

former TIMES

GLAMORGAN SPRING BAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

ISSUE 2 FEBRUARY 2012

22 Franklin Street
Swansea TAS 7190
☎ 6256 5077

DTP: D. BRICKNELL

FELLOW MEMBERS

Since our opening in December 2011 our Historical Society has been working hand in hand with the museum and Di Bricknell to produce wonderful banners, posters and information for exhibitions. This can only enhance relations and get us 'out there'

I'm pleased to report that society sales have been excellent especially Louisa Anne Meredith cards and the Swansea Walk booklet. Our up and coming publication of Houses & Estates of Old Glamorgan will have an excellent avenue for sales.

The planned Convict Weekend Workshop will be finalised at our meeting on the 24th February. May seems like a good month, it will include a trip to Rocky Hills Probation Station. Maree Ring one of our new members and Tasmanian Convict expert will be conducting the workshop. Maree promises to have something for everyone from beginners to experts. Contact me before the end of March if you would like to attend.

A Council organised 'Volunteer Workshop' was held this week, with 5 members attending. Rosie Jackson, Policy & Partnership Officer for the Glamorgan Spring Bay Council undertook the induction. It's important that volunteers know their rights and what is expected of them. Another workshop will be held shortly, if you would like to attend, please contact Maureen on 6256 5066 or email maureen@freycinet.tas.gov.au

I'd like to personally thank each and every one of you for your support and continued assistance.

Best wishes,
Maureen



Thylacine poster and Museum brochure designs



(left to right) Helen Cook, Pam Van Duyn, Gloria Willis, Deidre Monk, Colin Campbell and Rosie Jackson



THE BEGINNINGS OF THE GLAMORGAN SPRING BAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

What a long time ago it all seems. At some time in 1991 (I think) I attended a meeting of the local National Trust branch at Kelvedon. Historian Peter Macfie was guest speaker and during his talk he suggested that a municipality with as much history as Glamorgan Spring Bay really should have a historical society to collect and record it. The late Ruth Amos was passionately interested in the local history (she had co-authored the Glamorgan history book) and thought it would be a good idea to form a local history sub-committee. I thought it was a good idea too, and put my hand up. The third member was Eddy Smith from Mitchell Cottage. Peter Morey offered us a room in what is now the East Coast Heritage Museum in Swansea and we were away.

It was just as well there were only three of us, because that room was really small. If we had a visitor, somebody had to move out. As I recall we had a desk and three chairs and a lot of optimism. Our first task was to define our aims:

- we would cover the whole East Coast from Bicheno to Runnymede
- history starts yesterday
- we would collect documents and photographs only – think of the space we had!

The whole thing grew pretty quickly. Early and very valuable members included Ted Rehak, Jacqueline Payne, Ray Lewis, Joyce Dunbabin and Margaret Bailey. Material came in from members of the public and from our research. We received useful advice from Tony Marshall of the

State Library and the conservation staff at the Queen Victoria Museum. Not all of our members were members of the National Trust and it got to the stage where we were the tail wagging the dog as far as they were concerned. After much anxious discussion we decided to become a special committee under the auspices of Glamorgan Council. It seemed important to be sure that our collection stayed in the district even if the historical society ‘ran out of steam’.

Then came the amalgamation of the two councils, and a Glamorgan Councillor asked us if there was anything we needed before all their funds were united. Ruth and I drew up a modest list of storage and conservation materials amounting to a few hundred dollars. These were all things recommended by our advisers. Tony Marshall also suggested we needed a computer. Almost as a joke we put that at the end of the list, and they gave us one! We thought we had hit the big time.

When I look at the Historical Society now, the amount of money involved and the many talented and dedicated people who work here, I am quite amazed that it has all grown from those three people in a cupboard. Thank you all.

Judie Hastie

Addit: The ‘cupboard’ was pulled down to make way for the new extension.





View of the museum space from main entrance.

GREEN PARROTS

One family of birds may invariably be found in this island wherever there is grain for them to steal, and these are the handsome, merry, impudent, wicked, rainbow-plumag'd, thieving parrots. The common kind, attired in shaded green, with a yellowish breast, and a few blue feathers in the wings and tail, is the most daring and incorrigible. These beset the stack-yard in legions, literally covering some of the ricks, and terrible is the havoc they commit, clawing off the thatch and scooping caverns beneath, into which they retreat when attacked, and peep out in the most provoking way imaginable, crying continually "cushee-cushee-cushee!" – and, when assailed by volleys of sticks and stones, will often only bob down their round saucy heads, or hop aside to avoid a blow, and go on coolly pecking the ears of corn they hold in their claws, as if the assault were a most unprovoked and unwarrantable one.

They are not deemed worth powder and shot, but may be knocked down with sticks, and when skinned are tolerably good in pies.

My Home in Tasmania, Vol. II, Chapter III, pp. 28–29.

Green Rosella
Platycercus caledonicus



Phoebe Castle

COMPILED BY MAUREEN MARTIN FERRIS
SEPTEMBER 2011

This narrative is about my 3rd great aunt Phoebe Castle whose death and children have baffled me for over 30 years ...

WHAT BECAME OF PHOEBE AND HER CHILDREN?

Phoebe Castle was born in 1819 at Banwell, Somerset, England, the only daughter of Joseph Castle and Edith (nee Day).

The family, consisting of parents Joseph and Edith, sons John, Robert and Joseph and daughter Phoebe, arrived in Van Diemen's Land in October 1827 on the ship *Orelia*¹. Joseph had with him a letter of introduction from the Under Secretary R.W. Hay addressed to Lieutenant Governor George Arthur, stating he was a 'respectable and industrious farmer... with an amount of nearly five hundred pounds'. Joseph also had practical experience as a land surveyor.²

Joseph applied to the government for a 500 acre land grant situated at Little Swanport, Oyster Bay. His grant had a magnificent view overlooking the sea, Freycinet Peninsula and Schouten Island. Unfortunately the area was sandy, rocky and the soil appeared to be infertile. Joseph was not afraid of hard work and set to building a small cabin. He named his property *Banwell*.



Banwell, Little Swanport

Times were hard for the pioneering family. A letter written by Phoebe's mother in 1828 to her relatives in England recorded the family had begun to like the new county very much and they had built up a stock of cattle and cows for milking, and with needlework Edith could make 8/6 for a common gown. At the tender age of

nine, Phoebe would have been expected to pull her weight and undertake needlework like her mother.

Tragedy struck in August 1829. While working on the farm aborigines attacked, plundered their hut and speared Joseph below his left ribs, narrowly missing his heart.³ The

family had no alternative but to move to Hobart Town so Joseph could receive medical attention. His health was never to fully recover, and the Colonial Secretary's papers records Joseph's condition as:

'... in the greatest agony... and wasted away to a mere skeleton.'

Joseph applied for a compensation town grant for his loss, pain and suffering. He believed there was nothing left other than a lingering life of misery. His concern was for the future of his family.

Phoebe was 16 years old when her father finally passed away. Joseph died on 23 March 1835 in Hobart and was buried in St David's Cemetery.⁴ Today Joseph's headstone can be seen mounted on the wall near the Supreme Court buildings in Salamanca Place.

Within five months of Joseph's death his widow Edith married Henry Elliott in St David's Church, Hobart. In January 1836 the compensation grant of 1000 acres requested by Joseph was allocated at Carlton. The land at Carlton was sold and Edith and family moved to Little Swanport to farm *Banwell*.

On 6 July 1836 Phoebe Castle married James Wild(e) at St David's Church, Hobart. James was a convict transported to Van Diemen's Land for stealing a pocket book. James' occupation was as an attorney's clerk and as such was employed by the government in the Muster Masters Department.



Joseph Castle's headstone

1 Ship News, *Colonial Times Newspaper*, 12 October 1827, p. 2.
2 Historical Records of Australia III, Vol. VI, p. 27.

3 *The Hobart Town Courier*, 26 September 1829, p. 2.

4 Tasmanian Pioneer Index, burial, Reference 1835 #3886.

A NEW START

Leaving her family behind, Phoebe and husband James set out for a new life in South Australia. They set up a small business, with James becoming a publican at the *Foresters Inn* situated in Leigh Street, Adelaide. Its name was later changed to the *Black Horse Hotel*.⁵

Between 1836 and 1848 Phoebe and James had six children: Ada Phoebe, Elizabeth Marion Emily, James Joshua Alexander, Thomas, John and Joseph. Phoebe and the children regularly travelled from Adelaide to Hobart to visit her family on the East Coast.

Phoebe's mother Edith died at *Banwell* in 1845. More heartache was to follow when Phoebe's youngest son Joseph died when seven months old in August 1848. Eight months later, in April 1849, her husband James was thrown



Black Horse Hotel, Adelaide

from his cart while travelling home from the racecourse and sadly died seven days later of the injuries he'd sustained.⁶ Joseph and James are buried in the West Terrace Cemetery, Adelaide.

Left a widow with five young children, Phoebe stayed on at the *Black Horse* managing as best she could. Living around the corner in Hindley Street was a cooper by the name of John Crampton who was to become her second husband. The family travelled to Hobart where Phoebe and John married at St George's Church, Battery Point on 26 November 1849. They were back in Adelaide by early 1850.

It's here all trace of Phoebe goes cold. Her husband John Crampton re-marries in Adelaide in April 1861 to Annie Pearce. John dies on 8 October 1879. A report in the *Naracoorte Herald* states John was 'highly respected by all classes'. He was buried in the Naracoorte Cemetery.

Phoebe's daughter Elizabeth Marion Emily Wilde married Arthur Edward Delf in the Pirie Street Chapel, Adelaide on 17 May 1856. 🍷

THE CHRONICLE CONTINUES

Years later a search of the 1880 USA census on [familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)⁷ turned up the following information:

Census Place: 2nd Ward, Negaunee, Marquette, Michigan		
Name	Birthplace	Age
DEL, Arthur	England	47
DEL, Elizabeth [Marion]	Van Dieguaus Land [Van Diemen's Land]	43
DEL, Amelia E	Australia	22
DEL, Arthur E	Canada	20
DEL, Edward W	Michigan, USA	14
DEL, Percival J	Michigan, USA	11

Further searches of Canadian and USA records online at [Ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)⁸ revealed births, marriages and deaths for most of the children. I joined a mailing list for Michigan, posted messages on notice boards and wrote emails, one to the library in Marquette. This proved very fruitful with newspaper reports and photographs posted to me.

My research was packed away when I moved to the East Coast in 2006 and by this time I'd changed internet service provider and all hope was lost for anyone trying to contact me. Mid 2010 an email was sent to the Glamorgan Spring Bay Historical Society asking if I was the person seeking information on the Delf family from Marquette, Michigan. Once again excitement took over and I was back on the trail. The photograph below of Elizabeth Marion Emily Delf (nee Wilde) was emailed to me from Marcy O'Brien of New Jersey.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN REGISTER

Monday 8th July 1850, p. 2

...The following is a list of passengers on board the missing barque:

Mr Meyers and wife, two Miss Crockets, Mr Privasin, Mrs Crampton, Messrs Crocke, Fenton, Foster, Fever, and Mason, Mr and Mrs Wilkin, Thomas Morton, J. Jones, J. Richards, ten prisoners and three constables.

Over Christmas last year [2010] I had a visit from Claudia O'Brien and her son Colin. Claudia is my 2nd cousin, 3 times removed and her great grandfather is Arthur E. Delf, son of Elizabeth Marion Emily (nee Wilde).

⁵ J. Hoad, *Hotels and Publicans in South Australia 1826-1984*.

⁶ *South Australian Register*, 21 April 1849, p. 3.

⁷ <<http://www.familysearch.org>>.

⁸ <<http://www.ancestry.com.au>>.

Phoebe's son James Joshua Alexander Wilde died in Queensland in 1918. I am currently waiting for his pension records.



Another descendant was found in America. His name is Marc Dodge from Texas. A letter he emailed alerted me to the fact Phoebe's eldest daughter Ada Phoebe married James Potts Ormiston in Sydney, NSW. Ada and James had a large family of 11 children. Marc had further information, photos and letters. One of the family tales handed down to him read:

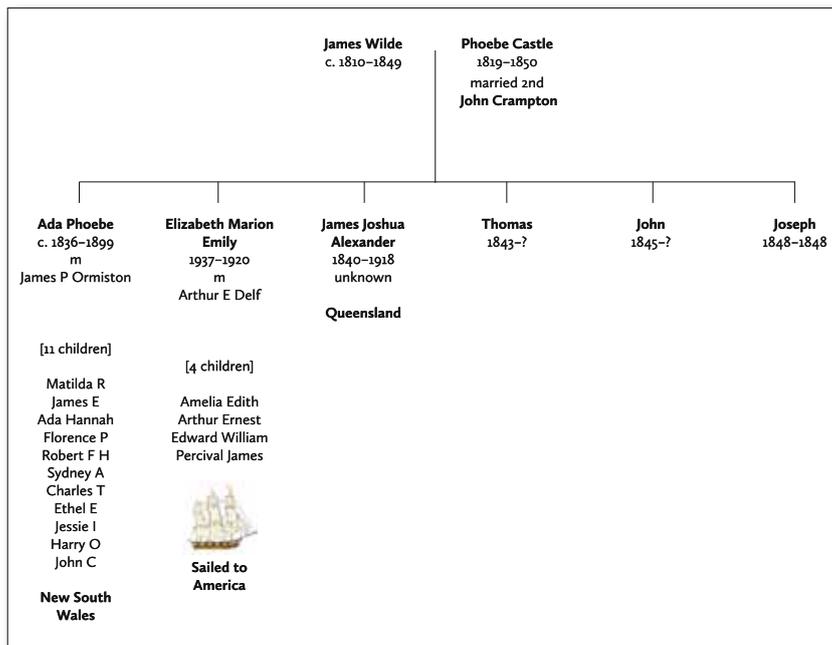
"Marion's mother was abducted on a convict ship that sailed into port, but never docked because convicts took it over".

This intrigued me. Often there is an element of truth in family tales handed down and I suspected Phoebe went down with a ship because I had not been able to find her death recorded anywhere. 🍷

While searching through the Australian Newspapers online⁹ I found a list of passengers from the missing barque¹⁰ *Lady Denison*.

The 200 tons brig *Lady Denison* was built at the convict settlement of Port Arthur in 1847. Under the command of Captain Hammond she left Port Adelaide on 17 April 1850 for Hobart, but failed to arrive. It was suspected that a number of convicts who were on board may have seized her and sailed her to San Francisco to join the Californian gold rush, but her arrival was never reported there. A sealer claimed about three months after her disappearance he had seen wreckage identified as coming from the *Lady Denison* scattered along the beach at Church Rock near Arthur River on the West Coast of Tasmania. When the *Lady Denison* departed

Adelaide she was carrying 16 passengers, [including Mrs Crampton], 10 or 11¹¹ convicts and three constables, with a crew of seven or eight. In 1853, a policeman at Ovens in New South Wales identified a woman at an inquest as one of the convicts who had embarked on the *Lady Denison*. It is suggested that the vessel had foundered or been stranded with the loss of all those on board.¹²



9 <<http://trove.nla.gov.au>>.

10 Note: The *Lady Denison* is also referred to as a brig.

11 Reports vary from 10 to 11.

12 <<http://oceans1.customer.netspace.net.au>>. <apps5a.ris.environment.gov.au/shipwreck/public/wreck/search.do>.