

former



TIMES



GLAMORGAN SPRING BAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

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22 Franklin Street  
Swansea TAS 7190  
☎ 6256 5077

DTP: D. BRICKNELL

## Stanley Discovery Museum & Genealogy Centre

I recently revisited the historic town of Stanley on the North West Coast of Tasmania. I was visiting my son and his partner who are hosts at the old Cable Station Dining Restaurant and B&B Accommodation.

I stayed in the village at Gardenia Cottage and spent several hours discovering the historical aspects of this delightful village. The cottages are all well preserved and cared for, and the atmosphere takes you back to the turn of the century. Joseph Lyons Cottage is the most well known cottage in Stanley.

I found my way to several galleries and gift shops and discovered the Stanley Discovery Museum and Genealogy Centre. The centre is staffed by local volunteers and is situated in Church Street. It was established in April 1973 in what used to be the Parish Hall of St Paul's Anglican Church. The exhibition leads you through a time zone of early Stanley in the days when horse drawn vehicles plied the streets. Stanley was a mail terminus and the wharves sheltered large quantities of timber and passenger shipping. It was also the centre of a large fishing industry.

Marguerite "Meg" Eldridge OAM was the founder of the Discovery Museum and also Joseph Lyons Cottage. She died earlier this year and is remembered with a plaque on display at the Museum.

Marguerite was actively involved in the local Anglican Church, an author and illustrator of publications revolving around Stanley. Keeping detailed journals, scrapbooks and

collections of historic photographs, she was also the president of the Stanley Floral Festival and a feature writer and photographer for the Advocate.

The historic town of Stanley has benefited from Meg's lifetime of unstinting enthusiasm, devotion and dedication to preserving the unique history of Stanley. Mrs Marion Berry who was on duty the day I visited, showed me into the beautiful St Paul's Church where I saw the magnificent stained glass window over the altar.

This depicts the Last Supper and is a beautiful work of stained glass. I learnt so much in the couple of hours I spent with Mr and Mrs Berry about Stanley. The vast collection of memorabilia and photographs needs a larger home to display the artefacts.

Like all small rural towns the Discovery Museum relies on the voluntary help from the local people. I suggested to them that applying for grants to improve the display of such historical material would be helpful.

When you next visit the Northwest Coast make sure you include Stanley in your itinerary. It is well worth the journey. I hope to return next year to learn more about this delightful part of our island State of Tasmania

*By Deirdre Monk*

Further Information: Stanley Discovery Museum & Genealogy Centre, Located in what used to be the Parish Hall for St Paul's Church, the Discovery Museum was established in 1973 as an exhibition that will take you on a journey into Stanley's past, with relics, antiques, memorabilia, photographs, documents and a genealogy centre from 1804 to the 1900's.

Open daily from September to June, and closed July and August.

Address: Church Street Stanley Tasmania 7331

Phone: 03 6458 2091

Email: stanleymuseum@hotmail.com



## *Membership Update*

We welcome the following new members to The Society since our last Newsletter:

Valerie Schier from Machans Beach in Qld, Fran Read from Orford, and Peter & Judith Cocker from Penguin.

## *What's Coming Up*

The Society will be having a Stall at the Swansea Country Fair on Sunday 1 December, we will have our usual array of interesting books and Louisa Anne Meredith cards available for sale, as well Society Membership information will be available. Please see us at the Fair.

In association with the East Coast Heritage Museum, we will be participating in the next Exhibition on early Quakers, the Cottons and Dr Story, see Page 4 for details.

## *Past Activities*

During the Winter months, Parks & Wildlife subsidised the cost of the ferries to Maria Island. To take advantage of this a group from the Society ventured over late in August. As we had the ferry to ourselves on the outward journey from Triabunna, we were also able to see Bird Rock, also named something else related to bird droppings, and Fossil Bay, even venturing into a cave in the cliff face. After a walk around Darlington, we headed home again to Triabunna. A great day out, please see some of the photos.

*By Peter Huttemeier*



*Bird Rock*



*From left Members Fred & Gloria Willis, Craig and Jennifer Johnston, Joy & Reg Tilley.*



*Maria Island cave*



*Maria Island cliff face*



*Darlington settlement buildings*



*Darlington settlement buildings*

## *Integrating the study of Family & Local History*

The commencement of the gold rush in Victoria in 1851 and the end of convict transportation to Tasmania in 1853 led to a shortage of labour in the colony, since many able-bodied men departed for the gold fields. In response to these developments, several immigration societies were formed in Launceston and Hobart. In 1854, agents sent by these societies to Britain began recruiting immigrants in the eastern counties of England and in Scotland.

My great-grandparents, John Watt and Catherine McRobbie, were recruited in Glasgow by the agent, Joseph Bonney, and emigrated on the White Star. Soon after arriving in Tasmania in July 1855, John a 'farm servant' and Catherine, a 'cook', took up positions at the Lyne family's property, Apsley. In August 1855, they married there, and in November 1855, their first child, Agnes, was born and later baptised in Gala Kirk at Cranbrook in December 1855. The birth of a second child, Catherine, in January 1859, is recorded in the district of Brighton, but no records have been identified to determine where the family resided.

The births of a third child, John, in August 1861 and fourth child, Charlotte, in January 1864, were recorded in the register of St Thomas' Church of England at Avoca. The records also state that John worked as a labourer on two properties, Brushy Hill and Selma, in the Avoca district. By the late 1860s, John and Catherine and their family had moved to the north-west coast, leasing a property at Gawler. By 1872, they had selected an allotment of 100 acres at Sprent. The discovery of tin in north-east Tasmania in 1874 led John to lease several mineral sections on the Cascade River near Derby. By 1900, the family had settled at Gladstone, where their two sons, John and George, were active in mining tin.

Although virtually nothing is known about their personal lives, information derived from records shows that John and Catherine's lives were affected by social and economic conditions prevailing in Tasmania in the second half of the nineteenth century. A large proportion of freehold land had been acquired by a small number of free settlers through land grants before 1831. They formed landed gentry, who employed large numbers of convicts and emancipists, became community leaders and

provided most members of parliament. They maintained their privileged position in the decades following responsible self-government with the opening of the colonial parliament in 1856 by controlling a workforce of emancipists and free immigrants through a repressive Masters and Servants Act.

Beginning with the Waste Lands Act of 1858, a series of laws were passed enabling emancipists and free immigrants to select blocks of land under 320 acres with deposits. This land was mostly in densely forested and hilly country on the fringes of established agricultural and pastoral properties and beyond on the north-west coast, the interior of the north-east and the Huon Valley. However, many selectors found prosperity elusive, since small selections were the sites of hard work and basic living. The discovery of tin at Waratah in 1871 and in the north-east in 1874 offered the prospect for many workers on rural properties and small selections to make their fortunes.

*By Michael Watt*

Interested readers, who would like to read the report on this family history study, can contact the author, as follows:

Postal address: 316 Churchill Avenue, Sandy Bay, Tasmania 7005 Australia

Phone: 03 6225 1335

E-mail: [michaelgwatt@internode.on.net](mailto:michaelgwatt@internode.on.net)



*Apsley House*

## Next Exhibition...

The next joint exhibition between the Glamorgan Spring Bay Historical Society Inc. and the East Coast Heritage Museum will be on early Quakers, the Cotton family and Doctor George Fordyce Story. The exhibition is planned for early December.

The museum will exhibit two early Cotton costumes and with the historical society's superb collection of photographs and documents the exhibition promises to be something 'special'.

Dr Story's 1862 Apsley library trunk with books, documents and the original stamp will be part of the new display. Colin Campbell is currently working on a model of Dr Story. The Tasmanian University's Special and Rare Collection will loan (on short term) Dr Story's original case notes. We have been given permission to photograph this book at the University.

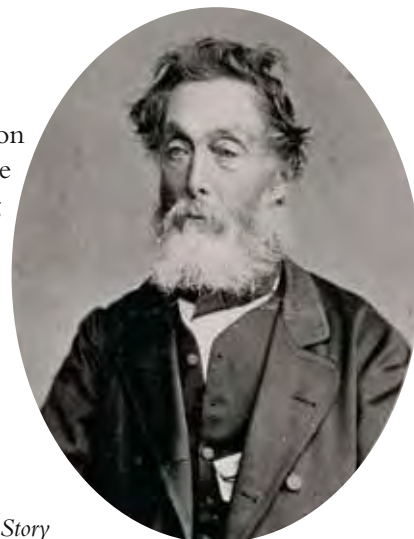
Friends School, Hobart very kindly lent us some 'dress up' costumes as patterns so we can make some ourselves, so we urgently need some people to help sew. Friends have also offered to loan us a portrait of one of the early Quakers.

Blackgum Distributors and Jane Cooper is launching (on the East Coast) Jane's new

book on her father William Jackson Cotton papers. This book will be for sale from the Glamorgan Spring Bay Historical Society Inc and the Museum.

If you are willing to assist, please contact Maureen on 6256 5066 or email [maureen@freycinet.tas.gov.au](mailto:maureen@freycinet.tas.gov.au).

*From Maureen Martin Ferris*



*Dr Story*



*Kelvedon*

## Our Wonderful History Society

Have you ever wondered what information our society has? Those of you who help out or come and visit us know we have a marvellous collection of photographs, documents and books. Ever wondered what else we have? Here are some other treasures:

Vida (Dot) Webb's 11 scrapbooks. This collection of books covers newspaper cuttings about the Glamorgan Spring Bay area its' people and properties etc. from 1975-2009. Well worth



a look, as you might find a relatives death notice.

We have photocopies of property deeds, plans, maps and cemeteries. We also have headstone photographs of some of these cemeteries.

The Amos diaries are astonishing; they have information on convicts, settlers, the weather, crops and describe the early pioneering days.

We have many books including Walch's Tasmanian Almanacs, family histories and books about places, churches, buildings and animals.

Our documents include original letters, receipts, cheques and other miscellaneous items. Some of these date back to early settlement.

We'd love to share this history with you...

*By Maureen  
Martin Ferris*



*Swansea in 1800s by Violet Mace (one of our collections)*



*View from Cherry Tree Hill*



*Treats for a pet*



*Hard yakka if you get bogged!*



*Light a smoke for your mate (in your Sunday best)*



*Catching the coach to Hobart (it would have been a bumpy ride)*



*An outing to see the Mary Burgess shipwreck on Wineglass Bay*

*From the Secretary:*

As this will be our last Newsletter for this year, on behalf of the Committee, the Society wishes all its Members and friends a very merry Christmas 2013, and much Historical Happiness for 2014. The next Society Meeting will be Friday 13th December (10.00am), after which we will partake of some light refreshments and festivities to celebrate what has been another

busy year. Members and Friends most welcome to join us.

*Peter Huttemeier, Secretary*



*Great Christmas idea*

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