

# former TIMES

GLAMORGAN SPRING BAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

ISSUE 16

DECEMBER 2021

22 Franklin Street  
Swansea TAS 7190

OPEN 10AM – 4PM TUESDAYS & FRIDAYS

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## Heritage Festival a Success!

On behalf of the Swansea Heritage Committee, Glamorgan Spring Bay Historical Society Inc. and the East Coast Heritage Museum, we would like to thank Teangi Brown, volunteers, participants, community organisations, local businesses, stall holders, the Glamorgan Spring Bay Council and the whole community for their

support over the Swansea Heritage Festival weekend. We loved seeing everyone getting involved.

The past two years have been trying for us all and our aim was to commemorate 200 years of European settlement in Swansea; to bring back some fun, laughter and community spirit.



Dearne, Brenton and Tammy in period attire



Afternoon tea anyone?



Hilary Burden interviews the authors of *Houses & Estates of Old Glamorgan* at a special event at Piermont (more pics next page)



Professor Kate Warner and Richard (Dickie) Warner



Teangi Brown launches the Aboriginal Artefact exhibit at the East Coast Heritage Museum, after Welcome to Country.

VISIT THE EAST COAST HERITAGE MUSEUM TO ENJOY THEIR LATEST EXHIBITION ON TILL MARCH 2022



*Book signing by the authors*



*Above and below: Official opening of the East Coast Heritage Museum exhibit, this will be on display till around March 2022*



*Hilary Burden interviews Maureen, Tully and Malcolm at Piermont 'Meet the Authors' event*



*Lovely ladies all dressed up, thank you to Peter H for photos of the day*



*Maureen dressed in period costume at top, and Maree below (don't they look great?)*



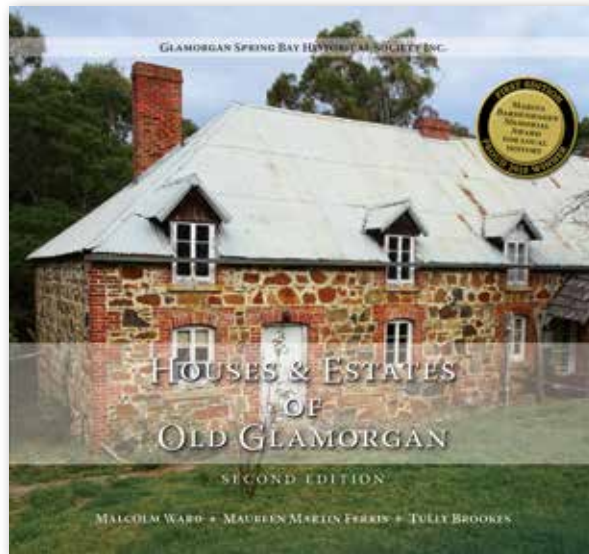
## HOUSES & ESTATES OF OLD GLAMORGAN – SECOND EDITION

The first edition of *Houses & Estates of Old Glamorgan* was a great success. It won the Marita Bardenhagen Award for local history, got a very positive review in the journal of the Tasmanian Historical Research Association and both the soft and hard cover ‘collectors’ editions sold out.

The book was researched and written over the course of a number of years. Then came editing, graphic design, image compilation, proofreading, checking and re-checking, and finally printing. Once it was published, Maureen Martin Ferris and I started researching for the follow-on book, *Houses & Estates of Old Spring Bay*, but we both were diverted onto other projects—Maureen with an increasing workload at the East Coast Heritage Museum (as well as researching on behalf of the Glamorgan Spring Bay Historical Society)—and me undertaking a PhD on the life of George Meredith of *Cambria*. Our fellow author, Tully Brookes also started a PhD. So, *Spring Bay* was put on hold.

In the course of my research on George Meredith, I found a number of new things about his properties *Cambria*, *Belmont* and *Riversdale*, as well as some aspects of the Amos properties to the north. The most significant I think was to find an old map at Tasmanian Archives that showed the location of ‘Mr Talbot’s house’, which was then called *Malahide*, but which George Meredith called *Belmont* when he occupied it in 1827. This was a revelation, as it had previously been assumed that the original *Belmont* was close to where *Belmont* is today—some way north of *Cambria*. Instead, it was less than a kilometre away. Eventually, Maureen and I walked to the site where I calculated it would be, in a paddock by a small lagoon to the north of Meredith’s grand house. Much to our surprise, there were pieces of glass, pottery and brick exactly where we walked to; so, we had found the location of the original *Belmont*.

With the accumulation of new information, and the first edition being sold out, the question of a reprint was raised



From left: Dr Kate Warner, with authors; Tully Brooks, Malcolm Ward and Maureen Martin Ferris

by the Publishing Committee. Was it too soon? Should we just reprint, or should we correct and update the original text? The original book also omitted a few properties, so should we add those in? After some debate we thought it was too soon, so we deferred things.

After about another year, the pressure to satisfy demand became too much to resist. Bookshops were asking after it and prices of second-hand copies were rising. We corrected and added to the existing text, included some new illustrations and introduced three additional properties—*Redcliffe*, *The Plains* and *Sherbourne Lodge*. *Sherbourne* was an exception, as it is no longer extant, but the Society had produced a report on the property for a client, and there was a nice painting of it, so we decided to include it. All this meant re-indexing and major re-arrangement and editing of some chapters. Diane Bricknell had to skilfully blend in all the new material and re-arrange much of the book. Hilary

Burden edited the new material and Marion Harrison took images of the new properties. We gained a new cover and colour theme for the front and end papers.

We decided not to produce a hard cover edition, to preserve the uniqueness of the first ‘collectors edition’ for which people paid a premium when it came out.

The second edition was launched by Professor Kate Warner in Swansea on 6 November 2021, four years after Professor Warner, then Governor of Tasmania, launched the first edition for us, providing some nice symmetry and continuity.

We hope our members will appreciate the second edition, and support the Society by purchasing a copy. It is in bookshops, but the Society benefits most if you buy it direct from the Society, either online <https://glamorganhistory.org.au/publications> or visiting the East Coast Heritage Museum in Swansea.

Dr Malcolm Ward

# Settler families

The next four pages show photos and information about some of the European families that settled in Swansea and surrounds. We must always remember the displaced and now unknown original inhabitants of the east coast. The period of this 'settlement' must have been harsh, and disturbing. *Diane Bricknell*

*Allen*

**J**OHN ALLEN was born 1806 in Somerset, England. He arrived in Van Diemen's Land with his uncle Richard on the *Hugh Crayford* in 1826 to join his brother Joseph. During the voyage the family developed a friendship with the Lyne family, who also settled in Great Oyster Bay.

John chose land on the southern banks of the Cygnet River situated on the outskirts of Cranbrook, naming it *Milton* after his home village in Somerset.



*John Allen*



*Old Milton*




*Allen*

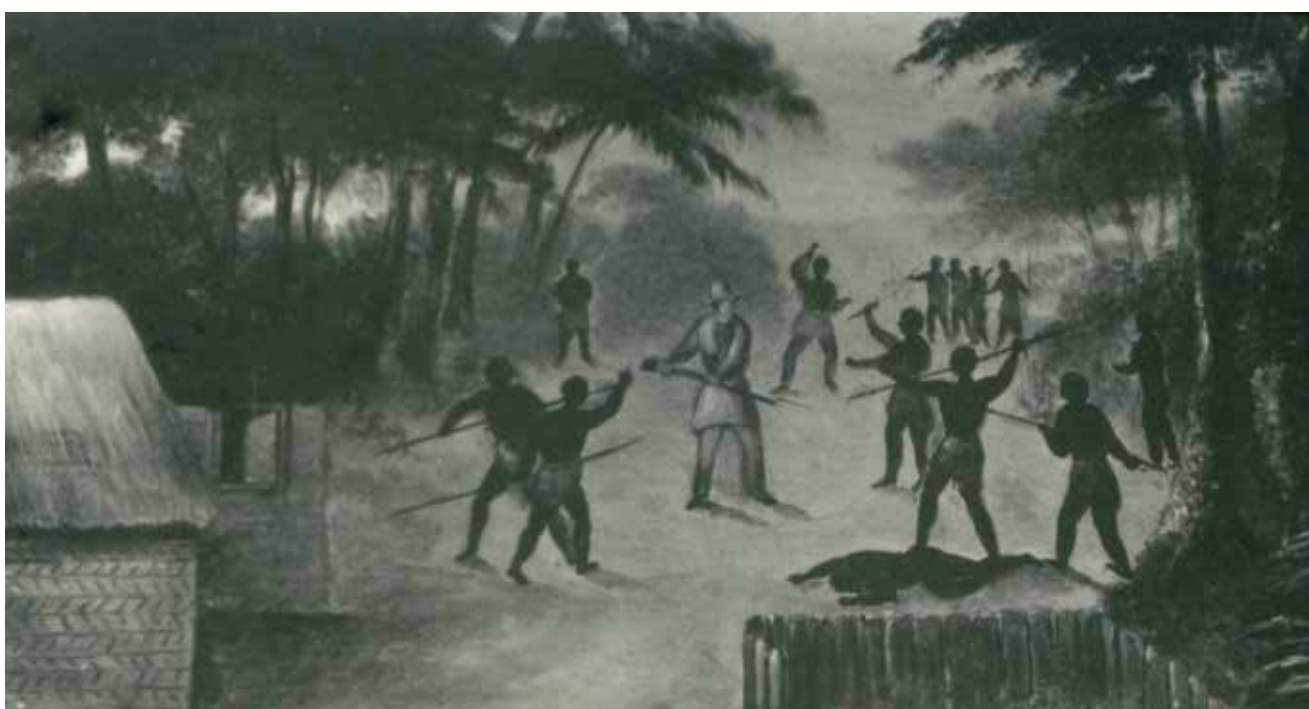
John's brother Joseph Allen purchased *Milton* and John then moved north to the Douglas River. In 1842 John married Ann Eliza Baynton and they had four children. John had a further thirteen children with servant Anne Bell.

*The Springs*, situated on the northern banks of the Wye River, was the property settled by Richard Allen. He was described as an excellent carpenter when the Land Commissioners visited in 1828.

Richard's son Edwin purchased *The Springs* in 1837. Edwin married local girl Susan Makepeace in 1854.



*The Springs*



Circa 1828 painting by John Allen

# Amos

Brothers Adam and John Amos, with their respective families, arrived in Van Diemen's Land from England in 1821, on the chartered ship *Emerald* with George Meredith and his family.

Having enough capital to select 700 acres, Adam chose his grant further north of Swansea on the Swan River; calling his property *Glen Gala*. His brother John was not in the same position and had fallen under Meredith's influence during the voyage. Meredith was able to secure a grant of 400 acres in John's name; this Meredith quickly claimed. A water-mill named 'Gala Mill' was built by convict labour on the banks of the Swan River.

Today the village of Cranbrook with its Gala Kirk and properties Glen Gala, Gala, Glen Heriot, Craige Knowe and Cranbrook House are a testament to the Amos families.



Cranbrook House



Susan & Adam Amos



Glen Gala homestead



Gala homestead



Craige Knowe

# Buxton

Thomas Buxton, a middle-class school teacher and farmer, arrived with his wife and five children on the *Westmoreland* in 1821. Thomas was from the village of Mayfield on the Staffordshire/Derbyshire border.

While awaiting his 500 acre grant he took on the position of overseer for William Talbot and became embroiled in the dispute between Talbot and Meredith. Thomas was granted land south of Swansea and named his property *Mayfield*. Using convict labour Thomas had a brick water-mill built on the banks of the Buxton Rivulet; it is dated 1836.

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of September 1822, Thomas's wife Ellen (nee Bott) gave birth to George Swanport; making him the first-recorded, non-indigenous child born on the East Coast.



Mayfield bakehouse



Mayfield water-mill



The Mayfield water-mill (detail from map)

# Meredith

George Meredith (1777-1856) arrived in Van Diemen's Land on the ship *Emerald* in 1821. He was born in Birmingham, England; the son of John, a barrister & solicitor and Sally Meredith.

Meredith presented letters of introduction to Lieutenant Governor William Sorell seeking a suitable 2,000 acre grant of land. The East Coast offered promising land situated at Oyster Bay.

It was not long before George and his family established their grant on a river (Meredith River) North of Swansea, naming it *Cambria*.

The first house, *Creek Hut*, was built on the Southern bank of the river (Redbanks' side); it was constructed of timber with thick walls rammed with turf and mud.

Meredith was a dominating and imposing figure in the district and it was not long before he fell out with his neighbour William Talbot (and others in the area) over land. Governor Sorell made the statement 'Can Meredith expect that everybody should be at a Stand Still until it suits his convenience to chuse (sic) his land?' Records indicate he was referred to as the 'King of Oyster Bay'.



Sketch of George Meredith with his whaling harpoon



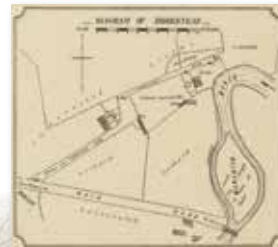
Local official county map of Cambria land grant



Sketch by unknown artist of Creek Hut

Meredith was a shrewd businessman; he knew the value of whaling in and around Oyster Bay and the Freycinet Peninsula. He set up many whaling stations and greatly expanded his empire.

Local county diagram of Cambria homestead



Louisa Anne Meredith's sketch of Cambria

Below: Surveyors Davidson, Mayson & Watson from the Bluff, Waterloo Point 1859



## Lyne

WILLIAM LYNE, wife Sarah and family arrived in Van Diemen's Land on the *Hugh Crawford* in 1826. On the recommendation of Lieutenant-Governor Arthur, William and one of his sons went to the Great Swanport district to claim land, being advised to avoid those areas legitimately claimed by George Meredith.

They selected land close to Moulting Lagoon near the head of Great Oyster Bay. William named his property *Apsley* after Lord Apsley. Their first home was a turf and sod hut for cooking and eating, then a stacked log hut for sleeping.



William Lyne Senior



Apsley, log cabin



Sarah Lyne (nee Bishop)

## Lyne

JOHN LYNE, ELDEST SON OF WILLIAM & SARAH, married Lillias Hume in 1847. They moved into *Aplawm*, a short distance from *Apsley*, around this time. They had five children, the eldest was William John (1844-1913). William is well known in Australian politics, serving as a member of the Tasmanian House of Assembly, later as Premier of New South Wales and, on Federation, served in the first Federal cabinet under Barton.

*Coombe End* was another Lyne estate. Henry Lyne, the third son of William and Sarah, married Mary Amos and lived there with their ten children.



## Radford & Mitchelmore

JOHN RADFORD was a convict from Devon, transported on the *Lady Castlereagh* in 1818 for stealing notes and cash.

During the 1820s John was employed as a stock-keeper for Silas Gatehouse at Grindstone Bay. He settled a short distance away at *Muirland*, Little Swanport.

In 1833 John married Mary Ann Buxton at St David's Church in Hobart. Mary Ann was the daughter of Thomas Buxton of *Mayfield*. The Radfords operated the original *Muirland* homestead as an inn during the 1840s - 1860s. Louisa Anne Meredith wrote of an overnight stay at the small inn during a trip in 1847.



Fanny Mitchelmore (nee Buxton)



John Radford

## Radford & Mitchelmore

JOHN AND MARY ANN died within a week of one another in January 1883, that same year *Muirland* was put up for sale. The purchaser was their nephew Peter Hilton Mitchelmore, son of Peter Mitchelmore and Fanny nee Buxton. This building was washed away in the 1929 floods.

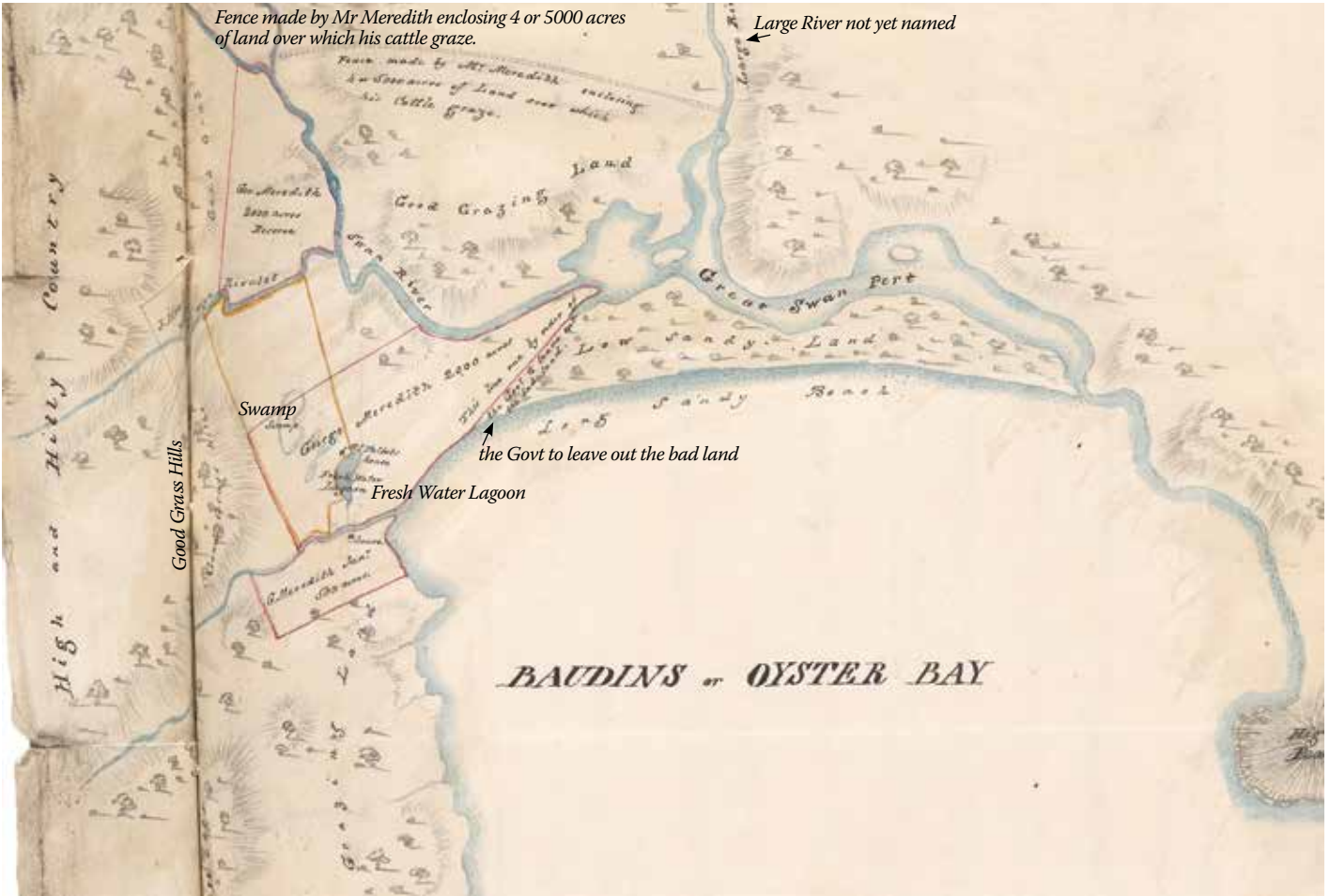
The present house, situated on the opposite bank from the original farm, was built for Mitchelmore in 1908. It operated as the Little Swanport Post Office, telephone exchange and a place where guests could stay and enjoy bream fishing in the Little Swanport River.



Mrs Barnett on her honeymoon in 1895



Old Muirland, Little Swanport c 1900



1826 plan/map showing Meredith and Talbot lands. GO33/1/1, Tasmanian Archives

## Shaw

EDWARD CARR SHAW was one of eleven children of Irish solicitor Bernard Shaw and his wife Frances (nee Carr). Edward was born at Terenure, Dublin in 1817 and arrived in Van Diemen's Land on the *Eagle* in September 1830.

In 1835 Edward married Miss Ann Fenton in Hobart; they went onto have nine children. Ann died in 1856 and Edward then married Miss Emma Goodall Cope and they had two children. The family settled at *Red Banks*, situated on the southern bank of the Meredith River, so named after its red alluvial soil.



*Edward Carr Shaw*



*Red Banks*

*Article from The Hobart Courier Sept 1830*

**The Courier.**  
 SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1830.

Arrived on Sunday the 10th instant the ship *Meriton*, 420 tons, Buller's, Wight commander, from the Mauritius by *Anglo*, with sugar and sundry merchandise. Passengers J. de Lott, Esq.

Arrived on Monday the 12th instant the bark *Henry*, 550 tons, H. J. Bower, commander, from London January 28th, 1830. Cargo of dried Hops &c. 27th, with a cargo of wine, rum, &c. Passengers D. A. U. S. Carr, lady and child, — Uwey, Esq. Mrs. Bower, and 2 children.


Arrived on Tuesday the 13th the schooner *Eagle*, 57 tons, Captain Griffin, from Swan River, 27th *Anglo*, with a cargo of spirits &c. &c. Passengers, Mr. Paul, lady and two daughters, Mr. Lister and lady, Mrs. Stone, Mrs. Stoddart, Mr. Lushon, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Conning, Mr. Graham, Mr. and Mrs. Wain, Mr. and Mrs. Childman and four children, Mr. and Mrs. Fletcher and child, Mrs. Russell and child, Mr. and Mrs. Maw, James Hodgson, Patrick Ryan, Karen Quinn, James Allen, James Hamilton, Thomas Beales, John O'Connell, John Jones, Mrs. Smith.

An extensive tract of very fine land has been discovered beyond Darling's range at Swan River, by Lieutenant White of the 53rd regiment, about fifty miles from the coast.

## Shaw


THE SHAW FAMILY became well represented in local and state political circles. Edward was appointed Commissioner of the Peace in 1839 and Coroner for the district of Glamorgan in 1840. He was Returning Officer in the first Glamorgan election in 1860. His son Bernard featured in state parliament as Commissioner of Police and Secretary of Mines.

Other Shaw residences were *Bluff Cottage* (also known as *Harbottle's Cottage*) and *Terenure*; the latter was built in 1909 fronting the Tasman highway.



*Red Banks during a flood*

Today Red Banks is still farmed by the Shaw family.



*Painting of Bluff Cottage by Jessie Boyes*

## A SHORT HISTORY OF TRANSPORT DOWN THE PROSSER GORGE<sup>1</sup>

DR MALCOLM WARD

The Prosser River between Buckland ('Prosser's Plains') and Orford ('Spring Bay') flows down to the sea through a ravine marked by steep and rugged dolerite country, with cliffs at numerous points. It was called, with irony, 'Paradise', possibly as early as 1825, but with certainty from 1830. As soon as Great Swan Port (the Swansea area of today) was settled in 1821, settlers on foot and horseback needed to travel from there to Hobart Town and back when there was no sea transport available, which was most of the time. The routes used by the indigenous *Mairremener* people have been lost to us, but they likely followed the coast and some early European records described them fording the Prosser River at its sandy, relatively shallow mouth and then proceeding up the Prosser River gorge.

The Prosser, or 'Paradise' gorge was a barrier to the European settlers from the start. George Meredith explored up it when he took his first whaleboat expedition up the coast to Great Swan Port in early 1821. He rowed up as far as the 'falls', where the river stops being navigable, and then went on a few kilometres on foot, looking for a way to the 'interior'. He turned back when it was obvious that the country was too rugged.

Later in 1821, Lieutenant-Governor William Sorell sent Deputy Surveyor-General George Evans with a party, which included Thomas Scott, to look at the practicality of

building a road from Hobart Town to Great Swan Port to open up the country. Scott produced a drawing extending from the Prosser to Rocky Hills north of Little Swan Port and also a sketch of the party crossing the Prosser at its mouth, which is best reproduced on the cover of Suzanne Lester's book *Spring Bay Tasmania*.

Through the 1820s, most foot traffic between Hobart Town and Spring Bay via Prosser's Plains probably went via the hills between Prosser's Plains and the coast south of Orford, avoiding the rugged Prosser ravine, although a detachment of soldiers did traverse the gorge in 1825. They then forded the Prosser at its mouth, like the indigenous people before them.

The infamous 'Black Line' of 1830 was conducted in the area from a base line of military and civilians along the Prosser River gorge. In 1831, George Augustus Robinson noted the presence of crude huts all along the river, left over from the 'operations against the aborigines'.

In the 1830s, it appears that most traffic (that is, on foot or horseback) appears to have followed a path through the gorge. James Backhouse visited in 1833 and made this description:

*We crossed the Thumbs Marsh [exiting Prosser's Plains], a grassy opening under the Three Thumbs Mountain, and met our friend Francis Cotton, who proved a most welcome guide in passing through the rugged, woody,*

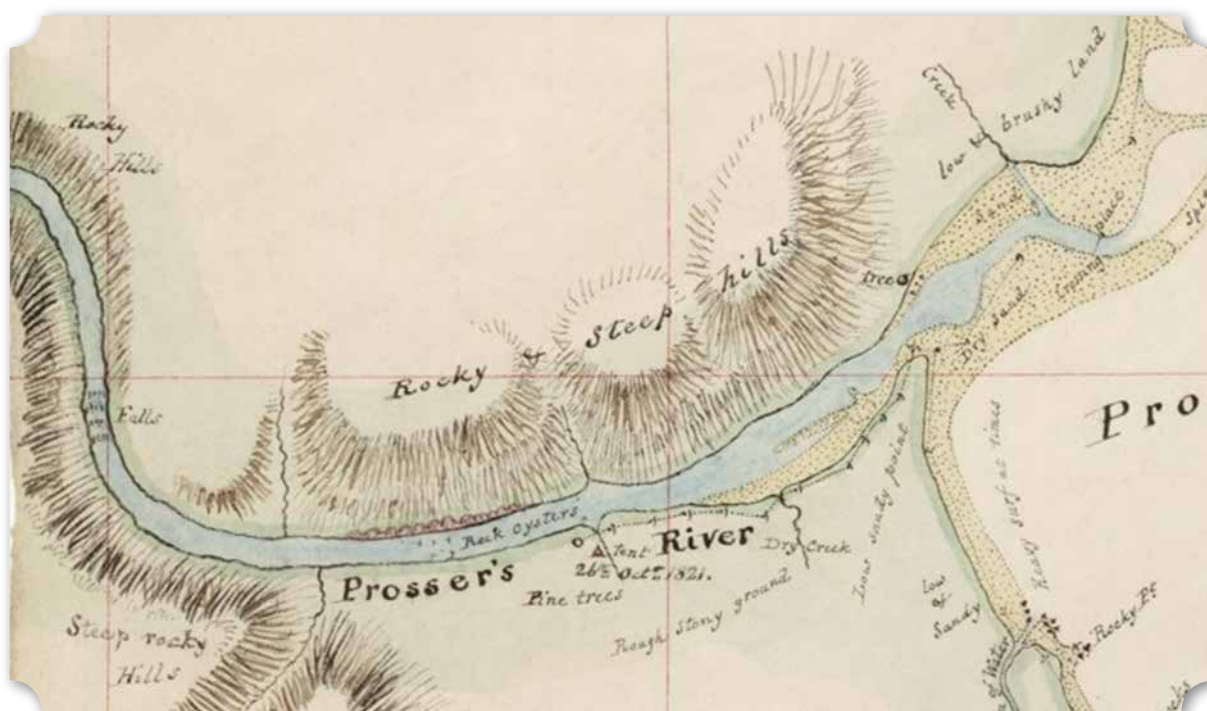


Figure 1. A portion of Thomas Scott's map from 1821, showing the lower Prosser River. Mitchell Library collection.

<sup>1</sup> Based on an article to be submitted to the Tasmanian Historical Research Association. Footnotes have been omitted here, but all sources are available from the author: malcolm.ward@utas.edu.au



*ravine of the Prosser's River, which is ironically called Paradise. We forded the River, at a rocky place, and travelled along the side of some very rough, steep hills, called the Devils Royals, to the sandy beach of Prosser's Bay, on which there were the skeletons of two whales.*

The 'Devil's Royals' was the section of the Prosser River gorge in its final outflow to the sea, more-or-less where the river is navigable. The origin of this name has not been determined, although it was the nickname for the 50<sup>th</sup> Regiment (the 'Queen's Own'). However, the use of the name preceded the arrival of that regiment in Van Diemen's Land by at least a year. Perhaps it was coined by an old soldier, with the columns of dolerite rock evoking memories of his sentinel comrades.

At a similar time, Hobart Town newspaperman Henry Melville described the road as 'the worst tract or road in the colony'.

In the early 1840s, after Prosser's Plains (Buckland) was settled, and with the resulting increased need to get produce to the coast for transport to markets, brought about more pressure to have a constructed road through to the coast. In 1842, surveyor James Erskine Calder marked a



Figure 3. Part of a plan showing the route of the convict road at Orford. Undated, but possibly 1850s or early 1860s. It is in fact partly incorrect; the route shown north of the river at C10 to D10 was not built, but rather the road crossed to the south side between the 'second crossing place' and the 'first crossing place' cutting off a cliffy bend in the river. Note also in light pencil the new route south of the Prosser on the left, indicating the date of the map. The Probation Station lay between 'D10' and 'A26' and is not shown, indicating that it had been closed. Portion of Tasmanian Archives plan AF398/1/1.

route which followed the west and north side of the Prosser River from Buckland down to its mouth. This caused some controversy, with settlers on the south and east side at Buckland wanting the road to be on their side of the river. Although Calder's route prevailed, it was not followed exclusively, with cliffs on the north side at Burnt Bridge Gully being avoided by a crossing to the south side, before the road crossed back to the north side after a short way. Another pair of crossings avoided cliffs near where the main Prosser dam is today.



Figure 2. The convict road on the south side of the Prosser, adjacent to the Tasman Highway and almost opposite Burnt Bridge Gully. Photograph by Malcolm Ward



Figure 4. A sandstone culvert on the convict road, just behind Woodsden homestead. Photograph by Malcolm Ward



Figure 5. A section of the convict road near Orford. Photograph by Malcolm Ward

The road was built by convict labour. They were stationed initially at the Prosser's Plains Probation Station c1843-45 and then at the Paradise Probation Station from c1844-47. Materials from Prosser's Plains were transported down the river to build the Paradise station, ruins of which survive today. The road route is mostly able to be followed today, with permission from the landowners. At the Buckland end, greater labour was expended on detail, with several carved sandstone culverts surviving in addition to several lined and covered drains. However, as the road proceeded, less skill was employed and for the rest of the route to Orford, the construction mostly consists of embankments of dolerite boulders to make a reasonably level road a few metres wide.

The 'convict road', although allowing carts to get to the coast and beyond, was not a good solution. The Prosser River has a large catchment area, and was not crossable for long periods during winter after heavy rains. A 'messenger track' existed from Burnt Bridge Gully through to the coast via *Alma*, between the Prosser mouth and Triabunna and avoided any crossing of

the Prosser, but this went up over a steep hill and was very difficult for carts.

Finally, in the early 1860s, the authorities began letting contracts to have a road built entirely on the east and south side of the Prosser and a bridge would be built over the Prosser near its mouth. Solomon Green carved out a section within the gorge east of Burnt Bridge gully—a very arduous task. Nearer Buckland, a causeway was built across 'Gatehouse's marsh' and a road was built from there to Burnt Bridge Gully on the east side of the Prosser, to meet up with Solomon Green's section.

A new timber bridge over the Prosser River to meet the south-side road was opened in December 1866 and was named after the colonial Treasurer of the time, Charles Meredith. Earlier, Charles had spotted an opportunity, and purchased 5 town blocks facing the south side of the Prosser, adjacent to the new bridge. Charles and Louisa-Anne Meredith built a house there called *Malunnah*, finished in 1868.

So, from 1868 there was finally a road from Buckland to Orford that did not require the Prosser to be crossed until the new bridge at Orford. The tough dolerite rock continued to be a problem, right through to the present day. The road was, and still is, narrow and the overhanging rocks ultimately led to the closure of the Tasman Highway in 2021 while several thousand tonnes of rocks were brought down in a controlled manner.



Figure 6. Paradise gorge, 1880, opposite the Probation Station site. The overhanging cliffs in the centre left were finally brought down in mid-2021. Tasmanian Archives PH30/1/4170.



*A drone photograph looking across the Meredith River towards Cambria on the left and Redbanks on the right, copyright Bianca Melling*

## SECRETARY & ADMINISTRATION MATTERS

**W**elcome to another issue of *Former Times*. We have been through much over the past 12 months, including a short period in & out of Covid-19 lockdown, including many restrictions with how the Society operates.

With visitors to the East Coast Heritage Museum down, our revenue from sales of Publications was reduced. With some interstate visitors travelling again, we are hopeful of a positive return to our revenue.

However, on the Publications front, it was all hands to the mill, with two publications launched during the year:

Malcolm Ward's "Love, Passion & Cruelty in Van Diemen's Land"

"Houses & Estates of Old Glamorgan"

Second, revised Edition.

In addition we are working on "Kettle On The Hob" reprinting, and Recipe book of old family recipes and hints, both of which will be released in 2022.

### MEETINGS

We successfully held our 2021 Annual General Meeting while practising suitable social distancing. I am pleased to report the following positions were elected unopposed for the next 12 months.

PRESIDENT: Diane Bricknell

SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT: Maureen Martin Ferris

VICE PRESIDENT: Malcolm Ward

TREASURER: Noel Stanley

SECRETARY: Peter Hüttemeier

ORDINARY COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Glen Wigg & Dearne Smith

I would like to thank Gloria Willis who, after

many years of sterling assistance to the Secretary and as a Committee member, "retired" late in the financial year and chose not to seek re-election.

I am pleased to report that I will now have the assistance of two members to call on when necessary to help with Membership matters, Sandi Hodge and Tammy Wooley. While most of our Membership activities are done through email, we still have some who prefer hard copies of Meeting information, together with extra work at membership renewal time, it is a great help to be able to call on assistance when needed.

### SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

I am pleased to report that our Membership stands at 85 financial and Life members.

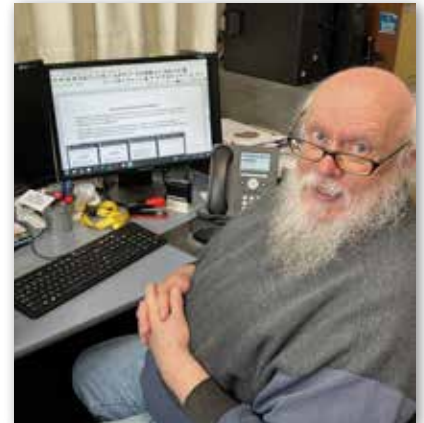
New members during the year were Cheryl Lator, Gaye Headlam, Liza Ross, Robert Hogan, Pedro Camus, Pam Sharpe & Sandi Hodge. We welcome you all to the Society.

However, long time member Pat Drake sadly passed away at the end of June. Vale Pat. We are also saddened to report the passing of long time resident Don Gregson, Don's son Ken is an active member of the Society.

### SEASON'S COMPLIMENTS

On behalf of our President & Committee, I wish all of our Members and FT readers the very best for Christmas and a great New Year.

Peter Hüttemeier, Secretary



Secretary Peter Hüttemeier at work.

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POSTSCRIPT FROM THE PRESIDENT, As the state prepares to open up in the year of 200 years of first European settlement in Swansea, we can all reflect on how fortunate we are living on the east coast of Tasmania, or indeed Australia. Our local community has struggled through many hard times, and we have surfaced yet again. Thank you to our volunteers, committee and to you our members. Stay safe and wishing you all a great Christmas and New Year. *Diane Bricknell*.

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