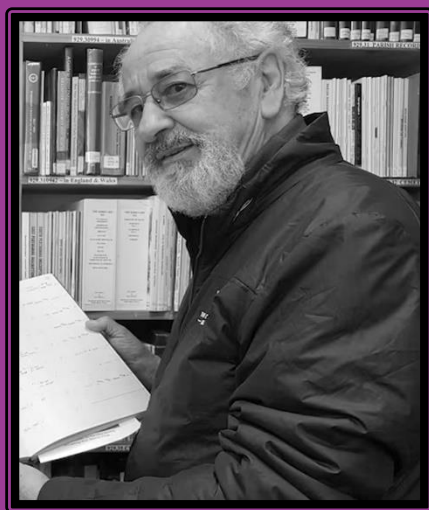


Tasmanian Ancestry

TASMANIAN FAMILY HISTORY
SOCIETY INC.



Volume 45 Number 4 — March 2025

TASMANIAN FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.

PO Box 326 Rosny Park Tasmania 7018

Society Secretary: secretary@tasfhs.org

Journal Editor: editors@tasfhs.org

Home Page: www.tasfhs.org

Patron: Dr Alison Alexander

Fellow: Dr Neil Chick

Executive:

President	Robyn Gibson	0417 982 250
Vice President	Louise Rainbow	(03) 6278 7968
Society Secretary	Andrew Cocker	secretary@tasfhs.org
Society Treasurer	Greg Clota	treasurer@tasfhs.org

Branch Delegates:

Peter Cocker	Ros Coss	Andrew Cocker
John Dent	Helen Stuart	Sue-Ellen McCreghan
Judy Cocker	Ros Escott.	

By-laws Coordinator	Eddy Steenberg	0418 129 154
Web Manager	Andrew Cocker	webmanager@tasfhs.org
Journal Editor	Isobel Williams	editors@tasfhs.org
Awards Coordinator	Louise Rainbow	0362 787968
Members' Interests Compiler	Lyndal Ayers	membership@tasfhs.org
Membership Registrar	Lyndal Ayers	membership@tasfhs.org
Publications Convenor	Val Peterson	0439 733 588
Public Officer	Eddy Steenberg	0418 129 154

Branches of the Society

Burnie: PO Box 748 Burnie Tasmania 7320

petjud@bigpond.com

Hobart: PO Box 326 Rosny Park Tasmania 7018

secretary@hobart.tasfhs.org

Launceston: PO Box 1290 Launceston Tasmania 7250

ltntasfh@bigpond.com

Mersey: PO Box 267 Latrobe Tasmania 7307

secretary@tfhsdev.com

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

From the Editor

Hi

I am sorry I made a few errors in the last journal. I admit I rushed getting it to the printer as I was going through a difficult personal time and did not take the time to check on things I usually check.

It is always nice to receive feedback, good and bad. And it was nice to receive some positive feedback for one article.

I wish to congratulate Janine Wood on her wonderful article that was published in 'Tasmanian Ancestry' Vol. 45 No.2 titled 'The boy in the iron lung'. A very emotional story of a boy who contracted polio at the young age of six and achieved so much until his death at thirteen years.

Please think about writing up some of your Tasmanian stories or maybe a short article about how a problem was solved for you. It may give others some ideas on how to overcome a roadblock. Maybe send a request to the Help Wanted column – or if you have a reply to a help request maybe that would make an interesting short article.

Isobel Williams

Cover:. Image of Maurice Appleyard

Journal Address

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

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

Deadline dates are:

1 January, 1 April, 1 July and 1 October

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

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President's Message

This is the first President's message for 2025. March seems a little late to be wishing members a Happy New Year, but that is what I am doing – and wishing everyone success in their family history journey.

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.

Another reminder is about the annual conference / Annual General Meeting to be held 21 June 2025 at “The Grange” Campbell Town. By the time you are reading this you will probably have received some more detailed information about the program – there will be three speakers, lunch, and the formal AGM. Unfortunately, we have had to increase the cost of attendance at this event from \$40 (the price for the last several years) to \$45; this has been necessary so that we can be sure of covering all the costs of the event.

Members may not be aware that the Tasmanian Family History Society is associated with two “umbrella” organisations which are groups of societies whose members are interested in the general area of genealogy / family history. These organisations are the Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations (AFFHO) which is Australia / New Zealand based (obvious from the name!) and the Family History Federation (UK based). Both organisations have web sites with links to various useful resources. The topic is on my mind at the moment because AFFHO coordinates a family history conference / congress every 3 years; the next of these “Connections 2025” is to be held in Brisbane in late March. I will be attending this conference (a first for me) and I expect that the next president's message will contain some information about the highlights of the conference.

Elsewhere in the journal you will find a collection of recollections of and tributes to Maurice Appleyard (1941 – 2024). I'm sure we will all enjoy reading these and take the opportunity to reflect on the huge contribution Maurice made to the Society.

Robyn Gibson

President

Farewell Maurice Appleyard

06 Sep 1941 – 02 Sep 2024

It's approaching half a year since he last sat there, but when I enter the back office of the Bellerive Family History library I still find myself looking behind what used to be a towering pile of papers, reports, family histories, treasures and some less than highly valuable items and seeing Maurice, who had seemed to live in that corner for as long as I had visited the library.

Indeed, it was in June 1988 when then President Bryce Ward welcomed Maurice Appleyard as the new Librarian. At a later stage the position of Resource Manager was created, and Maurice ably filled that role until his health deteriorated mid last year. He did so much more than that. Maurice was responsible for a lot of innovation and successful ideas, especially in his earlier times. Many of our current procedures and processes that we take for granted were developed by him.

Maurice led a varied and fascinating life before joining the Family History Society. He worked in the Postmaster Generals Department for some years. He was once what we used to call a postman. His moving to the Department of Tourism was a bonus for us because he not only had an eagle eye for when departmental office equipment, stores, and stationery became surplus to requirements, then he also swooped like an eagle. We were always well supplied.

Maurice also had a big impact on other areas. He was the Number 1 registered member of what is now Judo Tasmania. Maurice was a significant participant in



Tasmanian Judo during the 1960s and 70s. He was the holder of a second-degree Black Belt, and several times was the state lightweight champion. He also represented Tasmania in National Championships and Olympic selections. Maurice served as state president of The Tasmanian Amateur Judo Union and

other administrative positions as well as serving as State President of the Police and Citizens Youth Clubs for a period. Along with raising his family he also found time to work as a juggler, a clown, and a magician.

Maurice's presence in the library was always felt; he was a fountain of knowledge and was often called upon to find that elusive book (or stationery item), and to answer many and varied questions. Despite Maurice's bowerbird habits he always seemed to be able to put his finger on anything required. He also created a valuable rapport with the maintenance department at the Clarence City Council, our landlord, and was acquainted with all the eccentricities of the outdated infrastructure in our heritage building premises.

As the news of his passing last September spread, our members from across the country expressed their sadness and shared some memories.

Maurice was also one of those down-to-earth all-round nice guys ... *Ian*

I am in Queensland and Maurice was always so helpful when I needed to do research. I have such fond memories of his immense knowledge, passion, and congeniality. I loved it when I saw him on a family history program assisting with research. He was a truly amazing man although I never met him. *Jan*

I enjoyed some time with him in the library when I first joined FHS. *Alanna*

I am in shock at the news of Maurice's passing. He is directly the reason that I joined our organisation and have stayed a

member since. I always found him to be welcoming and always willing to advise and guide me in my search. This is very sad news personally and he will always be remembered fondly and with respect. *Ross*

Maurice was very kind to me when I first joined TFHS and started me off on my own family history. I enjoyed his section on *What Publication is That?* in your journal very much. I will remember him fondly and know that you will miss him very much. *Jeanie*

That is so sad. I remember Maurice with fondness *Roslyn*

He was such a friendly, interesting man. I joined the society years ago and Maurice was so helpful to me. I'm sure he will be sadly missed by all who knew him. *Gillian*

Oh, that's so sad! We got on well together. *Joyce*

His contribution was enormous, and I will miss him. *Dianne*

My favourite memory of Maurice is from early last year when I had been in and out of the branch every day for days pestering him because I needed his help. I popped in after a two-week absence, saw him in his corner and enquired whether he had missed me. Maurice didn't bat an eyelid, he just cocked his head with a quizzical look and asked whether we had met. *Andrew*

We will all miss Maurice in so many ways, just as we will benefit from the legacy he has left us.

Vale Maurice Appleyard

Branch Reports

Burnie

<https://tasfhs.org/burnie.php>

President: Peter Cocker 0427 354 103

Secretary: Sue Hutton

Burnie Tasmania 7320

email:

petjud@bigpond.com



It has been a while since Craig Broadfield has been invited to one of our meetings. Craig is the owner of Leven Antiques and his knowledge of Antiques is amazing. Our October meeting was when we arranged for Craig to come to our Branch Library. Members were asked to bring along an historical item that had a connection to their family. Craig, after examining each item, could tell the age, where it came from and the approximate value. It was a most interesting presentation as Craig identified and spoke about German Bisque pottery, early Scottish Clan badges, miniature silver cups, books and other family treasures.

The third pilot to be employed by QANTAS was a gentleman by the name of Fred Huxley. Apart from being a WW1 pilot and one of the early pilots to fly over Bass Strait he was also the Pilot that flew over Launceston for the first aerial survey. His pilot skills were such that the photographer was able to stitch the photos together to produce a perfect montage of an aerial view of Launceston with great accuracy. The meeting was shown images and the story of this survey with great interest. We then had a look at

an early photo of the main street in Sheffield and a recent photo taken in the same spot and it was amazing the differences between the two photos. Information about the buildings that were demolished and those that replaced them was also presented.

Our Branch Library closed on the 9 December and reopened on the 13 January. We trust that all our members have a successful research year and that those that have had their DNA done find those elusive relations.

Vale Kaye Wilson

It is with deep regret that we announce the Death of Burnie Member number 287, Kaye Wilson. Kaye joined the Society in 1981, not long after it was formed and has been a much loved and respected member of our Branch. She was a regular attendee to our branch meetings and functions and was always available to help with branch projects and working bees. Due to her failing health she was not able to attend our Library but still maintained her membership. Kaye passed away on 15 Dec 2024 at the age of 87 and was survived by her three children and three grandchildren. She will be missed by all at our Library, RIP Kaye.

Hobart

www.hobart.tasfhs.org

President: Ros Escott

email:

president@hobart.tasfhs.org

Secretary: Andrew

Cocker

email:

secretary@hobart.tasfhs.org

PO Box 326 Rosny Park Tasmania 7018

All telephone enquiries to (03) 6245 9351

The branch has been keeping busy with ongoing projects, maintenance issues and forward planning for future events. The loss of Maurice Appleyard has left a big hole in our hearts as well as in our volunteer team. We have created a role description for an Office Manager and advertised it through Volunteering Australia, but the small number of expressions of interest have come to nothing.

In October, our guest speaker was Helene Chung, who gave a fascinating presentation on 'Two Unconventional Tasmanian Chinese'. Through her parents' lives, Helene covered the historical role of two founding families of the Tasmanian Chinese, the Chungs and the Henrys, with a cameo role for a third, the Chung Gon family.

In November, at our final meeting for the year, Rosie Severs told us about the Rajah Quilt which was created by female convicts in 1841, en route to Hobart on the *Rajah*. They used materials organised by the *British Ladies Society for Promoting the Reformation of Female Prisoners*. It was presented to Lady Jane

Franklin and eventually sent back to Britain for Elizabeth Fry, the leader of the British Ladies Society. The quilt honours the Quakers' involvement in social causes.

Every year we have an end-of-year 'thank-you' event for our branch volunteers. This year we had a fascinating tour of *Unshackled*, the new convict exhibition at the Hobart Penitentiary. This was followed by an optional light lunch at the Rivulet Café.

Launceston

www.launceston.tasfhs.org

President: John Dent 0408 133 656

Secretary: Fran Keegan

PO Box 1290 Launceston Tasmania 7250

Library: ltntasfh@bigpond.com

All telephone enquiries to 0490 826 863

Launceston Branch wound up 2024 activities with a Christmas High Tea at Franklin House. As usual Franklin House volunteers looked after

us very well with delicious food and attention, however, due to windy weather we held it indoors this year, but it was still an enjoyable afternoon for the 16 members who attended.

Our special interest groups, the DNA Discussion Circle and British Interest Group (BIG) have commenced for 2025 and will continue through the year. New members are always welcome and, if interested, should contact the Branch for more details.

Two new branch publications have now been published. The *Examiner BDMs, Vol 16, Births 1966 -1970*, in two volumes and an *Index to Launceston Court Records 1827, 1838 and 1832* can be obtained from our branch library or by email. The Card Index transcription is progressing well and work on the JA Dunn Funeral Records continues. Transcription work is only possible with the generous donation of time we receive from our dedicated volunteers.

The library assistants are an integral and important part of our City Park Stables library operations and the time and effort they give is very much appreciated. If any members are interested in learning more about this role, and perhaps volunteering themselves, please contact Helen, the Library Coordinator.

Launceston Branch Annual General Meeting is on Wednesday 16 April 2025 at 2pm at the Elderly Citizens Club in Landale St, Invermay. Julian Burgess will be speaking on 56 Frederick St, the 1836 kindergarten building that will be the site for the Launceston History Centre. Annual reports will be presented and office bearers for the forthcoming year elected. Nomination forms will be circulated to members closer to the date. Afternoon tea will be provided, and members and friends are welcome. No bookings are required.

Membership will be due for renewal on 1 April 2024. We are very grateful that so many of our members loyally renew from year to year but we do understand that sometimes people have other priorities

for those scarce dollars. Sometimes people take a break for a year or two then re-join and that is perfectly fine. Thank you for your membership in the past year and hopefully we will see you on our membership list for 2025/26.

Mersey

www.mersey.tasfhs.org

President: Ros Coss

Secretary: Gaylene Hays 0408 059 990

PO Box 267 Latrobe Tasmania 7307

Library (03) 6426 2257

email: secretary@tfhsdev.com



Our main fund raiser for 2024 was a huge success. Members, friends and visitors were keen to purchase a bargain, and many enjoyed a lovely morning tea with a variety of cakes. Thank you to all who supported the day either by donating items, attending the day and most important the volunteers who helped make the day successful.

The raffle of donated items was held on the same day. The winner of the first prize, Gloria's homemade and decorated Christmas cake (always popular), was Pete Oakley, second prize, of three bottles of wine, to John Dare and third prize of a flora painting to Gloria's daughter.

Mersey branch library benefited from the day, and we made our cleaner, member Marilyn, very happy with a new stick vacuum cleaner. For the kitchen used by our volunteers and members we

purchased a two-burner stove and sandwich toaster. The previous items will be used especially in winter on our presentation days with soup and sandwich lunches.

Ross and Neville have painted our library room, making it much lighter & brighter. They did this without moving the hundreds of books. We are pleased to say no books were damaged in the painting of the room! We appreciate the effort.

Our BBQ, was held on the evening Saturday 8 February with Dane McCormack, our Writers' Group Host. This is held, rain, hail or shine and is always an enjoyable time.

Plans are being put in place for a guided tour of *North Down*, the property of the Thomas family. Our presentations will continue this year on the third Saturday of the month, 10am – 3pm, excluding April and December. Included will be soup & sandwich lunches. These sessions cover 'How to Use' our Library and catalogue,

Tasmanian Pioneer and Federation Index, Online researching including, Tasmanian Postal Directories, Tasmanian Police Gazettes, The List, Libraries Tasmania, Trove, Ancestry, Find My Past, My Heritage, etc. Please advise Secretary Gay if you are interested so you can be placed on our advice list.

Rosie, our librarian had been kept busy sorting and collating the information donated about the Wells Family of Latrobe and a new donation of items from Port Sorell and District will be added soon. More information will be included in next Tasmanian Ancestry.

Mersey branch is located at the back of the State Library, Old Police residence, Gilbert Street, Latrobe open Wednesday and Fridays 10 – 3pm. (Phone 6426 2257 open days only)

Contact Secretary Gay 0408 059 990 or Ros 0476 008 531 or email secretary@mersey.tasfhs.org

Index to Courts Records of Launceston 1827, 1828 & 1832

Price: \$20

Members – 10% discount + **\$6.50** p&p if required.

Order via email ltntasfh@bigpond.com, phone 0490 826 863 or call into our library at City Park Stables, 45 Tamar St, Launceston on Tuesdays 10am to 3pm

Notes from Branch Meetings

TFHS Hobart Branch presentation, Tuesday 15 October 2024

‘Two Unconventional Tasmanian Chinese’ Helene Chung

Gen Chung HENRY arrived in Tasmania in 1901, and after a few years in the tin mines in Derby, he moved to Hobart setting up in the business of tobacco merchandising, fancy goods and wholesale / retail fruit and vegetables. He was prominent in the Tasmanian business community and died in 1941, leaving wife Mary Lum HENRY, three sons and three daughters, including Dorothy, mother of Helene Chung.

Dorothy Henry, born 1925 in Tasmania, and mother of Helene and older sister Lehen, was a driving force in the lives of her daughters. Dorothy’s marriage to Charles CHUNG ended in 1946, with Dorothy determined to provide her two daughters with good opportunities. Dorothy’s poor health as a child required her to wear leg irons, and her mother Mary had been unkind to her small daughter. But after the divorce, Mary was a source of support for this small family until her own early death in 1947.

Dorothy’s love of music and the arts drew her to the world of life painting and drawing, becoming a nude model for Gordon Walters and Max Angus among others. Dorothy was comfortable and confident in her body and regarded highly by artists.

Dorothy’s life as a divorcee and nude model was a source of fascination in Hobart of the 1950s and 1960s. To the embarrassment of her two convent school daughters, she called herself Miss Henry and drove around 1950s Hobart in an open-top red MG. In an era of expected marriage and monogamy, the family arrangements in Dorothy’s household at Longley added to the attention, maybe abating with Dorothy’s marriage in 1968 to Egyptologist Leslie Greener.

A trip back to China with her father had given the young Dorothy exposure to the Catholic faith of her family there, and Dorothy carried this to her death in Melbourne in 2020.

Charles CHUNG, Helene’s father, was a fruit merchant, a restaurateur and an artist-in-retirement. He was of the family of W(illi) Chung Sing & Co, with a store at 99 Liverpool Street increasing the involvement of the Chinese community in local trading. With his brothers, Charles launched Hobart’s first Chinese restaurant, the Golden Dragon. He had artistic talent which came out in his retirement and was a keen photographer and movie maker. Charles had four families that produced nine children.

These Chung, Henry and Sing families are a legacy to the early Chinese immigrants who faced discrimination, and overcame it with skill, hard work and determination.

Christine Spry

TFHS Hobart Branch presentation, Tuesday 19 November 2024

‘The *Rajah* Quilt’ Rosie Severs

During the ten-week voyage to Tasmania in 1841, women on the convict ship *Rajah* pieced together a quilt top measuring 3.3 metres square. It has survived intact, being a unique artefact of convict history in Australia. The manufacture of the quilt honours the involvement of the Quakers in social causes in 19th century England, specifically prisoners and the justice system, which story starts with Elizabeth FRY.

Elizabeth GURNEY was born in 1780 into a large and wealthy Quaker family of Norwich. The city and rural poverty that she saw prompted her to establish a school in Norwich for poor children and gypsies. Later, the support and encouragement of her wealthy Quaker husband Joseph Fry enabled her to organise soup kitchens, schools and medical services for the poor.

The Quakers were involved in the welfare of those in prison, and her increasing status as an advocate gave Elizabeth access to people of wealth and political influence who supported her causes. In the matter of prison reforms, Elizabeth addressed Parliament, seeking gaols for women with female staff, schools for the children and useful income-earning work for the inmates. This meaningful work, and a commitment from the women to reduce alcohol intake, improved behaviour and health in Millgate and Newgate prisons, whose large population

included those awaiting transportation. Elizabeth’s social work continued while she had a large family and had weathered financial challenges during unsettled economic times in England. Her commitment to those in prison and on the transport ships continued until her death in 1845. The Elizabeth Fry Refuge, providing temporary shelter for women released from custody was opened in Hackney in 1849.

Kezia HAYTER was involved in the Quakers’ prison work of providing clothes and sewing materials for the women in gaol, and useful items such as clothes and eating utensils for the outward voyage to the colony. Kezia travelled on the *Rajah* as voyage matron, having also acquired bags of fabric pieces for the women. These fabrics arrived in Hobart at the end of the voyage as the *Rajah* Quilt. Kezia married Charles FERGUSON, master of the *Rajah*. She continued her social work through her life and died in Adelaide in 1885.

Lady Jane FRANKLIN, wife of Sir John Franklin, Lieutenant Governor of Tasmania, was involved in the welfare of women prisoners but lacked the kindly intentions of the Quakers, which ended Kezia’s hopes of introducing prison reform into the colony. The Franklins were gifted the quilt from the *Rajah* women, presented to acknowledge the support given before and during the voyage by the convict ship committee in England. Little is known about the whereabouts of the quilt until 1987 when it was located with a family in Scotland. Kezia Hayter had family links to

Scotland, suggesting her possible involvement in a fortunate train of events which ensured the survival of the quilt.

Research continues on the design, stitching and construction of the quilt to give a better idea of the conduct and management of this group activity. Given the age and delicate state of the fabric, the quilt benefits from the skill of dedicated curators and the specialised storage conditions provided at the National Gallery of Australia.

Locally, the quilt has cultural and social interest, and its display at galleries in Australia ensures that we have opportunities to know of, and honour, the women of the *Rajah* and the British Ladies Society for Promoting the Reformation of Female Prisoners, founded by Elizabeth Fry.

Christine Spry

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Tasmanian Family History Society Inc.

Conference and Annual General Meeting

2025

The Grange, Campbell Town

Saturday 21 June

Cost: \$45 (includes lunch)

There will be 3 interesting speakers, lunch, and the Annual General Meeting

Registration and payment online through our web site

www.tasfhs.org

Early bird registrations open 17 February

(If online registration is not possible for you – contact your local branch)

Jane Copeland – A True Pioneer

Barbara Wilson (Member 7762)

It is not unusual to hear VIPs or ‘celebrities’ asked at an interview who they would like to include as guests at a dinner party- whether they are still alive or from the past. Whilst I would need to give some thought to who else I would invite I know that at the top of my list would be Jane COPELAND. Who you may ask? Let me tell you some of Jane’s story.

Under the overall command of Colonel David COLLINS, in April 1803, *HMS Calcutta* sailed from Spithead, Portsmouth, England together with the *Ocean*.¹ Collins was responsible for establishing a new settlement at Port Phillip to deter the French, who the English believed were in the waters south of the new penal colony in New South Wales. The *Calcutta* arrived on 9 October after a voyage of 168 days, via Rio de Janeiro and the Cape of Good Hope. The first Europeans had arrived on the south coast of Terra Australis and disembarked at what is now Sorrento, Victoria, the location having been visited by both Captain James COOK in 1770 and later Matthew FLINDERS.

On board the *Calcutta*, as well as a detachment of Royal Marines and other

staff, were 299 male convicts, 16 convicts’ wives and several children. Among them was eighteen-year-old Jane HEELS, wife of John Heels who had been convicted of stealing a bay mare at the Old Bailey on 17 February 1802.² Sentenced to death this was commuted to transportation.

Living in tents until rudimentary huts were built, life at Sorrento was far from ideal with a fresh water supply a major problem. Crops failed due to poor soil and lack of water. The heat of an Australian summer and illness took its toll with the death of twenty five convicts, including John Heels who was buried in the area on the 3 January 1804.³

Collins made the decision to abandon the Port Phillip settlement and on 30 January 1804 the *Ocean* and the *Lady Nelson* sailed for the recent settlement at Risdon Cove on the banks of the Derwent River in Van Dieman’s Land. Within a few

¹ Nepean Historical Society, Collins Settlement 1803.
<http://nepeanhistoricalsociety.asn.au/history/collins-1803-settlement>. Accessed 13 November 2024

² *Old Bailey Proceedings Online* (www.oldbaileyonline.org.version9.0) February 1802. Trial of Mark Denham, John Heals.
<https://www.oldbaileyonline.org/record/t180217-26?text=Mark%20Denham>. Accessed 13 November 2024

³ Register of Burials in the Parish of St David Hobart Town 1803-1804 in Camp Sullivan Bay. Burial record John Heels RGD34/1/1 No 1/1 N 18, Name Indexes 1175619 Libraries Tasmania Online collection
<https://libraries.tas.gov.au>. Accessed 13 November 2024.

days Collins realised this location was unviable and on 20 February moved to the site at Sullivans Cove that soon became known as Hobart Town.⁴

Widow Jane Heels, as well as having been at the first white settlement in Port Phillip (later Victoria), was also now a free white woman in the new colony, which was to become the capital of Tasmania.

This is where at my dinner party the questions would start. How did Jane feel at the huge change in her circumstances having sailed half the way around the world, her husband dying, leaving her vulnerable and alone in a strange environment? Was she, as I suspect, resilient, feisty, and determined to make the most of her new life? Being so young did she see the changes as challenges to be met head on?

As a free woman Jane was entitled to a servant and convict John HANGAN (also from the *Calcutta*) was assigned to her. They were married by the Chaplain Robert KNOPWOOD on 30 July 1804 at Hobart Town, River Derwent, Van Dieman's Land. It is of interest to note that the groom could sign his name; the bride has signed with a 'x' indicating she could not write.⁵

⁴ Nepean Historical Society, Collins Settlement 1803.

<http://nepeanhistoricalsociety.asn.au/history/collins-1803-settlement>. Accessed 13 November 2024

⁵ Tasmanian Archives, Name Indexes, Marriage record RGD36/1/1 No 7, Marriage

Jane gave birth to her first child, John Edward Hangan, and he was baptised on the 30 June 1805.⁶ Also in 1805 John received a 50 acre land grant, known then as Hangan's Point. Today it is renowned as Pavilion Point, the site of Government House and the Botanical Gardens. The 1807 agriculture and stock return shows the land as productive - growing wheat, barley and potatoes and a small garden.⁷ In the following years the Hangan family grew to consist of a further six sons and one daughter.

Did Jane reflect that her life in Hobart Town was far removed from what she could have expected if she had remained in London? At a time when the child mortality rate in England was such that one in three children would die under the age of five years, she had experienced only the loss of one child. Also, in London living conditions were far below those the Hangan family experienced in the new colony - growing their own food, on their own land grant and in climatic

John Hangan and Jane Heels, 30th July 1804. Accessed 17 November 2024

⁶ Tasmanian Archives, Name Indexes, Baptisms Hobart Town 1805 RGD 32/1/1 No 14, Baptism John Edward Hangan, 30th June 1805. Accessed 17 November 2024

⁷ Jane's Tale, Travis Ibrihim 2019. "Historical records of Australia, Series III. Despatches and papers relating to the settlement of the States. Volume 1, Port Phillip Victoria 1803-1804. Tasmania 1803-June 1812". La Trobe University Research Online (<http://arrow.latrobe.edu.au>) transcription 500. Despatches and papers relating to the settlement of the States, edited by Fredrick Watson 1878.

conditions in general warmer in summer and milder in winter.

Tragedy struck in April 1817 when eleven year old William Hangan went missing while searching for straying cattle for his employer near Pitt Water and it was nine months later that his skeletal remains were found as reported in the Hobart Town Gazette.^{8 9}

In 1821 John was granted a 50 acre property at Tea Tree Brush, 15 miles north of Hobart near Brighton and the family continued to prosper.¹⁰ Then it all changed when John Hangan died in February 1826 at the age of 47 years and Jane was a widow again.¹¹ With five children to support she would have needed all her resourcefulness and determination to carry on. Then in June 1827, sixteen months after the death of John Hangan, Jane gave birth to another

son, Peter Hannagan, though no father is listed on the baptism record.¹²

Worse was to come! I cannot begin to imagine the distress when her first born son John was arrested, tried, and then hanged as the first native born Tasmanian bushranger on 23 May 1828, aged just 23 years¹³. Did she attend the trial held in the Supreme Court in Hobart Town, reliving the horror of the trial of John Heels in the Old Bailey all those years ago?

Would it be appropriate at the dinner party to ask Jane how she coped with the death of her eldest in such an horrific way? Did she have the support of Peter Copeland - emotionally and in providing accommodation and food for her and her family?

Perhaps it was the harbinger of happier times when on 3 August 1829 in Hobart Town, Jane married free settler Peter Copeland.¹⁴ While an assumption could

⁸ Hobart Town Gazette and Southern Reporter, Saturday 10 May 1817, page 2. Advertisement and reward for missing boy William Hangan. <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article652642>, accessed 18 November 2024

⁹ Hobart Town and Southern Reporter, Saturday 10 January 1818, page 2. Advice of skeleton found assumed to be William Hangan. <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article653671>. Accessed 18 November 2024

¹⁰ Jane's Tale, Travis Ibrihim 2019. "New South Wales, Australia, Land Grants, 1788-1963.

¹¹ Register of Burials Parish of Hobart Town, County of Buckingham 1826. Burial record for John Hanaghan, buried 7 February 1826. Tasmanian Archives, Name Index RGD34/1/1 No 1176751, accessed 18 Nov. 2024

¹² Register of Baptisms, Parish of Hobart Town, County of Buckingham, 1827. Baptism record for Peter Hannagan 8th July 1827. Tasmanian Archives, Name Index RGD32/1/1 No 2300. Names Index No 1079938. Accessed 18 November 2024

¹³ Tasmanian (Hobart Town) 1827-1839. Friday 23 May 1828 page 3. Report of execution of six men including Edward Hangan. <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article233095592>, accessed 18 November 2024

¹⁴ Tasmanian Archives, Marriages, Parish of Hobart Town, County of Buckingham 1829. Marriage of Peter Copeland and Jane Hangan, 7 July 1829. RGD 36/1/1 Name Index No 818575. Accessed 18 November 2024

be made that he was the father of Peter Hannagan; no guesswork is needed for the parentage of Mary Jane Copeland in November of 1829.¹⁵ Another infant daughter, Sarah, was born and assumed died in 1833 as no death or burial record has been located.¹⁶

Whilst her first two husbands were convicts, Peter Copeland was a free settler who left Portsmouth on the *Caladonia* in July 1820¹⁷. In 1821 he is listed as a publican, holding a licence for one year at the Ship Inn, followed by the Albion in 1823, Jolly Sailor in Campbell Street in 1825, the Lord Wellington in Goulburn Street in 1826.^{18 19 20 21}

¹⁵ Tasmanian Archives, Baptisms Register Parish of Hobart Town, County of Buckingham 1829. Baptism of Mary Jane Copeland, 16 November 1829. RGD 32/1/1 No 3066. Name Index No 1080709. Accessed 18 Nov 2024

¹⁶ Tasmanian Archives, Baptisms Register Parish of Hobart Town, County of Buckingham 1833. Baptism of Sarah Copeland, April 1833. RGD32/1/2 No 4726, name Index No 1082384. Accessed 18 November 2024

¹⁷ Jane's Tale, Travis Ibrihim 2019. New South Wales Settler and Convict Lists 1878-1834. Ancestry

¹⁸ Hobart Town Gazette & Van Diemens Land Advertiser, Saturday 6 October 1821. <http://nl.gov.au/nla.news-article/108955>. Accessed 21 Nov 2024

¹⁹ Hobart Town Gazette & Van Diemens Land Advertiser, Saturday 15 November 1823. <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article/1089999> Accessed 21 Nov 2024

On the 1842 census he is occupying a dwelling at 194 Liverpool Street.²²

I would like to ask Jane how it felt to have a husband who was able to provide a more secure, and stable environment as he was obviously a successful publican. Her older children had reached adulthood, some marrying and starting their own families. James and Henry had moved to the mainland and settled in Kilmore in Central Victoria.

How difficult would it have been to make the decision to leave the growing city of Hobart which had been her home for 45 years? The marriage of Mary Jane Copeland to Thomas REEVES at the Cathedral Church of St David on 1 January 1849 may have influenced her parent's decision to leave Tasmania.²³

On 10 June 1849, Jane and Peter Copeland and son, and the newlywed Mr and Mrs Reeves, sailed for Melbourne on

²⁰ Hobart Town Gazette, Sat 22 October 1825. <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article/8790321> accessed 21 Nov 2024

²¹ Colonial Times and Tasmanian Advertiser, Friday 20 October 1826. <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article/2448698>, accessed 21 Nov 2024

²² Tasmanian Archives, 1842 Census, Hobart page 103. Names Index 474068, Cen1/1/22 accessed 21 Nov 2024

²³ Tasmanian Archives Marriages in the Cathedral Church of St Davids Hobart Town, Marriage of Mary Jane Copeland and Thomas Reeves, 1 January 1849. RGD37/1/8 No 120, Name Index 838433 Accessed 21 Nov 2024

the *Flying Fish*.²⁴ Forty-six years from her initial arrival at Sorrento, Jane would have had long buried memories of those tragic six months at Port Phillip Bay. Her experience on the beach front at Sorrento would not have prepared her for the bustling, thriving Melbourne, a growing city, granted that status by Queen Victoria in 1849 and with a population of around 70,000. By comparison Hobart's population at that time was around 20,000.

Her destination though was Kilmore, 40 miles north on the Sydney Road, where her two sons (Henry and Charles) and families were settled. The ten-year-old community was thriving with productive farming land, and a steady stream of travellers heading north and south. Two years later in 1851 with the discovery of gold and its convenient location on the road to the McIvor gold fields the pace of progress increased as the gold fever took hold.

Sadly, Jane's time in Kilmore was short. On 5 November 1851, at the age of 66 years Jane died and was buried in an unknown location in the Church of England section of the Kilmore Public Cemetery.²⁵

Her burial was only the eighth recorded in the newly created cemetery, opened in the mid-1850s. The record of her death and burial in the church register by Reverend SINGLETON of Christ Church Kilmore does not give cause of death but lists her occupation as 'servant'.

Her husband Peter died in 1859 and was also buried in an unknown plot in the Kilmore Cemetery.²⁶ Neither grave had a headstone nor marked final resting place.

What an extraordinary life this remarkable woman led. I think that perhaps I would be happy to host Jane as my lone dinner guest to be able to discuss with her quietly the events that saw her leave England as a teenage wife. To witness the birth of two colonies at the other end of the world and to mourn the death of two husbands and two children in terrible circumstances. And finally, in her few short years in the new town of Kilmore to see her sons and daughters and her grandchildren thriving. She leaves behind the legacy of countless descendants who I thank for sharing her story with me.

²⁴ Melbourne Daily News Monday 11 June 1849, page 2. Shipping Intelligence. Passenger Names.
<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article226473999>. Accessed 21 Nov 2024

²⁵ Burials in the Parish of Bylands, County of Dalhousie, in the Colony of Victoria 1851. Early Church Records CD, State of

Victoria 2012. BDM Registration No. 25625. Accessed 13 June 2023

²⁶ Victorian Register of Births, Deaths & Marriages. Death of Peter Copeland, 19 June 1859 at Kilmore. Registration No 4403/1859. Accessed Nov. 2023



*Plaque commemorating Jane Copeland, Kilmore Public Cemetery
– photograph by Barbara Wilson, December 2023*

To ensure that the life of Jane Copeland is not forgotten a plaque was unveiled in the Pioneer Memorial Garden at the Kilmore Public Cemetery in December

2023. Thanks to members of her extended family and the Kilmore Historical Society her memory is perpetuated.

ORAL HISTORY WORKSHOP

Saturday 24 May 2025

10.00 am – 4.45 pm at Glenorchy Library

conducted by Jill Cassidy
President of Oral History Tasmania



The workshop will cover all aspects of oral history practice. Topics include use of digital recorder, interview technique, pitfalls to avoid, ethics, transcription and alternatives, and publication.

Participants will be able to listen to interview excerpts and do practice interviews.

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Harold John Dell (1888-1966) and Ruby Grace Bracey (1890-1980)

Tony Dell (Member 8110)



*Harold John (Jack) Dell
c.1948, Hobart
[photo: Lesley Morgan (nee Dell)]*



*Ruby Grace Dell (nee Bracey)
c. 1970, Howrah
[photo: Tony Dell]*

Harold John DELL was born on 30 October 1888, at Lawrence Street, Launceston, Tasmania,¹ the sixth child of Elizabeth Rebecca RATTRAY (1855-1927) and John James Dell (1854-1929).

He was called Jack because there was already a Harold Dell (1872-1925),

related by marriage, living in Launceston.²

His older siblings were Elizabeth Amelia Brookwell Dell (1879-1937)³, Percival

¹ Baptism Register, Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Launceston, Tasmania, 1888, page 265, Reg. 3414 (Libraries Tasmania)

² The other Harold Dell was the brother of Stuart Mill Dell (1875-1941), husband of Jack's eldest sister, Elizabeth Amelia Brookwell Dell (1879-1937).

³ Australian Birth Index, 1788-1922, 360/1879, Launceston, Tasmania; Australian Death Index, 1788-1922, 10066/1937, Victoria

James Dell (1881-1947)⁴, Henry Ernest Dell (1883-1935)⁵, Sydney William Dell (1885-1939)⁶, and Emily May Dell (1886-1925)⁷.

Winifred Eva Dell, Harold John's sister and seventh child in the family, was born on 23 January 1892 at Green Street, Invermay, Launceston.⁸

On 27 June 1894, his last brother and eighth child of the family, Reginald Robert Dell (after whom my father was named), was born at Green Street, Invermay, Launceston.⁹

⁴ Australian Birth Index, 1788-1922, 494/1881, Launceston, Tasmania ; Launceston City Council, Carr Villa Cemetery burial records, Launceston, Tasmania (launceston.gov.au/Carr-Villa/Burial-Records)

⁵ Australian Birth Index, 1788-1922, 3003/1883, Launceston, Tasmania ; Death notice, Examiner (Launceston, Tas., 1900-1954), Mon 19 Aug 1935, p1)

⁶ Australian Birth Index, 1788-1922, 312/1885, Launceston, Tasmania New Zealand BDM, Death registration 1939/24160

⁷ Baptism Register, Holy Trinity Church, Launceston, Tasmania, 1886, page 251, Reg. No. 3221 ; Death notice, Examiner (Launceston, Tas:1900-1954), Thursday 29 October 1925, p1

⁸ Baptism Register, Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Launceston, Tasmania, 1892, page 12, Reg. 161; Southern Regional Cemeteries Burial Reg. No. B7294, 28 September 1966, Cornelian Bay, Hobart, Tasmania

⁹ Australia, Birth Index: 1788-1922, 345/1894, Launceston, Tasmania ; Victoria, Australia , Births, Deaths and Marriages (Victoria BDM), Death Registration 1965/27152

His youngest sister, the last child and ninth in the family, Gladys Sybil Dell was born on 7 November 1896 at 44 Cameron Street, Launceston. She was Baptised at Holy Trinity Church on 21 January 1886, by which time the family's residence is shown as Charles Street, Launceston (at that stage almost certainly number 174).¹⁰

Harold John (Jack) Dell spent his early life in Launceston, My father told me that after his schooling, Jack was apprenticed to his father, John James, as a locksmith. During the early 1900s he apparently spent some time at Derby, possibly as a result of contacts that his father, John James made, while he was a miner in the 1870s at the Brothers Home Tin Mine, and it would seem that during this time he met his future wife, Ruby Grace BRACEY.

¹⁰ Australia, Birth Index: 1788-1922, Reg. No.593/1896, Launceston, Tasmania ; Victoria BDM, Death Certificate 1991/19982



Lesley Morgan (nee Dell)

During the early 1900's, Jack played the violin in his uncle Stuart Dell's orchestra in Launceston. Stuart Dell was married to Jack's eldest sister, Elizabeth Amelia Dell. Stuart's family arrived in Launceston from England in 1883. His father, William (1817- 1885)¹¹, was an upholsterer. As noted above, the family also had a son, Harold (1872-1925)¹², which was why my grandfather was known as Jack. The photo above, taken in Launceston at the Whitelaw Studio, shows him with his violin around 1908.

The violin made its way to me, aged about 10 years, and it was played by me briefly, excruciatingly and without talent, until it was passed down to my sister, Judith. I confess I don't know what happened to it.

¹¹ Death notice, Launceston Examiner (Launceston, Tas.: 1842-1899), Mon 13 Jul 1885, p1

¹² Death notice, Examiner (Launceston, Tas.: 1900-1954), Mon 25 May 1925, p4

Ruby Grace Bracey was born on 31 May 1890, at Derby, Tasmania,¹³ to Lily Mildred (nee CLEAVER) and William James BRACEY. William was a miner at the Briseis Tin Mine at Derby. Ruby was William's and Lily's second child. Her elder brother Cecil William Bracey was born in early 1889 at Longford but lived less than three months, also dying there.¹⁴

Over the course of the next twenty years, while Ruby was living in Derby, her mother, Lily, gave birth to another thirteen children, eight of whom survived to adulthood. Thus, it was fairly likely that Ruby spent a good deal of her time helping her mother out with the children.

Ruby's younger siblings were Leonard Walter (1892-1892)¹⁵, Basil Percy (1893-1910)¹⁶, William John (1895-1896)¹⁷, Ida Winifred (1896-1979)¹⁸, Lily May (1897-

¹³ Birth Registration 2888/1890, RGD33/1/70, p.388

¹⁴ Australia, Birth Index: 1788-1922, registration 122/1889 ; Australia, Death Index, 1787-1985, registration 934/1889

¹⁵ Australia, Birth Index: 1788-1922, registration 1271/1892, Longford, Tas.; Australia, Death Index, 1787-1985, registration 657/1892, Ringarooma (Derby), Tas.

¹⁶ Australia, Birth Index: 1788-1922, registration 1310/1893, Longford, Tas. ; Report of accidental death, Daily Post (Hobart, Tas.: 1908-1919), Mon 18 Jul 1910, p.3

¹⁷ Australia, Birth Index: 1788-1922, registration 1319/1895, Longford, Tas. ; death notice, Daily Telegraph (Launceston, Tas.: 1883-1928), Mon 24 Feb 1896, p.2

¹⁸ Australia, Birth Index: 1788-1922, registration 2209/1896, Ringarooma (Derby),

1991)¹⁹, Sylvester Clarence (1899-1946)²⁰, Harold Hector (1900-1901)²¹, Trevor Reginald (1901 -1980)²², Amy Beatrice (1904-1966)²³, Lyell Kenman (1905-1933)²⁴, Malcolm Tasman (1907-1982), Phylis James (1909-?1909), and Herbert Jack (1910-1981).

Harold John and Ruby Grace were married on 15 March 1911, at Derby,

Tas. ; Carr Villa Burial Records for Ida Winifred Eadie

(www.launceston.tas.gov.au/Carr-Villa-Memorial-Park/Burial-Records)

¹⁹ Australia, Birth Index: 1788-1922, registration 2197/1897, ; Carr Villa Burial Records for Lily May Roe, Rose Garden No. 16, site B24

(www.launceston.tas.gov.au/Carr-Villa-Memorial-Park/Burial-Records)

²⁰ Australia, WW I Service Records, 1914-1920 for Sylvester Clarence Bracey , Australia, Death Index, 1787-1985, B008298, /1946

²¹ Australia, Birth Index: 1788-1922, registration 1221/1900, Longford, Tas. ; death notice, Daily Telegraph (Launceston, Tas.: 1883-1928), Mon, 4 Feb 1901, p.1)

²² Australia, Birth Index: 1788-1922, registration 616/1901, Evandale, Tas. ;Feb 1980. Brisbane, Queensland

²³ Australia, Birth Index: 1788-1922, registration 2293/1904, Ringarooma (Derby), Tas.; Cornelian Bay Cemetery Records for Amy Beatrice Davis, Derwent Gardens, niche wall M, site 21, row F

²⁴ Australia, Birth Index: 1788-1922, registration 2178/1906, Ringarooma (Derby), Tas.; death notice, Daily Mercury (Mackay, Qld.: 1906-1954), Sat 9 Dec 1933, p.14

Tasmania.²⁵ At the time of his marriage, Jack's occupation is noted as shop assistant.

It would seem that soon after their marriage, the couple moved to Latrobe, where their first child, Molly Grace Dell, was born on 28 October 1911.²⁶

By 1914, the family was in Hobart and their second child, William John was born on 8 May 1914 at 3 Collins Street, Battery Point, Hobart²⁷. Harold John was, at this time, working as a warehouseman.

He enlisted in the 40th Battalion, 1st AIF in March 1916. At that time, he, Ruby and their two children were living at 4 (off) Princes Street, Sandy Bay.²⁸

On enlistment he undertook training at Claremont Camp and was allocated to a tent with seven other Tasmanians, all in "C" Company of the 40th Battalion, with whom he shared a very special and unusual bond during the course of the War in Europe. The tent mates were: Sgt. Harold (Jack) Dell. Corps. Percy LAMPKIN and Eddis BOYES, Privates Jack GRIMMOND, Charles KNIGHT,

²⁵ Marriage Registration 1241/1911 (from Marriage Certificate), Registrar-General, Tasmania.

²⁶ Birth Certificate 1911/2474, Registrar-General, Tasmania.

²⁷ Birth Certificate 1914/722, Registrar-General, Tasmania (Federation Index, Tasmania)

²⁸ Australia, WWI Military Service Records for H J Dell, Service No. 746, National Archives of Australia, relates to all his WWI information except that sourced from 40th Bn. War Diaries

Henry ELLIOT, Harold Grimmond and Arthur DART.²⁹ They became known later as "The Lucky Eight".

They left for Europe on 1 July 1916.³⁰

After Jack left for Europe, Ruby, Molly and William moved back to Derby to be with family. However, by March 1917 they were back in Hobart living in 32 Princes Street, Sandy Bay³¹

Jack was rapidly promoted in France during early 1917 to Company, then Regimental Sergeant-Major before being promoted to 2nd Lieutenant in February 1917.

On 4 June 1917, 3 days before the allied 'Magnum Opus' battle of Messines (for which he had been listed as one of the 20 officers to lead the attack)³² he was severely gassed. He was repatriated to England on 11 June 1917 to recuperate and while there, on 27 June 1917, he was promoted to 1st Lieutenant on 27 June 1917.

He returned to France on 8 December 1917, was injured again in early 1918 and invalided to England again on 12 February 1918 after which, on 22 February 1918, he was Medical Boarded back to Australia.

²⁹ "The Devil's Advocate, 2001-2002", pp.22-24, 12/40th Battalion Royal Tasmania, Regiment newsletter.

³⁰ Australia, WWI Military Service Records for H J Dell, op. cit.

³¹ *ibid*

³² Australian War Museum, Canberra, ACT, 40th Bn. War Diaries, item No. 23/57/14

He arrived back in Hobart in May 1918, via Cape Town, South Africa (where he apparently met his uncle Stuart's brother, William Dell) and his commission was terminated on 11 June 1918.

After his return to Tasmania, he and the family were living first at 32 Princes Street, Sandy Bay³³, then at 66 Lord Street, Sandy Bay before moving to "Mafeking", 67 Hampden Road Battery Point³⁴, where their third child (my father) Reginald Robert Dell was born on his father's birthday, 30 October 1919.³⁵

From 1919 until 1943 Jack was employed as a draper in Mathers (clothing) Store in Liverpool Street, Hobart.

On 14 July 1921, Ruby Grace gave birth to her and Jack's fourth child, Betty Dell³⁶ in Hobart.

By 1922, the family had moved to Moonah and were living at Park Grove Road (now Hopkins Street East) where they remained until at least 1928.³⁷

1929 was a very sad year for Jack and Ruby. Firstly, on 4 April 1929 at Derby, Ruby's father William James Bracey, was

³³ Australia, WWI Military Service Records for H J Dell, op. cit.

³⁴ Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903-1980, Tasmania, Denison, Queenborough and Central East, 1919 for Ruby Grace Dell (ancestry.com)

³⁵ Birth certificate, 1209/1919, Hobart, RGD, Tas. (Copy in my possession)

³⁶ Australia, WWII Military Service Records, 1939-48, for Betty Carter, S/N 97158

³⁷ Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903-1980, Moonah, Franklin, Tasmania, for Harold John Dell, 1922 and 1928 (ancestry.com)

lost³⁸ as a result of the flooding following the collapse of the Briseis Dam on the Ringarooma River. His body was never found and he was formally declared dead by the Supreme Court of Tasmania on 9 August 1929.³⁹

Shortly after, on 19 May 1929, Jack's father, John James Dell, died at his home in 269 Charles Street, Launceston and Jack was present at his funeral in Launceston on 21 May 1929.⁴⁰

A tragedy struck the family on Monday 19 December 1932 when Jack and Ruby's eldest son, William John (also called Jack), a talented artist, suffered serious head injuries in a bicycle accident at the Maypole Hotel corner of the Main Road in New Town.⁴¹ He died of his injuries in the Hobart Public Hospital on Wednesday 21 December.⁴² At the time, the family was living at 128 Hopkins Street, Moonah.⁴³

³⁸ Death notice, *Examiner* (Launceston, Tas.:1900-1954), Tue 9 April 1929, p. 1 (www.trove.nla.gov.au)

³⁹ Letters of Administration for the Estate of William James Bracey, 9 Aug 1929, Names Index, AD963-1-2-1537 (Libraries Tasmania)

⁴⁰ *Examiner* (Launceston, Tas.:1900-1954), Wed 22 May 1929, p. 8 (www.trove.nla.gov.au)

⁴¹ *Mercury* (Hobart, Tas.: 1860-1954), Tue 20 Dec 1932, p.7 (www.trove.nla.gov.au)

⁴² *Mercury* (Hobart, Tas.: 1860-1954), Thu 22 Dec 1932, p.1 (www.trove.nla.gov.au)

⁴³ *ibid*, p.10

Jack and Ruby's last child, Lesley Anne Dell, was born on 7 October 1935 in Hobart.⁴⁴

Between 1936 and 1943, the family were living at 91 Hopkins Street, East Moonah. Later they moved to 8 Wentworth Street, South Hobart.⁴⁵

In 1944 Jack joined the State-owned Agricultural Bank of Tasmania as a clerk, where he remained until his retirement in about 1954.

By 1949, he and Ruby were living in 53 Riawena Road, Montague Bay, Hobart,⁴⁶ the first house they owned, which he had bought with a war service housing loan.

A news story on page 6 in the *Mercury* of Thursday 1 March 1951, headed

"LUCKY EIGHT" GROUP
REDUCED TO SEVEN, tells the story of Jack's World War I good fortune as it marked the passing of the first of this unique group:

The death of Mr. H. I. Grimmond, who was interred at Cornelian Bay cemetery yesterday, is the first severance in a unique group of war comrades, known in the 40th Battalion as "the lucky eight'.

⁴⁴ Lesley Morgan (nee Dell), pers. comm. to Tony Dell

⁴⁵ Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903-1980, Moonah, Franklin, Tasmania, for Harold John Dell, 1936, 1937 and 1943 ; and Nelson, Franklin, 1943 and 1944 (ancestry.com)

⁴⁶ Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903-1980, Clarence, Franklin, Tasmania, for Harold John Dell, 1949, 1954 and 1963 (ancestry.com)

They met - most of them for the first time - on March 21, 1916, when they entered Claremont Camp to join the A.I.F. They were "shuffled" into a party of recruits that day to fill a bell tent in "C" Company's lines.

They suffered minor casualties during war service, but all returned safely.

The record is all the more remarkable because the Battalion suffered more casualties than any other in the division.

It became the custom in later years to meet for a private celebration of the survival of the "lucky eight."

On one of these occasions, they published a challenge for any group of A.I.F. survivors to show a comparable record. It was never taken up and they claimed a record.

The surviving seven of the group are Messrs. J. Grimmond (cousin of Mr. H. L. Grimmond), A. H. Dart, H. P. Elliott, H. J. Dell, Ediss Boyes sen., P. J. Lampkin, and C. Knight.

In about 1964 Harold John and Ruby Grace moved to live with their youngest daughter, Lesley MORGAN, at 99 Gordon's Hill Road (then called East Risdon Road), Lindisfarne, where he was living at the time of his death. Harold John died on 23 May 1966, of a heart attack at a bus stop on the Main Road at Lindisfarne, Tasmania.

He was laid to rest at Cornelian Bay Cemetery on 25 May 1966.⁴⁷

Ruby Grace continued to live with her daughter Lesley at Gordon's Hill Road until she died in her 90th year, on 23 May 1980, almost exactly 14 years after Harold John, and was interred at Cornelian Bay Cemetery, Hobart, Tasmania on 26 May.⁴⁸



*Sergeant Jack Dell, William John, Ruby and Molly Dell, Hobart 1916
[photo: Merilyn Case (nee Aldred).]*

⁴⁷ Cremated 25 May 1966, Southern Cemeteries records, No. C2685 (www.millingtons.com.au)

⁴⁸ Cremated 26 May 1980, Southern Cemeteries records, No. C13324 (www.millingtons.com.au)

Index to
The Examiner

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The Wall Family: weaving the threads of memories by Christine Leonard.

In its second print run, the story centres on a 17-year-old groomsmen, William Wall, who was transported to Van Diemen's Land in 1835 as an assigned servant in Hobart and Launceston.

William 'Cocky' Wall served a seven-year sentence as an assigned servant for three employers. Twice married, fathering 19 children, he became a farmer, publican, and inn-keeper. After tenant farming in Emu Bay for the Van Diemen's Land Company, in 1847 he began a new life amongst the first white settlers in the Warrnambool district of Victoria.

This book explores William's 13 surviving children, in colonial Australian society over a period spanning 180 years.

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Richard Venville (1810-1896), convict

Ruth Wirtz

Richard VENVILLE (1810-1896), convict, who was tried and convicted under the name of Richard VENWELL, was my great, great, great, grandfather. Born in Great Rissington, Gloucestershire, England¹, eldest son of Mary BEACHAM and John

father, a husband, a convict, and a colonist; he was most importantly a man who stood up for his rights and for others. Richard, as one of the groups of 332 Swing rioters and Machine Breakers from Gloucester in the south of England, who were sent to Van Diemen's Land,³ on the

To the Peasantry OF THE COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER.

The Government has required the Magistrates to take immediate measures for putting an end to the disorderly meetings now existing in open defiance of the Laws.

The Magistrates have called upon all well affected Persons to aid them in organising a vigorous resistance to the disturbers of the public peace.

A Force is thus collecting, against which it will be impossible for you to contend.

We are most anxious to prevent the exercise of it.

We assure you, there is every disposition on the part of the Landowners and their Tenantry to listen to your grievances, and to afford all just and reasonable redress. But, it is impossible for those who are intrusted with the maintenance of peace and order, to enter on the consideration of your grievances, while they are made known to them only by disorder, and acts of violence.

For your own sakes, therefore, we implore you to return quietly to your work, to enable us to call a Meeting of your Masters and their Landlords, to take your condition into their consideration, which we pledge ourselves to do; as soon as your return to good order, will justify our interference on your behalf.

SHERBORNE.

APSLEY.

JAMES DUTTON.

J. RAYMOND BARKER.

J. TREVOR.

JOHN BROWN.

H. E. WALLER.

I. B. NEWELL.

JOSEPH CRIPPS.

EDWARD CRIPPS.

CORNELIUS PITT.

WILLIAM PRICE.

WILLIAM LAWRENCE.

WILLIAM FOWLER, PRINTER, GIRENCESTER.

Copy of notice in the Gloucestershire Archive

Venville, a poor labouring farm family in rural England, he worked as a ploughman during summer and a grain thresher in winter, common occupations for farm workers in pre-industrial England in 1830². Considering his penal sentence, he lived a long and fruitful life. As a son, a

ships *Eliza* and *Proteus*, was amongst the first group of political prisoners sentenced as Swing rioter's in England. He was sentenced to seven years and was never to return to his homeland of England or be reunited with his family.

¹ Baptism Record for Richard Venville, 'Gloucestershire, England, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1538-1813'. Gloucestershire Anglican Parish Registers. Gloucestershire Archives, Gloucestershire, England. Accessed, 1 June 2018.

² Eric Hobsbawm and George Rudé, *Captain Swing*, Phoenix Press, 2001, appendix IV, p. 359.

³ Brown, Bruce W. *The Machine Breakers Convicts from the Proteus and the Eliza*. University of Tasmania, Published April 2004. UTAS. Thesis, Brown M.A., 2004.

In the South-East of England workers were displaced and stable employment reduced owing to the commencement of agricultural industrialisation. Alterations to the Poor Law was also a factor. Richard, aged 20 and brother-in-law, Thomas SMITH, 28, and families were directly affected by the disruption to employment from the rural depression. Encouraged by the revolutionary movement, they were arrested for the breaking of Mr. James PROCTOR's threshing machine on 27 November 1830, along with five others.

“Committed November 30, 1830, by Thomas HUNTINGFORD, Clerk, charged upon the oaths of Thomas TUCKWELL and others, with having on Saturday last, [27 November 1830] in the parishes of Eastleach Martin and Eastleach Turville, riotously and tumultuously assembled together, and then and there did break and destroy several threshing machines, the property of James Proctor and others.”⁴

Richard was committed to trial on 30 November 1830⁵ and waited in Northgate Prison Gloucester, until his trial commenced on Epiphany, 4 January 1831.

⁴ Ancestry, Criminal record for Richard Venwell. ‘England and Wales Criminal Registers, Middlesex and Home Office: Criminal Registers, England and Wales, Accessed 24 April 2018.

⁵ Ancestry, Prison Record for Richard Venwell, ‘Gloucestershire, England, Prison Records, 1728-1914’, Gloucestershire Archives, Accessed 25 May 2018.

Handwritten description of Richard Venwell, dated 24th. The form includes fields for Name, Trade, Height, Age, Complexion, Head, Hair, Whiskers, Visage, Forehead, Eyebrows, Eyes, Nose, Mouth, Chin, and Remarks. The handwriting is in cursive, and the form is filled out with details about the individual.

Richard Venwell, description, CON18-1-6

The Gloucester Sessions court trial reported on 20 January 1831 in *The Morning Post*,⁶ that Richard and Thomas were convicted of ‘Assembling riotously’ with others and then breaking and destroying several thrashing machines belonging to James Proctor and others’ and sentenced to seven years transportation. They were then transferred from Northgate Prison, Gloucester to the hulks at Gosport, Portsmouth⁷, and were

⁶ Anon., Gloucester Quarter Sessions, *The Morning Post* (London, England), Wednesday, January 19, 1831; Issue 18754, Part 11: 1800-1900. Accessed 28 May 2018.

⁷ Anon., Gloucester, Jan. 31. *The Morning Post* (London, England), Wednesday, February. 02, 1831; Issue 18766, Part 11: 1800-1900. Accessed 27 May 2018.

imprisoned on the hulk, *Hardy*, awaiting transportation to Van Diemen's Land⁸.

Richard was transported on 2 February 1831⁹ on the convict ship *Eliza*, along with 224 other convicted swing rioters. It is here that his trade as a ploughman in the convict assignment register at the ship's arrival, was noted on Appropriation Lists, held by the Archives Office of Tasmania, is confirmed. *Eliza* arrived in Hobart Town on Sunday 29 May 1831¹⁰ after a four-month journey.¹¹

Here we are now given a description of Richard on convict record, CON18-1-6_R Venville, where again his trade as Ploughman is noted along with his description; height - 5'10", age-22, complexion-Swarthy, head-wide, hair-dark brown, whiskers-none, forehead - perpendicular, eyebrows - black arched, eyes - brown, nose - medium length straight, mouth - small, chin - medium small and some remarks are noted of veins on his forearms.¹²

8 Prison Hulk Registers and Letter Books, 1802-1849, Microfilm, HO9 Provo, 2010. Accessed 20 April 2018.

⁹ Archives Office of Tasmania, Assignment list of male convicts, *Eliza*, 2 February 1831. CON13-1-5 Image 35 and 36. Accessed 1 June 2018.

¹⁰ Anon., Saturday, June 4, 1831, P. 2. The Hobart Town Courier (Tas.: 1827-1839).

¹¹ Tasmanian Colonial Convict, passenger and Land records: Various collections (30 series). Tasmanian Archive and Heritage Office, Hobart, Tasmania. Accessed 29 May 2018.

¹² Richard Venwell, description, CON18-1-6. Tasmanian Archives.

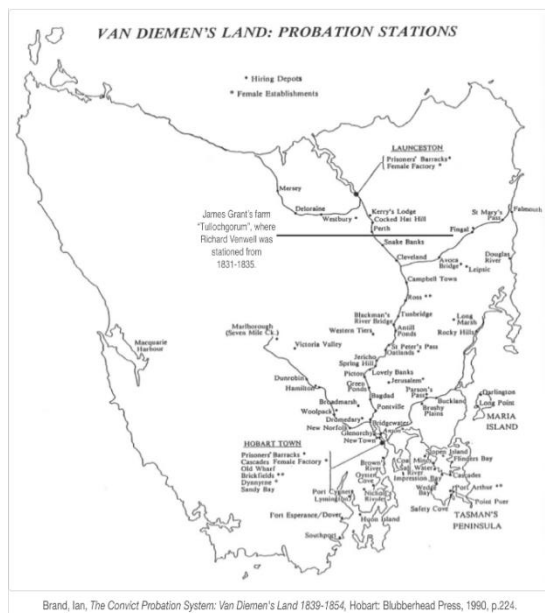
On Thursday 2 June 1831, the convicts of the *Eliza* were distributed, twenty-five of them assigned to The Van Diemen's Land Company¹³, Richard was assigned to Mr. James GRANT, esquire, whose property *Tullochgorum* required a ploughman, to assist him in the clearing of his land grant close to the Convict Probation Stations in the Fingal Valley¹⁴. This was fortuitous for Richard as he spent the next five years in Fingal in North-East Tasmania and to all accounts there were no reports of bad behaviour by him.

His muster records were noted on the 1832 Convict Muster Records¹⁵ as No. 58 and he was still assigned to Mr. James Grant with nothing to report.

¹³ Anon., Saturday, June 4, 1831, P. 2. The Hobart Town Courier (Tas.: 1827-1839).

¹⁴ Anon., Saturday 11 June 1831, P.2. Independent (Launceston, Tas.: 1831-1835). Accessed 29 May 2018.

¹⁵ Ancestry. Muster record for Richard Venwell, New South Wales and Tasmania, Australia Convict Musters, 1806-1849. Accessed 30 May 2018.



Brand, Ian, *The Convict Probation System: Van Diemen's Land 1839-1854*, Hobart: Blubberhead Press, 1990, p.224.

Richard was granted his Ticket of Leave in 1835¹⁶ and then his Free Pardon No. 360 on 3 February 1836, with Absolute Remission reported in the *Colonial Times* given on 9 February 1836. This was finally followed with his Certificate of Freedom being granted on 4 January 1838, exactly 7 years after his sentencing¹⁷.

He then continued to work for Mr. Grant's nephew, John WALLACE. He sailed across to Port Phillip with Wallace and in 1838 and settled in the Western District of Mt Egerton where he was the overseer for Mr. Wallace's sheep station

at Ballark¹⁸. He married, Eliza in 1840, when Richard took the opportunity to change back to his family name of Venville. He and Eliza had 15 children, one of whom was George Venville, my great, great grandfather.

Richard died on 21 October 1896 at Mt Egerton¹⁹ at the age of eighty-six and is buried at the Mt. Egerton cemetery along with his beloved wife, Eliza.

¹⁶ Hobart Courier. Ticket of Leave for Richard Vennell. 1835.

¹⁷ Launceston Advertiser (Tas.: 1829-1846, Thursday 11 January 1838, P.4. National Library of Australia. Accessed 29 May 2018.

¹⁸ Allan, Barry. *Black Sheep and Gold Diggers*. Smashwords Edition, 2012.

¹⁹ Death Certificate of Richard Venville, died 21 October 1896, Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages, Victoria 14663/1896.

A Cemetery That Was

A review

Ross Warren (Member 7751)

A revised edition of *A Cemetery That Was* Devonport Mersey Bluff Pioneer Cemetery has been produced by Tasmanian Family History Society Inc. Mersey Branch.

The original edition was researched and compiled by the late Elaine Garwood and published in 2003. It comprised 192 pages including index, plus an introduction, a short history of the cemetery, some anecdotes, nine newspaper items, a site map and a copy of a Form of Certificate of Right of Burial in the Devonport Public Cemetery.

In 2003 only 43 headstones remained indicating 79 burials or memorials. Elaine set out to find as many records of other burials as she could to include in the publication. An article published in a local newspaper brought a community response with useful information. Many hours searching newspapers resulted in a further 263 burials being found. In total 342 entries are included in the original publication. The original headstone photos were of poor quality which was acknowledged by Elaine. There were 22 other photos.

A Cemetery That Was has now been completely revised by Tasmanian Family History Society Inc. Mersey Branch foundation member Helen Anderson (#66). Helen dedicated the revised edition to the late Elaine Garwood. A foreword details what has changed. It now totals

507 pages, and the printed version comprises two volumes, A-K and L-Z.

The A-K volume contains 171 burial entries, 32 headstone photos and eleven other photos. The L-Z volume contains 207 burial entries, 30 headstone photos and nine other photos. The remaining headstones have been re-photographed and are much better quality. Some photographs in the first version have not been included as the originals are not available. Some additional photographs have been added.

The use of Trove has allowed more than 40 new burials to be inserted and hyperlinks added allowing direct access to the relevant Trove page. BMD index references have been deleted. Entries are listed alphabetically, and the index has been omitted.

The first burial at the Bluff occurred in October 1887. The cemetery closed in 1962 but burials continued for another 25 years.

There are anecdotes of suicide, accidental death by drowning, fire, falling trees, sudden death and death after long illness. Deaths caused by influenza, consumption and diphtheria. Deaths of children and the elderly. Some of the names in these anecdotes are below-

- George Renison Bell, early prospector, and his wife Phoebe.
- David Cocker, an early pioneer who arrived on the Mersey in 1852, and his wife Clara.
- Catherine Dean, a sister-in-law of David Cocker, who arrived in Van Diemen's Land in the 1830's

- Caleb Joshua Hiller, landowner and builder, who came to Formby in 1886. He died at his residence, Pebble Lodge, in Upper Fenton Street. Pebble Lodge still stands in what is now named Hiller Street.
- Ethel Hill who died in October 1917. A particularly sad death with seven children losing their mother and whose father was serving on the western front.
- Private Anthony Howard. A military funeral in April 1918, related to Howard's death as a result of injuries inflicted at Armentieres 12 months previously. His headstone is inscribed with the AIF Rising Sun and the Star of David.
- Andrew Christensen, a former sea captain employed on the Don River when shipping on that river equaled, or exceeded, that on the Mersey.
- Foster and Harriet Leek, proprietors of the nearby Mersey Bluff tea gardens and museum.
- Thomas Lodge who was engaged by the Mersey Coal Mining Company at Dulverton, arriving in 1853.
- Louisa Thomas and William Thomas, wife and eldest son of Bartholomew Thomas of Appledore.
- Members of the Wood family including Harry who established a well-known ship building business at Woods Point on the Mersey, and also his wife Susannah, daughter of Captain William Holyman.

The Chocolate factory

A review

Mary Ramsay (Member 1744)

The Chocolate factory by Mary-Lou STEPHENS Sydney 2024.

This novel is set mostly in Tasmania. It may be of interest to members who have ancestors involved in the establishment of Cadbury's in Tasmania or who have worked there in the past century. The descriptions are very good. One can easily understand the way chocolate was made and the work involved for the staff. The author writes of the vision and philanthropy of the CADBURY family and how the factory was set up in the Southern Hemisphere following success at Bourneville in the U.K. The plot centres around two women involved in the establishment of Tasmanian factory, one from Birmingham whose shell-shocked husband was killed in the First World War and the other a fatherless girl from a struggling family on Hobart's Glebe. Strangely although the very popular chocolate known as Cadbury's Dairy Milk gets good coverage, I don't recall any mention of the part milk plays in the production of chocolate. Regrettably the prose can only be described as "purple" and almost stopped me from continuing at times. The story line with its information plus its hints of industrial espionage made it worth persevering.

UNDERTAKERS OF HOBART

Vol. V Index to

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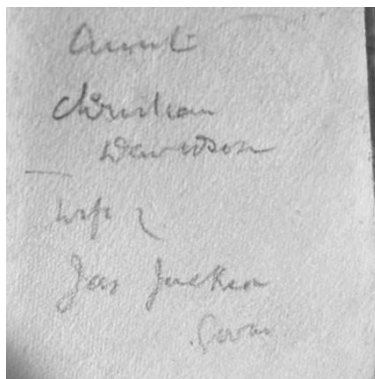
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Help Wanted



I have recently been given an old photograph. On the back I think it says Aunt Christian Davidson Wife of Jas [James] Jackson Govan. Govan is in Glasgow.

I have a marriage record for a Christian Davidson and James Jackson for 4 July 1864.

I have a birth from the old parish records giving her date of birth as 24 April 1841.

I recognise the handwriting on the back as being written by my great aunt who was born in 1898. She probably would have known the woman in the picture as the youngest sister of her grandfather (b1828).

My question is: Would the information I have fit with the period of the photograph? I think she looks between 40 and 50 so this would have been 1880-1890. Does the style of dress fit that time?

Isobel Williams – isobel.williams@gmail.com

A researcher's dilemma: to follow a story or not?

Graham Webster (Member 8183)

My surname is not that uncommon. In researching the family history, I have had breakthroughs coming across sources - both primary and secondary - that have provided trails to follow, as I am sure we all have, when the surname pops up. This article traces one such trail that, as it happens, concerns an unconnected individual but one that has such an interesting story that it is too good not to follow. It was while I was trying to make a connection to a WEBSTER family in Burnie, Tasmania, that a search revealed Henry WEBSTER who had died in Kingston, Tasmania. Was he, or his family, relevant to my family? OK, so Kingston and Hobart are hardly close to the north west coast and Burnie and its environs, but as those researching families in Tasmania are aware, families readily dispersed across the island of Tasmania. So I decided to follow-up Henry and when I discovered he had been transported from the UK for 'highway robbery with violence' I knew I had to see what his story was, connected to me or not.

Henry was, according to his convict records, born on 1 January 1821 in Norfolk England¹. Ancestry.co.uk family

trees would suggest his parents were Thomas and Sophia Maria (née LAKE) from Methley, Yorkshire. This seems an unlikely family for Henry given that Thomas and Sophia had three other children born also in Methley, a distance from Norfolk. Speculatively, there is a Henry Webster born to William and Harriet (née TUFTS), baptised at St Mary's in the village of Tittleshall, Norfolk on 25 January 1822. William was a labourer and married Harriett in the same village on 13 November 1821². Henry next appears in proceedings at Cambridgeshire Assizes on 19 March 1841 where a Henry Webster (given as 18 years old, a farm labourer³) is one of eight prisoners in the County gaol awaiting trial for the robbery of William COVILL on Trumpington Road, Cambridge⁴. The trial was covered by

<https://libraries.tas.gov.au/Digital/CON14-1-13/CON14-1-13P139>

² From Tittleshall records on www.freereg.org.uk and FamilySearch, <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:NTXN-9JD>

³ See [*Convict conduct record, Henry Webster*], <https://libraries.tas.gov.au/Digital/CON33-1-17/CON33-1-17P374>

⁴ Cambridgeshire Assizes, *Cambridge Chronicle and Journal*, 13 Mar 1841, p2 <https://tinyurl.com/ywv9tyze> ; Cambridgeshire Assizes, *Cambridge Independent Press*, 20 Mar 1841, p3 <https://tinyurl.com/4aw24hz4>

¹ 'Date of birth', *Henry Webster*, <https://convictrecords.com.au/convicts/webster/henry/54222> ; 'Native place', Norwich, [*Prisoner log, Tortoise*],

the local press where Henry, James JOHNSON and Daniel OWEN were:

...charged with having, on the 4th day of October [a Sunday] last [1840], assaulted Mr. Covill and stole from him one shilling and three-pence [another report also included "...a hat, value 2s 6d, and a handkerchief, value 1s..."⁵ [I knew Owen] I met the other two that

The Tortoise is at Chatham, under orders to proceed with convicts to Van Diemen's Land. She will receive 100 convicts from the Warrior, stationed at Woolwich. The Tortoise, after delivering the convicts, will proceed to New Zealand for timber and spars for the dockyard.

Morning Post, 17 August 1841, p1

night...Webster had on a low-crowned hat and dark coat...When I met them, Webster put one arm round my neck and the other to my throat...Johnson then felt if I had a watch. He then unbuttoned my coat, and out of my right hand waistcoat pocket he took one shilling and three penny pieces...Owen and Webster were holding me..[Johnson then] went across the road to the gate that led to Mr BEALS' farm. The other two laid me flat on my back, and ran towards Cambridge...⁶

The proceedings then heard how a passer-by at around 9pm heard a cry 'murder, stop thief', and came across Covill and

Owen, the latter claimed he had come across Covill after he had been attacked! Covill, the passers-by and Owen then went on to Cambridge but were passed by a man wearing 'a low crowned hat and dark coat' [*sic*]. The evidence was then presented that Johnson and Webster were then seen further down the road by a policeman, and the three prisoners were apprehended at 10.30pm on Market Street, Cambridge. The policeman's

statement included that:

...Webster had on a dark coat and a high crowned hat; own had on a dark coat; Johnson a smock frock and cap. I searched Webster, and found two shillings and a farthing in money, and in his coat pocket a low crowned hat; I asked him how he accounted for having two hats? He said that he had bought the hat he had on his head that night, off a man that was broke down, on Maids' Causeway, and had given him 2d for it...⁷

Another policeman, who was at the 'station house', gave evidence that:

...at the station house, I heard a voice (which I supposed to be Webster's, as I knew the voices of the other two) say, "I collared him, but don't think he can swear to me;"

⁵ Highway robbery on Trumpington Road, *Cambridge Independent Press*, 27 Mar 1841, p5 <https://tinyurl.com/ewmh23vn>

⁶ Court trial, *Cambridge General Advertiser*, 24 Mar 1841, p3, <https://tinyurl.com/4sfuwex2>

⁷ *Ibid*

Afterwards he said "We are only here on suspicion, they have not got the truth of it yet." The same voice said "I told Mr. Green that I gave 2d. for the hat on the Causeway." I heard the same voice say, "John did you not come down, the back way?". A voice replied "I did, and Richardson the policeman saw me."⁸

After the judge 'minutely summed up', a verdict of guilty was returned by the jury. In passing sentence, the judge said:

Sophia Riches, aged 17, who could neither read nor write, pleaded guilty to having stolen on the 22nd November last, one pair of boots, the property of Thomas Sacret, of St. Clements, shoemaker, and was sentenced to be imprisoned for two calender months.

Norfolk News, 10 January 1846

...from the manner in which they went about this robbery, one might almost suppose it was not their first offence. They were, he considered, very properly convicted, and it should prevent their committing a similar offence in this country for some time to come. The sentence of the Court was that they be transported beyond the sea for 215 years. The prisoner John said "the witnesses were all forswore against him, and he was only on the public road. Webster said. "Thank you, my Lord." The other prisoner appeared to feel the sentence acutely.⁹

⁸ *Ibid*

⁹ Highway robbery on Trumpington Road, *ibid*

Henry (with Johnson and Owen) was then moved mid-April 1842 from the gaol in Cambridge Castle to the prison hulk *Leviathan* moored in Portsmouth Harbour¹⁰. He was one of some 400 prisoners on *HMS Tortoise* for a direct passage of 160 days to Van Diemen's Land, arriving at Hobart¹¹. *Tortoise* (1000 tons), Captain J HOOD RN, her captain, had at his disposal around 100 crew with Thomas BROWNRIGG RN as her surgeon, embarked the military guards at Chatham mid-August 1841.

The ship stopped at Portsmouth on 27 August and remained there until 11 September 1841¹². *Tortoise* then sailed on to Plymouth where she remained until 13 October 1841. Bad weather resulted in an aborted start of the voyage to VDL and, after repairs back at Plymouth Dockyard, finally sailed for VDL on 26 October 1841 via Cape of Good Hope.¹³

¹⁰ Removal of convicts, *Cambridge Chronicle and Journal*, 17 Apr 1841, p2
<https://tinyurl.com/3nzsuznj>

¹¹ *Henry Webster*,
<https://convictrecords.com.au/convicts/webster/henry/54222> ; *Tortoise*,
<https://convictrecords.com.au/ships/tortoise>

¹² *Tortoise 1841/42*, <https://redcoat-settlerswa.com/ships/tortoise-1841-42/>

¹³ *Ibid*

The average sentence of the convicts inboard was 23 years, with 52 life sentences. The ship arrived in Hobart on 19 February 1842, three of the prisoners died on the voyage¹⁴; 294 male prisoners were disembarked¹⁵. While *Tortoise* was in port, *HMS Beagle* arrived with Charles Darwin on board.

After disembarking the convicts and the guards, *Tortoise* sailed on 9 March 1842 to New Zealand to gather Kauri wood for spars for the Navy. Between March and June 1842, the crew of the *Tortoise* succeeded in gathering 103 masts along New Zealand's Coromandel Coast¹⁶.

On arrival, Henry was allocated to the Salt Water Creek Probation Station¹⁷. Later known as Saltwater River, this was the first labour station instituted on the Tasman Peninsula and was ultimately one of 11 convict stations on the Tasman Peninsula that was solely set aside for the Convict Department. In January 1842 there were described as being about 400 convicts and 14 soldiers of the 96th Regiment; the following year, 1842-43,

showed that there were only 346 men at Saltwater River, and by 1847, 499 prisoners at the station¹⁸. The accommodation buildings were still described as of a temporary nature, with no separate "apartments"; dormitories were opened up and provided with bed-places divided by battens.

Cropping was the main source of employment for prisoners at the station. In the station's early years, tilling was a manual affair, with little in the way of machinery of any description; the spade and hoe were the main tools used. Bullocks were used from 1846 onwards. From around the middle of 1847, sheep were run at a new farm established a few kilometres away from the station. In May of that year, 50 prisoners were employed in erecting fences and huts for the new sheep farm¹⁹.

Although Henry was on probation for two years which expired in 19 February 1844, it was in July 1843 that as result of '*misconduct with 4 others assaulting a fellow prisoner*'²⁰ he was given a month's hard labour. He was then penalised in April 1847 - four months hard labour - for '*...being out after hours and assaulting a constable in the execution of*

¹⁴ The surgeon's record noted "...indicates that 115 people were admitted to the Sick Bay, 28 of them with the seaman's old enemy scorbutus (scurvy). There were 11 cases of pneumonia, including some of the soldiers. Nine children were delivered on the voyage. The three convicts who died had succumbed to dysentery (2) and a case of phthisis (tuberculosis).", *ibid*

¹⁵ *Topic: 1841 Census - HENRY WEBSTER*
<https://www.rootschat.com/forum/index.php?topic=265423.0>

¹⁶ *Ibid*

¹⁷ [*Convict conduct record, Henry Webster*], *ibid*

¹⁸ BULLER, Rick (2007), *Convict probation and the evolution of jetties in Tasmania*, Flinders University Maritime Archaeology Monograph Series; no 7,
https://www.researchgate.net/publication/310832090_Convict_Probation_and_the_Evolution_of_Jetties_in_Tasmania

¹⁹ *Ibid*

²⁰ [*Convict conduct record, Henry Webster*], *ibid*

his duties...'²¹. Henry's conduct record traces his employment and it appears improved behaviour resulted in his prisoners' class upgraded²². Maybe because of this Henry is given a Ticket-of-Leave on 3 July 1848²³. This cleared the way for him to seek permission to marry Sophia RICHES in the autumn of 1849; this was refused as she was under punishment²⁴. The refusal was obviously lifted as they did marry on 2 September 1849 at St Georges, Battery Point, Hobart where, Henry is recorded as groom²⁵.

Sophia Elizabeth RICHES was born on 8 January 1831 in Reedham, Norfolk, to Charles and Elizabeth (née BISHOP). There are records that she was baptised at St Peter, Mancroft, Norfolk, on 9

²¹ [*Convict conduct record, Henry Webster*], *ibid*

²² "...In the probation gangs, prisoners were worked at hard labour, but the gangs were split into three divisions with differing levels of severity of labour. Under a regime of reward and penalty, prisoners could be moved between divisions to undertake lesser or harsher forms of labour. In addition, each prisoner was awarded daily credits or debits for good or bad behaviour. As their level of credits increased, their period of confinement could be reduced, or conversely, extended if the debits mounted...", BULLER, *ibid*

²³ Convict Department, *Colonial Times*, 11 Jul 1848, p4
<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/8763102>

²⁴ *A register of marriages*,
<https://libraries.tas.gov.au/Digital/CON52-1-3/CON52-1-3P173>

²⁵ *Marriages*,
<https://libraries.tas.gov.au/Digital/RGD37-1-8/RGD37-1-8P96>

February 1831²⁶. Charles was a glover and seems to have married Elizabeth at All Saints, Little Melton, Norfolk, on the outskirts of Norwich on 28 November 1830²⁷. In the 1841 Census, Sophia is living with her family in Shuttle Yard, Heigham, Norwich, with parents (father, a tanner), her younger sister and her maternal grandmother. On 29 June 1847 Sophia (a glover²⁸, of St Benedict's) was convicted at Norwich City Quarter Sessions that on 29 April 1847 she stole a brass weight and two other pieces of brass from the yard belonging to Matthew BLYTH of St Martin-at-Palace, Norwich, having been committed the previous month²⁹. She was sentenced to seven years' transportation³⁰ as she had previously been convicted of crimes (according to her convict conduct records, twice stealing boots³¹):

On 6 October 1847 she was moved, with five others³², from Norwich City gaol to

²⁶ *England Births and Christenings, 1538-1975*,
<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:JW2R-CBY>

²⁷ From Little Melton records on
www.freereg.org.uk

²⁸ <https://libraries.tas.gov.au/Digital/CON15-1-4/CON15-1-4P314>

²⁹ Police Intelligence, *Norfolk News*, 8 May 1847, <https://tinyurl.com/2rw396u8>

³⁰ Prisoners, *Norfolk News*, 3 Jul 1847, p4
<https://tinyurl.com/5fuwybez>

³¹ [*Conduct record, Sophia Riches*],
<https://libraries.tas.gov.au/Digital/CON41-1-17/CON41-1-17P128>;
<https://libraries.tas.gov.au/Digital/CON15-1-4/CON15-1-4P315>

³² All but one under the age of 17; the exception was 30 years old

the Millbank, London, receiving prison³³. On her third passage, *Elizabeth and Henry* (a ship of 534 tons) left London with 170 women prisoners on 11 February 1848³⁴, and arrived at Hobart on 30 June 1848 after 130 days travel. One prisoner had died on the journey³⁵ and the average sentence of the prisoners was nine years with three having been given life sentences³⁶.

Sophia's probation was for six months and she was assigned to the 'Anson Gang'.³⁷ *Anson* was a hulk used for the reception of newly arrived female convicts. With the *Anson* serving as the female probation station, the Cascades Female Factory, Hobart, was used primarily for the secondary punishment of female convicts who had re-offended while on assignment³⁸. This facility, opened in 1828, '*...was intended to remove women convicts from the negative*

influences and temptations of Hobart, and also to protect society from what was seen as their immorality and corrupting influence...'³⁹. Sophia was allocated to 'Third Class' in February 1849⁴⁰:

The class system regulated both clothing and daily tasks of the women while in the factory. The First Class (or more trustworthy) women were employed as cooks, task overseers and hospital attendants. Second Class convicts were employed in making clothes for the establishment and preparing and mending linen. The crime class [Third Class?] was sentenced to the washtub, laundering for the factory, the orphan school and the penitentiary; they also carded and spun wool.⁴¹

Sophia's records illustrate that she was not of the best behaviour and there is a suggestion she was involved in a misconduct case in the Cascades Female Factory⁴². She was, however, given three months hard labour for '*not being in bed by 9 o'clock*' in April 1849⁴³. Over the next few months, she worked for Mary A

³³ Removal of convicts from our city jail, *Norfolk News*, 9 Oct 1847, p3
<https://tinyurl.com/2vwfzkcnc>

³⁴ Or 13 February 1848, *Elizabeth and Henry* (3),

<https://www.hawkesbury.net.au/claimaconvict/shipDetails.php?shipId=879>; [Conduct record, Sophia Riches], *ibid*

³⁵ *Sophia Elizabeth Riches*, <https://convictrecords.com.au/convicts/riches/sophia-elizabeth/21502>; [Conduct record, Sophia Riches], *ibid*

³⁶ *Elizabeth and Henry*, <https://convictrecords.com.au/ships/elizabeth-and-henry>

³⁷ [Conduct record, Sophia Riches], *ibid*

³⁸ *Cascade Female Factory*, <https://www.ourtasmania.com.au/hobart/cascades-female.html>

³⁹ *Cascade Female Factory*, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cascades_Female_Factory

⁴⁰ [Conduct record, Sophia Riches], *ibid*

⁴¹ *Life in the Cascades Female Factory*, <https://femalefactory.org.au/history/life-in-the-cascades-female-factory>

⁴² SCHWARZ, Moniker (2023), 'Round ring on the floor' - collective resistance networks in female factories, *Australian Journal of Biography and History*, no 7, https://press-files.anu.edu.au/downloads/press/n10814/html/10_schwarz.xhtml?referer=&page=13

⁴³ [Conduct record, Sophia Riches], *ibid*

GORMLEY, Murray Street, Hobart, for £6 wages⁴⁴; Michael ARKWRIGHT, Collins Street, Hobart, for £9⁴⁵; and William COOK, Wilmott Street, Hobart, for £8⁴⁶. As referred to earlier, towards the end of 1849 she was again under punishment before her marriage in that year.

In the 1851 Census, Henry was living at Browns River in a wooden house with two other females⁴⁷ – Sophia and presumably their first daughter, Sophia Elizabeth, who had been born on 23 June 1850 and registered in Hobart; Henry was recorded then as a groom⁴⁸. Browns River was renamed Kingston, which became a district outside Hobart, in 1851⁴⁹. Sophia and Henry were still living there when the birth of Charles William and Gamaliel, twins, were born on 6 March 1852 and registered in Hobart; Henry was still a groom⁵⁰. Sarah was born next on 24 June 1854 - a source

has Sandy Bay⁵¹, an area to the south of Browns River/Kingston - registered again in Hobart by a friend, Mr HAULDEN of Sandy Bay. Henry was now a farmer⁵². Henry is recorded as a labourer when an unnamed son (possibly John Henry⁵³) was born in Browns River on 25 December 1856, registered in Hobart⁵⁴. Henry was a landholder of 10 acres in 1857 when his name appeared as a signatory on two petitions. One to propose a public meeting to discuss objecting to an increase in taxation⁵⁵, the other, to the Lord Bishop of Tasmania, against the removal of the Reverend Edward FREEMAN from the parish of Kingston⁵⁶. An unnamed daughter (possibly Maria⁵⁷) was born on 1 January

⁴⁴ <https://libraries.tas.gov.au/Digital/CON30-1-1/CON30-1-1P244JPG> ;

⁴⁵ <https://libraries.tas.gov.au/Digital/CON30-1-2/CON30-1-2P097JPG>

⁴⁶ <https://libraries.tas.gov.au/Digital/CON30-1-2/CON30-1-2P112JPG>

⁴⁷ [1851 Census], <https://libraries.tas.gov.au/Digital/CEN1-1-106/CEN1-1-106-30A>

⁴⁸ <https://libraries.tas.gov.au/Digital/RGD33-1-3/RGD33-1-3-P286>

⁴⁹ Browns River (Tasmania), [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Browns_River_\(Tasmania\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Browns_River_(Tasmania))

⁵⁰ <https://libraries.tas.gov.au/Digital/RGD33-1-4/RGD33-1-4-P456>

⁵¹ www.myheritage.com/research/record-40001-211465913/sarah-white-born-webster-in-familysearch-family-tree

⁵² There is an annotation that it was June and not July as recorded on the Register, libraries.tas.gov.au/Digital/RGD33-1-5/RGD33-1-5-P076

⁵³ www.ancestry.co.uk/family-tree/person/tree/104117309/person/372037403942/facts

⁵⁴ libraries.tas.gov.au/Digital/RGD33-1-6/RGD33-1-6-P284 ; Sophia's maiden name is given as RICHARDSON

⁵⁵ Taxation, *The Hobart Town Advertiser*, 4 Feb 1857, p3 trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/264642644

⁵⁶ The Parish of Kingston, *The Tasmanian Daily News*, 12 Oct 1857, p3, trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/201342430

⁵⁷ www.ancestry.co.uk/family-tree/person/tree/104117309/person/372037403942/facts

1858, recorded as Browns River registered in Kingston, with Henry recorded as a farmer⁵⁸. Another unnamed son (possibly Henry known as Harry⁵⁹) was born on 5 June 1860 in Kingston with Henry as an ostler⁶⁰. Sophia Alice (known later as Alice) was born on 18 July 1863 in Kingston⁶¹. Henry was still a labourer when Albert Henry's birth on 1 December was registered in 1865 in Kingston. Henry was again a labourer when Arthur William was born on 14 February 1868 in Kingston⁶². Also, in Kingston, Emily Amelia was born on 10 October 1870; father was still a labourer⁶³. Henry and Sophia's last child, Matilda Rose was born on 25 January 1873 also in Kingston where Henry was a labourer⁶⁴.

Two years later, on 27 Nov 1875, Henry (still a labourer) dies of a stomach disease in Kingston⁶⁵. Sophia saw all the children marry with the exception of Henry (no marriage found to date) and

Albert Henry, 1900. Three predeceased her – John Henry in 1887, Henry in 1891, and Gamaliel in 1897. Sophia died 'at her daughter's residence', Pickit Hill, Browns River, on 24 November 1899 of bronchitis and cardiac dropsy⁶⁶. The record states that she was a widow of Henry, a farmer.

Did I make any connection to a Webster family in Burnie? The nearest, to date, is that Gamaliel, one of the twins born in 1852, married Lydia Jane Radcliffe RATCLIFFE on 17 January 1883 at Corinna, Tasmania, registered at both Waratah and Emu Bay⁶⁷, the latter the earlier name of Burnie⁶⁸! Did I spend unnecessary effort tracing Henry and Sophia's stories despite this? I would say "no" as tracing their early days in Norfolk, and then the background of their various convict establishments, made the effort, as a researcher, worthwhile.

⁵⁸ libraries.tas.gov.au/Digital/RGD33-1-36/RGD33-1-36P226

⁵⁹ www.ancestry.co.uk/family-tree/person/tree/104117309/person/372037404152/facts

⁶⁰ libraries.tas.gov.au/Digital/RGD33-1-38/RGD33-1-38P752

⁶¹ libraries.tas.gov.au/Digital/RGD33-1-41/RGD33-1-41P692

⁶² libraries.tas.gov.au/Digital/RGD33-1-46/RGD33-1-46P384

⁶³ libraries.tas.gov.au/Digital/RGD33-1-48/RGD33-1-48P112

⁶⁴ libraries.tas.gov.au/Digital/RGD33-1-51/RGD33-1-51P056

⁶⁵ libraries.tas.gov.au/Digital/RGD35-1-44/RGD35-1-44P110

⁶⁶ libraries.tas.gov.au/Digital/RGD35-1-68/RGD35-1-68P146 ; Deaths, *The Mercury*, 27 November 1899, p1

trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/12766571

⁶⁷ libraries.tas.gov.au/Digital/RGD35-1-66/RGD35-1-66P250 ; libraries.tas.gov.au/Digital/RGD35-1-66/RGD35-1-66P269

⁶⁸ A distance today of 125 miles by road. An example of how the distance was overcome is the birth of daughter Amelia Elizabeth on 7 September 1884 which was registered in Emu Bay by post some two weeks later libraries.tas.gov.au/Digital/RGD33-1-63/RGD33-1-63P211

John Harper, *Ratcliffe*, 1845

Diana Thomas (Member 7967)

Thirty-four year old JOHN HARPER, a married man with seven children, was tried on the 10 March 1845 at Carrickfergus, Ireland, for stealing banknotes, to the value of £140.10s.¹ On 18 November 1844, he had been given the money by his master, James ROBINSON², for whom he worked as a coachman, and told to bank the majority of the money and pay a bill with the remainder. John Harper did not go to the bank but went on a drinking spree and was apprehended in a public house near Belfast. Later, he took the police to a stone under which was £101.10s (about £16,000.00 today). The remaining amount of £39.00 (about £6,000.00 today) was not found. He was sentenced to 7 years transportation. This seems an extremely light sentence, when compared to those of other men tried for larceny. Patrick GODFREY, another convict transported on the *Ratcliffe*, stole only £25, and was also given 7 years.³ It is possible that John's employer, James

Robinson, gave a good report of John, as he had taken similar amounts to the bank in the past without incident. From all surviving records John seems to have been of good and quiet character, with no other prior crimes listed against him.

John was given a 'very good' report for his time in Smithfield Prison, Dublin, before he was taken to the ship *Ratcliffe* which set sail from Dublin on 19 May 1845 and arrived in Hobart on 30 August.⁴ His conduct was 'quiet'.⁵

On arrival John was assigned to Port Esperance, a Probation Station southwest of Hobart in the Huon Valley, for 12 months.⁶ Port Esperance only operated as a Probation Station from 1844 to 1848 and was a timber cutting camp which was self-sustaining, with crops of wheat and vegetables and with easy water access to Hobart.⁷ By 1846, when John was

¹ 'Stealing Bank Notes', *Belfast News-Letter*, 11 March 1845, p 2, <https://www.findmypast.com.au/image-viewer?issue=BL%2F0000038%2PF18450311&page=2>, accessed 7 June 2024.

² Sometimes reported as 'Robertson'.

³ Patrick Godfrey, *Ratcliffe*, 1845, Conduct Record, Conduct Registers of Male Convicts arriving in the Period of the Probation System, Tasmanian Archives, CON33/1/69 Image 76.

⁴ John Harper, *Ratcliffe*, 1845, Indents of Male Convicts, 1824 – 1853, Tasmanian Archives, CON14/1/20 Image 284/285. There is no Surgeon Superintendent's Journal for the *Ratcliffe*.

⁵ John Harper, *Ratcliffe*, 1845, Conduct Record, Conduct Registers of Male Convicts arriving in the Period of the Probation System, Tasmanian Archives, CON33/1/69 Image 82.

⁶ Emma D Watkins, *Life Courses of Young Convicts Transported to Van Diemen's Land*, Bloomsbury Academic, 2020, pp 26-27.

⁷ Caroline Homer, *History seen every day from the shores of Esperance Bay*, *The*

assigned there, possibly there was a library for the convicts and the overseers. These tended to contain mainly religious tracts, sermons, and Bibles and about one third are estimated to have been of a general nature. Prisoners could borrow titles as a privilege for good behaviour. This was to encourage improvement through education rather than punishment. This was thought to prepare the convicts for life after servitude.⁸ John's skills as a coachman, which would include handling horses as well as driving them, would have been sought after qualities. John 'emerged' from there on 13 September 1846.⁹ He gained his Ticket of Leave on 3 April 1849.¹⁰

Patrick Godfrey, who had been given the same sentence as John, and was on the same ship, and at Port Esperance, received his Ticket of Leave on 24 April 1849. Unlike John, his behaviour in prison and on the *Ratcliffe* was reported as 'bad'. He was put in the stocks in 1848 for drinking and his Ticket of Leave was rescinded in 1851.¹¹

Why did some convicts find it difficult to adapt to life in Tasmania when others survived and built new lives?

Federation of Australian Historical Societies Newsletter, July 2023, p 4.

⁸ Keith Adkins, Convict Probation Station Libraries in Colonial Tasmania, *Script & Print*, 2010, 34(2):87-92.

⁹ John Harper, Conduct Record.

¹⁰ 'Convict Department', *Hobart Town Advertiser*, 6 April 1849, p 4. <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/264603474?searchTerm=%22John%20Harper%22#>, accessed 7 June 2024.

¹¹ Patrick Godfrey, Convict Record.

The answer, in John's case, may lie in the fact that immediately after his trial in 1845, he petitioned for his wife, Jane, and several of their children to sail to Tasmania. Jane sailed on the *Waverley* from Dublin on 14 July 1847, and after a passage of ninety-eight days, arrived in Hobart Town on 25 November.¹² The Surgeon's Log for the *Waverley* does not mention her, but shows that some of the passengers, mainly the female convicts on board, suffered from dysentery and diarrhoea, and, in less favourable weather during the latter part of the voyage, sea sickness.¹³

The alacrity with which John applied for his wife and children to join him adds to a picture of a man who made one mistake that cost him dearly. Fortunately, he was able to make the most of his new situation with his family around him. In February 1855, he applied for his remaining two sons and two stepsons to immigrate from Ireland.¹⁴ They arrived in 1856.

¹² John Harper, 1847, Return of Free Settlers embarked on board the "Waverley" convict ship to join their husbands and parents in New South Wales. Ireland-Australia transportation database. National Archives of Ireland.

¹³ Surgeon Superintendent's Journal for the convict ship *Waverley*, UK, *Royal Navy Medical Journals, 1817-185*, ADM 101/73/9, accessed 23 July 2024. This was Dr PHILIP TOMS third convict voyage as Surgeon Superintendent and a very uneventful one.

¹⁴ John Harper, *Immigrant Applications and Bounty Tickets, 1854-1887*, CB7/30, Ancestry.com, accessed 10 May 2024.

Private Raymond Alfred Wing

1635 – 15th Battalion, 2nd Reinforcements

2404 – 40th Battalion, 4th Reinforcements

Robyn House (Member 7879)



Private Raymond Alfred Wing

Raymond WING, like many young men from rural towns all over Australia travelled to the other side of the world to fight in World War 1. They fought shoulder to shoulder, experiencing the horrors of war, suffering the loss of brothers and mates.

He lived in Gunns Plains, a small farming community on the North West Coast of Tasmania about 20 kilometres inland

from Ulverstone. The town's population during World War 1 was 83.¹ Of these, 27 young men enlisted, with only 17 of them returning from active service.² From his family, five cousins enlisted - Raymond, his two brothers, and two cousins.

Charles Alfred Raymond Wing was the second-eldest son of farmer Ebenezer

¹ L Broinowski, *Tasmanian War Record 1914-1918*, Government of Tasmania, Walch Press, Hobart, 1921, p. 211.

² Raymond Hyland, *Gunns Plains Honour Roll: World War 1 Centenary 1914-2014*, Impress Print, Devonport, 2014, Back Cover.

WING and his wife Florence. Born on 25 August 1895 he was known as Raymond Alfred Wing.³ He enlisted into the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) on 15 December 1914 embarking from Port Melbourne on the *Clan MacGillivray* with the 15th Battalion Infantry, 2nd Reinforcement on 2 February 1915.⁴ ⁵ The 15th Battalion was formed in September 1914, just weeks after the outbreak of WW1 with a quarter of the soldiers from Tasmania and the rest from Queensland.⁶ Three weeks later on 22 February, he disembarked in Colombo, Ceylon (Sri Lanka) having been discharged from the Infantry for being medically unfit suffering from a hernia. He returned to Australia on the *SS Sontay* arriving back in Melbourne on 30 March 1915, back to life on the farm in Tasmania having been away only 3 months.⁷

Later that year Raymond's brother Robert enlisted into the 15th Battalion, 7th Reinforcements, embarking from Melbourne on the *HMAT Suffolk* on 2



Private Robert George Wing

August 1915.⁸ His battalion joined forces with the Mediterranean and British Expeditionary Forces in Egypt and France. Robert died at Pozieres in France on 9 August 1916 in the battalion's first major action in France.⁹ ¹⁰ A letter from the Base Records Officer to their father dated 2 February 1923 stated that a report of the burial of Robert hadn't been received.¹¹ Joan BEAUMONT in her book *Broken Nation* mentions Edmund SULLIVAN having written on 9 August 1916 while the Australians were pushing along the ridge from Poziers to Mouquet Farm:

³ Birth register entry of Charles Alfred Raymond Wing, born 23 August 1895, Tasmanian Archives, RGD33/1/80 no. 2802.

⁴ Service Record of Raymond Wing, First Australian Imperial Force Personnel Dossiers, 1914-1920, National Archives of Australia, B2455, WING RAYMOND, p.9.

⁵ Service Record of Raymond Wing, p.33.

⁶ Australian War Memorial, "15th Australian Infantry Battalion", <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/U51455>, accessed 7 August 2021.

⁷ Service Record of Raymond Wing, p. 33.

⁸ Service Record of Robert George Wing, First Australian Imperial Force Personnel Dossiers, 1914-1920, National Archives of Australia, B2455, WING ROBERT, p. 28.

⁹ Hyland, "*Gunns Plains Honour Roll*", p. 7.

¹⁰ Australian War Memorial, "15th Australian Infantry Battalion".

¹¹ Service Record of Robert Wing, p.32.

Dead men buried everywhere. As I walked along, the ground 'gave' under me and I discovered that it was dead bodies with just a few inches of dirt covering them.¹²

I think Robert's death would have been the catalyst for Raymond's reenlistment two months later. He and his older brother Allan enlisted on the 2 Oct 1916, joining the 40th Battalion, 4th Reinforcements. Allan left his wife Edna and a young child to join the fighting overseas.¹³ ¹⁴ On 21 October, the brothers embarked from Melbourne on the *HMAT Port Melbourne*.¹⁵ ¹⁶ Both spent a couple of weeks in the ship's hospital during the trip but disembarked with the rest of the soldiers at the Devonport Dockyard, in Plymouth, England, before joining the 10th Training Battalion in Durrington on the Salisbury Plains.¹⁷ ¹⁸

The Advocate reported on 21 March 1917 that letters written by their sons from the Durrington Camp to Mr and Mrs Wing spoke in glowing terms of the sights of England and how the military training was agreeing with them as Ray now

weighed 12 stone and Allan 11 stone. Sadly, the article also mentioned a letter received from a fellow soldier and mate of their son Robert. He was fighting in the trenches beside Robert when their son was killed instantly by a shell.¹⁹ It is hard to imagine the heartache this couple was feeling with one son killed in action and two more on active service.

After four months at the training camp, Raymond shipped out on 25 April to the front line through Etaples, a fishing port in Northern France, joining up with his fellow soldiers who had left the camp just before Easter 3 weeks earlier. He had been a patient at the Parkhouse Hospital near Tidwell at that time.²⁰ By the time Raymond re-joined the 40th Battalion on 30 April, it had crossed River Lys into Belgium, occupying support positions in the defence of the Ploegsteert Wood at St Yves.²¹

During May, Raymond's battalion, as part of the 3rd Division, helped prepare for the upcoming attack on Messines-Wychaete Ridge carrying ammunition, making artillery positions, digging trenches, and relieving other battalions in the front-line trenches. During a raid held early on 31 May to gather information, members of the 40th Battalion were delayed getting across No-Man's-Land, therefore not getting to the enemy

¹² Joan Beaumont, *Broken Nation*, Allen & Unwin, Crows Nest NSW, 2013, p. 210.

¹³Service Record of Allan Wing, First Australia Imperial Force Personnel Dossiers, 1914-1920, National Archives of Australia, B2455, WING ALLAN, p. 1.

¹⁴ "No title", Zeehan and Dundas Herald, 9 November 1917, p. 2, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.newsarticle84275974>

¹⁵ Service record of Raymond Wing, p. 4.

¹⁶ Service Record of Allan Wing, p. 7.

¹⁷ibid

¹⁸ Service Record of Raymond Wing, p. 4.

¹⁹ "Gunns Plains-Local Soldiers Abroad", North Western Advocate and Emu Bay Times, 21 March 1917, p. 2, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article64774294>.

²⁰ Service Record of Raymond Wing, p. 15.

²¹ Broinowski, "Tasmanian War Record 1914-1918", p. 99.

trenches till just on daylight. They were caught in a bomb fight leaving 2 soldiers dead and 18 injured. On 4 June, the battalion position at Romarin was heavily shelled by gas shells with casualties numbering 36.²²

Raymond spent 25 September – 18 November in Military Hospitals in Treport and Boulogne with influenza so was not with the 40th Battalion during the third battle of Ypres where his brother Allan was killed on 13 October 1917.^{23 24} On the 12 and 13 October, 79 soldiers died.²⁵ After a week of fierce fighting in continual rain, as part of the 3rd Division, the 40th Battalion soldiers were stuck in mud, their guns and rifles were chocked with more mud.²⁶

Raymond re-joined his battalion on 6 December on the front-line south of River Douve for 9 days until they were relieved by 26th Battalion allowing them to head back to Neuve to spend Christmas in the intense cold. Danielle BROADHURST in an essay titled “Recovery in the Trenches: The Australian Corps and the Flanders winter, November 1917–March 1918” states:

The 40th Battalion were provided with a Christmas dinner paid for with both regimental funds and benefit

from the Australian Comforts Fund and celebrated the New Year in recreation trying to stay warm.²⁷

Late January 1918 the 40th moved to Hill 63, near Messines, as support for a few days, then to the Warneton Sector to carry out normal trench routines like sentry duty, filling sandbags, repairing trenches, and digging latrines.²⁸²⁹ Raymond was sent to England for some leave on 13 February, returning on 3 March.³⁰ He spent the rest of March, April and May, as a Temporary Corporal, fighting on the Western Front taking part in the offensives around Molancourt and Somme.³¹

During this time Raymond’s father wrote to General BIRDWOOD, the AIF’s Commanding Officer, asking for his son to be sent home as “he is the only one left out of three I think we have done our share.”³² A communication was forwarded to the 3rd Division’s HQ on 31

²⁷ Australian War Memorial, “Recovery in the Trenches: The Australian Corps and the Flanders winter, November 1917–March 1918”, Danielle Broadhurst, https://www.awm.gov.au/sites/default/files/recovery_in_the_trenches.pdf, accessed 15 August 2021.

²⁸ Broinowski, “*Tasmanian War Record 1914-1918*”, p. 104.

²⁹ NZ Ministry for Culture and Heritage “Life in the trenches”, <https://nzhistory.govt.nz/war/new-zealanders-in-belgium/a-soldiers-lot>, accessed 15 August 2021.

³⁰ Service Record of Raymond Wing, p. 16.

³¹ Broinowski, “*Tasmanian War Record 1914-1918*”, p. 104-105.

³² Service Record of Raymond Wing, p. 47.

²² Broinowski, “*Tasmanian War Record 1914-1918*”, p. 99.

²³ Service Record of Raymond Wing, p. 16.

²⁴ Service Record of Allan Wing, p. 5

²⁵ Broinowski, “*Tasmanian War Record 1914-1918*”, p.103.

²⁶ Broinowski, “*Tasmanian War Record 1914-1918*”, p. 102.

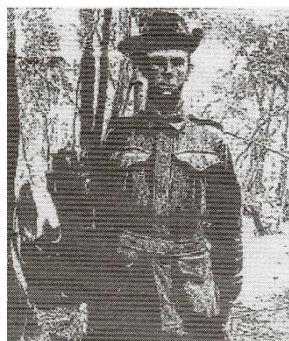
May 1918 granting approval for T/Cpl R.A Wing's return to Australia for discharge.³³ By 5 June he was on his way to England via Folkestone for a stint at Admin Headquarters in London before departing from Weymouth on 24 August.³⁴ ³⁵ Raymond arrived in Melbourne on 11 October, and 18 days later he was officially discharged from the AIF for family reasons.³⁶

Sadly, World War 1 had another tragic chapter to add to Raymond's life - his father Ebenezer died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound at Preston on 2 March 1927.³⁷ A report in *The Examiner* noted that during the war he was under a great mental strain with two sons giving their lives to the Empire.³⁸

On his return to Tasmania Raymond settled on the North West Coast living there until his death in 1964 aged 68.³⁹ He worked as a farmer in Gunns Plains, a labourer living in Ulverstone and finally

as a barman.⁴⁰ ⁴¹ ⁴² He married Kathleen CHARLESWORTH from Spalford on 17 November 1920, and together they raised 11 children.⁴³ ⁴⁴

His daughter Elaine remembers a reserved but fun-loving man who took pride in providing for his family. Like many of his fellow soldiers, he never discussed his war experiences with his family.⁴⁵



Private Allan John Joseph Wing

³³ Service Record of Raymond Wing, p. 48.

³⁴ Service Record of Raymond Wing, p. 28.

³⁵ Service Record of Raymond Wing, p. 4.

³⁶ Service Record of Raymond Wing, p. 37.

³⁷ Inquest Report, Ebenezer Wing, 3 March 1927, Findings, Depositions and associated Papers relating to Coroners' Inquests, Inquest SC195/1/90, Tasmanian Archives, accessed 27 Aug 2021.

³⁸ "Became Depressed", *Examiner*, 4 March 1927, p2, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article51410101>.

³⁹ Raymond Wing, Death Notice, *Advocate*, microfilm, 23 June 1964, p. 16.

⁴⁰ Electoral Roll record for Raymond Wing, Subdivision of Leven, Division of Darwin, Tasmania, 1919.

⁴¹ Electoral Roll record for Raymond Wing, Subdivision of Leven, Division of Darwin, Tasmania, 1936.

⁴² Electoral Roll record for Raymond Wing, Subdivision of Leven, Division of Darwin, Tasmania, 1954.

⁴³ "Wedding Bells", *Advocate*, 23 November 1920, p. 3, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article66606844>.

⁴⁴ Margaret Kathleen Wing, Death Notice, *Advocate*, microfilm, 10 September 1990, p. 23.

⁴⁵ Dianne McFarlane and Elaine Johnson, phone conversation with author, 6 September 2021.

Joseph Law and The Gunn at His Back

Maureen O'Toole (Member 7147)

Just a year after his marriage to sixteen-year-old Elizabeth ATKINSON, Joseph LAW had built a 4 roomed cottage on Marine Terrace, Burnie, in the district of Horton, Tasmania. He intended to establish the first, and much requested tavern in the town of Burnie. Up until that time, the town provided no legal drinking establishments. The licensing board received Law's application the following year.

The licensing board, consisting of 28 members, met in Launceston in September 1846. Ronald Campbell GUNN was the member representing the Horton district. As well as Law, William CASTLES had also applied for a licence. When the applications were presented, Castles's was seen first and approved to become a licensed premises. When Law's application was considered, it was refused on the grounds of there already being one licence appointed for that district. Castles' *Emu Bay Inn*, was located on Surrey Road and opened as Burnie's first inn on September 1846¹.

Twelve months later, Law again applied to the licensing board. As well as gaining the support from several of Burnie's respected gentlemen, his application was backed by John Lee ARCHER, the local Police magistrate. This time Law was successful, receiving his liquor license in

September 1847. With victualling licence now in hand, Law named his cottage *The Burnie Tavern* changing the name a few years later to the *Burnie Inn*.

As a fourteen-year-old, Law had been convicted in England, on a charge of housebreaking and transported to Van Diemen's Land for a term of fourteen years. After spending nearly twelve months on the Hulk, *Euryalus*², young Law arrived in Hobart Town in February 1832 described as a labourer's boy³. Although having several marks against his behaviour through his term, it was not until six years later that Law first felt the first sting of the lash for disobedience receiving 50 lashes for his misconduct⁴. The punishment was ordered by the Van Diemen's Land Company's magistrate, Ronald Campbell Gunn who was recorded as having ordered a much greater number of floggings for disobedience than any other magistrate⁵.

The *Burnie Inn* was well patronised and Law described as a 'credible proprietor and a jolly host'⁶. He had done so well in the industry that he built a brewery next to his inn. When the Van Diemen's Land Company began offering its lands for sale

¹ Cornwall Chronicle 7/11/1846 p.861

² PRO HO9/2 Euryalus Prison Hulk register

³ Tasmanian Archives CON18/1/6

⁴ Tasmanian Archives CON 31/1/28

⁵ Dean, Geoff, *Convicts with the Van Diemen's Land Company*, 2007, thesis

⁶ Cornwall Chronicle 22/10.1850

in 1852, Law was able to purchase the three properties on Marine Terrace including those on which he had built the *Burnie Inn* and the *Burnie Brewery*⁷. In doing so, he became one of Burnie's first private land holders⁸.

Within the next two years Law, together with his wife and two young daughters, had relocated to a property of 86 acres which he had recently purchased. The land was situated on the western outskirts of Burnie. Even before the family's relocation, Law started building a tavern on the property⁹. His estate later being described as a double storey tavern complete with a brewery and malt house¹⁰. The Tavern was named the *Stratham Hotel* but better known to the locals as *The Star Hotel*.

The *Burnie Inn* changed hands in 1852. Initially the inn was leased to Law's sister-in-law, Mary REDGATE¹¹ before it was purchased in 1865 by Thomas and Harriett WISEMAN. Along with the sale, Law also provided the Wisemans a mortgage of £600¹². By mid-July, 1865 the Wiseman's had drawn up a new contract which named Ronald Campbell Gunn as a trustee. Just short of a decade later, Thomas Wiseman's death saw

Gunn take over the financial management of the Burnie Inn. Harriett (Granny) Wiseman, continued to operate the Inn for the next thirty-six years and the sign of the Burnie Inn was retained at Marine Terrace until 1901. Over seventy years later, the building was relocated to the Burnie Park and is now commemorated as Burnie's oldest building.

Joseph Law had enjoyed the physical feats of farming his 86-acre allotment and had applied to the Government for a lease of unsettled land at St Mary's Plains, located about 30 kilometres south west of Burnie. Information was sought from Peter Lemonde LETTE, the district surveyor, who confirmed the land was not part of a grant belonging to the Van Diemen's Land Company. Law also received confirmation from Deputy Commissioner of Crown Lands, Mr. BOOTHMAN, acknowledging St Mary's Plains was indeed owned by the Crown and available for lease. James Gibson, the superintendent of the Van Diemen's Land Company had kindly granted Law access to the isolated property through the Company's roads¹³. Law's application to lease the 500 acres was approved. Rents were paid in advance and the lease taken up in July 1859.

Over the coming years, Law improved the St Mary's Plains block by clearing four miles of road, building a small cottage, a barn and stock holding yards. He had laid pasture, built fences, and ran more than 30 head of cattle on the

⁷ *Cornwall Chronicle* 24/2/1855 Advertising.

⁸ Van Diemen's Land Company Conveyances Vol. p.59

⁹ *Cornwall Chronicle* 19/11/1850

¹⁰ Billett, Basil, *Commercial Heart of Burnie: 'Lest We Forget'*, 1984

¹¹ Pink, Kerry, *Campsite to city: a history of Burnie 1827-2000*, 2000

¹² Lands Information System Tasmania, Historic Deed 4/2504

¹³ Parliamentary Papers HA1866 no.64 *The Petition of Joseph Law*

property. All was going well until the day Ronald Campbell Gunn visited the St Mary's Plains property. Law would have undoubtedly, been very displeased to renew the acquaintance. Gunn had since replaced Mr Boothman as the Deputy Commissioner of Crown Lands and strongly argued the land at St Mary's Plains belonged to the Van Diemen's Land Company, not the Crown, and therefore not available for private lease.

Law appealed to the House of Assembly his copy of the lease clearly outlined his tenancy was on the western side of the St Mary's River hence, not on the Company's land. Four years passed before he received notice that a decision had been made by the Surveyor-General. It stated surveyor Peter Lemonde Lette, had erred and St Mary's Plains was indeed part of the Van Diemen's Land Company's Hampshire Hills block. Compensation of £1200 for loss of rent, improvements and stock was claimed but I have yet found no evidence that compensation was ever paid.

Law's luck certainly began to change since Mr Gunn's visit. By 1868, Law was advertising 'Superior Pale Ale' and accommodation for travellers at the Stratham Hotel, but he had failed to meet his mortgage repayments and foreclosure was ensuing. The assets of his farms were to be sold¹⁴. All 150 head of livestock, farm and brewery machinery, farm produce and even the family's personal furniture were all offered for auction. Thieves had helped themselves to many

of Law's possessions still held at the St Mary's block. Bedding, farming tools, cattle and pigs had all been stolen¹⁵. Law's elder daughter, Caroline, aged just 17 years, had died of consumption in 1863.¹⁶ His second daughter, and only surviving child, Elizabeth, died in 1877¹⁷ leaving behind her five small children. He had lost his home, his farm and the *Stratham Hotel* at West Burnie.

Joseph Law and Ronald Campbell Gunn never crossed paths again. Law died in March 1902 aged 87. He had no assets. At the time of his death, he had been living at the *Menai* in South Burnie¹⁸. Five years earlier his wife, Elizabeth died a solitary death in the New Town Charitable Institute, Hobart. It is not known how or when Elizabeth got to Hobart nor the real reasons for her senility.

The only remaining relic of Joseph Law's life, the Burnie Inn, now stands in the Burnie Park. Ironically, the Inn is just 300 metres from where Law had built his Stratham Hotel.

¹⁴ Tasmanian Archives SC490/1/1

¹⁵ Tasmanian Archives POL907/1/1 1862 p.216

¹⁶ Tasmanian Archives RGD35/1/32

¹⁷ Tasmanian Archives RDG35/1/46

¹⁸ Tasmanian Archives. AG18/1/1 no 554



*The Burnie Inn
Burnie City Council website*

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Library Acquisitions

Hobart Branch

- *K. Parish, M. Martin, M. Yost, *Church of England Marriage Register Index Ringarooma District, Tasmania 1904 – 1948* [Q929.31099464 CHU]
- *R. Kenny, *The Family History of Private James Kelly* [Q929.2 KEL]
- *L. Dillon, *Captains, Carpenters & Convicts - A History of the Duke/Beattie Families* [Q929.2 DUK]
- *None, *The History of Kingston* [994.62 HIS]
- *K. Parish, M. Martin, M. Yost, *Church of England Marriage Register Index Ulverstone Tas. 1900 - 1929, 1932 – 1947* [Q929.31099465 CHU]
- *K. Parish, M. Martin, M. Yost, *Church of England Marriage Index Holy Trinity, Launceston. 1900 – 1944* [Q929.31099465 CHU]
- *I Donald, *Her Blood in our Veins - the story of Ellen Wainwright* [Q929.2 WAI]
- *D. Beswick, *The Family of Thomas & Mary Beswick* [Q929.2BES]
- *K. Parish, M. Martin, M. Yost, *St. Pauls Church of England Marriage Index. Launceston Tas. 1900 - 1947 Supplement 1945 -1954* [Q929.31099465 STP]
- *T. McKay & H. Reinhart, *Richard Lewis 1789 - 1867 - The History of Abernant Estate, Cambridge Tasmania* [Q929.2 LEW]
- * T. R. Macleod, *A History of Green Ponds 1862 – 1987* [994.62 MAC]
- *S. Gregs, *Once upon an Island* [Q994.62 GRE]
- *K. Parish, M. Martin, M. Yost, *Church of England Marriage Index St. Marys District 1896 – 1963* [Q929.31099464 CHU]
- *K. Parish, M. Martin, M. Yost, *St. Georges Church of England Marriage Index Invermay Launceston Tas. 1921 - 1963 (incomplete)* [Q929.31099465 STG]
- *W. Burbury, *Education at Ross - a history* [3701.99463 BUR]
- *E. Beaven, *Take heed lest you forget - St. Peters Anglican Church, Hamilton* [283.9462 BEA]
- *K. Parish, M. Martin, M. Yost, *Church of England Marriage Index - St. Johns Church, Launceston Tas. 1. 1900 -1924. 2. 1924 -1940. 3. 1941 – 1947* [Q929.31099465 CHU]
- *S. Cocker, *A Community at Work - The Tasmanian Sanatorium 1905 -1945* [Q362.13 COC]
- *A Tomes, *Margate Primary School 1869 – 1994* [Q372.99462 TOM]
- *none, *Bridgewater - a community & its schools* [Q373.66462 BRI]
- *K. Parish, M. Martin, M. Yost, *Chalmers Free Presbyterian Marriages 1901 – 1930* [Q929.31099461 CHA]
- *K. Parish, M. Martin, M. Yost, *Holy Trinity Marriages 1920 - 1930 St. John the Baptist Marriages 1920 – 1930* [Q929.31099461 HOL]
- *K. Parish, M. Martin, M. Yost, *St. Andrews Presbyterian Marriages 1896 - May 1902, March 1905 - April 1916, 1916 – 1930* [Q929.31099461 STA]

- *A. Baker, *Female Convicts Transported England to V.D.L. on the Hector. 1835 A – C* [Q3659946 BAK]
- *A. Baker, *Female Convicts Transported England to V.D.L. on the Hector. 1835. D – I* [Q3659946 BAK]
- *A. Baker, *Female Convicts Transported England to V.D.L. on the Hector. 1835. J – M* [Q3659946 BAK]
- *A. Baker, *Female Convicts Transported England to V.D.L. on the Hector. 1835. N – Z* [Q3659946 BAK]
- *None, *Pioneer Women of Van Diemen's Land* [Q994.6 PIO]
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- *C. Paton, *Irish Family History Resources online* [929.10720415 PAT]
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Launceston Branch

- *Adam-Smith, Patsy, *Heart of Exile: Ireland, 1848, and the seven patriots banished; their adventures, loneliness and loves in three continents as they search for refuge*
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- *Green, OAM, Christopher 'Gus', *What a Racket!: The Illustrated Story of the Alexander Patent Racket Co. Ltd., Launceston, Tasmania, Australia 1925-1961*
- *Jones, John, Robert Dowling: *Tasmanian son of Empire*

- *Lennox, John and Wadsley, John, *Barrack Hill: A History of Anglesea Barracks 1811-2011*
- *Locher, J J and Isler, Roland, *To Australia! Letters of an Emigrant by J J Locher from Speicher*
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- *Mulford, Therese, *Tasmanian Framemakers 1830-1930 ~ a directory ~*
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- *Paul Hamlyn Pty Ltd (Pub), *Early Artists of Australia*
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- *Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery (Pub), *QV, December 2017, Edition Three, Robyn McKinnon: Disappearing into Being*
- *Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery (Pub), *QV, June 2018, Edition Four, The Black Suite: The Cautionary Tales of Angela Casey*
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* Denotes donated item

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FARRELL Joseph	Hobart TAS AUS	c.1852	8485
FARRELL Thomas	Hobart TAS AUS	c.1852	8485
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HILL Bidy & John	TAS AUS	1830s	8498
HILL Mary Margaret	TAS AUS	1830s	8498
HITE Thomas	UK/TAS AUS	1803>	8487
HITE William	TAS AUS	1844–1919	8487
HUNT Mona	TAS AUS	1843–1881	8490
KID Thomas	Kettins ANS SCT	c.1720	8494
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LONARGAN James	Launceston TAS AUS	1850–1870	8483
LONERGAN James	Launceston TAS Aus	1850–1870	8483
MARSHALL			8486
MARTIN Mary (Jane)	Chiltern VIC AUS	1850>	8489
MATTHEWS/MATHEWS John Richard	Campbell Town/Mathinna TAS AUS		8490
McGRAIL Catherine	Deloraine TAS AUS	c.1878	8484
McKNIGHT Clifford	Chiltern VIC AUS	1898>	8489

NAME	PLACE/AREA	TIME	M'SHIP NO.
McKNIGHT William	Chiltern VIC AUS	1850>	8489
MCRA John	Bothwell TAS AUS	1826–1857	8492
MCRAE Christopher		1823–1825	8492
MCRAE Duncan	Bothwell/Blue Hills TAS AUS	1837–1845	8492
MCRAE Margaret	Bothwell TAS AUS	1826–1865	8492
McRAE/MCRA Janet	Orphan School Hobart/Bothwell TAS AUS	1826–1840	8492
MURPHY John	TAS AUS	1850 >	8498
PETTIGREW William	TAS AUS	1881–1904	8493
RISBY Andrew	Ulverstone TAS AUS		8497
SHEARING	TAS AUS		8480
SMITH Hannah/Hanna	Bothwell TAS AUS	1840–1880	8490
TIERNEY Martin	Tongataboo Tonga	1815–1904	8495
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