdsmans Cove – south of Bridgewater. Later, he was promoted to Chief Constable at nearby Green Point. David held this position until January 1824, when he was given permission to resign.¹⁸

Following David Reynolds’ drowning on that wretched winter’s morning in 1834, his family mourned his passing and commissioned an inscription on a vault in a cemetery on the *Summerville* estate, near Brighton. Over the years the cemetery fell into disrepair. A newspaper article, written nearly a century ago, described the cemetery as uncared for, with the once beautiful family vaults decaying and offering ‘shelter for sheep on stormy weather’.

Fortuitously, the article recorded some of the inscriptions. One was an epitaph to David and Mary’s young son. It read, ‘Daniel Reynolds, died 18 December 1831. Aged 5 years. The other side of the vault read, ‘David Reynolds, died 12 August 1834. Aged 40 years, who was a kind father and affectionate husband’.¹⁹ Many years later, this vault was relocated to St Mark’s Anglican Cemetery, Pontville.

Mary, Mary quite contrary ...

Mary Ann Stanfield was born in 1799 on Norfolk Island to Daniel Stanfield and Alice MANSFIELD. When Alice and Daniel had married on 15 October 1791, Alice already had three children by her first husband, Thomas HARMSWORTH, who had died in 1788 in Botany Bay, NSW. Mary was Daniel and Alice’s sixth and last child.

Daniel Stanfield was a First Fleeter. Born in 1766, he arrived as a Private in the Marines at Port Jackson on 26 January 1788. Less than a month after his marriage in 1791, he was transferred to duties on Norfolk Island. In 1794, Daniel received his discharge from the Marines and was sworn in as a Constable. By this stage, he was also engaged in farming on Norfolk Island and by 1804, he held significant landholdings.

When Norfolk Island was abandoned, Daniel and his family departed aboard the *City of Edinburgh*, bound for Van Diemen’s Land. On arrival in Hobart Town in October 1808, Daniel was accorded substantial land grants in the Green Point area, near Bridgewater. Here Daniel built a weatherboard house, valued then at over £2000.

As an enticement to settle, the authorities granted Daniel two acres of land for every one forsaken on Norfolk Island. Daniel then purchased more land, and this combined with further land grants to him and to his sons Daniel junior, Thomas and William meant the family had holdings in Clarence, Broadmarsh, Oatlands and Fingal. The family properties were stocked with substantial herds of cattle, sheep and horses. The Brighton property alone carried 1,000 cattle, 800 sheep, and ten horses plus a flour mill.²⁰ When Daniel died in 1826, he left ‘a very numerous and opulent family’.²¹ Mary Stanfield was descended from colonial aristocracy.

As mentioned previously, when they married in Hobart Town on 5 November 1816, Mary Stanfield was seventeen years old, and David Reynolds was twenty-two.²² The witnesses were William KIMBERLEY and James MITCHELL. *William was born on Norfolk Island in 1796. He had married Mary's older sister, Sarah on 10 June 1816, just five months prior to Mary and David's nuptials. Eighteen years later, he would offer a £20 reward for the recovery of David Reynolds' body and would also sign surety documents relating to the settlement of David's estate. James Mitchell's origins are unknown.*²³

On the record of their marriage, Mary's name is marked, 'per X mark', revealing at the time she was illiterate. Nevertheless, the couple began their married life on a sound financial footing. Mary's parents' dowry to David was a two-bedroom cottage, *Summerville* near Brighton, and 28 acres (11 hectares) of land.²⁴

The following year, on 5 December 1817, Mary and David's first child, Thomas arrived. Over the next fourteen years, five more children – Sarah, Henry, Daniel 1st, Matilda and Daniel 2nd were born. As mentioned previously, Daniel 1st died when he was just five years old.²⁵ Even for the privileged classes, times were harsh and facilities basic ...

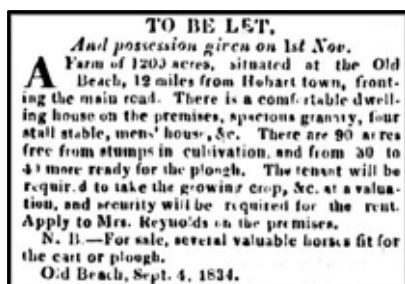
Within weeks of her husband's death, Mary was beset with problems. David had died intestate, leaving assets of some £5000, with no direction as to who should inherit. In the early years of Van Diemen's Land settlement, when a person died without leaving a will, the management of the deceased's estate fell to the Administrator, who had the power to dispose of properties at his discretion. Usually, the estate would be granted to the remaining spouse, and if he/she were deceased, to the eldest son. Although the Administrator had to furnish accounts to the Supreme Court, he wasn't required to publish them.²⁶

In the absence of a will, a newspaper article a month after David Reynolds' demise requested all claimants against the estate to appear before the Supreme Court of Van Diemen's Land on 13 October 1834. This notice was witnessed by the Honourable John Lewes PEDDER and signed by the Registrar, William SORELL at the request of G BUTLER, 'Protector for Mary Reynolds, widow and relict of the said deceased'.²⁷ The Supreme Court of Van Diemen's Land granted Letters of Administration on 15 October 1834, and £10,000 surety deeds were signed on 23 October 1834 by Mary, William Kimberley of Bagdad (Mary's brother-in-law) and Daniel Stanfield junior of Clarence Plains (Mary's eldest brother). That same month, Mary was granted administration of David's effects, and in November 1834, she sold 556 acres (225 hectares) of David's land holdings, perhaps to cover outstanding debts.²⁸

However, there was a further, complex situation regarding the custody of the five children. When David died, Thomas, the eldest son was seventeen years old, and the youngest, Daniel 2nd, just over two-years. Up until 1839, the law stated when a child was

born, he/she became the property of their father, who had absolute rights over his children. Mothers had no rights, other than reverence and respect. Since David died intestate, there was no direction as to who had custody of the children. In such circumstances, it was usual for children to be placed in the care of the nearest male relative. It is not known what became of the children after David's death, but Mary may have lost custody, with the children becoming the responsibility of the extended Stanfield family. In a further tragic twist, in 1839 the *Custody of Infants Act*, 'gave married mothers a legal avenue ... to petition for access to her children'.²⁹ For Mary, the new law was five years too late.

Assuming Mary did lose custody, she would have been grieving both the death of her husband and the loss of her children. In addition, there were other pressing matters needing attention. One of her first actions was to advertise to let a farm of 1200 acres [486 hectares] with a 'comfortable dwelling house' at Old Beach and to sell 'several valuable horses'. Although this advert appeared in the press on 19 September 1834, it is dated 4 September – that is three days before the discovery of her husband's body.³⁰



The Hobart Town Courier, 19 September 1834, p. 1.

Part 2 will continue in the next issue.

¹ A one-masted sailing boat with a mainsail and jib rigged fore and aft.

² *Trumpeter General*, 13 August 1834, p. 3; *Hobart Town Courier*, 15 August 1834, p. 3.

³ William Gibbs is also referred to as William Gibb and William Gibson.

⁴ *Trumpeter General*, 19 Aug 1834, p3; *The Tasmanian*, 29 Aug 1834 & 19 Sept 1834, p3.

⁵ *The Courier*, 29 August 1834, p. 2; p. 8.

⁶ *The Hobart Town Courier*, 12 September 1834, p. 2; Internet record, <https://www.chestnut-blue.com/Chestnut%20Blue-o/g0/p895.htm>, downloaded 4 October 2025.

⁷ Robert William Carl Levis and Family, Working Papers, c.1970s.

⁸ Jill Cassidy and Keith Preston, 'Thematic Study of the Tasmanian Flour Milling Industry', QVMAG, May 2000, p. 101.

⁹ Libraries Tasmania – NS3736/1/4, Robert William Carl Levis...

¹⁰ Willam Lamprill, <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Lamprill-1>, downloaded. 15 August 2025.

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- ¹¹ Libraries Tasmania – NS3736/1/4, Robert William Carl Levis...; William Lamprill, Convict Records, <https://convictrecords.com.au/convicts/lamprill/william/112285>, downloaded 14 September 2025.
- ¹² Email from David Bloomfield, Tasmanian State Library and Archive Service, 12 Sept 2025; *The Colonist and Van Diemen's Land Commercial and Agricultural Advertiser*, 25 March 1834, p. 4.
- ¹³ Libraries Tasmania – NS3736/1/4, Robert William Carl Levis... .
- ¹⁴ Convict Records, <https://convictrecords.com.au/convicts/reynolds/edward/98203>, downloaded 27 September 2025; George William Evans, *A Geographical, Historical, and Topographical description of Van Diemen's Land*, London, 1822, p. 130; Convict records, Edward Reynolds, <https://convictrecords.com.au/convicts/reynolds/edward/98203>, downloaded 15 September 2025; WikiTree, Edward Reynolds, <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Reynolds-1442>, downloaded 15 September 2025.
- ¹⁵ Libraries Tasmania - NS3736/1/4, Robert William Carl Levis ..., c. 1970.
- ¹⁶ *Hobart Town Courier*, 30 January 1830, p. 3.
- ¹⁷ *Hobart Town Courier*, 7 February 1834, p. 4.
- ¹⁸ *The True Colonist of Van Diemen's Land*, 19 Aug 1834 p3; *The Hobart Town Gazette and Southern Reporter*, 29 July 1820, p1; *Hobart Town Gazette and Van Diemen's Land Advertiser*, 16 Jan 1824, p1
- ¹⁹ *The Mercury*, 11 August 1928, p. 14.
- ²⁰ Brighton Council, *Planning Authority Meeting: Attachments (E-H)*, 1 July 2025, p. 23.
- ²¹ Evans, *A Geographical, Historical, and Topographical description ...* pp. 126,130; Daniel Stanfield, *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, <https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/stanfield-daniel-2690>; *The Mercury*, 10 October 1908, p. 6.
- ²² Libraries Tasmania, https://libriariestas.ent.sirsidynix.net.au/client/en_AU/names/search/results?qu=David&qu=Reynolds&qf=NI_INDEX%09Record+type%09Marriages%09Marriages, downloaded 16 September 2025.
- ²³ WikiTree, 'William Kimberley', <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Kimberley-62>, downloaded 19 September 2025.
- ²⁴ Alan Kohler, 'Australia's oldest family business', *Intelligent Investor*, 18 July 2013.
- ²⁵ 'Thomas Reynolds', <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Reynolds-5854>, 16 Sept 2025.
- ²⁶ *Tasmanian*, 8 October 1831, p. 5; *Colonial Times*, 11 April 1832, p. 3.
- ²⁷ *The Hobart Town Courier*, 26 September 1834, p. 4.
- ²⁸ *Launceston Examiner*, 4 December 1834, p. 4; Libraries Tasmania – SC134/2; GTS/LEW, Letter from H W Wray, State Librarian, 16 July 1964; Libraries Tasmania – AD961/1/2 [Will No. 75].
- ²⁹ Sarah Abramowicz, *English Child Custody Law, 1660-1839: The Origins of Judicial Intervention in Parental Custody*, Wayne State University, 1999, p. 1344; Donna Paparella, 'Knowing Children/Children Knowing: Nineteenth-Century British Child Law and Literature', PhD thesis, City University of New York, 2015, pp. 1-6.
- ³⁰ *The Hobart Town Courier*, 19 September 1834, p. 1.

Locating John Saker's Final Resting Place

Paul E. Stott (Member 5686)

John SAKER was not a well man when he disembarked from the convict ship *Elphinstone* in Hobart on 30 May 1836. The voyage from England had lasted 139 days and John had spent 29 of those days in the ship's hospital being treated for Pneumonia Pleuritis.¹ As he and 237 other convicts were walked to the prisoners' barracks in irons, he would have realised that he had lost his freedom, absolutely and utterly. Without question, he was now parted from his wife Mary, their five children, every relative and every friend that he had ever known and, worst of all, regular visits to his favourite Inn would be no more.²

On Wednesday 1 June 1836, John and six other convicts, also from *Elphinstone*, were marched to the wharf to board Her Majesty's Colonial (H.M.C.) brig. *Tamar*.³ When the convicts were securely loaded *Tamar* weighed anchor and by 11pm that night she had sailed past the Ironpot lighthouse at the mouth of the Derwent River and headed up the East Coast towards Flinders Island.⁴ This journey usually took four or five days but on this occasion the *Tamar* had been at the mercy of the weather and blown far north, nearly to the Victorian coast, before returning down the east coast of Flinders Island and through the notorious currents of Banks Strait before dropping anchor in the lee of Green Island on the Western side of Flinders Island on Thursday 16 June 1836. As if the trip on *Tamar* wasn't tough enough for John, he and the other convicts were put on shore and ordered to walk approximately 20 kilometers north to the Government settlement for Aborigines named Wybalenna.

On the day after his arrival, John was ordered to gather with the rest of the residents to greet the Commandant who was expected to arrive soon from the *Tamar* which had been sheltering at Green Island. This was an opportunity for John to see who else was living at Wybalenna. There were over 100 Aborigines in the crowd as well Civil Officers such as a Storekeeper and his wife, a Surgeon, a Catechist and Soldiers of the 50th Regiment who were there to protect the Aborigines from the Convicts. Then there were the convicts who supplied the labour at the settlement and who were made to gather at the side of the group like the criminals they were. There was great excitement amongst the Aborigines when the Commandant, George Augustus ROBINSON, walked into the settlement.⁵ They could not contain their excitement and laughed and sang with loud voices as they danced around him as though he were a God.

When John arrived at the settlement the poorly constructed buildings that had been made from tea-tree limbs and coated with mud were in a dilapidated state and were slowly disintegrating. Robinson was concerned that the need for continuous repairs, coupled with bad behaviour of the convicts, was holding up his plan to have all buildings made of brick with shingle roofs within one year. Accordingly, he wrote to the Colonial Secretary in July 1836 requesting more convicts, stores and materials so work could be

carried out “expeditiously” and he left for Hobart in September to press his case in person to Lieutenant Governor Arthur.

Fortunately for John, the act of stealing wine from the store and getting drunk with the help of the storekeeper’s female servant while Robinson was in Hobart did not damage his reputation and he was soon appointed to be overseer of brickmakers and masons.⁶ Work constructing new buildings in brick began in earnest with the arrival of twenty-four new convicts and, by 1 March 1837, twenty new cottages for the Aborigines had commenced. Three weeks later new barracks for the convicts began and on 12 April the children’s dormitory was completed and on 20 July the military took possession of their new barracks. After all of this work, life was becoming hard for John and on 15 November he became ill and left his work station. Two weeks later Robinson was moved to publish a notice *“Relative to J. Saker of his Commandant’s approbation of his conduct during the time he has been employed on the settlement.”* Strange, as Robinson was not usually inclined to offer praise on any of the convicts, rather the opposite, but perhaps as an inducement for John to recover, Robinson ordered him a new suit of blue slop clothing.

On 2 December 1837, Robinson visited John’s barracks and the convicts’ gardens, and he must have noticed something about John’s living conditions because he ordered the surgeon to visit the barracks to inspect their clothing, the preparation of their diet and their general living conditions. The surgeon reported back that the convicts were living in unclean quarters and that one of their huts was unfit for habitation! John’s health was of concern to Robinson because on 1 January 1838, he visited him and discovered that the storekeeper’s wife had sent him some food against his order – *“that no food be given to John except by the permission of the doctor”*. Six days later John’s condition worsened, and Robinson ordered his removal to the hospital. John was now classed as an invalid and was entitled to have whatever the settlement could afford as long as the doctor approved - some wool was supplied, on loan, to make John a bed. On 8 January 1838, Robinson visited John in the hospital and found that he was much worse and delirious because he thought he would soon be able to get out if he could eat something! Robinson asked John if he should write to his wife and family, but John replied that his wife had already arrived in Hobart Town.⁷

Sadly, John died the next day, 9 January 1838 and his demise was recorded as “death by hepatitis chronica”.⁸ On 10 January Robinson attended a postmortem examination of John’s body and concluded that “His death was not a wonderment but rather surprising he had lived so long. The sea voyage and change of climate had prolonged his existence.” John’s funeral was a sombre affair. His body had been placed in a strong wooden coffin, covered in a pall and at 5:00 PM on 10 January 1838, the settlement bell rang and all of the convicts from the public works section gathered and followed John’s coffin the two

hundred meters to the burial ground.⁹ The Catechist then performed a burial service as John's coffin was lowered into the grave.

When John's remains were buried the Settlement Burial Ground was a recently fenced site measuring 130 x 100 feet. Coincidentally, on the same day that John took ill, Robinson drew a plan of the Burial Ground containing a grid of 130 ten feet by ten feet squares as shown in **Figure 1**.¹⁰ In this figure the shaded area represents the graves of aborigines who had died at the Settlement and the black square was labelled "Burial" and would have been the grave of a convict named William BAKER who died from a heart attack less than one year before John had died.¹¹ When John Saker died Robinson's choice of where to make his burial would have been straight forward and he would have issued instructions for a grave to be dug beside William Baker's grave. Subsequent versions of Robinson's 1837 map show a grave beside the one assumed to be that of William Baker's and the words "White Men" have been written underneath.¹² John Saker's grave is therefore calculated to be located in the square marked X.

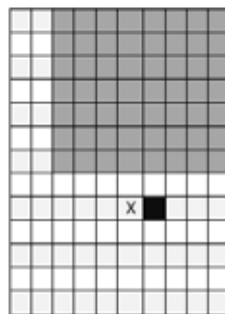


Figure 1

Protection of the Settlement Burial Ground was non-existent after the Settlement closed in 1847 and farming activities made identification of its location difficult until the Flinders Island Aboriginal Association received a grant in 1985 to locate and investigate the Aboriginal Burial Ground. Archaeological excavation was deemed unacceptable, and the Flinders Island Aboriginal Association and The National Parks and Wildlife Service supported an investigative method termed "Earth Resistivity Survey". The survey that followed identified a new cemetery boundary of one square acre that is still identifiable in aerial photographs.¹³ The survey also identified the boundary of the original Settlement Burial Ground and its position in relation to the boundary of the one-acre Cemetery. The large square that can be seen near the Southwest corner of the Settlement Burial Ground belongs to Eliza MILLIGAN, who died during childbirth in 1844 three years before the Settlement closed.

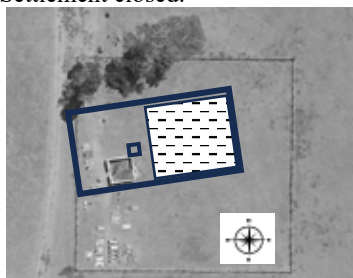


Figure 2. Aerial photograph of Wybalenna Cemetery.

In 2025 an aerial photograph of the Wybalenna Cemetery, **Figure 2**, reveals Eliza Milligan's grave and when an overlay representing the original Burial Ground is positioned over the image, it is possible to estimate the location of John Saker's grave.¹⁴

John Saker's descendants now have an answer to a question that may have troubled them for many years. RIP John Saker..

¹ The Surgeon Superintendent's report by Colin Arrott Browning, Medical and Surgical Journal of His Majesty's Convict ship *Elphinstone*, Convict Ships: *Elizabeth, Elizabeth & Henry, Elphinstone*, nla.obj-1594752740 National Library of Australia File 24. AJCP Reel No: 3194

² John Saker was born on 10 May 1800 and baptised in Saint Mary's church in Bletchingley, Surrey on the 19 July 1801. On 2 March 1822, he married Mary Howard in Bletchingley and by 1835 they had five children and were living in a village not far away called Nutfield.

³ Libraries of Tasmania, Appropriation List CON27-1-2 Image 107

⁴ Unless otherwise mentioned from this point onwards John Saker's story has been obtained from Plomley, N. J. B. *Weep in Silence, A History of the Flinders Island Aboriginal Settlement*, Blubber Head Press, Hobart, 1987.

⁵ George Augustas Robinson had taken up the position of Commandant at Wybalenna on October 17, 1835.

⁶ John's Conduct Record - <https://libraries.tas.gov.au/Digital/CON31-1-40/CON31-1-40p187>

⁷ There is no record of John requesting his wife and family to visit. See Register of Convicts' Memorials to have Wives and Families sent from England. Libraries Tasmania CON54/1/1 06 October 1834 to 07 November 1843.

⁸ John's death is incorrectly recorded on his Conduct Record - <https://libraries.tas.gov.au/Digital/CON31-1-40/CON31-1-40p187>

⁹ A sketch map of the central part of the Aborigines Establishment, Wybalenna, 1838, drawn by J. S. Winray. M1 889.1/1971/1 and M1 889.1/1971/2, State Library NSW.

¹⁰ Wybalenna Burial Ground - State Library of New South Wales – ML A7072 p.127.

¹¹ The Convict named William Baker died on on 26 February 1837.

¹² Wybalenna Burial Ground - State Library of New South Wales – ML A7072 pp.128-136.

¹³ Ranson, Don and Egloff, Brian J., The Application of-Resistivity Surveys to Australian Archeological Sites, AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL ARCHEOLOGY 6, 1988, PP.57-64

¹⁴ Wybalenna Cemetery, State Aerial Photo from [the LIST](#) State of Tasmania.

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Twists and Turns in the Lives of the Donnellys

Ros Escott (Member 6858)

Sometimes when researching a family, a couple who appear at first to be ‘not unusual’ in terms of a neglected wife and an irresponsible husband, have some unexpected twists and turns revealed with further digging. This was the case with Emma Julia née NUNN and Matthew DONNELLY who I was researching for my dear friend, the late Liz Watson.

When Matthew was born in 1856 in Longford, he was the fifth son of Mary née Reynolds and Thomas Donnelly who had been a private in the 99th Regiment of Foot (and yes, they did finally have a daughter, born a few years later). When Matthew was 17, his widowed mother refused permission for him to marry and put a notice to that effect in the *Launceston Examiner* of 2 May 1874:

CAUTION.--The undersigned respectfully acquaints colonial ministers that she prohibits the marriage of her son Matthew Donnelly, he being not 18 years of age. She holds a certificate of his registered birth on the 20th August, 1856, and requests that all clergymen will refuse to perform the marriage rites.

MARY DONNELLY.

Longford, April 30.

Four years later, at the respectable age of 21 – and no longer needing his mother’s permission – Matthew married Emma Julia Nunn. She had been born in 1857 in Launceston to former convict William Nunn and Mary MUCKRIDGE, a free settler. Emma was the seventh of their nine children.



Emma Julia Nunn

Between 1877 and 1883, Matthew was before the court a number of times for offences such as using obscene language, committing a nuisance and disturbing the peace. He also was charged twice with having failed to pay his contribution of £2 18s 6d towards the maintenance of his mother, an amount he was liable for ‘*whilst in the receipt of compassionate allowance from Government*’.

During that period, Matthew worked as a messenger for the Commercial Bank, but after that he was often unemployed or had only part-time work. He was Honorary Secretary of the Launceston Homing Society (that conducted races for homing pigeons), Secretary of the ‘*Grand United Order of Free Gardeners, Tasmanian, No. 25*’, and of the local ‘*Juvenile Tent of*

the Independent Order of Rechabites'. The latter suggests he had signed a total abstinence pledge.

In 1894, the *Launceston Examiner* reported:

Matthew Donnelly, a labourer, was lodged in the watchhouse yesterday morning, charged with stealing a quantity of vegetables from a Chinaman's garden at Hampden Vale. Thieving has been going on for some time from this particular garden, and Donnelly, it is stated, was caught yesterday morning taking vegetables, and two Celestials took him off to the police station and gave him in charge.

He pleaded guilty to a charge of having stolen vegetables, valued at 2s 6d, the property of Ah Loot, and was ordered to pay 2s compensation and a 10s fine.

From 1895, Matthew's literary skills, his public-mindedness and his interest in politics became apparent in his letters to the Editor. He was particularly concerned with unemployment and representing the views of working men.

THE UNEMPLOYED DEPUTATION.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir, -Knowing that your columns are always ready to redress a grievance I venture a few lines. I was struck in reading a paragraph this morning re the deputation of the Hobart unemployed to the Chief Secretary that in his reply he told them that the Minister of Lands would provide work on the West Coast at 5s per day with passage paid. As one who sympathised with the southern unemployed (being one of those unfortunates myself, with a large family to support) I would like to know why the Minister of Lands despatched some 50 men to the West Coast about three months ago and refused to give them more than 4s per day for nine hours' work, and also told those working for those wages that they would have to remain a reasonable time, otherwise they would have to pay their passage money, and I was one who went down, leaving a wife and eight children behind, and remained three months, but with many others had to return owing to living being too expensive and the wages insufficient to keep two homes. Before leaving we asked that the wages be raised a shilling, or 5s per day, as the Minister is now offering, but it was refused. If the wages had been 5s per day we would have still been at work there, and we are annoyed to think that the Minister of Lands should make such a distinction. Hoping that Mr Pillinger will offer the same inducement to the northern unemployed who are willing to work there also, and that the preference will be given to married men with large families who are both able and willing, - Yours, etc.,

MATTHEW DONNELLY.

94 Bathurst-street. [*Launceston Examiner*, 15 February 1895]

Sadly, it appears that Matthew's public mindedness did not extend to his wife. The records show that Emma and Matthew had eleven children in 18 years, five daughters and six sons. However, at an inquest in 1896, Matthew gave evidence that there had been

'fourteen children of the marriage' and one more was born after 1896, suggesting fifteen in total. However, only three survived childhood and early adulthood and went on to have families.

The 1896 inquest into the death of *'unnamed baby Donnelly'* reveals that Emma had suffered from fits about once a month for the previous 20 years, and that the frequency increased when she was close to giving birth – yet she had all those children! Matthew told the inquest that during the preceding three days, his wife was insensible and at times stupid; that he went out at 7.30pm on Friday, returned about 11 o'clock and went to bed with his wife; as far as he could see she was still insensible; he was not sober at the time and he did not speak to her through the night; he slept during the night without awaking; at 7am on Saturday he got up and noticed his wife was lying on her left side and was awake; he spoke to her but received no reply; he had his breakfast with the children and went away. He did not know the baby had already been born; indeed he never heard about it until he returned home at 6pm.

On Saturday morning, one of the children went to their grandmother's and said that her mother had a dead baby. When Mrs Nunn arrived at the house she asked where the baby was, and on lifting up the clothes she saw the dead baby lying against the mother's thigh. A doctor was called and stated that found Mrs Donnelly lying on her back in bed with the dead child at her right side; she was in a filthy condition and stupid, but by no means unconscious; she could not tell him when the child was born, but she complained that her husband had not got her any assistance. He had since held a post mortem examination, when he found it was a fully matured female child, who had breathed and that death was due to suffocation caused by neglect at the time of birth; had proper attendance been given the infant would no doubt lived.

The coroner in summing up said that no words were too strong in condemnation of Donnelly's heartless conduct towards his wife. The whole case showed the most gross carelessness on the part of Donnelly, who admitted he had slept in the bed with his wife on Friday night and had gone home drunk. The coroner said he believed that Donnelly knew on Saturday morning that the child was born but as there was no evidence of criminal neglect, he could not commit him.

Two years later, Matthew was successful in his application for an allotment in Queenstown and he moved there with his family. He must have been drinking again in 1905 when he was fined 6 shillings and costs for disturbing the peace, but after that he became a model citizen and seems to have earned respect in the community. He was elected to the Hospital Board in Queenstown (there was quite a field of contestants) and then, as a Labor candidate, to the Municipal Council.

Then, in 1913, Matthew Donnelly, described as a Councillor of the Queenstown Municipality and assistant secretary of the F.M.E.A., was involved in a serious accident while working to repair the railway line. Warning was given that an engine and trucks loaded with coke were approaching, and he drew aside against a pile of coke bags. There was just sufficient room for him to escape being hurt, but apparently at the last moment

he became alarmed and tried to seek some other place of safety. He was knocked down, and while his left leg was doubled underneath him, the truck wheel passed over it, crushing the leg considerably. His leg had to be amputated.

Mr Donnelly is aged about 56 years, and is an old and very well-known and respected resident. He is popular with all classes, and many will regret that he has sustained such a serious accident. [Zeehan and Dundas Herald, 22 January 1913]

By 1919, Matthew Donnelly was one of two councillors representing Tasmania on the central executive of the Council of the Australian Workers' Union (AWU), attending meetings in Melbourne.

In 1920, the Tasmanian Branch of the AWU decided to appoint a departmental officer to be known as the mining departmental secretary, based in Zeehan. Donnelly was appointed, despite a strong field of candidates.

Despite suffering from epilepsy, a neglectful husband, and giving birth to as many as fifteen children, Emma Donnelly survived until the age of 64, and died in 1923 at her son's house in Tasma Street, North Hobart.

Matthew was only 66, but after Emma's death he appears to have reduced his activities in public life. He outlived her by 20 years and died in Hobart, at the age of 86!

DONNELLY.-On April 19, 1943 at Royal Hobart Hospital, after a short illness, Matthew, relict of Emma Julia Donnelly and loving father of Mrs Tom NEWMAN, of Queenstown, Mrs Jack EVANS, of Moonah, and Roy Donnelly, of Moonah, aged 84 years. RIP.

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NEW PUBLICATION
Hobart Branch
UNDERTAKERS OF HOBART PTY LTD
Index to
H C Millington Funeral Records
Vol. IV Part 14
June 1985 – July 1988

Part 14 continues on from previous indexes to the Funeral Records for H C Millington Pty Ltd, dating from 1925. The index often, but not always, names the spouse and/or parents, place of birth, cause of death, and the cemetery where buried or ashes interred. Scanned images of the records are available on Hobart Branch computers. Many have attached Death and Funeral Notices from *The Mercury* newspaper, often naming other family members.

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MEMBERSHIP DATABASE CHANGES

We are currently making some changes to our membership database and there may be some anomalies with details. As this issue of *Tasmanian Ancestry* carries the renewal notice for our next financial year 1 April 26 - 31 March 27. We ask the you check the detail carefully on the notice and let us know of any changes that need, or you would like, to be made. Feedback can be sent to membership@tasfhs.org

Many thanks for your assistance.

Lyndal & Clint Ayers
Membership Registrar

Test your skills!

Can you complete the following obituary notices? Answers in the next issue of *Tasmanian Ancestry*

1. On 19 April at his home in Down, Kent FRS (Fellow of the Royal Society), geologist, naturalist, and author, dear husband of Emma. Educated at Edinburgh and Cambridge Universities. An account of the funeral (at Westminster Abbey) can be found in the *Gardiners' Chronicle*
2. On 29 June at Eastbourne age 70 FRS loved husband of Henrietta. He will be remembered for his many contributions to science and science education and his contributions to the Royal Society as Secretary and President.

Bonus question: Both of these people have connections with Australia and with each other. What are these connections?

A bit of background, the idea for these questions comes from the latest King William's College General Knowledge paper. King William's College is a school on the Isle of Man and every year - for more than 100 years! - the students are sent home for their Christmas break with a test paper of insanely obscure "general knowledge" questions. I feel very smug if, when the results come out, I have known the answers to 1 or 2 questions and had a hint about what 3 or 4 more might have been about. The answers usually require fairly intense rabbit hole work if they can be found at all.

The two questions above are not actually from the paper (copyright) but are of the same style as questions in this section. If people like this exercise, we can include some questions of this type in each issue of *Tasmanian Ancestry*.

**46th Conference and
Annual General Meeting**

Saturday 20 June 2026

Sunday 21 June - Activities

at Rydges Hotel, 393 Argyle Street, North Hobart

with free on-site car parking

Hosted by the Hobart Branch

Early Bird Prize

**Register before 21 May 2026 to be in the draw for
the President's Early Bird Prize.**

Registration is **\$50 per person**,
including morning tea and lunch and Sunday activities.

https://www.tasfhs.org/AGM_2026.php

Accommodation

Rydges North Hobart (the conference venue) offers a range of very comfortable rooms and suites, including free self-parking. They have offered us a special conference rate of 15% off the best available fare at the time of booking. Prices tend to rise at the date approaches, so book early. A direct online booking link is available on our website. There is also a budget motel, just across the road and other options within a short distance. Not all offer car parking.

Programme

Saturday 20 June

- 10.15 am Registration and Morning Tea
- 10.50 am Welcome by President, **Robyn Gibson**: Presentation of *Early Bird Prize*
- 10.55 am **Val Peterson** A brief history of the hotel site
- 11.00 am **Chris Woods** - Troubled lives - the Ellis Family
- 11.40 am **Ros Escott** - Bringing your Convict Ancestor Back to Life: - Researching and Writing an Engaging Story
- 12.30 pm Lunch
- 1.35 pm **Brad Williams**- The former Queenborough Cemetery Exhumations and Re-burials
- 2.20 pm Lucky door prizes-winners must be present with ticket to claim prize
- 2.30 pm **Annual General Meeting** including presentation of:
- Lilian Watson Family History Award
 - Best Journal Article Award
- 6.00 pm Dinner at the Waggon Hotel, 327 Argyle St North Hobart, walking distance from Rydges.

Sunday 21 June Activities

A choice of morning activities: Choose one when you register:

- A group tour of the World Heritage Cascades Female Factory
- A special tour of the Orphan Schools and St Johns Park Precinct New Town
- An appointment with a researcher at the Hobart Branch Library and Research Centre, Bellerive

The Hobart Branch library will also remain open, subject to demand, after the organised tours, especially for northern and North Western visitors.

There is no additional cost for AGM registrants.

How I Became My Own Grandfather

Brian Rieusset (Member 1605)

Recently I scanned and digitized an old family Autograph Album for a friend and was captivated by a handwritten short story I encountered.

It was entitled: -How I became my own Grandfather

I married a widow who had a grown-up daughter.

My father, a widower, visited us often, and fell in love with my stepdaughter, and married her; thus, my father became my son-in-law, and my step-daughter, my mother, because she was my father's wife.

Sometime after my wife had a son, he was my father's brother-in-law, and my uncle, for he was the brother of my stepmother; my father's wife, i.e. my stepdaughter also had a son, he was of course my brother, being another son of my father; he was also my grandchild, being the son of my daughter.

My wife was my grandmother because she was my mother's mother; and thus, I was my wife's husband and grandchild; and as the husband of a man's grandmother, is his grandfather, I was my own grandfather.

It was signed J M T H and dated 1 March 1890.

On researching the story, I found that it was quite a popular tale from the 19th century. The earliest I detected was from London on page 30 of *The Literary Gazette* on Saturday 12 January 1822, Issue 260.

It was published under the heading of *Varieties*, as:-

Proof that a man can be his own grandfather.

There was a widow and her daughter-in-law, and a man and his son.

The widow married the son, and the daughter the old man: the widow was therefore mother to her husband's father, consequently grandmother to her own husband.

They had a son, to whom she was great-grandmother: now as the son of a great-grandmother must be either a grandfather or great-uncle, this boy was therefore his own grandfather.

This brief account was soon picked up and re-printed multiple times in the U.K. and the U.S. and later performed by the Jesters as a popular 1947 song called, "I'm My Own Grandpa" (sometimes Grandpaw) which was then often famously Covered by many artists like Guy Lombardo, Willy Nelson, Chad Morgan and even the Muppets.

The likelihood of this family occurrence happening in real life is certainly not impossible or illegal, but highly improbable because of age differences.

William Lamprill and his Three Brides

Rebecca Read (Member 5432)

Lamprill Circle is the name of the street on which Herdsman's Cove Primary School is located in Tasmania's Brighton Municipality. This is a brief life history of the man after whose family the street is named.¹

William LAMPRIILL (sometimes spelt LAMPRELL, LEMPRILL or LAMPERER) and Daniel WOODLEY were both married men in their twenties when on 12 March 1827 they were tried and convicted at the Essex Lent Assizes of stealing a lamb.² Initially sentenced to death, their sentences were commuted to transportation for fourteen years about six weeks after their trial.³ Both convicts spent three months on the *York* prison hulk at Portsmouth before boarding the *Asia* (3) on 8 August the same year and sailing for Van Diemen's Land a few days later.⁴

As well as 200 convicts, the ship carried 42 crew, a guard of 52 officers and soldiers of the 40th Regiment, surgeon-superintendent George FAIRFOWL, and 6 women and 12 children.⁵ The women and children must have been family members of the guard and/or crew, as Dr Fairfowl specifically stated that there were no free passengers.⁶

Dr Fairfowl reported that the convicts were mustered after they had all arrived on board, and each was given a bed, a pillow, and a blanket marked with his respective number.⁷ The convicts rose at seven each morning 'and were taught on the first day to roll up their bedding in a firm hard roll stopped with two pieces of sinnet sewed for that purpose to the foot of each bed, ready to be carried upon deck & stowed there for the day. The prison was then swept clean and any wet on the deck dried up. Breakfast was served out at eight, immediately after which they were all sent on deck, a small gang only kept below to clean the prison. This was done by dry stoning, scraping, sprinkling & swabbing or washing it as the weather and state of the deck at the time made most eligible. Twice on the voyage it was whitewashed'.⁸

'No person with the exception of the sick was allowed to go below until noon if the weather permitted them to remain upon deck. They were allowed an hour below to dinner, after which they were again sent upon deck and kept there until sunset. By this measure, gambling, quarrelling, and other irregularities below where they were out of sight, were prevented, the prison was thoroughly ventilated, the water closets kept clean and sweet during the day, and at night they retired to a comparatively cool and well aired room, so much so that the thermometer rarely stood 5 degrees higher than the one in my cabin, which was in the coolest part of the ship, and the prison was always below the temperature of the rooms appropriated to the guard and ship's company where such precautions were not taken'.⁹

Despite the precautions, Dr Fairfowl treated 34 men—including William Lamprill—and two convicts died during the voyage, one of them just two days before the ship arrived at its destination on 7 December 1827.¹⁰ The remaining 198 convicts disembarked on 14 December after having their descriptions recorded and their appropriations decided.¹¹ Lamprill, a farm labourer and ploughman with brown hair, grey eyes, and a height of 5 feet 7½ inches, was assigned to David REYNOLDS, a farmer residing at Old Beach, approximately 11 miles north of Hobart Town.¹²

According to the description taken on board, he was 27 when he arrived and his native place (birth place) was South Hawkington, a misspelling of South Ockendon.¹³ He was christened in the parish of South Ockendon, Essex on 12 April 1801, the sixth and youngest child of William Lamprill and Mary (nee BUTTEL).¹⁴ The elder William Lamprill died in 1810 when the younger William was nine years old, and Mary died four months after her son arrived in Van Diemen's Land.¹⁵

As no offences were recorded on Lamprill's conduct record and Reynolds retained him after he received a ticket of leave in March 1834, he must have proven to be a useful and compliant servant.¹⁶

In August 1834, Reynolds and two other men—one a convict and the other a free man named William GIBBS—were taking a boat laden with 150 bushels of wheat to Hobart Town when a sudden squall caused the boat to capsize, and all three drowned.¹⁷ Reynolds' wife, Mary, was left with five children, the eldest aged 16 and the youngest not yet two.

Seventeen months after her husband's death, Mary's eldest son, Thomas, then almost 18, wrote to Lt. Governor ARTHUR petitioning him to 'remove William Lamprill to some other place in order to break off the connexion which now exists between the said William Lamprill and my mother'.¹⁸ He explained that he had 'had words with' his mother several times since his father's death because his mother, he believed, was 'completely led away by' William Lamprill.¹⁹

The very day after the colonial secretary received Thomas Reynolds' petition, the muster master received William Lamprill's petition to marry Mary Reynolds.²⁰ The principal superintendent of convicts recommended no decision be made until he received 'satisfactory evidence' of Lamprill's wife's death.²¹

William Lamprill had married Mary Ann BISHOP in 1821, and he acknowledged his marital status when he boarded the *York* hulk at Portsmouth and when he arrived in Van Diemen's Land in December 1827.²² However, Lt. Governor Arthur was notified in 1831 that Mary Ann Lamprill had remarried in Ditton, Kent on 29 September 1830.²³ Curiously, Mary Ann remarried under her first married name, but she either described herself as, or was assumed to be, a spinster.²⁴ The parish of Rainham, Essex, in which her new husband, James ELLIS, was a 'settled inhabitant' granted the couple legal

settlement, but an appeal was made against the order on the grounds that the marriage was null and void because Mary Ann had a living former husband.²⁵

Whether the appeal was successful is yet to be determined, but permission for Lamprill to marry Mrs Reynolds was granted on 27 April 1836, which suggests that satisfactory evidence that Lamprill's first wife had died was forthcoming.²⁶ The marriage was solemnised thirteen days after permission was granted.²⁷ Not surprisingly, neither Thomas nor any other Reynolds family member was a witness at the wedding.

Over the course of the following seven years, William Lamprill received a conditional pardon, completed his sentence, and became the father of four sons.²⁸ Two sons died of fever and dysentery in the space of three days in January 1843, one a few days short of his second birthday and the other aged four.²⁹ When the census was taken the same year, the household at Tea Tree Brush comprised eleven, including three male and one female convict.³⁰ The previous year, it had comprised sixteen people, including four male convicts.³¹ Meanwhile, Thomas Reynolds lived on properties at Old Beach and Brighton that his mother had given him after his father's death.³²

William Lamprill sailed for London without his wife and sons on 27 January 1846, two weeks after his wife inserted an advertisement seeking 'A Man and his Wife, the man as Overseer on an agricultural Farm. He must thoroughly understand his business, his wife as house servant'.³³ Soon thereafter, she advertised 'for a term of years, an excellent agricultural farm, at the Tea Tree, with a very good homestead, 16 miles from Hobart Town, containing 1010 acres, at present in the occupation of Mrs. Lamprill. There are about 300 acres in cultivation, of which 140 acres are underlet at £1 per acre. Possession may be had on the first of March next'.³⁴

Another advertisement appeared in early April notifying the public that Mr STRACEY had been 'favoured with instructions from Mrs. Lamprell, who has let her farm, to sell without any reserve, the whole of her valuable plough, cart, and brood mares [and] several draught and saddle horses'.³⁵

Mrs Lamprill departed for London with the couple's two surviving sons, aged eight and two, on 19 May 1846, nearly four months after her husband's departure.³⁶ The couple had evidently decided that William would go to England ahead of his wife and children, perhaps so that he could find suitable accommodation before his family followed. Given that the farm was let and not sold, the family probably intended to return, which they did on the *Lochnagar*, arriving in the port of Launceston on 28 July 1847.³⁷

Almost exactly five years later, in July 1852, a devastating flood hit the district in which the Lamprill family lived, inundating hundreds of acres under crop, washing away three bridges, flattening miles of fencing along the banks of the Jordan River, killing two women, and destroying a new mill, 'the property of Mrs Lamprill'.³⁸

About three weeks after the disaster, William Lamprill sailed as a cabin passenger on a steamer from Launceston to Melbourne, describing himself as having arrived free on the *Lochnagar*, which was true of his most recent arrival, if not his first.³⁹

By mid-1854, he was back in England. Claiming to be a widower but while Mary was still living, he married his third wife, Sarah COTTON, on Christmas Day 1854 in the parish of Stratford Bow St. Mary, Middlesex, this time signing the marriage register instead of marking it with an X as he had done previously.⁴⁰ Nine days later, he made his last will and testament, and on 18 June 1855 he died suddenly, aged 54, while playing with his wife's young brother, the likely cause described as 'disease of the valves of the heart'.⁴¹ One newspaper report of the inquest stated that 'several of the jury, who were acquainted with the deceased, spoke to the comfortable terms to which he and his wife lived'.⁴²

Another newspaper reported that he 'had lived 20 years in Sydney, and had been to the "gold-diggings"; he returned to this country with a good property, but debilitated constitution, and settled in Colchester about twelve months since, where he married a young lady'.⁴³ While neither report was entirely accurate—he lived in Van Diemen's Land, not Sydney, he was there for about twenty-five years, not twenty, and he married his third wife in Middlesex, not Essex—William Lamprill may well have gone to the Victorian goldfields after sailing to Melbourne in August 1852. Why he failed to return to his second wife and sons in Van Diemen's Land remains open to speculation.

Under the terms of his will, his third wife, Sarah, was to receive two hundred pounds immediately after his decease, and his brother, James, was to receive one hundred pounds, while the 'rest and residue' of his real and personal estate was to go to Sarah twelve months after his death.⁴⁴ He did not specify the location of his real or personal estate, but considering that probate was sought in both England and Tasmania, he must have held property or other assets in both jurisdictions.⁴⁵

If success for a convict was measured by freedom, family, and integration into colonial society, then William Lamprill met that measure. His life—marked by both conformity and quiet transgression—culminated in a posthumous honour few attain: a street bearing his name. In the great ledger of convict achievement, Lamprill's entry might read: Respectable settler, marital magician, and civic landmark.

¹ Lamprill Circle (formerly Lamprill Place), Nomenclature number 31053E, Background card reference number NM031053#, <https://www.placenames.tas.gov.au>, accessed 31 October 2025.

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- ²¹ *Ibid.*
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Esther Jane Garth, unforgotten.

Maree Da Costa (Member 8200)

Esther Jane GARTH was born on 30 January 1829 in Hobart. She was the fourth daughter of Edward Garth (1794-1873) and Ann BELLETT (1796-1896).¹

In her book *From Chains to Freedom* Thais MASON writes; “The first two children of Edward and Ann died at an early age. Elizabeth, their third child, married her first cousin James. There are no stories to tell of the next four children other than the fact that they married and had their families and appear to have lived uneventful lives.”^{2 3}

Esther Jane was one of those next four children. She was their seventh child, and her life was anything but uneventful.

Esther was 16 when she married Edward BARRETT on 26 May 1845. Edward was a 22-year-old sawyer, and they were married by banns at St Joseph’s Catholic Church in Hobart. The marriage was witnessed by Edward Garth and Ann FISHER (her sister). It may be reasonably concluded that Esther spent her formative years on or in proximity to her grandfather’s 93-acre land grant in Sandy Bay. When she was baptised on 17 June 1829 her father was recorded as being a farmer at Sandy Bay.^{4 5}



Edward Barrett was born in Ireland in 1823 and arrived in Tasmania in 1825 on the *Lady East* with his mother Eleanor (Ellen) and older siblings Catherine and John. His father, Michael Barrett, was a foot soldier with the 40th regiment who had arrived a year earlier on-board *Phoenix*. The Barrett family grew and remained in Tasmania when the regiment moved on, and they settled in the Port Esperance area.⁶

Edward and Esther’s first child, Edward Alfred Barrett was born the following year on 2 June 1846. By this time the family had settled in Hobart and was living in Davey Street near St David’s Park. Their daughter Eleanor Ann was born two years later, in October 1848 and the family was living in the Huon River area. Their next daughter, Emma Louisa, was born in March 1851 and Edward is recorded as a shipwright working in the Huon River area.^{7 8 9}

The Barrett family were established boatbuilders and mariners, having built several boats by this time. In 1850, Edward built the cutter *Thames* which was a well-known trading vessel in the Hobart, Channel and Huon areas for over 100 years.

In 1852, the entire Barrett family, including Edward, Esther and their 3 children, made the journey to Melbourne. It is uncertain why this journey was made however it was likely that they were selling a boat. Their return to Hobart is recorded in the arrival details for *Britons Queen* on 21 June 1853.^{10 11}

Sometime between this journey and January 1854, the marriage had become shaky. Edward was living on his boat; *Thames* moored at Hobart's Old Wharf and Esther and the children were living with Fred Garth in Murray Street. Frederick Henry Garth was her cousin and the third son of James Garth and Mary Bellett.

On the night of 14 January 1854, Edward came to Garth's house and wanted to see his estranged wife and children. After a brief argument it is alleged that Edward attempted to strike Esther. Fred Garth intervened, and a violent brawl ensued between the two men. The graphic details of the fight were recorded during the 3-day inquest into Edward's death. Many witnesses, including family members, doctors, publicans and constables were called. Their accounts varied – Edward did strike Esther, he attempted to strike her, he was drunk, he was in liquor but not drunk, he was sober, he drank sometimes but not known to be drunk – who can say for certain. This is an unfortunate and incredibly sad event. The outcome was that Edward Barrett died from injuries inflicted by Fred Garth. Ultimately both men died. It was a vicious assault.^{12 13}

In modern terms, this was a case of domestic violence escalating into a fatal street fight. Edward had confronted his estranged wife at her relative's house. Fred Garth intervened, leading to a violent brawl. Medical evidence showed Edward was severely beaten—likely kicked or struck with forceful blows—leading to the brain and lung damage that killed him. Esther was suspected of complicity, however, Edward's own dying statement partly cleared her, and the jury concluded that Garth's violence caused Edward's death.

Fred Garth was charged with assault, arrested and taken to the watch house on 17 January. He was in custody when he died in hospital on 24 January. There was an inquest into his death which found that he died of natural causes, *congestive apoplexy* [an outdated term for stroke], *which could not have been caused by violence, and must have been existing for some time*. He was a 31-year-old farmer and unmarried. Edward Barrett languished in agony and delirium, until he succumbed to his injuries on 14 February 1854, one month later. He was continually asking to see his children before he died. His eldest child Edward Alfred, my great grandfather, was only a small boy at the time, not yet 8 years old.^{14 15 16 17}

There was no love lost between the Barrett and Garth families as the following newspaper articles demonstrate.

On the 3rd of February last, Edward, the second eldest son of Michael and Ellen Barrett, of Davey-st., aged 27 years, (from injuries received from Frederick Garth, his wife, her sister, and others, all relatives being present, as was proved at the Coroner's Inquest.) On the 2nd May, at Port Esperance, Michael Barrett, the father of the above, and on Saturday last, the 13th instant, Alexander Christopher Cornelius, the youngest son, aged 22 years.

TROVE, *Hobart Town Advertiser* (Tas. : 1839 - 1861), Wednesday 17 May 1854, page 2

Ellen Barrett experienced the loss of her husband and two sons within a three-month period. Certain details provided in the article may be inaccurate, likely because of the emotional impact of these events.



TROVE, *Hobart Town Advertiser* (Tas. : 1839 - 1861), Friday 19 May 1854, page 3

James Garth's response was made with measured criticism. Still, I find his words severe nonetheless understandable. In situations like this, everyone suffers.

Esther, 25, was a widow with three children under the age of 8. I am not certain, but I do not think Edward Alfred stayed with his mother after his father died. Our family legend

is that he was raised by his uncles John and George and the extended Barrett family. It is also likely that mother and son never saw each other again.

Five months after the death of Edward, Esther married Henry William YOUNG. He was a 28-year-old timber dealer, and they married at St George's Church of England in Hobart on 29 July 1854. The marriage was witnessed by James Garth and Elizabeth Garth. Elizabeth was Esther's older sister and James Garth was her brother-in-law and cousin, and the brother of Frederick Henry Garth.¹⁸

Their only child, Alice Jane, was born 6 April 1858 at Franklin and her father was recorded as a farmer at Hospital Bay. She was baptised in Hobart the following month and her father was recorded as a timber merchant at Huon River.^{19 20}

Esther and Henry Young next appear as publicans at the *Whalers Return Inn* in Hobart, now 39 Salamanca Place. The pub, now called *The Whaler*, was also previously known as *Nautilus Hotel*, *Knopwoods Retreat*, and *Lord Nelson*.



Photo of an early Salamanca Place, The Whalers Return Inn is the building on far right.

Photo from: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-05-28/brothel-to-boutique-hotel-building-history/11151956>

Henry Young held the license for the Whalers Return Inn in December 1859, when he took out a new license, until he was refused a renewal at the annual meeting in December 1860. An inspection revealed the premises were unfurnished, violating the agreement.²¹

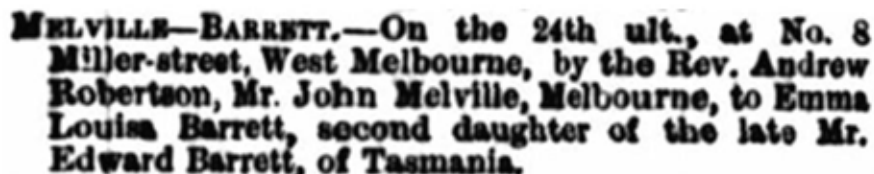
A fortnight later Henry and Esther were involved in a civil suit in the Supreme Court. Frederick Patterson, brewer, sued Henry Young for unpaid rent and debts relating to the *Whalers Return Inn*. Patterson claimed £175 for six months' rent, outstanding accounts, and goods supplied.

Evidence showed Young managed the inn under agreements with Patterson, receiving a commission and profits from lodgings, but rent was never paid. Furniture and stock were later seized by the superior landlord. Patterson alleged Young acknowledged the debts but refused to give promissory notes.

Young, represented by Mr CRISP, argued he was only acting as Patterson's servant under the licensing laws, that no rent was due under the agreements, and that Patterson had acted improperly in letting him appear as licensee. Esther Young supported her husband's version of events. The jury, after reviewing the evidence, found for the plaintiff.²²

Henry's tenure as licensee of *The Whalers Return Inn* was short lived and it is not certain what happened next, but it seems that Henry, Esther and their 3 daughters moved to Victoria in 1861. No departure or arrival records have been found.

The family's next records are for the marriages of Emma Louisa Barrett in 1868, followed the next year by Eleanor Ann Barrett in 1869 in West Melbourne.^{23 24}



MELVILLE—BARRETT.—On the 24th ult., at No. 8 Miller-street, West Melbourne, by the Rev. Andrew Robertson, Mr. John Melville, Melbourne, to Emma Louisa Barrett, second daughter of the late Mr. Edward Barrett, of Tasmania.

Figure 1TROVE, *Argus* (Melbourne, Vic. : 1848 - 1957), Saturday 5 December 1868, page 4 – Family Notices.

CLARK—BARRETT.—On the 19th October, at 8 Miller-street, West Melbourne, by the Rev. Andrew Robertson, Robert Clark, Melbourne, to Eleanor Ann, eldest daughter of the late Edward Barrett, of Tasmania.

Argus (Melbourne, Vic. : 1848 - 1957), Saturday 20 November 1869, page 4 – Family Notices.

The death of Esther Jane on 4 July 1877 was the next record. Esther passed away due to pulmonary consumption, a condition she had for five years. Pulmonary consumption also known as pulmonary tuberculosis is a bacterial lung disease that caused a slow, wasting death. Esther likely experienced significant pain and disability during the final years of her life. She was only 48 years old. Henry was the informant for her death certificate, and it is recorded that she died at 136 Victoria Street, Melbourne, born Hobart and lived in Tasmania for 31 years and Victoria for 16 years. Her three daughters are included, but her son Edward is not mentioned. Esther was buried on 6 July at the Melbourne General Cemetery.²⁵

YOUNG. -At her residence, on the 4th inst., Esther Jane, wife of Henry Young, and daughter of the late Edward Garth, Sandy Bay, aged 47 years. Hobart Town papers please copy.

Argus (Melbourne, Vic. : 1848 - 1957), Saturday 7 July 1877, page 1 – Family Notices

Seven months later Henry Young died on 11 March 1878. He died of a similar condition – Phthisis, which is an outdated term for pulmonary tuberculosis, and means ‘wasting away’. He had been in hospital for 3 months and no doubt he too had suffered for a long time with this insidious disease. The informant for his death certificate was a hospital porter, and some information was incorrect, but it stated his occupation as messenger, his age as 50 years, and that he was buried at the Melbourne’s new cemetery on 13 March. The Melbourne General Cemetery was also known as New Cemetery and as such he and Esther are buried together.

26

¹ TAHO, Births, Esther Jane Garth, 1829, Hobart, RGD32/1/1 no 3004

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- ² From Chains to Freedom. Thais Mason, 1982, page 65, paraphrased
- ³ The first child of Edward Garth and Ann Bellett was Ann. She was born in 1817 and did not die young, as Thais Mason states. She married Edward Fisher in 1834 and was witness to the marriage of Edward Barrett and Esther Garth in 1845. Her second marriage was to William Mead in 1855. Ann Meade died in 1867.
- ⁴ TAHO, Marriage, Esther Garth, 1845, Hobart, RGD37/1/40 no 1788
- ⁵ Image of St Joseph's Church from <https://www.passionistshobart.org.au/st-josephs-church-2/>
- ⁶ TAHO, Arrivals, Eleanor Barrett, 1824, CSO1/1/139/3387
- ⁷ TAHO, Births, Edward Alfred Barrett, 1846, Hobart, RGD33/1/2 no 1784
- ⁸ TAHO, Births, Elleanor (sic) Ann Barrett, 1848, Hobart, RGD33/1/3 no 1075
- ⁹ TAHO, Births, Emma Louisa Barrett, 1851, Hobart, RGD33/1/4 no 233
- ¹⁰ TAHO, Arrivals, Britons Queen, 1853, MB2-39-1-16 image 325
- ¹¹ The Barrett family members for the 1852 journey to Melbourne included Michael and Ellen Barrett, John Barrett and wife, Edward Barrett, wife and 3 children, George Barrett, Alexander Barrett and Mrs. McGovern (Johanna Barrett) and child.
- ¹² TROVE, Hobart Town Advertiser (Tas. : 1839 - 1861), Thursday 16 February 1854, page 2 – Adjourned Inquest on the (death) of Mr. Edward Barrett
- ¹³ TAHO, Inquests, Edward Barrett, 1854, Hobart, SC195/1/34 Inquest 3202
- ¹⁴ TROVE, Tasmanian Colonist (Hobart Town, Tas. : 1851 - 1855), Thursday 2 February 1854, page 3 - Coroner's Inquests
- ¹⁵ TAHO, Deaths, Frederick Garth, 1854, Hobart, RGD35/1/4 no 915
- ¹⁶ TAHO, Deaths, Edward Barrett, 1854, Hobart, RGD35/1/4 no 1106
- ¹⁷ Details differ about the death of Fred Garth. Death record states he died on 14 January (the night of the fight) whereas the inquest states that he died on 24 January – 10 days after the incident. Some of dates reported in the newspaper articles are also incorrect.
- ¹⁸ TAHO, Marriages, Esther Jane Barrett, 1854, Hobart, RGD37/1/3 no 393
- ¹⁹ TAHO, Births, Alice Jane Young, 1858, Franklin, RGD33/1/36 no 493
- ²⁰ TAHO, Births, Alice Jane Young, 1858, Hobart, RGD32/1/3 no 5202
- ²¹ TROVE, Mercury (Hobart, Tas. : 1860 - 1954), Monday 3 December 1860, page 2 - GENERAL LICENSING DAY
- ²² TROVE, Mercury (Hobart, Tas. : 1860 - 1954), Tuesday 18 December 1860, page 2 – SUPREME COURT
- ²³ Births, Deaths and Marriages Victoria (BDM VIC), Marriage certificate, 4327/1868
- ²⁴ Births, Deaths and Marriages Victoria (BDM VIC), Marriage certificate, 4333/1869
- ²⁵ Births, Deaths and Marriages Victoria (BDM VIC), Death certificate, 8905/1877
- ²⁶ Births, Deaths and Marriages Victoria (BDM VIC), Death certificate, 2574/1878

Mersey Branch Writers Group

Our small group was formed late last year by Dane McCormack. Dane is a local Latrobe boy who has returned to Latrobe after working for many years in the Federal Government Canberra.

Writers Group meet the first Saturday of the month 10-12 at the Mersey Branch in the old Police residence at the back of the Post Office reserve Gilbert Street, Latrobe.

Contact Dane – dane.p.mccormack@gmail.com or call Ros 0476 008 531

The next two articles are some of the writings produced by this group and is printed as received.

A Home where an Ancestor lived

Dane McCormack (Member 8274)

This is a story I wrote from the writing prompt, A Home where an Ancestor lived. I chose Poatina, where my Dad lived while he helped build the Hydroelectric Scheme, because he contracted and died of cancer in Tasmania, while I was in hospital battling cancer in Canberra. I have such good memories of our times at Poatina.

My father Denis MCCORMACK worked for the Hydroelectric Commission on the tunnel boring machine, building the Electrical Towers and much more, while gaining his Boiler Maker Welder apprenticeship.

He lived in the Hydro Villages all over Tasmania, wherever he was working at the time. He would sometimes pull over to the side of the road and show us where he'd lived in the movable cabins they often used. Poatina was a regular stop to show us where he lived. The power station is located in a massive underground cavern 150 metres down and it's connected to the Great Lake by a 5.6km tunnel. I can't even imagine what it was like being on a tunnel boring machine kilometres along a tunnel boring into the rock. It must have been so loud and confined.

Poatina is located on the road up to Arthur's Lake from Northern Tasmania, which was our favourite lake to fish in, because that's where we caught the most fish! Just before we'd start driving up the mountain, we'd cross the Waddamana Canal, which is the Tailrace from the Dam. It's four kilometres long, dead straight, lined with concrete and has little concrete weirs along it. We'd often get out to admire the majesty and see if there was a big trout looking for a feed.

Poatina is perched up on a little plateau just before you climb the Great Western Tiers. You can stare out across the fertile North West Coast of Tasmania, backed by such an imposing mountain range. It's a quaint well-maintained town, that has changed little

since it was built in the 1960s, primarily because most people lived there during construction of the Hydroelectric Scheme and they moved out once it was built. In 1995 only 5 families lived in the town, which is the era we visited the town. It was then purchased by the Australian Christian Youth and Community Organisation and its now devoted to helping homeless and at-risk youth.

It was my dad's first job and living in Poatina would have been comforting, because the farm he grew up on in Kimberley, was also located on top of a small hill looking out across the fertile plains. He quickly became mates with all his co-workers, everyone knew Macca. He would tell us all about where he lived and Saturday nights at the pub, playing sports on the fields and about his mates.

He tells me that he was once dared to walk across the top bar of the towers. He tells me that he did, and that would have been incredibly difficult and scary.

The road up to the Lakes is just as fun. It winds steeply up the Great Western Tiers. My Dad's mate Clarky had a big pack of hound dogs we'd use to go hunting. He carted them around in a trailer. He would joke that some of the corners were so sharp, that if he spat out the window, he'd kiss rover on the ass! LOL!

How they constructed that road is amazing. I used to imagine that I was the surveyor sent out to figure out where to build it. 'You want to put a road through where! 'I'd think

Walking in an Ancestor's Shoes

A totally factual episode in an ancestor's life, as if narrated by themselves.

Ian Nettleton (Member 8282)

"Oh my God,... What do I do now? Three boys and two girls all under ten and having to bury their poor dear mother tomorrow. This last birth must have been too much for Hannah. May the Good Lord strike me down for even thinking it, but maybe it's a blessing that her sixth baby died with his mother. Even now, in 1845, with all the advances in medical treatment, I can think of three workmates and a neighbour who have lost their wives in similar circumstances."

James NETTLETON, at age 38, knew he had to be back at his job as a stone mason in three days at the latest or his employment would be at risk. The one bright spot was that his Mum, Elizabeth, known as Betty, lived in the next street and could keep house with the children while he worked something out.

Fast forward 24 hours.

“Ah, good old Mum may have come to the rescue in more ways than one. Thank goodness for what women do so well and so much better than men – talking among friends, family and neighbours, sharing confidences, voicing ideas, giving advice and suggesting helpful hints. I can only hope this Ann who Mum brought to my home this evening is suitable as a housekeeper. Mum didn’t know if she was a widow or not – just that she and a six-year-old daughter Rachel were apparently destitute and one step away from the Workhouse. She seems pleasant enough and is looking forward to moving her few possessions here tomorrow. She and Rachel can have one bedroom and the boys and I will have the main bedroom. The girls are used to sharing a bed in their room, so that’ll be fine.”

Fast forward again.

“I can’t believe that three years have flown by. Looking back, it worked out well. A normal working week – 10 hours a day, 6 days a week – at least gives me a reasonable living wage. Twelve years younger than me, Ann is a good cook and isn’t wasteful and the children got on well together from the start. At first I missed Hannah but as time went by Ann and I talked more and more, gradually sharing details of our backgrounds, the day-to-day chit-chat of what the children were doing and the general routine of running the household. As we became more familiar with each other it just seemed the most natural thing in the world that we’d end up sharing my bed and her Rachel moved in with my girls. The boys then occupied the room that had been Ann and Rachel’s. I blame the unusually cold winter of 1848 for the pregnancy. At pre-Christmas drinks with relatives and neighbours the beer and gin flowed even more freely than they usually did, and the cold meant we were cuddling closely as we bedded down for the night. As a skilled tradesman I had a level of respectability in the neighbourhood and in the workplace, so we quickly planned a wedding at the main parish church in Bradford. Happily, as Ann and I had shared more personal details, I’d knocked three years off my age and as result I didn’t seem so much older than her on the marriage certificate. Thirty nine sounded so much younger than 42. One day the truth may well come out, but I’ll be past caring if and when my birth certificate comes to light.”

Bentley was born safely five months after the wedding.”

An Evening's Poaching: and the Rest is History

Alan Crooks (Member 8388)

Tuesday 6 October 1840 was a life-changing day for my second great grandfather Joseph BEDFORD. On that day, in Yardley Hastings, at the age of just 21, together with two acquaintances, William DOWNING aged 31 and James UNDERWOOD aged 21, he went out poaching game, as he had no doubt done many times before.

Yardley Hastings itself is some several hundred metres from Castle Ashby, the home of the Marquess of Northampton and according to Wikipedia the Marquess' estate includes land in many of the neighbouring villages, such as Grendon, Denton and Yardley Hastings.¹

As Joseph was to later testify

*“we broke the [threshing] machine betwixt 11 and 12; then we drunk a gallon of beer, and some of us had some victuals, and my mother came with my dinner just at the time. Then the man to as made the machine, he come and ta'en it to pieces, and some on 'em brought it to the blacksmiths at Yardley. I went on with some more. Then we come on to the town, and Underwood and me went to the Rose and Crown, where we met Downing. We sat and drank there whilst half-past five o'clock exact”.*²

So, at this point they had been drinking for some time and the sun was due to set about 6:30pm. The trio decided to go poaching: what could go wrong?!

Joseph's statement to the police after he and the other two were apprehended on Friday 9 October was:

*A little before six, I and James Underwood met with Wm. Downing on the road leading from Yardley Hastings to Olney. We all went together to New Hay Coppice. After we got there, I shot at a hare. We had then separated. When I had fired, I ran into the wood, and remained there about a quarter of an hour. I then came out and saw John Dunkley. When we met, we began quarrelling for about a minute, and Dunkley swore he would shoot me, and presented his gun at me. I presented mine, and we both fired, but I cannot say which fired first. I received the contents of Dunkley's gun in my left shoulder and arm and fell. Just as I was up, Downing and Underwood both came up. Downing asked me if I was shot? I said yes, by John Dunkley, who was then some little distance off. Downing then went up to Dunkley, and collared him, trying to throw his heels up, but could not. Dunkley then presented his gun at Downing when Downing immediately fired, and Dunkley fell near a ditch. Afterwards Downing and Underwood dragged him into the wood, and we all then left the place.*³

In the same article the men were described as follows:

Bedford is a young man of 22 years of age, tall and well made; Underwood, who in appearance, is much older, is in reality a year younger than Bedford. He is short and slightly built, with lank hair, and not unintelligent features. Downing is also short, but thick-set. His age is 31, and he is the only married man of the three. None of the men have forbidding countenances, and their demeanour was quiet and unexcited. Downing seemed to be conscious of his perilous situation, his eyes were glassy, and his cheek flushed, but whatever might be his feelings, he betrayed no emotion. Underwood was a good deal depressed, and looked weak. Bedford appeared least concerned, but on Goddard making some allusion to the necessity of dressing his wounds, he said he wished Jack's (the deceased) charge had gone into his head instead of his shoulder. Goddard stated that his shoulder was in a dreadful state. There were six and thirty shots in it, and it had never been dressed. Underwood was about to be married in a few weeks to a young girl who awaited the result of the examination outside, in company with his mother. Bedford's mother, and Downing's wife and infant (he had been married but twelvemonths), were also there. They all appeared greatly distressed.

The three men were remanded in custody and came to trial in early March 1841 in front of Lord Abinger. According to the report in the *Northampton Mercury*:

the prisoners maintained the same calm and self-possessed demeanor which characterised them when examined before the magistrates.

the facts were stated pretty much as per the original records, including Joseph's confession. The prosecutor started by saying

It was for [the jury] and for his lordship to decide whether the circumstances of the case, and the hot blood in which it originated might reduce the offence to the minor crime of manslaughter; very happy should he be if such should be the case.

The men's defence attorney, a Mr. Miller, finished his address by saying

The law considered that a person receiving a blow was not answerable for the crime of murder, if in the heat of passion, he snatched up a murderous weapon and destroyed his opponent. Even, if still excited, he jumped furiously upon the breast of his fallen opponent, and death ensued, still, the provocation considered, the crime was only manslaughter. The learned gentleman adduced several cases of this kind, in all of which the offence was held to be manslaughter only; and concluded with expressing his belief that the jury would be directed by his lordship to return a verdict of manslaughter only.⁴

According to the report

The tenor of his lordship's address was a direction for a verdict for the lesser offence. . . . The Jury, after some consideration, returned a verdict of 'A very

aggravated Manslaughter.' His Lordship addressed the prisoners in the most solemn and impressive manner, and sentenced all of them to be Transported for Life."

Joseph BEDFORD was born in 1820 or 1821 and baptised at St Andrew's Church, Yardley Hastings on 21 January 1821. He was the 2nd child of William BEDFORD (1795-1859), a Labourer, and his wife Phoebe MARSHALL (1797-1867). The BEDFORD family had been residents of Yardley Hastings since at least 1712 when Joseph's 2nd great grandfather John BEDFORD married a local girl Hannah BENT.⁵

William and Phoebe had 6 children altogether, all of whom, with the exception of Joseph, lived out their lives in and around Yardley Hastings.

Prior to his conviction for manslaughter Joseph had been convicted on 4 April 1836 of assaulting a "Peace Officer" and sentenced to 1 Month in prison.⁶

By May 1841 Joseph was on the Convict Hulk, *Leviathan*, moored at Portsmouth awaiting his transportation to Australia – he is registered as being there with both DOWNING and UNDERWOOD.⁷

On 28 September 1841 Joseph departed England forever from Plymouth on the Convict transport ship HMS Tortoise, of 1000 tons, one of 394-400 male convicts (2 of whom were his co-convicted DOWNING and UNDERWOOD) under Captain J. HOOD and Surgeon Thomas BROWNRIGG.⁸

The *Tortoise* arrived some 144 days later, on 19 February 1842, in Hobart, Van Diemen's Land, as Tasmania was then called, and Joseph started his new life.

According to Joseph's Conduct Record, created when he arrived in Tasmania, his characteristics were:

*Trade: Farm labourer – Height: 5'9" – Age: 22 – Complexion: Fresh – Head: Oval – Hair: Dark Brown – Whiskers: none – Visage: oval – Forehead: High, Broad – Eyebrows: Black – Nose: Long, thin – Mouth: Medium – Chin: Broad – Home: Yardley, Northampton.*⁹

Obviously, Joseph's time as a convict was initially difficult for him if his conduct record is anything to go by. He was initially given a probation period of 3 years, but this was extended a number of times.

On 28 January 1845, after nearly 3 years of incarceration, a note on his Conduct Record shows that Joseph was

*ordered to Salt Water Creek [coal mines near Port Arthur] having been concerned with [???] FARROW, Thomas [from] Lady Franklin 1 [convict ship] in the construction of a boat discovered in the bush.*¹⁰

On 14 April 1845 a note on his Conduct Record shows that

*The Lieutenant Governor approves of this man being removed from the coal mines to Port Arthur under his present sentence to [a] separate system as recommended by the V.M. [?] on account of his bad character and he is to be struck off the probation record and removed to the old class of convicts.*¹¹

The Convict Muster carried out on 31 October 1846 shows him at Port Arthur.

After this Joseph's behaviour seems to have settled and in June 1846 his Conduct Record says that he had "Emerged from Gang" and thereafter shows him being assigned to various settlers in places such as Antill Ponds, Oatlands, Campbell Town, Fingal and finally Bagdad.¹²

In May 1849 he is recorded as living with John HAYES in Bagdad and his Conduct Record has a note that he "is not to reside in any District north of Green Ponds".¹³

Joseph was granted his Ticket-of-Leave on 9 April 1850 and a Conditional Pardon on 14 June 1853.¹⁴

On 9 January 1855 Joseph married Sarah BRIGGS in the house of John HAYES "near Brighton".¹⁵ The marriage record gives Joseph's age as 31, whereas he was probably 34 and Sarah's age as 20 whereas she was probably 16, based on her birth record. The witnesses were George PAGE and his wife Mary Ann Page, Sarah's sister, who had been married in 1853.

Sarah and Mary Ann were the daughters of Benjamin BRIGGS (1797-1846) and his wife Lydia, maiden surname LEE (1808-1842). Benjamin and Lydia were from West Yorkshire and had 7 children altogether, 2 of whom passed away before they came to Tasmania as free settlers, via Sydney where they arrived on 11 February 1839 aboard the James Moran.¹⁶ They arrived in Hobart on April 3 that year.¹⁷

Following their marriage Joseph and Sarah had a total of 7 children over the next 17 years, all of whom lived lengthy lives with the exception of Elizabeth Ann who died in 1875 of Typhoid Fever at the age of 15.¹⁸

From this point on little is known of Joseph and Sarah apart from the births of their children, and eventually their children's marriages. On the birth records of his children Joseph is variously described as a Farmer or a Labourer, in the Brighton area.

Joseph and Sarah's 4th child William Joseph BEDFORD, my second great grandfather, was born 8 October 1865.¹⁹ And the rest, as they say, is history.

Interestingly on 2 March 1869, an illegitimate child was born at Black Brush (near Brighton) to Jane [actually Mary Jane] Caville, formerly DONALDSON, and the father was recorded as Joseph Bedford, a Farmer.²⁰ There is no doubt that this is our Joseph as Mary Jane Donaldson was also the informant on the birth of William Joseph Bedford in

1865. Mary had actually been married to Abraham Caville in October 1867, with Joseph Bedford as a witness along with Mary's sister Martha.²¹ Abraham and Mary had a son named Walter in January 1868 who died at less than a month old.²² Then Abraham, himself, died of pneumonia only 3 months later.²³

Joseph and Sarah both went on to live long and productive lives and between them had 87 direct descendants including the author. Sarah died at the age of 64 on 28 January 1903 in Hobart.²⁴ Joseph died at the age of 85 on 22 October 1906 in Rozelle, NSW at the home of his daughter Phoebe Amy WOLSTENHOLME (nee Bedford).²⁵

And all because of an ill-judged poaching trip with a couple of mates after an afternoon of drinking beer some 66 years before

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¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Castle_Ashby_House

² Northampton Mercury, 17 October 1840, Page 4

³ Ibid

⁴ Northampton Mercury, ?? March 1841, Page ?

⁵ <https://www.sharkey-crooks.site/g1/p15.htm#i353>

⁶ Ancestry.com - England & Wales, Criminal Registers, 1791-1892

⁷ Ancestry.com - UK, Prison Hulk Registers and Letter Books, 1802-1849

⁸ <https://convictrecords.com.au/ships/tortoise/voyages/471>

⁹ <https://libraries.tas.gov.au/Digital/CON33-1-17/CON33-1-17P43>

¹⁰ Ibid

¹¹ Ibid

¹² Ibid

¹³ Ibid

¹⁴ Ibid

¹⁵ <https://libraries.tas.gov.au/Record/NamesIndex/850493>

¹⁶ New South Wales, Australia, Assisted Immigrant Passenger Lists, 1828-1896 -

Ancestry.com.au

¹⁷ Colonial Times (Hobart, Tas. : 1828 – 1857), Tue 7 Apr 1840, Page 7

¹⁸ <https://libraries.tas.gov.au/Record/NamesIndex/1207209>

¹⁹ <https://libraries.tas.gov.au/Record/NamesIndex/1112327>

²⁰ <https://libraries.tas.gov.au/Record/NamesIndex/1020484>

²¹ <https://libraries.tas.gov.au/Record/NamesIndex/867507>

²² <https://libraries.tas.gov.au/Record/NamesIndex/1154189>

²³ <https://libraries.tas.gov.au/Record/NamesIndex/1148058>

²⁴ The Mercury (Hobart, Tas. : 1860 – 1954), Fri 30 Jan 1903 Page 1

²⁵ The Sydney Morning Herald (NSW : 1842 – 1954), Tue 23 Oct 1906, Page 12

The Fingal Valley's German Heritage: an explanation of the project's process and product

Michael Watt (Member 7770)

A PowerPoint presentation given on 18 November 2025 to members of the Tasmanian Family History Society's Hobart branch on the study that led to the publication of the book, *The Fingal Valley's German Heritage*, in 2022 provided the impetus to write this article. Its purpose is to evaluate the project in terms of its process and product. The article begins by describing the main procedures used to investigate a clustered settlement of German settlers in the Fingal Valley in north-east Tasmania by discussing the complexity of interactions between actors involved the publishing process. After the components of the book are described, the findings of the study are discussed in relation to five attributes of a clustered settlement. The outcome of the article may assist readers considering about embarking on a project to investigate the demographic characteristics of a group.

The project began in February 2016 when the author visited the St Helens History Room to review family history files on German families, who settled at Falmouth and in the Fingal Valley. Further visits were made to the St Helens History Room in May and December of 2017 to access these files. The search identified files on the BECKER, Johann HAAS, LEHNER, LOHREY, JOST (YOST), RILAT, SCHRECK and ZANGLEIN (SINGLINE) families. Then, the author reviewed published literature on Falmouth and the Fingal Valley and researched archival records on the German families under investigation. As the project progressed, descendants of the German families provided documents and photographs to support the study. Val Schier, a descendant of the Lohrey and SCHIER families, guided the author on tours of historic sites at Falmouth in June 2018 and at St Marys in January 2019. Visits made to the Ringarooma History Room in December 2017 and again in June 2018 identified files on the Christian HAAS, STENGEL (STINGEL, STINGEL) and Zanglein (Singline) families, whose descendants had moved to Ringarooma. In September 2020, Nigel Mercer, president of the Dorset Tasmania History Society, invited the author to give a PowerPoint presentation at Scottsdale on the movement of German settlers from the Fingal Valley to north-east Tasmania. In May 2021, Kym MATTHEWS, curator of the St Helens History Room, arranged for the author to give a PowerPoint presentation on German settlers in the Fingal Valley. Details about the presentation were publicised in the local community newspaper, *The Valley and East Coast Voice*, the Break O'Day Council's newsletter and a flyer. A message was also placed on the *St Marys Connections*, *St Marys Tasmania: Family, Friends & History* Facebook page inviting members to contact the author for

interviews to be conducted for two days following the presentation. The author liaised with descendants of the German families, the editor of *The Valley and East Coast Voice*, Diartist Graphic Design, the printer, Foot and Playsted, and the curator of the St Helens History Room to publicise and publish the book.

As the project progressed, more descendants of German families and various experts became involved in providing family history documents and photographs. An authority on emigration from Germany, Marita HARGRAVES, researched specific families, family history researcher, Lance DWYER, provided various resources, reviewed drafts and supplied photographs, local historian, Kathy DUNCOMBE, provided documents on several German families, and descendants, Anthony Lehner and Val Schier, provided documents, reviewed drafts and supplied photographs. In the lead up to the PowerPoint presentation held at St Helens, the editor of the *The Valley and East Coast Voice* publicised this event. Following the presentation, the author visited and interviewed four groups and individuals. Local historian, Tim McMANUS provided background information about authoring the book *Thanks to Providence: a History of Falmouth, Tasmania and its People*. Members of the RUBENACH family provided photographs of their ancestors and a letter about an ancestor, who had settled in New Zealand. Local historian, Rhonda TOOMBS provided background information about the defunct St Patrick's Head and Esk Valley Historical Society. Members of the Fingal Valley Neighbourhood House History Group outlined plans to establish a new historical society and acquire the resources of the St Patrick's Head and Esk Valley Historical Society. Retired politician, David LLEWELLYN, provided an account of commissioning a German genealogist to research the origins of the Johann Haas family. In May 2021, the editor of *The Valley and East Coast Voice* published an article discussing the outcome of the interviews. In the lead up to the book launch, the author reached agreements to sell copies of the book with the operators of three local outlets and two booksellers: St Marys Cranks and Tinkerers; the Fingal Valley Neighbourhood House History Group; the Avoca Museum and Information Centre; Fullers Bookshop; and Cracked and Spineless Books. In October 2022, the editor of *The Valley and East Coast Voice* published an article containing the invitation to the book launch and details about the three local outlets selling copies of the book.

In February 2022, the author began negotiating with Diartist Graphic Design based at Dolphin Sands on Tasmania's east coast about publishing the book. In April 2022, the author and the graphic designer met at Swansea to determine the preferred size for the book, the process for submitting the manuscript and guidelines for placing photographs in the book. Following the meeting, the author sent the manuscript to the graphic designer, who produced several sample pages to check whether they met the author's preferences. Following confirmation of the sample pages, the graphic designer formatted tables in the manuscript and sent the author the first proof to check. Then, the author added notes to the manuscript for placing photographs in the book. Over a period of five

months, the graphic designer sent the author a series of proofs to check as more photographs were added to the book. In August 2022, the graphic designer obtained quotations from several printers. The quotation from Foot and Playsted, a printer based in Launceston, was accepted based on the author's previous experience with this printer. Based on the quotation, a charge for each copy was estimated and an arrangement was made with the printer for individuals to order and pay for copies posted to them. Early in September 2022, Diartist Graphic Design sent the final proof and covers to Foot and Playsted. Late in September 2022, the printer produced a printed proof. After the author had checked the printed proof, Foot and Playsted printed 140 copies of the book. The author collected those copies required for the book launch from the printer.

As work on preparing the book proceeded, the author liaised with the curator of the St Helens History Room to plan the book launch. The author drafted a plan, which was amended by the curator to suit established practices for book launches. The curator used a list of attendees at the PowerPoint presentation to prepare a guest list and consulted the author about setting a date for the book launch and identifying an official to open it. After preparing an invitation in July 2022, the curator sent invitations to state and local government representatives, descendants of German families and interested people. Early in October 2022, the curator prepared a plan for the book launch, compiled a guest list from invitees indicating that they would attend the book launch, provided facilities for selling copies of the book and arranged catering for attendees. Widespread communications with stakeholders attracted 55 attendees from New Zealand, Tasmania and other Australian states to a book launch held at the St Helens History Room in October 2022. Following the book launch, the editor of *The Valley and East Coast Voice* published an article outlining the proceedings of the book launch. By mid-November 2022, all copies of the book had sold, and Diartist Graphic Design produced an electronic copy of the book for sale. In August 2023, Foot and Playsted printed a second run of 35 copies requested by the booksellers as well as additional copies for sale by the printer.

The book consists of a preface, four chapters, two appendices, references and an index. Introduction, the first chapter, sets out the research problem and objectives for the study, the geographical and historical setting, immigration policy and factors affecting immigration from Germany in the late nineteenth century. Study Method and Procedures, the second chapter, describes the methods and procedures used to collect and analyse data during the study. German Families, the third chapter, reports case histories on the first two generations following settlement in Tasmania of 28 families: ABRAHAM; AULICH; Becker; BERTKO; BOUCHAIN (BUSHING); GALL; Christian Haas; Johann Haas; HEISE; Jost (Yost); KOGLIN; KRUNDEL (KRINGLE); Lehner; Lohrey; MEINAS; MENNE (MANEY); NICOLAI; PFEIFFER; Rilal; Rubenach; Schier; SCHMIDT; Schreck; Stengel (Stingel, Stingle); Strohschnitter (Strochnetter); WAGNER; WOITHE (WHITE); and Zanglein (Singline). In addition, the chapter includes case histories on four single men: Wilhelm BACH; Hermann LANGER; and

brothers, Christian and Friedrich WEPPELMAN. Each case history is organised into three components: the origins of the family; emigration and settlement of the family in Tasmania; and the life histories of each child in the second generation. Demographic Characteristics of the Settlement, the fourth chapter, presents analyses of data for the clustered settlement across five attributes: religion; education; occupation; language use; and intermarriage and social interaction. Appendix A sets out a table showing records for birth, marriage and death of each member of the first generation of each German family. Appendix B sets out a table showing records for birth of each child in the second generation of each German family.

The purpose of the study was to investigate where the clustered settlement fits on a continuum from a closed to an open settlement by examining research questions relating to five attributes. The analysis of data for each attribute showed that the clustered settlement reflected an open community showing a high level of integration with the Anglo-Australian community.

Analysis of records on the religious denominations of the German families and individuals indicated that:

- 23 families and individuals were Lutheran.
- nine families and individuals were Roman Catholic.
- in the 1890s, the Heise, Koglin and Krungel families were converted to the Seventh-day Adventist Church by German immigrants from Collinsvale.

Analysis of 93 marriage registrations for 86 second-generation German immigrants, of whom 79 married once and seven married twice, indicated that the rites and ceremonies followed:

- the Anglican Church in 37 marriages.
- the Catholic Church in 23 marriages.
- the Wesleyan Methodist Church in 20 marriages.
- the Independent Church in five marriages.
- the Congregational Church in three marriages.
- the Presbyterian Church in three marriages.
- the Baptist Church in one marriage.
- the King Street Church in one marriage.

Analysis of literacy records for each adult and literate child indicated that:

- 43 of 49 adults could read and write in German.
- 58 of 91 children could read and write in German.

Information collected from two descendants of the German families identified a pattern whereby shift to English occurred over several generations.

Analysis of the case histories identified that:

- two second-generation German immigrants became prominent teachers.
- several second-generation German immigrants married teachers.

Analysis of the occupations of 66 German immigrants, classified on a standard scale, identified four occupational groups:

- none were white collar workers.
- 15 were blue collar workers.
- 31 were service workers.
- 20 were farm workers.

Analysis of 112 occupations performed by 178 second generation German immigrants and their spouses, classified on a standard scale, identified four occupational groups:

- two were white collar workers.
- 29 were blue collar workers.
- 30 were service workers.
- 51 were farm workers.

Analysis of 115 marriages contracted by 99 German immigrants, who arrived as children or were born in Tasmania, identified that:

- 79 marriages involved Anglo-Celtic partners.
- 30 marriages involved German partners.
- five marriages involved part-German part-Anglo-Celtic partners.
- one marriage involved a partner from a different ethnic group.

The extent of intermarriage with German partners or out-marriage with Anglo-Celtic partners varied markedly between different German families.

The dispersal of later generations of German immigrants from the Fingal Valley to north-east Tasmania (Gould's Country, Pyengana, Ringarooma), Derwent Valley (New Norfolk), Huon Valley (Cygnet, Franklin) and the West Coast (Queenstown, Zeehan) was examined in terms of whether it was motivated by networks of family ties or economic factors. The movement of German settlers:

- to north-east Tasmania was motivated by a search for land or employment in the mining industry.
- to the Derwent Valley by family ties.
- to the Huon Valley by a combination of a search for land, employment or family ties.
- to the West Coast for employment in the mining industry.

The project evolved from a research activity initiated by the author into a complex set of activities. It involved descendants of the German families and various experts, who

devoted their time and effort to contribute to the project, local historical groups, a community newspaper, a graphic designer and a printer. The outcome of the project was the publication of a book marketed effectively to a specific audience, who rated its quality positively.

The recording and PowerPoint of Michael Watt's presentation on 'The Fingal Valley's German Heritage' is available on the Tasmanian Family History Society's members-only website.

A snippet

Women's Suffrage in South Australia.

Finding out about the "Monster Petition" in Victoria (Vol 46 No 3) reminded me of a story I had heard about how women in South Australia gained both the right to vote and to stand for election.

On checking I found that the story is true and quite interesting. In 1894 there was a petition with about 11,000 signatures. This (unlike the Victorian Monster Petition) led to an Act being placed before the South Australian Parliament. One member of the parliament (Ebenezer Ward) managed to have the proposed act amended so that women would not only be permitted to vote, but also to stand for parliament; it seems quite clear that his intention was that this would be so outrageous that the Act would fail. However, his cunning plan backfired, the Act passed so South Australia became one of the first places in the world where women could stand for parliament.

Ebenezer WARD (1837–1917) seems to have been a colourful character – his entry in the Australian Dictionary of Biography makes interesting reading, although it does not mention his role in amending the Act of parliament that gave South Australian women the vote and the right to stand for election.

Robyn Gibson

Library Acquisitions

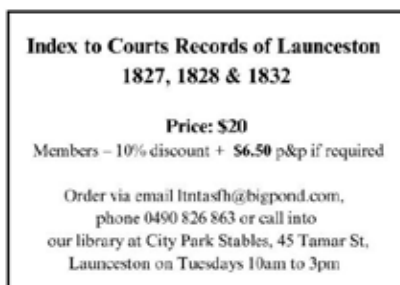
Hobart Branch

- *Aheimer, R & Maguire, P, *Our family history – William Maguire & Sarah Crosscombe* Q 929.2 MAG
- *Buchanan, A. *Index to Additional Births 1803-1840 and Baptisms 1840-1850* Q 929.3109946 BUC
- *Cowper, A & Ross, I. *Caithness Memorial Inscriptions pre-1855. 4 Vols.* 929.3209411 COW
- *Cromer, B, *The first fifty years – Taroom Tennis Club, 1959-2009* 796.34206 CRO
- *Dyson, L.E. *Louisa, her story – from Suffolk to Van Diemen's Land.* Q 929.2 DYS
- *Figg, S, *Who gives a Figg – Henry Robert Figg.* Q 929.2 FIG,
- *Figg, S, *Parattah – a 150 year Pictorial History.* Q 994.62 FIG.
- *Pilgrim, B, *The "Trade Wind" Voyage to Tasmania 1857-1858.* Q 925.2410 PIL
- *Rieusset, B, *Administration of Justice – Van Diemen's Land & Tasmanian Executioners.* 346.6609946 RIE.
- Scott, A, *Urchin Convicts – the Point Puer Boys.* 365.42 SCO
- *Warrnambool Family History Group. *The Story of the Board – Pioneers of Warrnambool & District.* Q 994.57 WAR

Launceston Branch

- *Binns, Terese OAM, *Margaret Lucas – my view, my freedom*
- *Burk, Ian, *From Grossbottwar, Wurttemberg, Germany to Longford, Van Diemens's Land: A Chronicle of the Burk Family in Tasmania*
- *Dyson, Laurel Evelyn, *Louisa, Her Story: From Suffolk to Van Diemen's Land*
- *Kingston, Nalda, *A World Away: Will We Ever Own the Shadows of Point Puer Boys?*
- *Mainwaring, Bob, *The Gold Coast Settlers: The Story of Post World War II Soldier Settlement on Flinders Island*
- *Parish, Allan Keith, *'Gone but not Forgotten': Hammersley*

*Denotes donated item



New Members

A warm welcome is extended to the following new members.

6423	GOODWIN Ms Wendy	5 / 59 Clairmont Ave good.wm.85@bigpond.com	CRANBOURNE	VIC	3977
8455	WEST Ms Sarah	PO Box 64 Sarahwest507@gmail.com	NUBEENA	TAS	7184
The above members have re-joined after a break and have been allocated their original number					
8584	ROSS Mr Peter	40 Rookwood Ave petrosnz15@gmail.com	NORTH NEW BRIGHTON NZ		8083
8585	KUBE Ms Shelly	16 Degraives St shelly.kube@portarthur.org.a	SOUTH HOBART	TAS	7004
8586	GODIER Mr Paul	Not for publication			
8587	CROMER Mr William	74A Channel Hwy billcromer@bigpond.com	TAROONA	TAS	7053
8588	WILSON Mr Ian	13609 Providence Trail Cir imwilson1961@gmail.com	ASHLAND VIRGINIA USA		23005
8589	KASSIS Ms Carolyn	5 / 7 Una St carolynm.kassis@gmail.com	MT STUART	TAS	7000
8590	FLINTOFF-BAKER Mrs Wendy	254e Tauwhare Rd RD 3 wendymfb71@gmail.com	HAMILTON WAIKATONZ		3283
8591	JONES Mr Brendan	10 Pegema Pl bjhj@bigpond.net.au	LAUNCESTON	TAS	7250
8592	JONES Mrs Helen	10 Pegema Pl bjhj@bigpond.net.au	LAUNCESTON	TAS	7250
8593	TWIBELL Mrs Marti	59 Shannon Dr m.twibell@icloud.com	PORT SORELL	TAS	7307
8594	TWIBELL Mr Dennis	59 Shannon Dr m.twibell@icloud.com	PORT SORELL	TAS	7307
8595	RAYNER Mr Andrew	18 Clubbe Cres andy.rayner@ozemail.com.au	MACGREGOR	ACT	2615
8596	KRUIJVER Mrs Sharmaine	skruijver@hotmail.com			
8597	WIGHT Mr Bill	4 Ross St bill@inkgenius.co	COOCHIEMUDLO ISQLD		4184
8598	WINDSOR Mrs Nicole	nicolepwindsor@gmail.com			
8599	HARLOW Ms Jane	Not for publication			
8600	MILLER Ms Sally	47 Camera Walk salmiller001@gmail.com	COBURG NORTH	VIC	3058
8601	DENNIS Mrs Michelle	8 Bishops Way md@michelledennis.com.au	SUNBURY	VIC	3429
8602	FREESTUN Mr Robin	7 Priestley Cres rfreestun@hotmail.com.	MOUNT EVELYN	VIC	3796

New Members' Interests

ABBOTT Mary	Longford TAS AUS	1800-1900	8598
ARCHER George		1865-1930	8598
ARCHER Thomas William	Longford TAS AUS	1800-1850	8598
ARCHER Thomas William Chalmers	Longford TAS AUS	1840-1890	8598
BABINGTON Edward	LIN ENG UK	1773-1828	8596
BARBER John Robert	England UK		8591
BAYLES James John	London ENG UK		8591
BRAZENDALE Phyllis Pearl	Bothwell TAS AUS	1910-2006	8588
CAREY Anne	Ross/Berridale/Latrobe/Sheffield TASAUS	1848 - 1910	8597
CATHCART Louisa	Longford TAS AUS	1840-1900	8598
CROMER Jack	Tasmania/Victoria AUS	1870s>	8587
CROMER Ludwig	Hobart/East Coast TAS AUS	1855>	8587
DEEGAN John	Tipperary IRL	c.1800	8589
DENHOLM Ronald Bilton			8602
EMMERTON Alice Jane	Forest TAS AUS	1869-1951	6423
GORAM Patrick	Ireland	c.1800	8589
GREY Patience	Avoca TAS AUS.	1838-1808	6423
HALSTEAD John			8602
JENKINS Monfred Charles	Boat Harbour TAS AUS	1905-1973	8588
JOHNSTON William Lightfoot	Launceston, Ross, Latrobe TAS AUS	1844 - 1893	8597
JONES George	England UK		8591
JOYCE James	Shoreditch ENG UK	1810-1887	8596
KROMER OR CROHMER	Walbanga or Walbenza TAS AUS	1855>	8587
KROMER, CHROHMER, Ludwig	Hobart/East Coast TAS AUS	1855>	8587
L'ESTRANGE Bridget	Liverpool ENG UK	1802-1854	8596
LEWIS Elsie May	Hobart TAS AUS	c.1800 - c.1900	8589
LEWIS John	Hobart TAS AUS	c.1800	8589
LOMAS John	CHS ENG UK	1820-1909	8596
LUCKMAN Rhueben	WAR ENG/TAS AUS	1811-1875	8596
LYDON Mary	Ireland	c.1800	8589
MANIX Timothy	Ireland	1829-1898	8593
MANNHARDT Eva Margaret	Hobart/East Coast TAS AUS		8587
MCCARTHY James	Cork COR IRL		8591
MCGUIRE William George	Westbury, Latrobe TAS AUS	1860 - 1908	8597
MILL Susanna	Kintore ABD SCT/Hobart TAS AUS	1810-1850	8601
MILLER Sallyanne	Yorkshire, ENG	1800 - 1900	8600
MILLER Sally Anne	Hobart TAS AUS	1850>	8600
MILLER Sally Anne	North Western TAS AUS	1850 - 1920	8600
MILLER Sally Anne	Buckland TAS AUS	1850>	8600
MILLS James	Hobart TAS/Alexandra, VIC AUS	1838-1890	8601
MILNE Susan	Kintore ABD SCT/Hobart TAS AUS	1810-1850	8601
OCONNOR Arthur Cornelius (Dale)	Forest TAS AUS	1862-1926	6423
OCONNOR Charles	Forest TAS AUS.	1844-1907	6423
OCONNOR Clarence	Forest TAS AUS.	1888-1958	6423

PAGE Alfred	Hobart/"Woodlands" Melton Mowbray TAS 1822>	8599
POOLER Joseph	Birmingham WAR ENG/Hobart TAS AUS1805-1870	8601
POOLER Joseph Edward	Hobart/Waterloo Pt, TAS AUS	8601
REEVES Ella Olive	Wynyard TAS AUS	8588
RUTHERFORD John		8593
SALES Thomas	Wangaratta VIC AUS	8593
SAVAGE Job		8593
TOOLE Ellen	Workhouse Corofin CLA IRL	8589
WIFFEN Joseph		8593
YOUNG Samuel	England UK	8596

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- § Use only one space at the end of a sentence.
- § Use **endnotes** only to provide references. We do not mandate a particular style of endnotes but expect sufficient information to allow the reader to locate the source.
- § Place endnote intext number at the end of a sentence after the full stop and without a space. When more than one reference is appropriate in the same place, use only one number. Show the additional information in the endnote with each reference separated by a semicolon.
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- § Write dates in the simple format ‘number month year’ – e.g. 3 April 2021
- § Please write surnames in **bold** the first time that **surname** is used in the contribution. Do not use ALL CAPITALS, as previously.

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