



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

ENROLLED PENSIONER GUARDS
A Special Interest Group of the
Western Australian Genealogical Society Inc.
Unit 6/48 May Street,
Bayswater. 6053

Quarterly Newsletter
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 Please note the following important information regarding dates for the coming year.

Annual General Meeting of the Group will be held on
Saturday 27th March, 2004
commencing 1.00 p.m. Unit 1, WAGS, 48 May Street, Bayswater

In the October 03 Newsletter the question was asked. 'What is the difference between Warders, Gaolers and Enrolled Pensioner Guards?' In this Newsletter you will find out. Thanks to Ron Sutton. A Nomination Sheet is enclosed with this Newsletter. As you will see there are vacancies for various positions.

<p>General Meeting Dates for 2004 July 24th. Commencing 1.00 p.m. October 23rd. Commencing 2.00 p.m.</p>

<p>Discard Books Sale Saturday 17th April 2004 10.00 a.m. - 12 Noon 48 May Street, Bayswater.</p> <p>The Sale will include superseded or duplicate genealogical books and fiche. Gardening, Cooking, Fiction as well as other general publications. WAGS Bookshop will also have a stall selling both superseded and new books, charts CD-ROM and Programs.</p>

CONVENOR'S REPORT

2004 is already showing signs of being a celebration year, with many facets of Western Australian history being highlighted. As the 175th Anniversary of the first settlement in the Swan River Colony, this year gives all interested groups and individuals the opportunity to record or celebrate their ancestors' involvement in the early social and economic growth of this great State.

The Enrolled Pensioner Guard Group is no exception – we began our quarterly meetings with a very interesting guest speaker, Gillian O'Mara, genealogist, researcher and archivist, who spoke of the co-relation between the Pensioner Guards and the convicts they were engaged to guard.

Her examples of the interaction between the two groups provided food for thought to those members present. Your Committee has been negotiating with the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority at Kings Park in an endeavour to have recognition of the site of the original Pensioner Guard Rifle Range. The Board offered three options, the most favourable being signage as used by Kings Park, approximately 1m. x 60cm, with graphics and words. As there would have been a 3 to 4 year waiting list for funds through the Kings Park Board, the proposal was put to the General Meeting on 7th February to self-fund the project. Members voted unanimously to go ahead with the project, helped by donations already received from members. The Committee will now liaise with the Board in an endeavour to have the site publicly recognised during this Celebration Year.

A brief outline of the application to Kings Park Board appears elsewhere in this Newsletter.

Your Committee has been actively promoting the role of the Pensioner Guards and it is hoped a plaque will also be erected on the site of the ruins of one of the original Pensioner Cottages at Cockburn, near Lake Coogee. Continuing negotiations are looking extremely hopeful.

If any members are aware of plans under way to hold family reunions this year, especially if they relate to Pensioner Guard ancestors, drop a line to the Editor for inclusion in the Newsletter.

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday 27th March at 1 p.m.

Unit 1, W.A. Genealogical Society, 48 May Street, Bayswater.

The change of date was deemed necessary because WAGS had scheduled the Society's CarPark Book Sale on April 17, our original booking date.

The Annual General Meeting will entail election of officers, to be followed by a General Meeting, No speaker has been arranged at this stage, which will give members an opportunity to mix and swap stories.

Some members of the present Committee are not seeking re-election, and I make a personal appeal for a few hours assistance a month to ensure 2004 is a rewarding year for the Group.

I am available to talk to any member who could join me for a coffee and cake, (or tea and tarts – jam) for a brief rundown on just what your Committee does and how you could assist.

We look forward to a productive and interesting year.

Jean McDonald

Convenor

March 2004

Gillian O'Mara - Guest Speaker
at our February 2004 General Meeting.



THE OLD BUTTS RIFLE RANGE – KINGS PARK

Used by the Enrolled Pensioner Force during rifle practice for more than thirty years in the late 1800's, the Butts were mounds of sand about 40ft x20ft and high enough to catch stray bullets.

Some seventy years after their construction in 1862, public concern was expressed when the Butts were to be destroyed during modifications to the driveway beside the State War Memorial.

Letters to the press expressed dismay at their removal as the Butts were considered to be an important historical memorial in themselves. Such historically important sites were certainly not so numerous in the State as to warrant their removal, and their destruction could not be justified.

Members of the public recalled their pleasure when as young lads they sneaked up Mt. Eliza hill to hide in the bush and watch the line of marksmen at the Range. Older boys threatened their young companions with 'a horrid fate' if they jumped with terror or cried out at the crack of the rifle shots. After the shoot was completed and the troop left, the lads would climb over the bank of sand behind the targets and retrieve empty cartridge cases to take home as trophies.

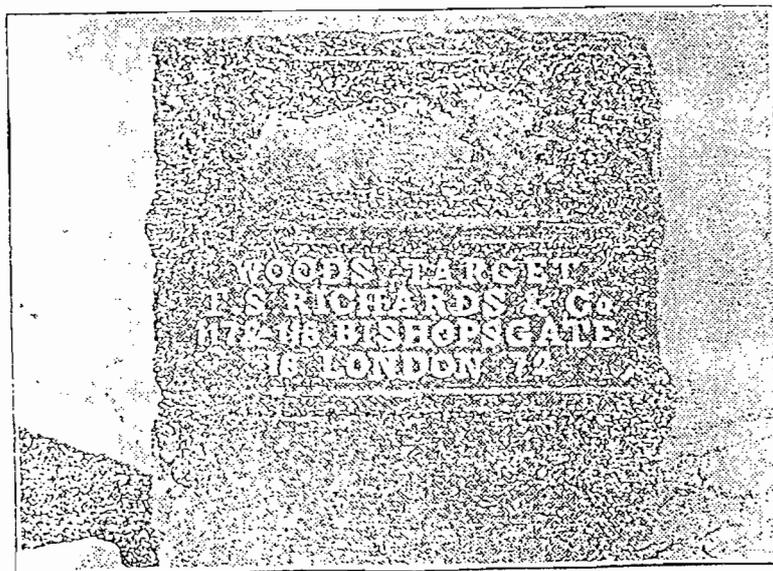
The Western Australian Historical Society protested at the demolition of the Butts, declaring the retention of the mounds would certainly have served to add to the value of the War Memorial. The Rifle Range Butts had a military significance, not only for the defence of the State, but to the members of the Pensioner Force who had trooped up the hill from the Barracks at the top of St. George's Terrace.

The battle was lost, and the Old Butts were demolished in the early 1930's.

Valid comment at the time pointed out the sorry fact that some of the names of the men who were in those practice shooting parties are now names on the honour role of the State War Memorial – men who had served and lost their lives in the Boer War and World War I.

Sources: Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, Kings Park
Royal Western Australian Historical Society

OLD TARGET UNEARTHED.



An old target, bearing the date 1872, which was unearthed during the demolition of the old rifle-butts in King's Park in the construction of the concourse in front of the State War Memorial.

Courtesy: Royal Western Australian Historical Society

**ENROLLED PENSIONER FORCE
RIFLE RANGE
KINGS PARK, PERTH**

MILITARY SIGNIFICANCE

.....Ex British Army soldiers were enrolled to act as guards for the convicts being transported to Western Australian during 1850-1868.....

The guards were involved in many duties including guarding the Magazine, Government House and Fremantle Gaol and to be available to be called out in times of civil unrest. They also served as guards for the road gangs of convicts used to build the roads and bridges vital to the communications and travel in the young Colony.

From 1864 the Enrolled Pensioner Force was the only military personnel stationed in Western Australia.

In 1863 construction began on the Pensioner Barracks at the top of St. George's Terrace to house those pensioners and their families who were required for duty in Perth and surrounds. It was from the Barracks that a detachment from the Local Companies would proceed up the hill to Mr. Eliza for rifle drill. The only remaining evidence of the formerly busy and important Barracks is the Archway standing like a lone sentinel at the top of the main thoroughfare of Perth.

CULTURAL, SOCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE

Apart from the historical significance of the site, there is a cultural and social attachment to the area.

Many of the Pensioner Guards who used the Rifle Range, and their descendants, played an important role in the growth of the economic and social stability of Western Australia.

The men continued to carry on their trade, or became involved in developing farming properties in the country area, or others joined the Police Force. Their presence helped the local inhabitants to feel more secure in their environment.

The Pensioner Force brought with them a few settler culture and many of their children married into local families to establish their own dynasties.

The recognition and recording of the Pensioner Force Rifle Range would offer an educational opportunity for the general population to better understand the significance of our historical background. Children would be able to expand on the brief outline offered on the site to enhance their own knowledge of our early history.

As 2004 is the 175th Anniversary of the first settlement on the Swan River, it is entirely appropriate for there to be an additional visible signage of historical and social significance to be erected as a fitting tribute to those ex-fighting men who took the opportunity to leave the security of their homeland surroundings and venture forth to the unknown in their endeavour to make a better life possible for their children.

**ENROLLED PENSIONER GUARD
SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP**

Descendants Day:

Once again the the State Government will be holding Descendants Day on Foundation Day at Fremantle Prison. Descendants of convicts, pensioner guards or warders are invited to apply for inclusion in the Descendants Day. Applications must be the eldest in the family line and the Descendants Day Group's Genealogist will assess proof of eligibility. Closing date March 30 (or earlier if numbers reached). Contact Paula Turner, 9336 9204

"The West Australian" "Can You Help?" Monday March 8th 2004.

WARDERS, GAOLERS AND GUARDS

“a rose by any other name would smell just as sweet”

William Shakespeare - Romeo and Juliet

The question of the difference between Warders, Gaolers and Guards has been raised many times in genealogy circles and in the absence of any replies to the question raised by our Editor in the October 2003 Newsletter, I have ventured into that mess that purists call the English language. As with Shakespeare's story of Romeo and Juliet, which had a smelly story line, I suspected that something would be smelly about the question of the difference between Warders, Gaolers and Guards. I was right.

As with any research project, I gathered the major tool I would need to tackle such a complex problem. So here I am, with a Dictionary which has so many words in it that it comes in two voluptuous volumes. (1)

So let's get some definitions in focus before analysing all the data;

- Warder, n.**
1. a soldier or other person to guard an entrance;
 2. a prisoner; and
 3. an official in charge of prisoners in a jail.

Well which one do you want? If your research is in the field of the Pensioner Guards, then you could say your man fits this category as a Warder. If you are researching Convicts, a synonym for prisoner, then your man is a Warder and of course Warders are known to be in charge of prisoners. Interesting! Do we have Warders (prisoners) in charge of Warders (officials)? Then we have;

- Warden, n.**
1. a person who guards something or someone; and
 2. an officer in whose custody prisoners are committed.

So now let us look at some other complicated abstractions of the English language:

- Jailer, n.**
1. a person in charge of a jail or the prisoners in a jail.

No problem so far, but what do we have here?

- Gaol, n.**
1. variation of jail.
- Gaoler, n.**
1. variation of jailer.

For Shakespeare's sake, let's sort this out. The rule that English “she should be spoke as she is written” applies. Therefore; the J is pronounced Jay and the letter G pronounced as in Gee, this is crap. Why are we not following Shakespeare's lead, and using the English language as intended? I suspect the term Gaol was devised by a Convict with some influence who wanted to put some importance to his current abode. The words Hilton and Hyatt were yet to be devised. It is also unfortunate that the Convicts were legally transported to the Swan River Colony, otherwise the Governor of the day could have established Detention Centres and contracted the tasks of Warders, Jailers (not Gaolers) and Guards to the Private Sector

Let's now look at the motley mob we know as prisoners;

- Convict, n.**
1. a person judicially convicted of a criminal offence.
 2. a criminal serving a sentence of imprisonment, penal servitude or transportation.

The less said about that mob the better. So let us look at the Guards;

- Guard, n.**
1. a keeper, a protector, a defender, a sentry.

Also used as a defining word, eg Coastguard, ie, guards that guard the coast. Therefore; Pensioner Guards must guard pensioners!!!

2. a body of soldiers appointed to protect a person, a position, act as sentries and escorts. (eg, *Enrolled Pensioner Guards*); and
3. a separately designated section of the Army, eg Foot Guards, Horse Guards, Dragoon Guards, etc

Well we have no problem here, our guys fit all the categories. We know that the Pensioner Guards were formally enrolled to perform specific tasks in relation to the transportation of convicts by ship to the Swan River Colony. (2) In category 1 and 2, they kept the convicts in check, they protected the Ship's Captain, crew and their own families whilst in transit, they defended the integrity of the Ship and they performed sentry duty. They were remunerated from the coffers of Her Majesty's Service.

What happened in the Swan River Colony? Well the Convicts went to the big

castle down Fremantle way to join their Warders, or were they Jailers (not Gaolers)? And the Pensioner Guards graciously took over their grant of land to build a new life in the lucky country. Wait, there's more, the Warders (or were they Jailers, not Gaolers)? were only just that, Warders. So when the Convicts, providing if they were good, were put on work parties to help build the Stirling Highway, (the Bush Track), the Warders just wanted to stay inside their castle down Fremantle way. For goodness sake, one could be bitten by a blue tongue lizard or tragically scratched by an errant kangaroo. So it was up to the Pensioner Guards to do what they were enrolled, trained and paid to do, **keep, protect, defend, escort and guard.**

Bibliography (1) The New Oxford Dictionary 1992

(2) War Office Authorisation dated 23 July 1849.

Ron Sutton, WAGS 9796. (Failed English year 7, 1955, English Distinction year 12, 1970) True

Jane HUDSON formerly McENTIRE/McINTYRE nee WHITE
1816 - 1900

My Great grandfather Daniel McIntyre served in the British Army in India and Afghanistan from the date of his enlistment in 1825 to discharge in 1847. Daniel, his wife Jane, sons John and James aged 14 and 3 years respectively and daughter Mary of just 3 months came to Western Australia on the Convict transport 'Mermaid' in 1851. I was intrigued that his eldest child John was born in 1837 and the next child, James, in 1848. Looking for possible explanations several came to mind.

Firstly he could have married a widow after discharge and a son of her first marriage could have adopted the name McIntyre.

Secondly he could have married on leave in UK in 1837, providing he had leave.

But, it was a third, more intriguing alternative that proved to be the correct one.

According to the Army Chaplain's Returns in the GRO Index (resource centre 1st floor Alexander Library) a marriage was recorded between Daniel McEntire and Jane White in 1831. Sending off post haste for the certificate I did indeed find Corporal Daniel McEntire, bachelor, of the 13th regiment of foot, married Jane White, spinster, at Dinapore, India, on the 7th February 1831. Unfortunately the marriage certificate did not give any further details as to parentage. What was Jane White doing in India? When Jane married Daniel his career was on the rise, the life of a sergeant's wife would have been superior to the condition of wives of the privates. Unfortunately, Daniel was Court Martialled in 1835 and although he was acquitted he was reduced to the rank of private and never again was he promoted, Jane no doubt felt the weight of the reduced circumstances as well as the reduction in pay rates.

The microfiche of births in the Army Chaplains Returns had another couple of surprises for me as there were two McEntire children born to a soldier of the 13th regiment firstly Patrick and secondly John. Imagine my delight when on obtaining the birth certificates both children were those of Daniel and Jane. Patrick being born on the 11th January 1834 at Agra, India, his father at the time being a Lance Sergeant and John on the 2nd February 1837 at Kurmaul, India, his father a private.

The history of the regiment reports that while the regiment was stationed at Dinajpur in the Ganges basin they lost 448 men, women and children from Cholera, dysentery and other diseases. A pattern repeated at Agra, there was also an excessive number of Court martials for drunkenness and selling clothing. In 1838 the regiment left Kurmaul enroute to Kabul.

So what of Jane? Did she have other children who died unreported? We know she followed the regiment to Dinajpur and Kurmaul did she also follow to Afghanistan? Daniel was present at the storming of the forts at Toolamdunah and Loolgah in 1840, and forcing the passes from Kabul to Jellalahabad in 1841, as well as other action and the recapture of Kabul. More than likely she was left in Agra, and this may explain why no children appear to have been born after 1837. How on earth did these women fend for themselves? The army provided the bare necessities of life for the camp followers of which Jane and the children would have ranked. Joanna Trollope in her book 'Britannia's Daughters, Women of the British Empire', (London: Pimlico 1994) gave the following description of the wives of the common soldiers, today we find it hard to believe anyone could have lived under such appalling conditions.

"(Soldiers' wives) were unpaid – although they received half-rations – and were expected to work hard nursing, cooking and washing. Under such circumstances, morality scarcely existed among soldiers' wives: they were accomplished pickpockets, frequently more addicted to the bottle than the men, and anybody's for a few pence. They even wore oversized boots and uniforms stripped from the dead. The women struggled behind the regiments with their children as best they might since no concessions were made for them at all, sleeping in tents with the men and their families, head to wall, feet to the central pole. They gave birth unattended, often had to search battlefields alone for their dead, and frequently died pathetically neglected and exhausted in a regiment's wake – and were vilified by everyone."

In 1847 Daniel was pensioned off and the family went to live in Moate in Westmeath Ireland. What a shock it must have been for Jane and the children. Accustomed to the climate of India, Ireland would have been damp and decidedly cold, the food insipid and the people dull, boring and foreign, conversely Jane and the children would have been just as foreign to the Irish. Although Jane appeared to have had only 2 children between 1831 and 1847 she suddenly produced another two children. James was born in 1848, my great grandmother Mary in 1850. Life must have become very restrictive for the McEntire family in Ireland and the one shilling a day pension would not have gone very far with a young family. It is no wonder they set off at the first possible opportunity for sunnier shores, Western Australia must have been a very attractive prospect. Daniel applied for and was appointed to the Pensioner Guard on the Convict transport Mermaid Having a 3 month-old child Mary, and 3 year-old James at the time of embarkation must have been no barrier for the redoubtable Jane. The child Patrick did not come to Western Australia with his parents, he may have died

although there is no record in the Army Chaplains Returns of his death. Being 16 years of age in 1850 he may have stayed in Ireland or gone to either Canada or USA.

The voyage of the **Mermaid** had its fair share of adventure with bad weather and many of the children, including John and James, getting measles. It took from the time of embarking the Guard on the 21st December 1850 until 1st February before the ship finally set sail.

Jane and Daniel would have been amongst the pensioners barracked in the Whaling Jetty premises where overcrowding and the rigours of the elements made life almost unbearable. No doubt the children enjoyed playing on the beach.

I sometimes wonder if Jane was one of the pensioner's wives having spent so long in India being more Indian than British who so shocked the good matrons of Perth by using kohl.

Daniel and the oldest son John left the Colony for Tasmania without permission in March 1855 returning in December of 1855 in time for the birth of daughter Jane Elizabeth. The question arises as to how Jane supported her family of two small children while being pregnant with both the family bread winners absent?

Daniel, after a period of being struck off the roll, was sent as part of the guard at Rottneest, however, on the 11th December 1856 his eldest son John requested permission to go to Rottneest to see his father on 'business'.

Was this 'business' the catalyst that led to Daniel being charged with gross misconduct and insubordination in the New Year of 1857? Was it the break up of the marriage? Daniel after once again being struck off the roll appears to have left the Colony as he disappears from the records at this point never to return, but Jane remained as she was a witness at the marriage of her daughter Mary to Peter Rourke in 1865.

Much of the mystery of Jane's early life was resolved when she remarried. Jane, by 1874 was a widow and married Thomas Hudson a stonemason, on the 14th May 1874. This certificate was a mine of information, Jane was 58 years of age, she was born in India and her father was Patrick White a soldier, unfortunately no regiment was recorded. I went back to the Army Chaplain's Returns and found a Jane White had indeed been born at sea to a soldier of the 13th Regiment in 1816, however as this certificate did not include the fathers name it must remain a possibility.

Two years later in 1876 Jane's youngest daughter, Jane Elizabeth married giving her name as Elizabeth Hudson, a name she also used on all but one of her children's birth registrations. It rather looks as if Jane McIntyre's association with Thomas Hudson predated her marriage by quite a few years.

Jane and Thomas Hudson lived in a four-roomed house at Albert Cottages; lot 322 Cantonment Street Fremantle from 1883 -1897.

Thomas and Jane often cared of the children of Jane's daughter Mary when she was unable to do so. Thomas was the Informant on the death certificate for Mary's daughter Julia Rourke.

Jane and Thomas also provided accommodation for another daughter Jane Elizabeth and her children when Jane's husband was imprisoned.

Jane died aged 84 of partial paralysis, senility on the 8th June 1900, having lived for 49 years in Western Australia.

Strangely when she died Jane had survived all her children with the exception of Jane Elizabeth.

It is a tragedy the wives of the pensioners did not write down an account of their lives, not all of them were illiterate. Many were well travelled having lived in Africa, Canada, India and where ever the soldier husbands had been stationed. The sights they had seen and their conditions and experiences would have given a completely different picture than those of the more literate, wealthier, women and we are the poorer for the omission.

Thanks to Jeanette Lee for sharing this piece of history.

From Margaret Hickey.

A new journal that is due on the shelves in the WAGS Library.

March issue of '**Ancestors**' the journal of the National Archives U.K. (formerly the Public Records Office London) An article on "History in Miniature Metals for the family historian". While the 8 page article does give a case study for WW1 and talks about medals presented in South Africa it does also show medals presented in the Crimean War and also shows pictures of medals with bars.

EXTRACT FROM "LETTERS TO GUY"
by LADY BARKER (LADY BROOME)
Macmillan and Co. London 1885

....."I have told you about the visit to the north (that was Geraldton); then to the east – York; and now we are going to the south, down the coast up which we came on our arrival. And I am sorry to leave the canaries, for I have had a huge cage made for them, and lots of little yellow birds are just arriving from Melbourne and Sydney. It is pleasant to see their delight when I turn them into their fine big new home, with all its baths, and with a small field of green at one end.....

You would be amused if you could see how delighted the sentries are to have this big cage to look at, and I am told they declare sentry duty is ever so much pleasanter now that they have my canaries to break its monotony!

At all events, I feel secure from cats, for I am sure the sentry would not allow a cat within dangerous distance. It is rather amusing to think of these old soldiers, nearly all of whom wear medals; some have been through the Crimean campaign, two of them have ridden in the famous Balaklava charge; several have served all through the dreadful Indian Mutiny; and now in the evening of their days their duties consist in strolling up and down between gay flower-borders and keeping guard over singing birds!

They are called "Pensioners"; and are veterans of the Imperial Force, which used to be kept here in the old convict days. They have comfortable barracks, and a grant of land and good pay, so the fine old soldiers are very well off in this beautiful climate. Some of them have taken their discharge and settled in various parts of the country, and only enough remain to furnish the guards at Government House. There used to be guards at the Treasury and other public offices; but when the convicts were taken away there was no longer any occasion for armed soldiers anywhere. We are a very peaceable and orderly community....."

Submitted by Jean McDonald.

EXTRACTS FROM
"LIFE AND EXPERIENCES OF A SUCCESSFUL WEST AUSTRALIAN"
by THOMAS ALLEN BRIGGS
Perth 1917

"I was born in Fremantle in the year 1850.....

After leaving Fremantle my people came to live at Peppermint Grove.

I attended school at what was then known as Freshwater Bay, but now is called Claremont. The school was run by a lady, a Mrs. Herbert. She had come out from the old country with her husband, who was a soldier under the Imperial Government and was one who came out in charge of prisoners on a convict ship.

It may be mentioned that he was in the 96th Regiment of Foot. My father who also belonged to the 96th came out with the same Regiment in 1829, but he did not remain in Western Australia.

.....when order was restored in India in the autumn of 1858 my father returned to Western Australia.....

Mrs. Herbert, at the time I am writing about, was in charge of this school for many years.....she taught the young Westralians the rudiments of orthography, etymology and syntax.

I attended Mrs. Herbert's school for some years....."

Submitted by Jean McDonald