



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,
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Seasons Greetings

From the Editor,

Where did the time go? It wasn't that long ago that we were all worried about the millennium bug in our computers and the problems that the year 2000 would befall upon us all. Well none of that happened except that we are a little bit older and that much wiser. I would like you to take time out to reflect on the last five years and how much wiser we have become. In wiser, I mean how we have overcome the obstacles in researching our man and understanding the tribulations that our ancestors had to endure. In the last five years I have filled in a number of gaps in my Great Grand Fathers history, however, despite the indicators that point to his belonging to an extended family of Suttons from Loughborough, Leicestershire, I cannot confirm his birthright. Was he actually born a Sutton? Was he illegitimate? Was he adopted as a waif? Why did he join the Royal Marines and not follow the path of the family trade of tailors. Well I am none the wiser.

It has been drawn to my attention that editors of registered newsletters must include their name and contact details in the publication, so I have had that little problem rectified. Maybe I will now be inundated with submissions for publication.

On behalf of the Committee, I extend Season's Greetings to all our members and their families and we trust 2005 will be an interesting and challenging year. Enclosed with this newsletter is the application form for renewal of your newsletter subscription fees for the year ending 31st March 2006.

Ron Sutton

<p><u>General Meeting Dates for 2005:</u> 5th February Commencing at 1.00 pm Guest Speaker: Bevan Carter President, WAGS 16th April Commencing at 1.00 pm Annual General Meeting Election of Office Bearers</p>
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Letter to the Editor

Dear Ron,

Having just finished reading the latest newsletter, I would like to say thank you for representing our group on the day at Kojonup.

The spelling of the name of my esteemed ancestor is Michael Reilly, not Riley as written in your article about the members of the Enrolled Pensioner Force in Kojonup. Perhaps you have picked up the incorrect spelling from the map displayed at the site of the cottage there on the day. I spoke to the President of the Kojonup Historical Society about the incorrect spelling on the day, and found it quite amazing that they did not resort to either 'The Veterans', or other documentation to make sure that their display was correct. Likewise with the passages read out on the day about the members of the EPG, the offering about Michael Reilly was sadly lacking.

I was pleased to have the opportunity to meet up with about 19 other descendants of our old soldier Michael Reilly and his wife Ellen Stubbs. I have been researching this family now for approximately the past ten years, and it was as a result of a 'family grapevine' commenced back then, that we all came to be present on the day. This gave me the opportunity to share my research with them, and hopefully we will meet up again.

For the record, Michael Reilly served with the Honourable East India Company in the 2nd Bombay European Infantry Regiment after enlisting in Dublin, Ireland. An educated man from humble beginnings, he achieved the rank of Sergeant both in India where he served for a month short of 17 years, and in Western Australia with the Enrolled Pensioner Force. At the age of 40, he arrived in Western Australia with his new wife and son aboard the Edwin Fox on 24th November 1858. Shortly after he was sent to Kojonup, and there he settled and raised a family enduring joy, hardship, tragedy and prejudice. He purchased land in Kojonup—**Suburban Lot 13** on 13th November 1863, and on the 11th December 1866 received the title to the Land Grant of 10 acres in consideration of his Military service- the said piece of land being **Kojonup Suburban Lot P3**, to have and to hold for Michael Reilly, his heirs and assigns forever. These two lots adjoin. We that are descended from this family are proud of their achievements and sad for their despair.

I would like to include a few tips that I have used in my research that may help others. Having spent many days looking through records at Battye, and the SRO, WAGS and The Latter Day Saints libraries, there were many gaps in my knowledge.

Ten years ago I placed a notice in the 'Can You Help' column, at this time knowing nothing of the family. I received my first contact with family descended from my grandmother's sister, and from then the grapevine has grown. Each time I made new contacts there were new clues to follow up. Many letters came from people who had just known of my family with stories to tell, or in the case of others that were in Kojonup at the time, descendants informed me that Michael Reilly's wife Ellen had delivered their aunts and uncles, this information from documentation in their own research.

I had found no reference at all to the regiment that Michael Reilly was in, but had been told about the Land Grant, so I applied at DOLA for a copy of the grant to find that his regiment was written there.

Whenever I was talking to elderly relatives I would carry a small recording tape. One can't write as fast as the conversation, and it is amazing what little bits one picks up on typing up the conversation. The Police Occurrence Books available on request at the SRO are a valuable source of information. In the early days police matters covered every occurrence. I found another relative spending the night in the Kojonup lockup for being D & D. I was delighted because it gave me a time and place in my research. I am however glad that he didn't seem to repeat the occurrence.

I knew that my father's father came from the New Forest in Hampshire in England, and found the address for the Historical Society in the booklets on WAGS shelves, and wrote asking for any information about the family. It took several months but I received several letters from other descendants and even the historian at the History Society with some great information about the family going back to the eleven hundreds.

I found it almost impossible and pretty expensive booking out film after film looking for the Military records, so I employed the services of a Military Historian in the UK. This was a very good move because it gave me far more than the military records. From the Attestation and Discharge papers I found the personal information of date of birth, place of birth, intended place of abode on discharge, former occupation and description. More clues to follow up on.

Phillippa Ward

Footnote: Phillippa is correct in assuming that I picked up her ancestors name from the maps provided by the Kojonup Historical Society. I have openly apologised to Phillippa and her family at the General Meeting held on 23rd October 2004 for my oversight. The tips in Phillippa's letter are valid and one should not overlook any source that may produce that magic piece for your jigsaw.

Ed.

CONVENOR'S REPORT

In writing a Report in the first month of a new year, it is daunting to predict events and outcomes during the coming year.

It is not so difficult to look back at 2004 and feel a small sense of achievement for your Enrolled Pensioner Guard Group.

General awareness of the role played by our EPG ancestors in the early history of Western Australia is gradually growing. Involvement in events and projects in various districts acknowledged by local Historical Societies must surely filter down to members of the local community. Casual conversation with the general public also sows the seeds of interest in the subject.

In brief, we can nominate areas such as Perth, Kings Park, Army Museum of Western Australia, Fremantle Prison, Toodyay, Kojonup, Cockburn etc.

Response from members of the public to paragraphs in the 'Can You Help' column of "The West Australian" newspaper reveal there are still descendants of Enrolled Pensioner Guards unaware of the existence of our Group and its purpose and aims.

A number of members have taken advantage of the offer to purchase a 'brick' in the "Welcome Walls" at the Maritime Museum in Fremantle. The arrival of their EPG ancestors through the port of Fremantle will have their name, the name of the ship and year of arrival recorded on a 'brick' in the Wall. More detailed information can be lodged for inclusion in the Museum's planned database.

Descendants of Enrolled Pensioner Guards who had Crimea war service may be interested to know of the availability of access to visiting the Crimean battle sites in the Ukraine. Until recently, the battle sites of the Crimean campaigns were almost entirely off limits to foreigners. Sebastopol and Balaclava, now part of the Ukraine, were closed cities where even Soviet citizens required special permission to enter.

During the years since the battles, many of the original war cemeteries have been destroyed or churned up during intense fighting in World War II. The original obelisk marking the slaughter of the charge of the Light Brigade has received a fresh lick of paint and wreaths of poppies. Descendants of veterans and British soldiers with historical links to the Light Brigade have already visited in numbers.

If following the hoof beats of your ancestor's trusty steed up the Valley of Death has a special interest for you – trot into your local travel agent.

Footnote: *Since appearance of this news in "The West Australian" of 25th November, 2004, there were public demonstrations and unrest in the Ukraine over the result of the recent Presidential elections.*

On a more positive note, it is with great pleasure and gratitude we can announce the acceptance of our application for a Cultural Grant from the City of Cockburn for the sum of \$1800 to complete the limestone block base for the installation of the Mosaic depicting the involvement of the Enrolled Pensioner Guards in the history of the Lake Coogee area. The ruins of the cottage are still visible, and a suitable ceremony will be conducted when the work is completed.

2005 therefore may not be as daunting as first thought – just a case of continued commitment

Jean McDonald
Convenor

Articles for your Newsletter

The response for articles for this newsletter has been quite pleasing and the Committee look forward to receiving additional articles for the April newsletter. Special thanks go to Jean McDonald, Brian and Lynn Gray and Jeanette Lee for their contributions. Jeanette Lee also wishes to acknowledge the contribution made by John Kelly for her article on William Hill. To assist in the editing process and to ensure that we can squeeze in as much as possible, it is desirable, but not compulsory to have computer copies typed in Times New Roman 10.

Ed.

One of our Own

Micheal Carty, Enrolled Pensioner Guard charged by LC McCafery and PC Payne at Perth on 4th April 1877, with stabbing David Marchant with a bayonet, on the same date with intent to do grievous bodily harm. Appeared in Court on 6th April 1877 and committed for trial at the Supreme Court.

Source:

Police Gazette 11 April 1877.

AJCP REEL 3212 PIECE 74
"WILLIAM HAMMOND"

ADM 101 ADMIRALTY PART 7 (Adm.)
(LISWA H&SS)

SURGEONS JOURNAL - GENERAL REMARKS

During the period of this Journal the "William Hammond" has been employed in embarking male convicts in England and conveying them to Fremantle, Western Australia. The embarkation took place during the winter season of the year at several of the ports along the coast of England yet, notwithstanding the very heavy gales and cold wet weather which prevailed in the channel, the general health of the convicts and others did not suffer but continued remarkably good during the whole of the voyage which was performed without touching at any intermediate port. There were a few cases of Diarrhoea which were speedily relieved by the exhibition of aperients, astringents, and restoring the proper action of the surface combined with light unirritating diet. On getting into cool weather south of the line, a few cases of Catarrh and Rheumatism appeared but these were of no import and soon disposed of by the remedial measures usually adopted in such cases. There were two cases phthisis pulmonalis under treatment. One patient was a convict who had evidently suffered from disease of the lung previous to embarkation and was sent to hospital on arriving in Australia.

The other subject of this disease was a **CORPORAL IN THE PENSIONER GUARD** who came on board in an emaciated state having been recently discharged from the Military Hospital at Plymouth where he had been for some months under treatment for disease of the chest. Haemoptysis accelerated the fatal event, and this was the only death which occurred during the voyage.

The Dysentery ... was removed by aperients calomel and opiumetc but when the patient was in a state of convalescence – much emaciation being present, he was seized with headache wandering and other symptoms of diseased action within the head followed by coma and hemeplegia. Cold lotions to the shaved head epispastics (?) aperients stimulants, after a time mercurials . . . had recourse to and after lying in a hopeless state for some days consciousness returned with the gradual restoration of power and sensibility in the side and lower limb but without any improvement in the paralytic condition of the arm. On being sent to the hospital at Fremantle the general health had much improved – appetite keen with some increase in the muscular development.

The Ophthalmias soon disappeared under the use of the Nitrate of Silver in strong solution as will be seen by a reference to the cases Nos. 8 and 9.

In the cases of Nyctalopia the retina was no doubt in a state of impaired sensibility arising from exposure to the brilliant light of the day and must have been rendered prone to irregularity of action in consequence of the sudden transitions to which the prisoners were necessarily subjected in passing from the obscure light of the prison to the glare of the upper deck and vice versa. There was no scorbutic tendency in any of the prisoners and in no way did the complaint appear to be connected with that particular state of the system though some seizures were entirely confined to the inmates of the prison it is to be supposed that an impaired condition of the nervous energy peculiar to this unfortunate class of men lent a pre-disposing influence in promoting the accession of the disease. Aperients repeated blistering etc. combined in one or two cases with generous diet effected the cure.

Nos. 12, 16 and 17 in the Journal are examples

On embarkation the general state of health of the convicts was good and as already mentioned continued so during the whole of the voyage.

At Woolwich, 67 male prisoners were embarked on the 8th of December 1855, 58 at Portsmouth on the 17th, 80 at . . . land on the 18th and 45 were received in Plymouth Sound from Dartmoor on the 31st of the same month making in all 250. The whole number were disembarked at Fremantle Western Australia on the 1st and 2nd of April 1856 at which time the general condition was very high indeed the appearance of the prisoners was far superior to what it was on embarkation – many having become quite stout -

The Guard consisted of thirty Pensioners, accompanied by a train of 20 women and 40 children.

It now becomes necessary to mention some of those points of economy which in all probability were the means of contributing to the high tone of health on board the "William Hammond".

Those grand adjuvants in the preservation of human health on board ship- cleanliness, dryness and ventilation were made the subject of constant and serious attention and became especially necessary where so many persons were huddled together in a small place - with the nervous system depressed and agitated by a variety of conflicting influences inseparable from convicted criminals on their way to a penal settlement

The dietary scale included the occasional use of preserved meat and potato, wine and the daily issue of lemonade.

The bedding was stowed on deck during the day and frequently spread open to the air - personal cleanliness was strictly attended to and every opportunity for employment and amusement embraced.

The Chloride of Zinc was in constant use and by virtue of its power in decomposing putrid emanations lended much to health and comfort.

But there is yet another circumstance to which I am inclined to attribute in no small degree the excellent state of health on board. It was the frequent removal of the convicts in part or in whole when practicable especially before sunset to the upper deck so as to allow the atmosphere of the prison to become pure and wholesome while at the same time the men had the beneficial influence of the open air for in my opinion without this all other sanitary efforts would have proved ?...gatory.

George MacLaren

Surgeon Superintendent

PENSIONERS LISTED IN DAILY SICK BOOK

1856

Jan. 15	..	McGuire	43	??	9 days sick list
Jan 20		Robert Sly	42	Catarrhus	34 days sick list
Feb 7		Bernard McCaffrey	40	Furunculus	3 days sick list
Feb 13		Henry Fraser	47	Phthisis	29 days sick list
		Corporal			Died March 13
Feb 16		Robert Hellewell	37	??	6 days sick list
Feb 29		Robert Hellewell	37	Ulcur	8 days sick list
Mar 2		Robert Frett	42	Ulcur	16 days sick list
Mar 4		Joseph Kelly	45	Otitis	5 days sick list
Mar 14		Robert Hellewell	37	?Phlemon	11 days sick list
Mar 17		Joseph Cable	41	Pheumat	1 day sick list

Editors Note: We thank Jean McDonald for this interesting piece of history.

Extract from "The West Australian" 10th September 1936

Coastal Trade - Retired Captain Memories

Now in Fremantle, revisiting the scenes of his boy hood, is Captain John Sheridan, aged 88 years, a retired sheep farmer of Kangaroo Island, South Australia. He arrived in this state recently by the "*Katoomba*", and intends to leave again on September 17. One of his first visits was to the Fremantle Round House, where he spent one of the best remembered nights of his long and varied career for refusing to pay a fine inflicted for throwing stones, a misdemeanour of which he says he was wrongly accused. In recent years Captain Sheridan has several times revisited the State, and on one occasion he flew across. An interview with the captain recalled vividly to mind the romance of the early convict days, when Fremantle, then a stragglng limestone town, was the centre of a flourishing whaling industry. He arrived in this State at the age of nine with his family in the convict vessel "*Clara*"; the date of its arrival was 10th July, 1857. His father, a corporal in the 47th Royal Irish Regiment, was an officer in charge of the contingent of convicts aboard the vessel, and on his arrival they took up quarters on the site of the present Immigrants' Home. Perilously near to being blown ashore south of Garden Island in a gale, the "*Clara*" had a stiff time of it for several days, but eventually the vessel was brought into Gage Roads and the complement transhipped into flats which were run up the beach. Then followed several happy years for young Sheridan, whose eyes were agog at the bustling activity along the waterfront, where Bateman's whalers used to beach their boats after stirring tussles out by the Stragglers and Garden Island. Twice he heard of the open whaleboats being bitten in halves by ferocious whales. Many times he had heard of missing men and missing ships. But the sea was in his blood, and when 17 years of age he signed aboard the barque "*Tien-Tsin*" (Captain Jarman) for one pound a month.

Genesis of North-West Settlement

This vessel had an interesting history. In 1863 it conveyed Walter Padbury's party, with stock and requirements, to the site of the present town of Cossack (originally called Tien- Tsin harbour) for the first attempt at opening up the North-West. When Sheridan signed on the "*Tien-Tsin*" Padbury's

settlement had been established a couple of years, and the activities of the Camden Harbour (now Derby) Pastoral Association of Melbourne were in full swing. ' I well remember ' said Captain Sheridan, ' Mr George (afterwards Sir George) Shenton coming aboard on my very first trip, to superintend the transport of a number of sheep to the new settlement. When we got there, we found the new settlement a hive of activity. Tents were pitched everywhere. It was a real canvas town. Things, however, were not too good there. There was no magistrate, and it was said lynch law ruled in the settlement. We heard reports of some floggings, and believed that complaints had been sent from Melbourne to the West Australian Government. We were not surprised then, on our next trip up, to see Mr R. J. Sholl and a number of policemen come aboard, Mr Sholl having been appointed Resident Magistrate.' I will never forget' he continued,' the spectacle presented by the big ship "*Calliance*", from Melbourne, when it lay broken-backed on a reef in the harbour at low tide. It was one of the biggest ships I had seen in local waters, and it was a sad sight to see it wrecked in such a way'. The "*Calliance*" was a vessel chartered by the association to carry passengers and stock to the settlement, it struck a reef on the way up to Camden Harbour, and after arrival was being examined for damage when wind drove her on to a reef in the harbour. The captain and a large number of stock were drowned.

By the time the magistrate arrived, discontent at the settlement had reached its highest point. Sheep were dying in hundreds from some unknown cause, and the "*Calliance*" accident was the last straw. An exodus then commenced, and the "*Tien-Tsin*" carried part of the first contingent. ' It was a hard trip ' remarked Captain Sheridan. ' We were tacking against head winds all the way, and struck a reef off the North-West Cape on Christmas Eve. From then on it was pump or sink, and I got together some biscuits in case we should be forced to leave the boat. Luckily, however, seaweed had plugged much of the hole '.

Trips to England

Later the "*Tien-Tsin*" went to England with a cargo and copper ore; but after his trip from Camden Harbour young Sheridan considered that he had had enough of her. Shortly after he went to London in another vessel, the "*Fitzroy*", and made three voyages on her. His last return trip to Australia, however, was in the "*Elizabeth Oliver*" Paid off the "*Elizabeth Oliver*" at Fremantle, he served for a time in Captain Littlejohn's "*Argo*"; trading between Fremantle and Champion Bay, and the "*Bungaree*" (owned by Batemans) on the Batavia trade, following which he was for a time in harbour service at Fremantle under Captain Croke, the harbour master.

Tiring of harbour work, he got his master's certificate and shipped aboard the "*Laughing Wav*", carrying horses for Singapore. On its return, the vessel called in at Fremantle to take whale oil for Melbourne, where Sheridan was paid off.

The year 1872 found him in Adelaide. Here the rolling stone began to settle and gather a little moss. As an able seaman he joined the crew of the yacht of the then Governor, Sir James Ferguson, and when that vessel passed into the hands of Sir Thomas Elder he went with her. He raced the yacht for Sir Thomas in Melbourne, and gave instruction on it to youths from the old Colonial man-o'-war "*Protector*". Sir Thomas, he said, was willing and anxious that naval recruits should be given training on the yacht. ' Training youths straight from the reformatory was no sweet job ' he said. He later joined the "*Protector*" as captain's coxswain and chief quartermaster

Followed then a period in Government service. With the steamer "*Lady Diana*" he landed mails at Glenelg from the P & O Service, and tended lighthouses along the coast. Later he began to acquire a fleet of his own, and among his boats was the former Governor's yacht which he bought off Sir Thomas Elder and turned into a fishing boat. He also bought another boat, the "*Enchantress*", which was later wrecked when running mails along St Vincent's Gulf. But, withal, his ventures in marine finance were on the whole successful, and near the beginning of the present century he took up 35,000 acres for sheep farming on Kangaroo Island. Until a few years ago he managed this business, but his son now has charge.

Editors Note:

We thank Lynn and Brian Gray for this interesting extract from the West Australian. Minor editing and formatting was carried out with the permission of Lynn and Brian. This story has special significance to me and I refer our members to the story of "North West Odyssey" in our January 2004 edition of the newsletter. It is a wonderful coincidence that a fellow member has a link in history with another member.

William Hill, 63rd Regiment.

William Hill, his wife Margaret and their daughter arrived in Western Australia as part of the guard on the convict ship Pyrenees in 1853. After serving 21 years with the 63rd Regiment of Foot he retired to pension at 1/- (one shilling) per day in 1852. He served for a further 4 years 'on the force' stationed at Albany where he was allocated a pensioner grant of 3 acres and a further £15 for the erection of a cottage. In May 1857 William Hill and three other men applied to the Acting Comptroller General Henry Wray for the position of assistant lighthouse keeper at Albany. Henry Wray advising the Colonial Secretary where a married man with daughters was employed it was better that a single man was not employed as an assistant.

Pensioner W. Hill (from 63rd Regt.) is now on local force here and receiving 2/- (two shillings) a day – is married – has three well grown daughters, and an increasing family, is anxious for the appointment in order to secure a certainty means of living, which the employment in the force cannot be called. Was formerly a Pay Sergeant in his regiment and produced good certificates of conduct and ability. Was reduced from the rank of Sergeant for a breach of military discipline just prior to his discharge – is well spoken of as a steady sober well conducted man.

Acting Comptroller General.'

Of the applicants Governor Kennedy chose William Hill to be lighthouse keeper at Point King at a salary of £68 per annum from January 1st 1858. Colonial Secretary Barlee advised the Resident Magistrate, A. Cockburn Campbell Esq., accordingly. The appointment of William Hill, pensioner, to the post of light keeper without his sanction raised the ire of his Commanding Officer Lt. Col., Bruce that resulted in the Colonial Secretary again writing to the Resident Magistrate, Albany on January 9th 1858.

The Staff Officer of Pensioners having reported that pensioner W. Hill appointed Lighthouse Keeper at Point King had no business to accept such an appointment, he being on the Enrolled Force at Albany and under Military Law, I have the honor to inform you thereof – Hill has however been permitted by his Officer to retain his present position on certain conditions or to return to the Local Force.

You will be good enough to inform yourself of Hill's choice, so as to make the necessary arrangements for relieving him of his duties at Point King in the event of his rejoining the local force.

The only applicants registered in this Office for the appointment in question are from Foot Police Constable and two Conditionally Pardoned men of the name of Palmer and Masters.

His Excellency the Governor considers it advisable that a free man should be appointed to this Office in preference to any man convicted of a Criminal Offence, whether Conditionally Pardoned or otherwise".

The conditions laid down by Lt. Col. Bruce were that in the event of retaining the position as lighthouse keeper William would be unable to fulfil his military duties and he would therefore be required to surrender his allotment and the £15 he had received in aid of building his cottage. In the likelihood of him returning to military duty, Bruce was unable to promise him an immediate return to duty. The Resident Magistrate wrote back to the Colonial Secretary on January 21st 1858 saying William Hill accepted the conditions laid down by Lt. Col. Bruce and retained the position of lighthouse keeper. Bruce suspended Hill's pension until the £15 was repaid. All appears to have gone along smoothly until August 1860 when the accidental death of the lightkeeper at Breaksea (Linthorne) necessitated a change in the staffing arrangements and the job of lightkeeper at Breaksea was offered to William Hill which he refused, however he had a change of heart and the Resident Magistrate wrote to the Colonial Secretary withdrawing the refusal.

On the 11th October 1861 William Hill, lightkeeper, Breaksea Island wrote to the Resident Magistrate a very surprising and alarming letter whereby he complained of the irrational behaviour of Assistant Thomas Lamming in August of the same year. William accused him of being neglectful of his duties but his conduct towards the Hill family was very questionable.

'His private conduct is anything but agreeable. He orders my children away from any part of the island they might chance to go where he is, in the most stern and unfeeling manner possible. The children tell me as were they at the door playing, that he ordered them to go out or he would kick there (sic) gus out, so that they have come in crying in dread of him. He seems to hate the sight of them, and told me he would twist there dam'd necks or heads off.

This morning words occurred about the children and his dog. I was not there present, but on being called, the first I heard was that he was damning my wife at the top of his voice. He called my little girl (9 years old) a dam'd young bitch because she told us she saw him at my fowl house, and that he went away when hearing her coming and left the door open, two of them got out and she put them in again (he denied it.) He called me a dam'd liar and said he did not care for me – he called my wife a dam'd dirty sweep, a bitch, and whole of us dam'd trash &c –that we nothing but a

nuisance that I acted anything but a man he would not explain but clenching his fist and swore we might be ashamed of ourselves, he called me deceitful and accused me falsely, which on denying he called me a dam'd liar, although he said he only heard it. My family is in danger of his hasty passions - I gave no cause for his passion, as I spoke collectedly all the time - I have never said anything to give him cause either for his anger or ill will, but if I only ask a simple question he says that I am finding fault.ⁱⁱⁱ

Unfortunately the Resident Magistrate merely queried the time lapse between the events and the report and in his memo to lightkeeper Hill dated 18th October 1861 said: *'If the Lightkeepers continue to quarrel, it will be necessary to hold an investigation on the Island, but I trust that this will not be requisite'.^{iv}*

Lightkeeper Taking note of the remarks Hill wrote another letter dated 21st October 1861 of events which occurred on the 20th & 21st October concerning Thomas Lamming's negligent attitude to his duties and his fear he would be held responsible for Lamming's actions. William also felt very aggrieved of Thomas' attitude to himself objecting very strongly to being called *'a dam'd scoundrel'.^v*

The relationship between the two men continued to deteriorate and again on the 3rd December 1861 William Hill again wrote to the Resident Magistrate regarding Thomas's negligence in not refilling the oil in the lamps and cracking a pane in the lantern. .

This time Resident Magistrate Campbell forwarded Hill's reports to the Colonial Secretary on the 14th December 1861 saying

'The men agreed very well till Lamming married, since which time they have been continually quarrelling. I warned Lamming personally that if it continued he would be removed until there was such evidence of his being blameless, as under the circumstances it would be near impossible to obtain. I would suggest that a re-convicted man be sent as Hill's Assistant as a prospect of a reduction of his sentence on good behaviour'^{vi}

Governor Kennedy decided it was time to remove Thomas Lamming and ordered the Resident Magistrate to replace him with a proper and fit person. Life appeared to settle down on the Island until on the 23rd March 1864 the Resident Magistrate received another letter this time from James McGuinness, lightkeeper. He asserted light keeper Hill had returned from Albany

'somewhat under the influence of liquor. He had a sore leg and has done no duty since his return. He brought four bottles of Rum for me. I had given an order for a gallon. I saw another bottle in his room. He said he got half a gallon for himself. ¹There is no grog in the place now. The spirits were left in Hill's room. I took what I wanted. Hill kept mostly in his own room on account of his leg. I have seen him only once the worse for liquor since coming over last Wednesday. I have drunk myself between two and three bottles during the last week. The drink (I believe) finished on Sunday. I have seen none since'^{vii}

At the time Probationary Prisoner Hugh Levorne was employed painting the lighthouse and William Hill accused both McGuinness and Levorne of conspiring against him. William was at this time quite incapable of doing any work due to a sore leg and accused McGuinness of wanting to cut his throat.

By the following Tuesday morning William seemed a little better and washed himself and his clothing and said he was going to hoist the signal to go to the hospital. (His family had been in Albany for some time). Unfortunately his condition deteriorated in the afternoon and he was threatening to cut his throat and declared the painter wanted to murder him as he had murdered others.

At 4pm an explosion possibly from a canister of powder in William bedroom shattered the window and blew two holes in the ceiling. When McGuinness attempted to reason with him he jumped on the window sill and said *'D—n your eyes if you would get out of that, I'll sacrifice you'.*

McGuinness's report stated he ran down the hill pursued by Hill who was shouting and brandishing a knife in one hand and a poker in the other. He ran until he perceived the pursuit had stopped and hid in the bushes for 7 hours until 11pm when the Pilot boat arrived.

¹ I have ascertained that Hill took over 8 bottles of Rum and a gallon of beer consumed, it appears by McGuinness' statement between Wednesday night and Sunday forenoon. McGuinness assured me that the painter drank none.

A. Cockburn Campbell

Hugh Levorne's account of the final hours differed only in that he said Hill's moods at times were childish and he was drunk a lot of the time. When he saw him on the fateful Tuesday afternoon Hill said to him: *'don't come close to me, I can't command myself like this.'*ⁱⁱⁱⁱ Apparently McGuinness ran to the left and Levorne ran to the right with Hill in hot pursuit of McGuinness. Levorne said he went back to the lighthouse and put up the cone presumably to summons help before looking around for Hill and McGuinness. Failing to find them he went back to the lighthouse and locked himself in. The last he saw of Hill he had left the path and was going down the bank to the right he did not hear him shout after that.

When the lighthouse keeper at Point King, Mr. Nelson, noticed the Breaksea light did not come on at the appropriate time he and the pilot went to the island and found McGuinness and Levorne in a state of abject terror, they notified the Resident Magistrate who set off for the island with a constable and two native trackers. Although they spent two and a half days searching the trackers were only able to find a single set of tracks leading to a rock overhanging the sea, (William Hill was barefoot at the time of his rampage.)

The entry in the Police occurrence book records: *'PC Crow and 2 natives goes to Breaksea Island with RM A. C. Campbell to search for one of the light keepers who is supposed to have destroyed himself when in a state of delirium.'*^{ix} They returned without finding him.

The Resident Magistrate advised the Governor that McGuinness and Levorne *'cannot be too heavily censured for their pusillanimous conduct'*^x and McGuinness being under caution for his heavy drinking would be dismissed.

Margaret Hill, left without any means of support for herself and her family, applied to Lt. Col Bruce to no avail, she then wrote a memorial to Edward Cardwell, Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies on the 1st November 1865 whereby she claimed Colonel's Bruce's stopping of William's pension until the £15 grant was repaid *'was entirely at variance with the instructions and regulations in force at that time'*. She requested the Fee Simple for the pensioner grant formerly awarded to her husband where she stated *'she and her family have resided since the death of her husband as they have no other place of shelter for either them or her.'*^{xi}

Not one to relish challenges to his authority Lt. Colonel Bruce sent a detailed account of his dealings with Hill regarding the allotment and subsequent replies to Mrs Hill. He further wrote: *'Mrs Hill is at present occupying the allotment and I believe her only object in seeking the land was to convert it into money, which if obtained, would in my opinion, from what I can learn, be very questionably spent. I shall never propose to Your Excellency to dispossess her, so long as she conducts herself with even moderate propriety, and, if not interfered with by the Government, she can enjoy all the privileges connected with the land except the power of sale'*^{xii}

Like many of the pensioners' destitute widows with families to support Margaret Hill married an expirée, Patrick Nearney, in 1865 at Albany^{xiii}.

On the 5th October 1872 Margaret Ann Nearney was granted title of Albany Suburban lot P13 for the sum of £4.10.0 A peppercorn rental was payable annually^{xiv}

On her death in 1903 Margaret willed her allotment together with the house to her daughters Pricilla and Matilda^{xv} Colonel Bruce would have been disappointed with her not living up to his expectations

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ⁱ SROWA, Cons 36, vol 381, folio 121

ⁱⁱ SROWA, Cons 49, vol 41, folio 871

ⁱⁱⁱ SROWA, Cons 36, vol 482, folio 183

^{iv} SROWA, Cons 36, vol 482, folio 185

^v SROWA, Cons 36, vol 482, folio 186

^{vi} SROWA, Cons 36, vol 482, folio 188

^{vii} SROWA, Cons 36, vol 541, folio 76

^{viii} SROWA, Cons 36, vol 541, folio 78

^{ix} SROWA, An 5, Cons 364, Item 1, Wed. 23 March 1864

^x SROWA, Cons 36, vol 541, folio 80

^{xi} Battye Library AJCP reel 1648, CO 18, piece 146, pages 312-3

^{xii} Battye Library AJCP reel 1650, CO 18, piece 149, pages 75-83

^{xiii} Battye Library, Pioneers Index 1865/2296

^{xiv} SROWA Cons 5713

^{xv} SROWA Cons 1804

The Saga of Sutton Way

Sutton Way is the name of a street in Busselton which has no recorded history. The background to this story originates with Samuel Sutton, a former Royal Marine who came out to the Swan River Colony aboard the "Scindian" as a Pensioner Guard with his wife Ann. (nee Twining) daughter Sarah Ann and son Charles. Another daughter Francis died at sea en route. Another son, Benjamin and another daughter Francis Twining were born in Claremont, probably at Freshwater Bay. This story relates to Benjamin who became a mounted policeman and served in the areas of Geraldton, Cossack, Bunbury and Busselton. On the death of his father Samuel, on the 20th February 1891, Benjamin inherited the properties at Freshwater Bay, namely Swan locations P256 of ½ an acre and P253 of 1 ½ acres, the latter having been placed on one title after Samuel had purchased locations P253, P254 and P255. At this time of Benjamin's police career, he was stationed at Busselton and was considering his retirement plans for the 3rd August 1894. Prior to his retirement, Benjamin purchased on the 18th March 1893 at Busselton Sussex Location 5 Lot 91 of 11 ½ acres (Title Deed Sussex Location 5 Vol xlix folio 365) where with his sons he set about establishing a small dairy. This land included a small swamp. He had already purchased Lot 44 of 1 acre (now part of 21 High Street) where the family home was built. Even though there were established farms in the outer district such as "Cattle Chosen" they were out of town. This gave Benjamin the opportunity to set up the first door to door milk round in Busselton and the business was successful to and beyond the early century. He later expanded to a larger leasehold at "Marbalup" Vasse.

Benjamin died on 29th April 1936 at Vasse and was buried in what is now known as the Busselton Pioneer Cemetery. His name is now recorded on the front entrance as a pioneer of the district.

After his death, and as family stories go, recognition of Benjamin's contribution to the district were canvassed by the family through the local district Roads Board Office. The relative who sought the recognition was confronted with an obnoxious clerk and told in uncertain terms that the Sutton recognition was in the name of "Sutton Swamp". The irony of this being that the swamp had long since been filled in and Benjamin's land had been subdivided into town blocks.

After my Army service, I returned to Busselton to review my family roots and found a street named "Sutton Way" which gave me much delight presuming that at last Benjamin's contribution had been recognised. I also knew that other Sutton families had passed through the town in intervening years so I set about establishing confirmation of the recognition. The first port of call was to the Shire of Busselton and a pleasant lady clerk started the chain rolling. The Busselton Historical Society was also called upon to support the enquiry. The subsequent news was disappointing if not shattering. The Shire of Busselton did not have any records of the naming of streets before 1979 and therefore the enquiry was directed to the Geographic Names Committee at the Department of Land Administration, Midland. The advice received was that although the name was registered, the origin of the name was unknown. Not to be deterred, I wrote to the Shire of Busselton and applied to have the recognition in the street name made in retrospect but this was denied. I then wrote to the Geographic Names Committee enclosing a copy of the family history and although they were sympathetic to my cause, the best they could do was file the family history with the registered street name for further reference.

Since this saga evolved, I have found out that the reason that there are no records prior to 1979 is that at the time the Shire of Busselton moved to new buildings, the old records were stored in the old Roads Board Office. The old Roads Boards Office subsequently became a youth centre and we know what young'uns do when they find a faulty Coke machine.

The end result: We have claimed the street name "Sutton Way" in Busselton as our own

Ron Sutton

EPG at Rottnest

Did you have an EPG ancestor who served on Rottnest as a guard of the prison during the period April 1883 to September 1884?

Names to hand are Corporals Henry Cook, John Hyland and John Reilly, Privates James Hodgson, John Hanes, Joseph Valentine, John Gallagher, Richard Williams, and Edward Hughes. The story next issue.

Ed
