

GLAMORGAN SPRING BAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

Issue 4 - June Quarter 2013

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DTP Peter Huttemeier

Society News

Firstly I would like to send a special Get Well Soon to Di Bricknell, our Volunteer Newsletter Publisher.

This Issue has been cobbled together by myself, with input from other Members, and I apologise up front that my lack of Desk Top Publishing skills means it is not up to the usual standard of recent Former Times issues published by Di.

The main part of this Issue is a wonderful article by Dr John Carter about William Taylor Noyes, I hope you enjoy it. The article is on Page 6.

Dr Carter is a Canadian historian who is currently a Research Associate, History and Classics Programme, School of Humanities, UTAS. He can be contacted, by email, at drjohncarter@bell.net

New Members

Since the last edition the following new members have joined the Society: Derek Harris, Belinda Russell, Dianne Smith and Cath Willmot.

Vale

Society Member Vida 'Dot' May Webb, who died earlier this year.

Louisa Anne Meredith Prints



The Society has completed the Re-Printing Project of Louisa Anne Meredith's first volume of *Some of My Bush Friends In Tasmania*.

Thanks to Noel Stanley and Di Bricknell for their wonderful work in getting this completed and of course the folks at Copicentre in Hobart who have completed the printing.

Details on Pricing and availability is attached to the Newsletter.

From Maureen

The Glamorgan Spring Bay Historical Society has a wonderful collection of diaries, books, documents, maps, newspaper cuttings, oral histories and photographs relating to our area.

Over 8,000 photographs have been scanned and catalogued by Ray Lewis, these are available to search on the society's computer (not online) in Franklin Street, Swansea. Ray has done a fabulous job scanning and recording all the photograph information.

Gloria Willis is currently entering our library books on to our catalogue. This is a big task so if you can come along and help her it would be much appreciated.

Carolyn Dillon has entered a small slice (around 500 records) of our newspaper articles on to the catalogue, but we badly need someone to help.

Oral history is an important part of our collection. Over the past 20 years many volunteers such as: Robert & Joyce Dunbabin, Judie Hastie, Suzanne Lester, Gloria Willis, Peter Huttemeier, Helen Hall and many others have undertaken to record, transcribe, collate and index these. You can access these from our rooms.

Our original documents, information and folders are currently being scanned and entered into the catalogue by myself. But at the pace I'm going don't expect to see much of a dent before the year 2050 (thats if I live that long). So please come along and help me if you can. I'm happy to teach you how to scan or enter data.

We are still looking at holding a workshop on 'How to research your convict ancestor' so if you are interested please let me know. Are there any other courses or classes you'd like to see held?

Maureen Martin Ferris
Email: maureen@moeferris.id.au

More on Oral History

In addition to Maureen's comments about our Oral History Project, I have recently completed some additional recording including Fishermen's Tales at the Triabunna Seafest in March, and more recently Maurice Cusic.

If there is anyone you can recommend we Interview, please let me know. We may of course have interviewed them in the past, but a further interview can always glean additional tales, tall but true!

I can be contacted:

Peter Huttemeier
6257 7506
Email: hutpete@gmail.com or
gsbhs@own.net.au

More Notes on Publishing

The task of scanning the text of both volumes of "My Bush Friends" has started and this has two benefits in ensuring we have a digital record of the books for posterity and allows us to marry the text up with the re-mastered lithographs to produce the combined A4 volume of "My Bush Friends" in accordance with our Community Heritage Grant .

The Lithographs from "Friends and Foes, Furred and Feathered" have also been scanned and remastered and when funds permit, we can reprint the eight colour plates for inclusion in the Folio.



There seems to be quite an exchange of drawings amongst the artists of Tasmania, a rarity in the art and publishing world today. Drawings by N Chevalier, illustrations by Bronowski and others as well as Gould are acknowledged.

Louisa clearly acknowledges Gould in the following way on pages 5 and 6; "Mr Gould, whose peerless works have won for him the gratitude of all the world, most kindly permitted me to use copies of some of his admirable pictures of Tasmanian animals and birds; and whether such form part of these illustrations or not, my sincere thanks for his liberality are equally due."

Louisa does not acknowledge the fish as being Gould's work. Dr Morton Allport a close friend of Louisa's is mentioned as the person who helped identify and name the fish she illustrated, one wonders whether Mr Gould should have extended the courtesy to Louisa if he had copied her drawings of Tasmanian Fish!



Also in the back of the book is the list of Algae collected at Orford, identified for Louisa by Professor Agardh of Lund, and completely unrelated to the story or indeed the lithographic drawings as stated by Louisa "the list of which I add to this volume, in the belief that it may be interesting to collectors". The scientific interest even at 68 years of age showed a keen intellect not just an artist and writer.

There are other fascinating insights into the life and times in "Friends and Foes" that are worth noting. The dedication to "Stanislaus, Son of Count Odoardo Colacicchi" illustrates the connections to similar levels of society, even in other countries. Colacicchi was a member of the Vatican Papal Guard and his wife was the daughter of Sabina Meredith - Charles Meredith's older sister. The eulogy to Charles after his death is particularly poignant.

The challenge of reproducing this book without stopping, reading further and investigating, means that I have to put it on the "backburner" for now.

Noel Stanley (Publishing Committee)



Pitfalls when researching...

First always start with yourself and work backwards, and when researching your ancestor don't forget to look outside the square for:

1. Name changes
2. Variations in ages, height etc.
3. False, wrong or misleading information

Sometimes the person relating information to authorities does not know the truth about their relative and therefore tells what they know about them. Often convicts and their ancestors hide this fact because of the stigma attached.

While the internet has a wonderful collection of records and research be careful that the people placing the information online has is correct. I have found that many cover up their heritage because they don't want to believe the truth, or they don't want anyone else to know the truth. Some just get it wrong.

Name changes or spelling variations need to be considered when searching records. Did your ancestor have an accent, could the name be misinterpreted and could your ancestor read and write? Maybe they anglicized their name?

Some examples are:

SCHMIDT = Smith, Smyth
HOAD = Hood
BILLETT = Bellett, Billet, Belette etc
WALSH = Walshe, Welsh, Welch etc
REID = Read, Reed etc

Often your ancestor will give a wrong age at marriage because he or she is possibly younger or much older than the spouse. When your ancestor dies the information given is from a relative.... did they really know how old he or she was or where they came from?

Stories handed down "get better with age" like Chinese whispers and can contain an element of truth. One related to me by my mother was that Joseph Castle 'ran' all the way to Sorell from Little Swanport with a spear in his back. The truth was that he was helped by his sons to the next property Grindstone Bay. Another was the Castle family arrived in 1827 on a paddle steamer.

Consider recording a timeline of your ancestor. This can help with where and how they lived, what their occupation was and other facets of their life.

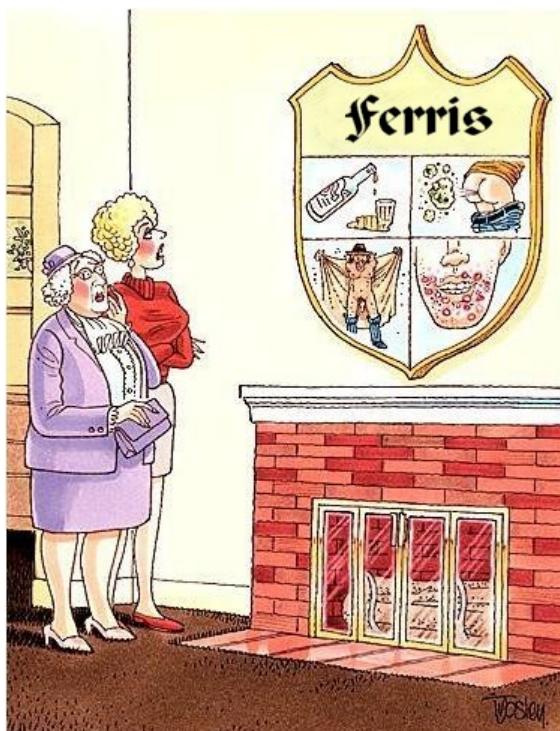
If you have lost an ancestor or can't find when or where they were born or died, consider some of these:

- Were they illegitimate?
- Could they have been placed in an orphanage?
- Birth not registered, check baptisms or family bible.
- Were they born in Tasmania, another state or overseas?
- Were they placed in an asylum or charitable institution?
- Death not registered, check burial, newspapers and cemetery records.
- Did they die at sea?
- Did they die in another state or overseas?

Military records are useful and record birth details and next of kin.

The internet can be a goldmine of information if you know where to look, here are some helpful sites relating to Tasmania.

- Aus-Tasmanian Genealogy <http://w.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~austashs/>
Articles, Convicts, Immigrants, Indexes and resources for Tasmania



"Bill had his ancestry traced...."

- Tasmanian Archive & Heritage Office <http://www.linc.tas.gov.au/>
Census, Convicts, Immigrants, Digitised Records, Newspaper Indexes, Naturalisations, New Norfolk Asylum, Photographs, Reports of Crime, Society Welfare, Wills and lots more

- Family Search <https://www.familysearch.org/>
The IGI Index for the world, Tasmanian Lower Court Records, Tasmanian Gaol Records (with photographs), Tasmanian Occupation records relating to mining and Tasmanian Civil Registration of Births, Deaths & Marriages (certificates online to download).

- Founders & Survivors <http://www.foundersandsurvivors.org/>
This site is recording over 73,000 convict's transported to Van Diemen's Land. They are linking records for each convict.

- National Library of Australia <http://www.nla.gov.au/>
A treasure trove of information and online newspapers, documents, photographs, books and more. The online newspapers TROVE cover all over Australia.

- Orphan School & St John's Park Precinct <http://www.orphanschool.org.au/>
This site has an index and information on children placed in the orphanage at New Town.

- National Archives of Australia <http://www.naa.gov.au/>
This site has a wide range of information, including immigrant information, photographs and Australian War Records. Some of these you can download.

These are only a few sites that I have chosen so look around and you'll find much more that can help. You can find more on my website at: <http://moeferris.id.au/>

If you find a website that would help others please drop me an email at: maureen@moeferris.id.au.

Maureen Martin Ferris
(Maureen is the Society's Research Officer and Vice President)

Articles for The Great Oyster Bay News

The Society now has an ongoing agreement with the Great Oyster Bay News for an article to appear about monthly of an historical nature within our area of the East Coast.

The three articles to appear so far have been written by Society members Joyce Dunbabin and Gloria Willis and include photographs and information from our extensive archives.

If any Society Member would like to contribute or help, please let me know

Peter Huttemeier (Secretary GHBHS)

Current East Coast Heritage Museum Exhibition

Halt!
Who goes there!

An exhibition of the
HISTORY OF WATERLOO POINT

INCLUDING DISPLAYS OF
 ↳ FIREARMS OF THE TIME
 ↳ EARLY SETTLERS WALL
 ↳ TASMANIAN EMU EGG
 ↳ CONVICT CORNER
 ↳ INDIGENOUS CULTURAL EXHIBIT
 ↳ LOUISA ANNE MEREDITH SKETCHES

Come & see for yourself!

15 March 2013 – March 2014

East Coast Heritage Museum
Cnr Franklin & Noyes Streets, Swansea

Glamorgan Spring Bay Historical Society Inc
GLAMORGAN SPRING BAY COUNCIL
EAST COAST HERITAGE MUSEUM & VISITOR CENTRE

Society Information

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Nepotism and Mr Noyes

By: John C. Carter



WT Noyes

Did William Taylor Noyes advance because of patronage and nepotism? Probably a little of both! It didn't hurt to have friends and colleagues in high places, nor to have been a member of the clerical staff of the Private Secretary to former Lieutenant-Governor Sir George Arthur.

The "Arthur system" as it was labeled in the September 28, 1838 edition of the [Hobart Town] True Colonist, still had tremendous impact even in an administration now headed by Sir John Franklin. Its influence and connections* would help Noyes to obtain his position as Assistant Police Magistrate of Waterloo Point.

Announcements of this pending appointment were first published in the March 10, 1840 edition of the [Hobart Town] Colonial Times, and in the Port Philip Herald of March 24.

Editor Henry Melville made the following rather unflattering observations about Noyes in the Colonial Times: "This young gentleman who is blessed with a somewhat cheerful and pretty looking visage, 'came out' as we understand, to this Colony, in the dignified capacity of a *cook's mate*. Mercy defend us! And this person, after acting the part of a clerk in the Private Secretary's office, to be thus elevated to so responsible a situation as that

of Assistant Police Magistrate? After all, Mr. Noyes is a lucky fellow, cook's mate though he may have been; but if these 'official changes' do not demonstrate a laxity, or at least a carelessness as to the best interests and welfare of this community, we know not what does! So, after all, the smart 'cook's mate' is appointed to the responsible office of an Assistant Police Magistrate! Where is this strange system of selfish patronage to end? *At Waterloo Point!*"

Melville reported in the March 17 Colonial Times, that his previous comments about Noyes were not spoken personally. Instead Melville suggested that; "...we, on the contrary, give Mr. Noyes every possible credit, for having so rapidly raised himself, as Lord Nelson used to say 'entering in at the *house hole*, and coming out at the *cabin window*,' clearly shows, that he is not without ability."

Melville however continued to voice his concerns: "But we object to his present appointment on more than one public ground; one of them are the circumstances in which he came here, which, however great his ability may be, do not yet give him the necessary standing in society, for such an appointment, according to our notions of it.

Our second is, we consider, that a Police Magistrate should not only be a man of property, and (if convenient) that property within the range of his appointment; but that he should also be well acquainted with its localities. Such are the men and characters, which, in our humble opinion, should be raised to the Bench and placed in official situations of such importance to the community."

The government notice of the replacement of Lieutenant George Bagot by William Taylor Noyes came from the Colonial Secretary's Office on June 9. In the June 19 issue of the Hobart Town Courier and the Cornwall Chronicle of June 20, Matthew Forster's announcement that Noyes would become Assistant Police Magistrate at Waterloo Point, were published.

Noyes would also take on the roles of Justice of the Peace and Coroner for the region. He had become one of the "respectable" civilians named to carry out the duties of a Police Magistrate. He would report directly to the Chief Police Magistrate at Hobart Town, and compile accurate records and registers which were to be scrutinized by the C.P.M.

In addition, he would administer general convict regulations, oversee the operation of probation stations at Rocky Hills and Maria Island, and record

the behaviour of convict police, noting drunkenness, disobedience and dereliction of duty of these officers.

Noyes would also hold musters for ticket of leave holders, withdraw assigned servants from masters who did not follow applicable rules, and collect agricultural and demographic statistics for the government. In the November 15, 1842 edition of the Colonial Times it was noted that; "The power vested in the single person of a Police Magistrate is frightfully extensive." The position of A.P.M. in a frontier community a great distance from the centre of government in Hobart Town, has been furthered summarized by Tasmanian historian Stefan Petrow: "The role of the police magistrate was an especially invidious one.

As the key representative of the awesome power of the convict system and agent of central government, the magistrate was both feared and loathed. He could bear the brunt of the settler, emancipist, and convict dissatisfaction with government policy, while the careless dispensation of Police Office justice provided plenty of scope for private disputes and enmities to flare up." (Petrow, 2009, p. 295) Such would be the new life for A.P.M. Noyes.

First dispensing justice from the Magistrate's Cottage in Swansea, William Taylor Noyes then acquired Ravensdale



Ravensdale

Estate consisting of 1,280 acres at Little Swan Port. James Gemmell, one of the North American political prisoners who had been posted at the Rocky Hills Probation Station and then worked for Noyes as a ticket of leave man, recorded the following: "Mr. Norris [sic], a police magistrate, and formerly butler to Sir George Arthur, had received a large tract of land which he was anxious to clear. I persuaded him that I could build a stump machine if

I had the model from Mr. Woodman, of Maine, who lived beyond Hobart Town; and such was his anxiety, that he gave me a passport to that place."

Subsequently Gemmell travelled to the capital and made good his escape from Van Diemen's Land aboard an American whaling ship.



James & Maria Gemmell

Noyes continued to carry out his official duties and appeared to keep a relatively low profile. On occasion his name would appear in newspapers. In the July 2, 1841 issue of the Hobart Town Courier, Noyes was listed as one of the notables attending a memorial for the late Venerable Archdeacon Hutchins. In the November 24, 1843 edition of the Courier, he was identified as chair of a public meeting called in Great Swan Port to discuss the depressed state of agriculture in the area. His involvement in the seizure of the cutter *Black Swan*, was widely reported in various newspapers in February and March of 1845. These included the Hobart Town Courier, the Geelong Advertiser, the Paramatta Chronicle and the [Sydney] Star.

He must have however done his jobs to the liking of the editor of the Colonial Times. A June 21, 1842 editorial entitled "Home Patronage," decried the British government's intention to fill up all colonial vacancies with nominees from England. Supporting the local A.P.M., the editor argued; "A marked instance of injustice and disadvantage arising from this unfair dispensation of patronage has occurred in the removal of Mr. Noyes at Swan Port, and his replacement by a gentleman from England, of the name of Lang.

Suggested Reading:

From the address of the inhabitants of that district to Mr. Noyes, and his reply thereto, we gather that, during his incumbency, he afforded the inhabitants the most unqualified satisfaction: Mr. Noyes appears to have devoted all his time and most careful attention to the several duties of his office; and having done so, and become really a useful and most beneficial functionary, he is deprived of his office, or rather, we should say, he is not confirmed by the Secretary of State in his appointment – the result being precisely the same – but is superseded by the aforesaid Mr. Lang.”

It is unclear what exactly transpired in regards to this matter, but William Taylor Noyes appears to have remained as A.P.M. for Great Swan Port and Spring Bay until 1856. Then he was promoted to the position of Police Magistrate in charge of the Mersey District. An article in the Launceston Examiner of September 20, 1860, identified Noyes as the P.M. and Deputy Commissioner of the Court of Records at Port Sorell, and Collector of Customs at Port Frederick.

His obituary in the [Hobart] Mercury of June 13, 1888 noted that Noyes remained in government service until his retirement in March of 1863. Then he proceeded immediately to England and settled in Torquay, Devonshire. There he resided until his death in June of 1888 in his 91st year. In a glowing testimonial to William Taylor Noyes, the Mercury article concluded; “Although a quarter of a century has elapsed since he left Tasmania, there are many still amongst us who will remember his dignified and courteous demeanour, and the strict sense of justice which distinguished his lengthy judicial career.

He was universally respected as a man of a kindly disposition and fairness in the discharge of duty.” A fitting tribute to the “*cook’s mate*” who made good!

*The following is an example of some of the inter-connections between families holding power in V.D.L. in the 1830s and 1840s.

Lieutenant Governor Arthur’s nephew Charles Arthur was a long-time P.M. at Longford. Arthur’s niece Janette Worsley married Matthew Forster. Matthew Forster’s youngest brother John was an A.P.M. at Prosser’s Plains and Hamilton, and a P.M. at Norfolk Plains. John Montagu, who was the Colonial Secretary of Van Diemen’s Land from 1834-1842, was the brother-in-law of Matthew Forster.

- Alison Alexander (ed.), *The Companion to Tasmanian History* (Hobart: UTAS, 2005).
- James Gemmell, “Two Years in Van Dieman’s Land,” [New York] *Weekly Plebeian* (July 1, 1842).
- “Great and Glorious Escape from British Tyranny!,” *Launceston Examiner* (January 28, 1843).
- Elizabeth Gammell Hedquist, *Escape From Van Diemen’s Land: The James Gammell Chronicles* (Provo, Utah: Y Mountain Press, 2013).
- Stefan Petrow, “Curbing Magisterial Power: Assistant Police Magistrate George Stephen Davies in Van Diemen’s Land, 1826 – 1847,” *Legal History* (2009), v. 13, #2.
- Stefan Petrow, “Policing in a Penal Colony: Governor Arthur’s Police System in Van Diemen’s Land, 1826 – 1836,” *Law and History Review* (2000), v. 18, #2.

The author would like to thank Maureen Martin Ferris, Stefan Petrow, Hamish Maxwell-Stewart and Suzanne Purdy for their assistance in the preparation of this article.

Photo Credits:

- 1) Painting of William Taylor Noyes from a private collection. Credit: Glamorgan Spring Bay Historical Society
- 2) Photo of main house at Ravensdale (circa 1990). Credit: Glamorgan Spring Bay Historical Society
- 3) Photo of James Gemmel and his third wife Maria (circa 1860). Credit: Sandra Baril, Sheridan, Montana.



The Society has now completed the re printing of Volume 1 of Louisa Anne Meredith’s Some of My Bush Friends in Tasmania which was first published in 1860. This is the complimentary Set to our first published Volume 2. If you have already purchased Volume 2 and the Folio Cover, a Set of 11 Volume 1 prints will cost members \$85.00.

Prints are available from the Office during Office Hours, or can be mailed on request (postal charge extra).

Full pricing details are as follows:

Louisa Meredith Prints

	Non Members	Members
Complete Folio set of Vols. 1 & 2 (26 pages) with Cover	\$250.00	\$210.00
Folio Set of Vol 2 (15 Pages) with Cover	\$150.00	\$130.00
Framing Set Vol 1 (11 prints)	\$100.00	\$85.00
Framing Set Vol 2 (11 prints)	\$100.00	\$85.00
Single prints	\$15.00	\$10.00
Folio Cover Black Folder (No Prints)	\$50.00	\$30.00



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Members,

As you may have seen, East Coast Cruisers of Triabunna are offering a Free Ferry Service to Maria Island from June to September. Flier is on the reverse side to this note.

It has been suggested that we should have a "Society" Day on the island during this time.

To gauge the interest it would be appreciated if you could advise whether you would like to be part of the Group.

At this early planning stage of course we need to be a little flexible on dates, but we have been told that if it is warranted a special time can be made available for a group booking.

Perhaps if we can see interest for the following dates:

Weekend of 15/16 June
Weekend 22/23 June
Weekend 10/11 August
Weekend 17/18 August

as a start.

Please get in touch with any preferences and indication of participation.

Peter Huttemeier (Secretary)

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MARIA ISLAND NATIONAL PARK

FREE FERRY SERVICE

You heard correct, our ferry to Maria Island is
FREE for 3 months!

NOW IS YOUR CHANCE!

Available between the 1st June and the 1st of September 2013

DAY	DEPART TRIABUNNA		DEPART MARIA ISL.	
WEDNESDAY	10:30am		11:30am	
FRIDAY	10:30am	3:00pm	11:30am	4:00pm
SATURDAY	10:30am	3:00pm	11:30am	4:00pm
SUNDAY	10:30am	3:00pm	11:30am	4:00pm

ADULTS \$0 CHILDREN \$0 INFANTS \$0 BIKES \$0

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