



Pensioner Barracks & Parade 1868
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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From the Editor,

The AGM voted in the new Committee for 2004/2005 and as much as things change they remain the same so to speak. Introducing your Committee for 2004/2005: Convenor: Jean McDonald, Deputy Convenor: Jeanette Lee, Secretary: **Vacant**, Treasurer: Ron Sutton, Newsletter Editor: **Vacant**, Research Officer: **Vacant**, Committee Member 1: Margaret Hickey, Committee Member 2: Pam Anspach. As you can see from the number of vacancies, the workload will have to be absorbed by the current office bearers to keep the mill rolling along. Pam Anspach deserved a long earned rest from the Newsletter Editor post, so here I am, attempting to roll out my first Newsletter to keep you all informed. I am no wizard with the computer so please bear with me at least in the short term. The situation does highlight the difficulty for the Committee to keep up with the workload and to direct efforts to the current projects on hand. Some of the activities we would have liked to be involved in later in the year have been put on hold, so, if you have some spare time to assist on the Committee, you would be most welcome.

Ron Sutton

General Meeting Dates for 2004

24 July Commencing at 1.00
Speaker: Lyn Beard, Using
the Computer/Internet for research

23 October Commencing at 1.00 pm
Speaker: John Sweetman, Military
Researcher – noted for writing
"The Military Establishment at
King George Sound".

All meetings at WAGS Unit 1

CONVENOR'S REPORT

At our Annual General Meeting held on 27th March, I reported with some degree of satisfaction. A browse over the Group's activities during 2003 reveals a continued interest in the history of our ancestors.

Response to paragraphs in the 'Can You Help' column in the 'West Australian' newspaper have continued to reveal people in the community who have a new-found interest in family history, or who for one reason or another, have rekindled their latent interest in the subject. New members have continued to join the Group, bringing anecdotes of their own experiences doing research here and overseas. Those members who used the Internet for research are always ready to share their hints and shortcuts with others.

In 2004 the Enrolled Pensioner Guard Group will continue to use every opportunity to bring into the history records, the role played by those ex-British military men who came to this State as guards for the convicts being transported to the Colony from 1850-1868.

On Sunday 16th May during the EPG workshop held in Unit 4 of the Western Australian Genealogical Society, a small ceremony was held to unveil the impressive photo of Enrolled Pensioner Guard, Michael Fitzpatrick. The President of the Genealogical Society, Bevan Carter, performed the unveiling, giving a general profile of Michael Fitzpatrick, his years serving in the 103rd Regiment of Foot and his life after discharge as an Enrolled Pensioner Guard in Western Australia.

Greg Manzie, Conservator of Glyde Gallery, Mosman Park gave an interesting resume on the process involved in the conservation of the old opalotype photograph.

A number of descendants of Michael Fitzpatrick attended, some meeting each other for the first time. A welcome afternoon tea followed the ceremony. Our thanks again to Mr. Ron Benton, donor of the original photo, and to Lotterywest for the grant to enable conservation on the damaged photograph and frame to be undertaken.

Also in May the Group were invited to hold a stall at the Family History Expo held at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints at Warwick. Help was offered to those conducting family research.

The mosaic on the plaque to be sited near the ruins of the Pensioner Guard cottage at Coogee, Cockburn Sound is well under way and we are negotiating with Cockburn Council and Jobswest in Fremantle with a view to the erection of the plaque later in the year.

As reported in our April Newsletter, the important project for signage at the old Rille Range used by the Enrolled Pensioner Guards at Kings Park is also progressing well. Further meetings with the Botanic Gardens and Park Board at Kings Park are going ahead, with a ceremony still planned for this coming spring.

On a personal note, I appreciate the confidence members have shown by re-electing me as Convenor for the next year. The position of Convenor is only as effective as the Committee behind the scenes, and I record my thanks to the members of your Committee for their support and assistance. Special thanks to Daphne Byrne who has retired from committee this year. Her interest and research activities have been active since the inception of the Group.

In this 175th Anniversary year for Western Australia, we can look forward to events, publications and projects by all historical bodies interested in the preservation of our history and heritage. Take the opportunity to be involved when possible.

Jean McDonald
Convenor

150 YEARS AGO

7 August 1854

The 'RAMILLIES' arrived at Fremantle with 30 Enrolled Pensioner Guards, 22 women, an unknown number of children and 277 convicts. We acknowledge their contribution to the development of Western Australia.

**MICHAEL FITZPATRICK
ENROLLED PENSIONER GUARD**

Michael Fitzpatrick was born in 1829 at Kilmancow, Kilkenny, Ireland. His parents were Michael Fitzpatrick and Mary (nee Kennedy)

On the 2 April 1847 at the age of 18 years 6 months, Michael enlisted in the 1st Bombay (European) Fusiliers, a Regiment of the Honourable East India Company. After the Indian Mutiny, the Regiment reverted to the British Military

In 1859 becoming the 1st Bombay Fusiliers, and in 1862, the 103rd Royal Bombay Fusiliers. He was discharged to Pension in 1866 at one shilling a day after serving a total of 19 years one month. Residing in the 2nd Manchester Pension District he was selected for the Enrolled Pensioner Force.

Fitzpatrick's Discharge Documents verify his exemplary service record. He received four Good Conduct Badges, also medals for the Punjaub campaign and the Persian, and a clasp for the Persian campaign. He was also granted a medal for good conduct with gratuity of 5 pounds.

While serving in India, Michael married Ann Mary O'Neil on 5th September 1859 at Kurrachee, Bombay. A son John was born in 1860 at Belgaum, and a daughter Elizabeth in 1863.

In July 1867, Michael and family arrived in Fremantle on board the 'Norwood' and in November of that year a daughter Mary Ann was born in Fremantle.

Another 7 children were born, but unfortunately their mother, Ann Mary, died after the birth of the last baby Helen, who also lived only 11 days.

Michael's life took a turn for the worse when he was court martialled and forced to spend three months in prison, during which time his children were required to receive maintenance, some being cared for by another Pensioner Guard's wife.

In 1878, Michael remarried, and a child was born, and records show that in

November 1880, Michael Fitzpatrick is recorded as occupying quarters in No. 2 Barracks in Fremantle. During his service with the Enrolled Pensioner Force, in which he served for more than 12 years, he received a reward for the capture of a convict, was paid extra for handling explosives in the Fremantle Magazine, and also served as a Night Warder on Rottnest Island.

For his services in the Enrolled Pensioner Force, Michael Fitzpatrick was granted 20 acres of land at Lake Munster (Coogee).

Family members report that on the occasion of the celebrations for Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee held in Perth, Fitzpatrick was ejected because he refused to toast Queen Victoria.

Michael died at home on the 19th August 1912, aged 83, and was buried in the old Roman Catholic Cemetery, Skinner Street, Fremantle.

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ARMY MUSEUM OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

During a recent visit to a meeting of the Army Museum at the Artillery Barracks at Burt Street, Fremantle, I was made aware of the negotiations in progress with the Parliamentary Secretary of Defence in their endeavour to obtain a satisfactory 99 year lease for the historic site. It seems there are some points which are not in the best interests of the Army museum, and these matters need to be finalised before a satisfactory lease can be signed.

As a Group, our interest in the Museum is not only that our display is still in the Pre 1914 Room, but in the important fact that sons and grandsons of our ENROLLED PENSIONER GUARDS served in the defence forces during World War I and World War II. The Museum's valuable collection of memorabilia records their activities.

Members interested in finding out the latest information may access the Army museum's website at

armymuseum@inet.net.au

Jean McDonald, Convenor

SOME EXTRACTS FROM
"THIF WEST AUSTRALIAN"

22 July 1933

A NONAGENARIAN LOOKS BACK

Introduction

David Butchart was a boy of 13 when he arrived in Western Australia in August 1852 on the "William Jardine". He had been born in 1839 at Gibraltar in the barracks of the 79th Regiment of Foot. His father JOHN BUTCHART had served 27 years with the regiment at various postings, including Canada. After discharge at Chatham in 1847 and then returning to Dundee to live, John Butchart was enrolled as a Pensioner Guard. With wife and family he then travelled to Gravesend to prepare for departure for Western Australia. In 1933 at the time of reminiscence about his life, John's son David Butchart was about 94, still in possession of his faculties with a good memory for names and places.

Extract:

"On the long trip out we had passed only one island and there was terrific excitement on board when we finally cast anchor off what is now the Fremantle Esplanade. Everyone was peering over the side of the ship but there was not much to see beside the old Round House, a few yellow looking buildings and inhospitable looking bush. Hundreds of natives were yelling and waving their arms on the beach. We had heard of a British Officer being killed at Pinjarra in a battle with the natives and I was rather frightened. Then a boat towed out a big double-ended flat and we were taken ashore.

The beach was bare save for great stacks of bags of sugar and dates. There seemed to be only half a dozen houses and a couple of pubs in High Street and not many people about to patronise them. Other houses were scattered here and there but there were no footpaths and the streets were like alley ways.

The English church was fair in the top of High Street. Later Keane the contractor put the Town Hall up near there, but lost a lot of money on the deal. Patsy Hagen owned one of the pubs, all his beer was *English and black as tar*.

But to get back to my arrival. We first stayed at the Barracks which held the soldiers, the sappers and the pensioners. The pensioners' quarters were separated by a partition, but they could talk over the top. It did not matter how many were in a family, they were all crowded into one room. The sappers were all trades men, blacksmiths, carpenters and what not. They were a lazy lot of beggars and used to shoot parrots all day. The soldiers were just as bad and they loved fighting. Often their faces were as blood red as the jackets.

We stayed at the Barracks, which still stand at Fremantle, though nearly swallowed up by other buildings, till the next ship came in, and then we had to make way for more pensioners. We paid 9/- a week for windowless and floorless sheds at a place called Ticket of Leave Square on the old Manning Estate. Now Bunnings Timber yards are there.

Later my father was given a grant of land at North Fremantle. The old house we lived in still stands on one of the Chinese gardens.

They kept some of the convicts in a huge crucifix shaped depot somewhere near the present North Fremantle school and the pensioners had to mount guard there at night. Another of their jobs was to relieve the convicts for two hours in the evening on the flat boat which was the one means of crossing the river.

After seven years, if they had been of good behaviour, the pensioners were given the deeds of their one acre grants and they could then sell them back to the Government for 75 pounds plus and an extra pound if there was a building on the block. Afterwards the land along there became quite valuable.

WHALING DAYS

Whaling was a flourishing industry in those days. John Bateman and Josh Harwood were great rivals and each owned about six boats. Bateman had his plant on the south side of the river and Harwood on the north. There were a number of different sorts of whales. There was the "right" whale which gave 14 or 15 tons of oil; the humpback, and the sulphur bottom, which each gave about four, and the rare sperm whale which gave about 20 tons.

At certain seasons of the year big schools of whales would be spouting between Rottnest and the shore and lots of youngsters would watch the fun from Whalers Hill at Cottesloe.

Sometimes they would chase a big fellow all day. When they made fast with a harpoon the whale would go like mad. You couldn't see the boat for foam; and when the whale came up to blow, two great fans of water would shoot out. They would never cut away unless darkness was coming on - they thought too much of the oil. The Yankee whalers were operating at Bunbury and in the North-West. Sometimes fourteen boats would come in to Bunbury and buy pretty well all the green stuff in the district. Once they chased a big sperm whale into Fremantle waters and Harwood had a big law suit. He won and the Yankies were ordered off this part of the coast.

Up at the Rosemary Islands the whales were so thick they were a danger to navigation, and although the Americans owned a full-rigged ship, and had harpoon guns, they agreed to share whale for whale with Bateman's small boat.

Port Gregory Geraldton, was another great spot for whales. The fleet was caught by a gale once and several boats foundered. A lot of fellows were drowned. Old Ted Lewington who died at Rockingham not long ago, was one of the survivors. He hung on to a bag of bran, and was washed ashore. Some of the best known harpooners were Billy and Jim Willis and Sam Law; but the champion of the lot was a Maori named Butty. He was a fine big chap, and well liked by everyone; his face and chest were scarred with tattoo markings. His father was supposed to be a Maori prince and Butty would have come into a tot of property, but he loved a whaler's life, and would not return to his home. John Bateman buried him on Garden Island well over half a century ago."

A Nonagenarian Looks Back

Courtesy Royal Western Australian Historical Society

Footnote: We thank Jeannette Lee and Jean McDonald for their research in this subject

Editor

**ENROLLED PENSIONER GUARD
SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP**

Annual Financial Statement for period 2003/2004

| | | | |
|---|-----------------------|----------------|----------|
| Opening Balance as at 1 st April 2003 | | | 2271 92 |
| Plus Receipts | Newsletter Subs | 1869 20 | |
| | Books/Badges | 306 00 | |
| | Donations/Interest | 1721 26 | |
| | <u>Social/Raffles</u> | <u>206 50</u> | |
| | | 4102 96 | 6374 88 |
| Less Expenditure | Other Items | 869 80 | |
| | Postage | 470 70 | |
| | Office | 187 81 | |
| | <u>Social/Raffles</u> | <u>126 95</u> | |
| | | 1655 26 | 4719.62* |
| Closing Balance as at 31 st March 2004 | | | |
| | Cash on hand | 199 00 | |
| | In trust WAGS | 300 00 | |
| | <u>Cash at Bank</u> | <u>4220 62</u> | |
| | | | 4719.62* |

Note 1: \$1309.00 is committed to the restoration of the Michael Fitzpatrick portrait Invoice pending.

Note 2: \$1600.00 is committed to the Kings Park project

This is a true and correct statement of the financial position of the Enrolled Pensioner Guard Special Interest Group for the 2003/2004 Financial Year ending 31st March 2004

Signed

Auditor Date.

**EXTRACT FROM
'THE WEST AUSTRALIAN'
Saturday February 28 2004.**

“One of the more fascinating aspects of buying an old home is discovering the history that so often comes with it

Such is the case with the Mary Dunne Cottage, a 19th Century residence on Hampton Road, Fremantle. The original owner was EDWARD DUNNE, who emigrated to Fremantle as an ENROLLED PENSIONER GUARD with his wife Margaret around 1854.

Mary Dunne Cottage (Mary was Edward and Margaret’s eldest daughter) was built around 1879, originally as a four-room rubble-stone structure with a timber shingled roof, typical of the worker’s cottages of the convict era.

Since then, various additions have occurred – a lean-to at the back around the 1890’s and a “ballroom” in the early 1900’s. Later the lean-to was enclosed to create a bathroom.

Authentic and meticulous restoration by a local builder and his family has brought Mary Dunne Cottage back to life. From being uninhabitable, it is now an attractive home which has been restored without changing any of the original structure, retaining its architectural integrity as well as its character.”

FOOTNOTE: The home is now for sale for over \$500,000

Thank you Jean McDonald for this snippet of information

Ed

WANTED

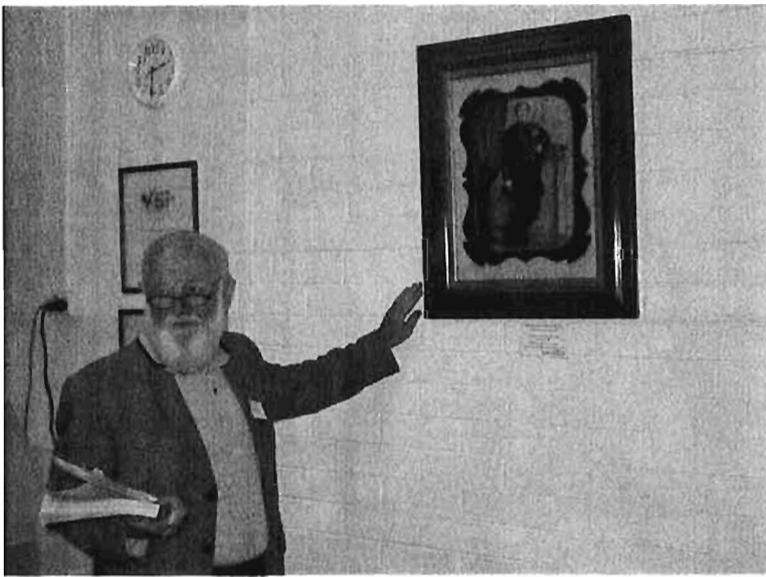
Articles for inclusion in your newsletter about your man
or stories relating to the Enrolled Pensioner Guards. Post
to EPG care of WAGS or contact Ron at rythie@home.com

Mischief in the Barracks

Pensioner Gibbs reports at station at 6pm that a cow got into the Barracks Square and charged Corporal Naylor and knocked him down.

Sergeant Regan made inquiries respecting the above complaint and was informed by some of the pensioners that the cow was irritated.

Quoted from the Police Occurrence Book for 1861-1867. Entry made on 31st December 1866



President of WAGS Bevan Carter
unveiling portrait of EPG
Michael Fitzpatrick

The Fitzpatrick Family



Greg Manzie Glyde Gallery

The Edwin Fox arrived Fremantle
24 November 1858 with 30 Pensioner
Guards, 16 women and 22 children.

