



Pensioner Barracks & Parade, 1860s.  
(W A Museum)

**ENROLLED PENSIONER GUARDS**  
a Special Interest Group of the  
Western Australian Geneological Society Inc.  
Unit 6/48 May St,  
Bayswater 6053

Quarterly Newsletter  
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**Convenor's Report**

Our application to form a Special Interest Group to recognise and research the men who formed the ENROLLED PENSIONER FORCE/GUARD, and their families, under the umbrella of the Western Australian Geneological Society was approved on 16th February 2000.

A definition of this group of men, taken from F.H. Broomhall's book "The Veterans" follows:-

The Enrolled Pensioner Force consisted of soldiers who came out as guards on the convict ships which, between 1850 and 1868, transported almost 10,000 prisoners from the gaols of the United Kingdom to this colony; many remained as settlers after their military duties were finished. They were soldiers who had served the previous 20 years in Britain's many wars, and who on discharge from the Army, were awarded pensions for long service and good conduct, for wounds or for meritorious service. They were a welcome addition to the labour force as warders, police, postmen or mailmen, tradesmen or agricultural labourers.

After arrival they could choose to continue on military duty, until the next convict ship brought a new contingent of Enrolled Pensioners; or obtaining their discharge, remain as settlers, when however, they could be called upon to uphold civil authority in an emergency.

After serving 7 years in the Enrolled Pensioner Force (after 1880 the Enrolled Guard), they were eligible for a free land grant of some 10 -33 acres.

**The Aims of this special interest group are:-**

- \* **To conduct meetings for members of the Western Australian Geneological Society Inc. who have a special interest in members of the Enrolled Pensioner Force/Guard.**
- \* **To develop a Register.** We have commenced a register of Research Interests - the names of the Guards cross referenced with those researching. At the beginning of March we have 150 guards listed and 169 researchers. It is very satisfying that the register has already put together a number of descendants whose relationships were previously unknown.
- \* **To encourage and enable those with common research interests to share information.**

- \* **To build a resource file as an aid to member's research.** This is growing rapidly as researchers have been happy to share with us resources they have found useful . We are also endeavouring to identify further resources.
- \* **To provide opportunities for persons with the same research interests to share their research.**
- \* **To find speakers relevant to our research.**
- \* **To provide opportunities for social interaction.**
- \* **To add to the information in Broomhall's book and create a file of guards' profiles for perpetuity.**
- \* **to provide a quarterly newsletter which addresses members' interests**

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**Meeting Times for the Year 2000**

Saturday 15th April      12noon - 4 pm.  
 Saturday 15th July      12noon - 4 pm.  
 Sunday 22nd October    12noon - 4pm

These meetings will be held at unit 4 WAGS

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**Agenda for Meeting Sat.15th April**

Introduction to WAGS Library for Non-WAGS members present

Introduction to "Basic Research", by Bev Iffla, Convenor of Convict Group. She will give a half hour talk on how to get started.

Talk by Jean McDonald who has done extensive research and has written a book about her Pensioner Guard.

Meet Barry Green who has "offered" to edit our newsletter in future.

Time for questions and sharing.

Request for volunteers to serve on committee.

Suggestion that we contribute to the Newsletters of both the Convict Group and the Irish Groups as a resource for our members.

**Bring your own lunch along if needed. Tea ,coffee and biscuits available for 30cents.**

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**150th anniversary**

The First of June is the 150th Anniversary of the arrival of the first Pensioner Guards and Families to Fremantle aboard the Scindian. It is fitting that we begin this group as the 150th anniversary of the first of these men is imminent. With their charges (the convicts), and some with their families, they arrived on Board the Scindian on the 1st of June 1850.

That first ship carried 275 of which 75 were convicts, 55 Enrolled Pensioner Guards, 29 Women of E.P.Guards, and 79 children of E.P.G.

Those of us who are descended from these men acknowledge with gratitude "The Veterans" by F.H.Broomhall 1989. This book has become "the bible" to those researching these families, and members of this group are dedicated to increasing our knowledge.

### **The arrival of the Herbert family in Western Australia**

Henry and Anne HERBERT arrived in Western Australia on 1st June 1850 on the Scindian. They were accompanied by two sons and a daughter. Henry junior and his sister born in England, Joseph the youngest born at sea on the "Scindian" en route to Fremantle

The original settlers in Western Australia asked the Government for more workers to enable the state to prosper and the colony expand. With many convicts in English gaols they were an obvious choice. The first convicts from Portland gaol England arrived in Fremantle on the "Scindian" on 1st June 1850, the twenty first anniversary of the colony. Ex military men were offered a free one way passage to guard the convicts on the voyage.

They were called the ENROLLED PENSIONER GUARDS, and Henry Herbert was one of them. Unfortunately the letter advising of their departure from England travelled on a slower ship, arriving some weeks later. This resulted in there being no lock up facilities waiting.

"The Scindian lay at anchor in Gages Roads for over two months. The anchorage was not a good one. It was unprotected from the winter gales that blew up from the South West. Soon after the ship's arrival, a squall had struck it, and had thrown it on its beam, and had its port-holes not been closed, it would have foundered.

This must have been very uncomfortable for the seventy five convicts who were still on board. Each day as they swung at anchor on the heaving waves they must have gazed longingly at the shore. They could not be disembarked as yet for a very good reason. There was nowhere to put them." (*From Unwilling immigrants page 32*)

During this time parties were taken ashore each day to prepare a lock up building in Fremantle leased from Captain Scott, to accommodate the seventy five convicts.

Shortly after this was completed the second ship, the "Hashemy" arrived on 24th October.

Not a promising start for all, including the wives and children of the Pensioner Guards. Eventually they were located midway between Fremantle and Perth, with the only transport being by the Swan River. Pensioner Guards were allocated two parcels of land. A half acre on the Swan River, now Victoria Avenue, and ten acres in Claremont, present site of the golf course.

What happened to these allotments is unknown. Possibly being reclaimed by the Government if not developed. Ex soldiers in those days were not the best at fending for themselves or making good of virgin land, especially when in a very primitive location.

However Mrs. Herbert was a woman of some character, having previously taught the children of soldiers. She formed a school for the children of the Pensioner Guards in her home, which was close to where the Museum on Victoria Avenue is now located. She was the first and for many years, the only school teacher between Fremantle and Perth.

In 1983 a park adjacent to the museum was named "Mrs. Herbert's Park" in her honour. Forty of her descendants attended the opening ceremony, which included some eight Mrs. Herberts

Henry Herbert died in 1885 aged eighty five. His wife Anne died one year later aged seventy six. Both are buried at Fremantle

*Thank you to Jack Herbert for his account of his family's arrival in Western Australia.*

We also thank Jack for his transcription of the Journal of Her Majesty's Hired convict Ship "Scindian", by Mr John Gibson Surgeon between 28th January and 3rd July 1850, which we now have amongst our resources.

### **Valuable Resource in the older members of our interest group**

We have been contacted by many older members who are descendants of our target group. Many are not able to be actively involved with our Special Interest Group, but wish to share their information, and would like to have the profiles of their Pensioner Guard on record for future generations. Some just wish to be "Friends" of the group and subscribe to the newsletter.

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### **Evaluation of members comments on Registering**

Evaluation of that information has shown that members wish to share their research, and particularly to gain knowledge of resources to further their research with particular emphasis on

Shipping, including pictures  
Regiments and war service.  
Origins of Pensioner Guards and families  
Parentage of " " " "  
Lives in Australia  
Finding other descendants  
There were a number who wished to identify persons who could do their research for them.  
Marriages, regimental and other.  
Land Grants. How to find out about them. What criteria was used in allocating particular areas.  
Uniforms of EPG. Badge on headdress.

These identified areas we will concentrate on and ask our members to share their modes of research for these areas

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### **Newsletter subscription**

The annual fee for the quarterly newsletter is \$10 and is open for any person to subscribe to. We welcome your involvement

Articles for the newsletter and other contributions, queries etc., please send to The Editor, Enrolled Pensioner Guards, c/o WAGS.

As yet we dont have an editor, but if someone would volunteer we would be grateful. In the meantime we are doing our best.

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Ray Hartnett, one of our members who is also the Convenor of the Irish Group has passed on the following information .

### **Enrolled Pensioner Guards, R.C. Karrakatta Cemetary Headstones**

BATLEY	Richard	died	6.10.1887	
BRYAN	Thomas			
CARR	William	died	15.7.1893	89th Reg
CLAFFEY	Patrick	died	12.3.1882	65th Reg.
DONAHUE	Roderick	died	1882	68th Reg.
HALL	Wilson	died	25.10.1879	77th Reg
HOUSTON)	William	died	24. 7. 1892	89th Reg
HOWSTON)				
LILLIS	John	died	30.12.1896	69th Reg

**Convenor : Lawrence Doran.**

**Deputy Convenor : Phillippa Ward**