

former TIMES

GLAMORGAN SPRING BAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

ISSUE 6

JUNE 2014

22 Franklin Street
Swansea TAS 7190

☎ 6256 5077

☎ 6257 9011

OPEN 10AM – 4PM TUESDAYS & FRIDAYS

Mayfield

With the recent passing of our dear friend Robert Dunbabin we took the opportunity to delve into the very early history of his family property, Mayfield.

Thomas Buxton was the first owner of Mayfield receiving a Location Order on 30/6/1823 for 500 acres of land. Buxton was son of John Buxton of Mayfield House, Derby, England. He arrived in Hobart Town on 5th May 1821 on the vessel “Westmoreland” with his wife and family. Later in the same year he settled in Great Swan Port at (old) Belmont, as an overseer for William Talbot,

On the 21st May 1828 he was gazetted Division Constable and from 1828 to 1830 was pound keeper at Little Swan Port. He was dismissed from this position when he seized Mr. George Meredith’s boat because Meredith did not produce a Port Clearance. On the 13th December 1828, he received a further Location Order for 780 acres. It is said that his additional land was given to him by Governor Arthur after the latter had been entertained to a meal at Mayfield during his tour up the coast in November 1828. In 1830 Buxton took part in the Black Line Operation. In 1836 he had the flour mill at Mayfield built. During the early days at Mayfield, Buxton like other settlers had a great deal of trouble from the aboriginals.

Buxton’s first home was a sod hut, but in about 1825 a more durable structure of stone and brick was built. It was a one storey building, small with one half cellar room over which there was an attic. The entrance to the attic is up on the wall over the cellar door with a hinged door that let down and could easily be pulled up to conceal the entrance quickly in the smoke grimed wall of those days. In it Mrs Buxton and several of her daughters are said to have hidden during a raid by the aboriginals. Large cellars lie under the length of the brick building. The woodwork is mainly of cedar. A peephole was made in a bricked doorway for inmates to make certain who was

knocking at the front door before they opened it. An internal water supply in the cellar meant that occupants did not have to risk their lives at night if they required water.

So still remaining of the Buxton era, there is the house, the mill and the race down which flowed the water to drive the wheels of the mill. Further afield was the cemetery with headstones to members of the Buxton family and other people connected with the estate. The last burial was in 1929.

THEIR FAMILY IS OF INTEREST:

George Swanport Buxton was the first white child to be born in the district at old Belmont near Cambria Lagoon. He went to California with brother John in a vessel built at Mayfield.

Thomas (Jr.) became a captain at sea. He might have taken title to the land had he wished to. However he went to New Zealand about 1865, married and had 2 sons and 4 daughters. At the time of the Mayfield clearing sale in 1866 he came over from N.Z. in his vessel the “Dancing Wave” arriving in Swansea in his ship after dark.



Mayfield House C1970

Continued page 2



Continued from front page...

He signalled his arrival by firing 6-7 shots at the light of the Pier Hotel and when leaving in the morning put several more shots into a cottage.

John Buxton lived in a sod hut near Mayfield Creek. Fanny Buxton married Peter Mitchelmore in 1847 aged 19. Sarah Buxton married William Woollett – Waterloo Point. Emma Buxton married Thomas Wright. Mary Ann Buxton married John Radford of Little Swanport and Agnes Buxton married Matthew Poole.

On 29th March 1864 Thomas' wife Ellen died, aged 74. In November of the following year Thomas (Snr.) also died but no trace can be found of a headstone.

When Mayfield first came on the market it belonged to a descendant of the Buxton's, a Mr Morey. The property was sold by mistake on the part of a Hobart Lawyer. This was not discovered until after John Mitchell had bought it. He offered to forego the purchase but it was refused – 2 gentlemanly gentlemen!!

After John Mitchell of Lisdillon bought Mayfield in 1866, he set to work to improve the property. Hops were planted on the south side of Buxton's Rivulet and on the north side towards the hills. He built 6 cottages, 3 on each side back to back. Across the old road was built a hop kiln. He sent to Hobart for willow trees which he wanted to grow as protection for the vines against wind. Out of the possible 110 varieties available, the nurseman sent the poorest type as far as timber was concerned! Remains of the willow tree plantings can be seen in the valley.

When John Mitchell died in 1881, he left Mayfield to his son, Edwin Harry John Mitchell, who at 21, had left Lisdillon to gain experience on the mainland. He studied in Sydney, gained his licence as a surveyor and had his own team and plant. He was one of the first surveyors to survey land on the western side of the Blue Mountains.

Edwin Mitchell carried on with improvements to the property. He built a dam across Buxton's Rivulet about a mile due west of the main road. The property extended on both sides of the Rivulet for some distance. (The Rivulet rises practically from Lake Tooms.) He brought the water by race with one gap in the fluming round in front of Mayfield House and over the ground on the sea side of the old cemetery and watered grass paddocks for the cows. Near where the old fluming was built, west of the road, he put in a hydraulic ram pump, which delivered water into a small reservoir between the road and the House.

A concrete tank now stands not far from the old reservoir.

He gave up hop growing for 2 reasons – the red spider (spraying unknown in those days); and the inconvenience of sending wagons and horses to Buckland to bring the pickers to Mayfield and then returning them after harvesting! There was an annual feast for all of the workers and pickers in the "Football Patch".

More land was cleared between the main road and the sea. At first, he intended to grow wheat. His mother, then living at Lisdillon did not think this a good idea and she asked Mr John Lyne of Cranbrook to dissuade Edwin from growing wheat. The story goes that Mr Lyne called on Edwin and they looked over the property together. Mr Lyne's comment was "Well, Edwin, if I had this farm, I'd grow lots of wheat," which he did. He received 2/6d to 2/9d a bushel. However, he was not very successful with wheat and went over to more sheep. Wool in those days brought from 4d – 6d a lb., later rising to 1/- a lb. Edwin Mitchell used to export his wool in the barque "Ethel" and had it auctioned in London.

He donated land to the Government so that a jetty would be rebuilt for the people of the district (1906-7).

An apple and pear orchard was planted on part of the old "Government Paddock" below the hills on the north side of the main road where the Rocky Hills Station grew food crops during the days of the Probation Station. The trees did fairly well at the beginning, 1914-18, but as the seasons became drier, it proved non-profitable and was returned to sheep farming. The fruit was shipped from the jetty. However with the advent of the motor lorry and improved roads, the jetty fell into disuse and disrepair and was washed away and landed on the beach known as "Quiet Corner". In 1945 the boat was still delivering some goods to Mayfield.

Since 1934, Mayfield has passed through several hands:

Mr Les Roberts of the Huon who bought it for £8,400; Dr. Brettingham-Moore, £12,000; Mr Cameron of the Nile, £40,000; Mr Palfreyman, £54,000; and finally in 1969 to Mr R.B. Dunbabin. The property has been passed on to son Bruce, a 5th generation Dunbabin farmer.

Gloria Willis (with help from Joyce Dunbabin)

40 YEAR OLD MYSTERY SOLVED!

The saying is that 'time will tell' and in my case it has... forty years in fact. I'd almost given up hope on finding my g. g. grandfather Richard Burton - no not the actor. New web sites pop up daily so you need to watch out for them, they might hold the information you are after.

One such web site is 'Founders & Survivors' <http://www.foundersandsurvivors.org/>. The site is a collaboration between historians, genealogists, demographers and population health researchers.

It seeks to record and study the founding population of 73,000 men, women and children who were transported to Tasmania.

Partners in the project are: The University of Melbourne, University of Tasmania [UTAS], Australian National University [ANU], Flinders University, Tasmanian Archives and Heritage Office [TAHO], Australian Government, National Archives of Australia, Australian Research Council and the Institute for a Broadband-Enabled Society [IBES].

Searching for convicts by Surname, First Name or Police Number (this number appears on VDL convict records) is easy. Partial match, e.g. 'wil' will find Williams, Williamson etc. Currently 'registered volunteers' are adding information and linking convicts to their records digitized on TAHO.

Chainletter is the 'founders' newsletter, it gives updates and on the progress of the project as well as other stories and information. These are well worth downloading (pdf).

My information on Richard Burton was very sparse, all I knew was that he was born in England around 1822. Where in England was my question! Richard married Ann Phoebe Davey, 1859 in Deloraine. They had children Alfred, Ann Phoebe, George, Zillah and Leslie Richard. The fourth child Zillah was my g. grandmother.

Every few years I look at my family tree and pick a line I haven't been able to solve and search one of the new web sites. The Tasmanian Convict Index (TAHO <http://www.linc.tas.gov.au/>) turned up two Richard Burton's, neither of which fitted to be my man. Founders and Survivors index turned up four, one of which was Richard Barton aka Richard Burton.



Glen Gala C1920

Funny how you tell everyone to check various spellings and similar names but don't always do it yourself, but that's what happened to me.

Richard Barton/Burton was tried 1841 in Nottingham for stealing a gun and other goods, he was tried with two others. He fitted closely in age with my guy (born c1821), but my eyes quickly spotted the section 'Family Relationships' with the following names:

Father: George

Mother: Mary

Brothers (2): George & James

Sisters (3): Zillah (sic), Emma & Eliza

My first instinct was to ring my best friend Meryl and run it past her. Meryl looked closely at my information and the convict record and agreed he fitted like a glove.

Somehow between England and Van Diemen's Land his name changed from Barton to Burton, his convict record on arrival in VDL records Burton. Likely a Nottingham accent had a part to play. Richard's trial in England is under the name of Barton. I have since discovered two generations on the Barton's in Radford, Nottingham.

I was further astounded to find that my convict Richard was assigned to J. & A. Amos of Glen Gala, Cranbrook in August 1843, another link to the East Coast.

The moral to this story..... never give up.

Maureen Martin Ferris

Eddy Smith

We regret the passing of one of our founding members, Edmund Smith, who passed away April 30, just thirteen days short of his 100th birthday.

Eddy was born in rural northeast Tasmania and was the first member of his family to attend high school. He went on to train as a teacher and had a distinguished career in education. He went overseas to study educational trends and when he was appointed the first principal of Clarence High School he was able to put his innovative ideas into practice.

When he retired he and his wife Zoe moved to the East Coast, where they restored the ruined Lisdillon Church, surrounded it with a beautiful garden and filled it with antiques, mainly collected by Zoe. They were both active members of our community. Among other activities, Eddy was a member of the East Coast Branch of the National Trust and in 1991 one of the three founders of their History Sub-Committee. From this embryo our present Glamorgan Spring Bay Historical Society was born.

As he grew older Eddy became less active in community affairs but he always took a keen interest in the Society, donating materials, attending functions and hosting meetings in his home. To the end of his life he kept his interest in world affairs, cricket and his many friends, including dozens of ex-pupils, (of whom I was one). If he could challenge his visitors into a good argument, so much the better. Many, many people have him in their memory and feel a debt for his enrichment of their lives. We will not see his like again.

Judie Hastie



Robert Dunbabin

Robert lived a life dedicated to his family and his rural properties. Robert was brought up on the family property "Marchwiell" in Bream Creek. He left Cleves College at fifteen because of his father's illness. Times were not easy and with two sisters and a brother to be educated Robert accepted his role to work the property, later joined by his brother Jim.

He married Joyce and as well as working "Marchwiell", they built their house. With Joyce and their three school age sons he moved to "Mayfield" in 1969, leaving the family property for his brother Jim.

At "Mayfield" Robert successfully developed a fine wool stud and won many prizes at Campbell Town Show with his fine wool fleeces. He developed a great interest in making and mending all in sundry in his workshop. This became evident when he eventually retired to Swansea and occupied his time in his beloved workshop.

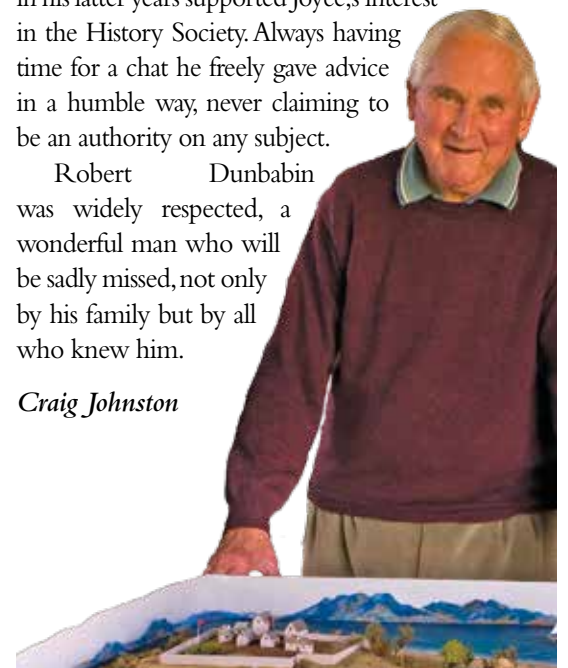
All his life he worked very hard and was able to purchase and provide his sons with properties. "Mayfield" for Bruce, "Milton" for Michael and an engineering degree and "Burnside" for Timothy. About the only time he ever left his property was to attend a sporting event which one of his sons was taking part.

He was one of the original members of the East Coast Primary Producers Association, and never lost interest in the family properties. He was quietly pleased when grandson Henry came home to Milton. Robert always had great pride in all his grand children.

Robert always had an interest in the Church and in his latter years supported Joyce's interest in the History Society. Always having time for a chat he freely gave advice in a humble way, never claiming to be an authority on any subject.

Robert Dunbabin was widely respected, a wonderful man who will be sadly missed, not only by his family but by all who knew him.

Craig Johnston



From The Secretary

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

With deep regret we have to farewell Robert Dunbabin and Eddy Smith. Obituaries are elsewhere in this Newsletter.

We are pleased to welcome the following new members since our last Newsletter:

Derek Harris, Mathew Long, Janine Thomson, Jennifer Carriere, Richard Amos, Allan Barden, Mary Bryceson, Clare Luttrell, and Kim Nicholls.

It is nearing that time of year again, when we ask for your continuing support. \$15 a year to be a Member of GSBHS is not much these days, and certainly does not go far to recouping our operating costs, so it really is a bargain. What do you get for your \$15?

You get membership of an active and vibrant Historical Society, one where the collection and archiving of local records is foremost. A society that is active in publication of books and documents relating to our area, with a number of important projects currently in the pipeline. We have a Society subscription to Ancestry.com, members are able to utilise this subscription for their own research. Finally your membership gives you significant discounts on Society publications and other books we stock for sale, often far in excess of your membership fees.

Subscription renewals will be sent out during June, for the next Financial Year.

FIELD VISITS

One of the things recently mentioned to me by Members is their desire to go on some field trips. We of course had a very successful trip last year to Maria Island. For 2015's Heritage Week we have something big planned which will certainly involve a Field Trip.

In the mean time, however, I am keen to hear from Members of their wish list for Trips. I anticipate these would be day trips, depending on numbers, hiring a bus at a small cost. Possible venues come to mind such as Evandale Market, St Helens History Rooms, Historic Towns such as Richmond or Oatlands etc.

Please let me know your Wishlist.

OFFICE MATTERS

Computing technology is, depending on your viewpoint, either a modern curse, or complete

necessity. Our Office together with the East Coast Heritage Museum is undergoing some changes in our computing facilities. As part of the Mosaic Database upgrades, a new and larger "Server" has been installed in the Museum facilities which GSBHS will share.

The PCs in our Office will have access to the new Database Server. The process of integrating our records has started. It will be a big job, but one that is necessary for safety and security of our records. We are hoping that eventually a Network will enable trained members to have offsite access to the Database so that this work to be done from home as well.

Once all the small teething problems are ironed out, it will be "goodbye" to our old ledger based Receipting and Accessioning System, it will now all be directly accessed through the Database.

The call went out recently to members who were interested in taking part in a course run by the Mosaic people who were visiting Swansea in May. I am happy to say we had a great response and the two day classes were full. There will be as a result a good core of members trained in the use of Mosaic.

PUBLISHING

The Publishing Committee's priority is at the moment the preparation and publishing of Louisa Anne Meredith's Vols One and Two of My Bush Friends. Time has beaten us and it will be necessary to get an extension of our Grant past the end of June for this Project. It will be a busy second half of the year

Marion Harrison continues with her photography for the Houses of Old Glamorgan book. Next will be a further mock-up and proof reading.

It has been a while since members received an update of what books & items we have for sale at the Society. The latest list is included in this Newsletter. As you can see most books & LAM Prints are for sale to members at a substantial discount to retail prices.

Till next time,

Peter Huttemeier



TITLE	AUTHOR	SALE PRICE	MEMBER PRICE
Edward Shaw's Memoirs	Edward Shaw	\$25.00	\$22.00
From Hell to Paradise	Robert Poole	\$25.00	\$23.00
Kettle on The Hob	Frances Cotton	\$8.00	\$5.00
Making their own way	Tom Dunbabin	\$40.00	\$35.00
Maria Island Convicts	Brian Rieusset	\$15.00	\$12.00
Memoirs of Freycinet Tasmania	Molly Greaves	\$25.00	\$23.00
Memories of Rostrevor	Brian "Buck" Anderton	\$30.00	\$30.00
My Home in Tasmania	L. A. Meredith	\$30.00	\$20.00
On the Fiddle from Scotland to Tasmania	Peter MacFie and Steve & Marjorie Gadd	\$40.00	\$37.00
Prospecting the Pieman	Alice Meredith Hodgson	\$20.00	\$16.00
Quaker Life In Tasmania - First Hundred Years	Michael Bennett Ravensdale Remembered . GHBHS	\$30.00	\$25.00
Ravensdale Remembered	GSBHS	\$13.00	\$13.00
Swansea Heritage Walk	GSBHS	\$5.00	\$5.00
Tales from Tasmania	Miriam Cooper	\$25.00	\$25.00
Tasmania 40 ⁰ South Magazine #62, includes article on Louisa Anne Meredith	Elizabeth Hodson	\$5.00	\$2.50
Tasmania, Women, History. Books and Places	Susanna Hoe	\$40.00	\$35.00
Tasmania's Golden Years	David Hopkins	\$99.00	\$80.00
Tasmanian Women of Achievement	Reg A. Watson & Kate Carlisle	\$35.00	\$32.00
The Black War	Nicholas Clements	\$35.00	\$30.00
The Cotton Papers - Land Of The Sleeping Gods	Jane Cooper	\$50.00	\$35.00

TITLE	AUTHOR	SALE PRICE	MEMBER PRICE
The East Coast of Tasmania	Owen Hughes	\$30.00	\$25.00
The Memories of a PBI	Lorna Arnol	\$15.00	\$15.00
Turning The Key of Time with DVD	Miriam Cooper	\$40.00	\$40.00
Turning The Key of Time without DVD	Miriam Cooper	\$30.00	\$30.00
Viv and Hilda	Kathy Gatenby	\$35.00	\$28.00

CARD SETS

Heritage Greeting Cards (each)	SPECIAL	\$1.00	\$1.00
--------------------------------	----------------	--------	---------------

LOUISA ANNE MEREDITH CARDS

Cards (each)	\$3.00	\$2.00
Cards (set of 6) set 1	\$15.00	\$12.00
Cards (set of 6) set 2	\$15.00	\$12.00
Cards (set of 6) set 3	\$15.00	\$12.00

LOUISA ANNE MEREDITH PRINTS

(Portfolio Prints from My Bush Friends in Tasmania)

Complete Folio set of Vols. 1 & 2 (26 pages)	\$250.00	\$210.00
Folio Set of Vol 2 (15 Pages) Black Folder	\$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

