

EPG GAZETTE

July, 2006 Vol 7 No 3



ENROLLED PENSIONER GUARDS

A special Interest Group of the

**WESTERN AUSTRALIAN
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
INC.**

Unit 6/48 May Street
Bayswater 6053

[www.wags.org.au/groups/
sigepg.html](http://www.wags.org.au/groups/sigepg.html)

Quarterly Newsletter
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Editor: Beth Smith
Telephone 9450 5872
rhsmith@upnaway.com

CONVENOR'S REPORT:

Our Annual General Meeting held in April resulted in an attendance of 31 members and guests, and apologies were received from more than 13 people.

The election of Officers of the Committee resulted in my re-election as Convenor. This will be my fifth year in the Big Chair Up Front and although my intention was to pass on the baton to someone with new ideas, it appears I am still in 'that chair'! With help from your willing Committee, my load will be lightened.

Sadly, **Margaret Hickey's** resignation was accepted with reluctance. Margaret has been a staunch supporter of the Group since its inception, at one time taking on the role of Treasurer and since its inception, the design, organization, authentication and mailing of our Descendant's Certificate. In spite of Margaret's duty as Bookshop Officer and Management Committee for the W.A. Genealogical Society, she always made herself available for extra duties in our Group. **Thank you Margaret.**

Ron Sutton has taken on the Data Base Project and organised a mail out to more than 400 people who had at some time registered an interest in the Pensioner Guards. This project resulted in a very positive result with new members

and information about their Pensioner Guard ancestors being added to our Data Base.

Jeanette Lee has researched the proposed and eventual Pensioner Guard Village sites and as a result the Group have purchased copies of many of the maps of areas settled by our EPG ancestors.

Beth Smith (with a little help from her husband) has collated and indexed the valuable resource files donated to the Group by Derrick Prall. Those files will be available to members.

The new two column easy to read format with distinctive title has been received with complimentary comments to the Editor, Beth.

Ian Barnes, Minutes Secretary, has also taken on the role of maintaining the EPG site on the W.A. Genealogical Society website. Ian has also assisted in the upkeep of our Group Photograph Album which records Events, Personalities and Projects.

Notice of forthcoming meetings is contained in this Newsletter. Mark the dates on your calendar.

The support of our members is vital to the survival and growth of the Group, and members are assured your Committee appreciate your interest, input and ideas.

Jean McDonald

**ENROLLED PENSIONER GUARD
SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP
Western Australian Genealogical Society Inc
6/48 May Street, Bayswater, WA 6053**

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Annual Financial Statement for period 2005/2006

Opening Balance as at 1 st April 2005		3781.16	
Plus Receipts	Newsletter Subs	1930.00	
	Books/Badges	664.00	
	Donations/Interest	740.01	
	<u>Social/Raffles</u>	<u>208.00</u>	
		3542.01	7323.17
Less Expenditure	Core Items	3021.25	
	Postage	794.05	
	Office	681.40	
	<u>Social/Raffles</u>	<u>60.95</u>	
		4557.65	2765.52*
Closing Balance as at 31 st March 2004			
	Cash at Bank	3453.02	
	Less unrepresented cheque	<u>687.50</u>	
		<u>2765.52</u>	2765.52*
	Add Stock at cost: 102 Badges	702.00	
		3467.52.	3467.52

This is a true and correct statement of the financial position of the Enrolled Pensioner Guard Special Interest Group for the 2005/2006 Financial Year ending 31st March 2005.

Signed: RH Sutton	Treasurer	Date: 22 Apr 2006
Signed J McDonald	Convenor	Date 22 Apr 2006
Signed WB Green	Independent Member	Date 22 Apr 2006

Pensioner Guard resource files are now in Unit 5 of the W.A. Genealogical library, at the start of the Western Australian section.

Thanks

We thank Phillipa Ward for the donation of a set of four cassettes – *A pleasant passage : the journals of Henry Richardson*, narrated by Norman Briers. A detailed, day-by-day record by Dr Henry Richardson, Surgeon Superintendent aboard the convict ship *Sultana* bound for Perth WeStern Australia in 1859 : of the voyage from England and Life in the colony.

DID YOUR MAN EARN A CAMPAIGN MEDAL? (PART 2)

First China War Medal 1840-42

This medal was issued to soldiers of the 18th, 26th, 49th, 55th and 98th Regiments of Foot who participated in the 1st China War generally known as the 1st Opium War or the 1st Anglo-Chinese War. The medal was originally not issued with a clasp; however when medals were issued for the 2nd China War 1857-60, a date clasp 1842 was struck for the first medal to distinguish between the two wars.

Sutlej Medal 1845-46

The Sutlej Medal was struck for the 1st Anglo Sikh War (Sutlej Campaign) with four clasps. **Moodkee Clasp** to the 3rd Kings Own Hussars, 9th, 31st, 50th, and 80th Regiments of Foot. **Ferozeshuhur Clasp** to the 3rd Kings Own Hussars, 9th, 29th, 31st, 50th, 62nd and 80th Regiments of Foot. **Aliwal Clasp** to the 16th The Queen's Lancers, 31st, 50th and 53rd Regiments of Foot. **Sobraon Clasp** to 3rd Kings Own Hussars, 9th Queen's Royal Lancers, 16th The Queen's Lancers, 9th, 10th, 29th, 31st, 50th, 53rd, 62nd and 80th Regiments of Foot.

Punjab Medal 1848-49

As with the 1st Sikh War a medal was struck for the 2nd War (Punjab Campaign) with three clasps. **Mooltan Clasp** to the 10th, 32nd and 60th Regiments of Foot. **Chilianwala Clasp** to the 3rd Kings Own Hussars, 9th Queens Royal Lancers, 14th Kings Hussars, 24th, 29th and 61st Regiments of Foot. **Goojerat Clasp** to the 3rd Kings Own Hussars, 9th Queens Royal Lancers, 14th Kings Hussars, 10th, 24th, 29th, 32nd, 53rd, 60th and 61st Regiments of Foot.

New Zealand Medal 1845-47, 1860-61 and 1863-66

The New Zealand Medal was issued for the three Maori Wars (Anglo-Maori Wars) with the 58th, 65th, 96th and 99th Regiments of Foot deploying from Australia for the 1st War. The 12th, 14th, 40th and 65th Regiments of Foot were engaged in the 2nd War with the 12th, 40th

and 65th deploying from Australia. The 12th, 14th, 18th, 43rd, 50th, 65th, 68th and 70th Regiments of Foot engaging in the 3rd War. The 12th and 65th again deployed from Australia.

Crimean War Medal 1854-56

The striking of this medal was accompanied with the Clasps ***Alma***, ***Inkerman***, ***Balaklava*** and ***Sebastopol***. The clasp Sebastopol was automatically awarded to those qualifying for the Balaklava and Inkerman clasps. Queen Victoria wanted the medals issued to her soldiers without delay; therefore the medals were issued without the impressing of names. Most medals were later either regimentally impressed or privately engraved.

For economy of space I have only listed the units for the Crimea War and not for individual battles. The **Turkish Crimea Medal** was issued by the Turkish Government to the Allies on conclusion of the War so generally all soldiers were issued with the pair. **Units:** 4th Queens Own Hussars, 4th Royal Irish Dragoon Guards, 5th Dragoon Guards (Princess Charlotte of Wales), 6th Inniskilling Dragoons, 8th Kings Royal Irish Hussars, 10th Royal Hussars (Prince Albert's Own), 11th Royal Hussars (Prince Albert's Own), 12th Royal Lancers (Prince of Wales), 13th Hussars, 17th Lancers (Duke of Cambridge's Own), The Royal Dragoons. Various sub units of the Horse Artillery. The Grenadier Guards, Coldstream Guards, Scots Guards, 1st, 3rd, 4th, 7th, 9th, 13th, 14th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 23rd, 28th, 30th, 31st, 33rd, 34th, 38th, 39th, 41st, 2nd, 44th, 46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 55th, 57th, 62nd, 63rd, 68th, 71st, 72nd, 77th, 79th, 82nd, 88th, 89th, 90th, 93rd and 97th Regiments of Foot and the Rifle Brigade Note: Some references refer to the Rifle Brigade as the 95th Regiment of Foot.

India General Service Medal 1854-95

This medal held an existence for 46 years and some 23 clasps were issued. I have only included those clasps that fall in the

range of our men to 1868. **North West Frontier 1849-1868** to the 20th Hussars, 6th, 7th, 19th, 22nd, 24th, 32nd, 51st, 60th, 61st, 71st, 81st, 97th and 98th Regiments of Foot. **Pegu Clasp 1853** to the 18th, 51st and 80th Regiments of Foot. **Persia Clasp 1856-57** to the 14th King's Hussars, 64th and 78th Regiment of Foot. **Umbelya Clasp 1863** to the 20th Hussars, 7th, 51st, 71st, 72nd, 93rd, 97th and 98th Regiments of Foot. **Bhootan (Bhutan) Clasp 1863-64** to 55th and 80th Regiment of Foot.

Indian Mutiny Medal 1857-59

The Indian Mutiny Medal was specifically struck for the Sepoy Rebellion with five clasps. The maximum number of clasps that could be issued to one recipient was four with less than 200 cases recorded. **Delhi Clasp** to the 6th Dragoon Guards, 9th Queen's Lancers, 8th, 52nd, 60th, 61st and 75th Regiments of Foot. **Defence of Lucknow Clasp** to 34th and 84th Regiments of Foot. **Relief of Lucknow Clasp** to the Queens Bays (2nd Dragoon Guards), 7th Queen's Hussars, 9th Queen's Royal Lancers, 5th, 8th, 10th, 20th, 23rd, 32nd, 34th, 38th, 42nd, 53rd, 64th, 75th, 78th, 79th, 90th, 93rd, 97th Regiments of Foot, and the Rifle Brigade. **Central India Clasp** to the 8th King's Royal Irish Hussars, 12th Royal Lancers (Prince of Wales), 14th King's Hussars, 17th Lancers (Duke of Cambridge's Own), 27th, 33rd, 38th, 43rd, 71st, 72nd, 78th, 80th, 83rd, 84th, 86th, 88th, 95th Regiments of Foot and the Rifle Brigade. Note: Some references quote 101st to 108th Regiments of Foot in the medal count, this is technically wrong as these Regiments came into existence

from East India Company units as a result of; and after the Mutiny. The East India Company issued its own medals.

Second China War Medal 1857-60

This medal is the same as the 1st China War Medal with five clasps. **Fatshan 1857 Clasp** to the Royal Marines. **Canton 1857 Clasp** to the 59th Regiment of Foot. **Taku Forts 1858 Clasp** to the Royal Marines. **Taku Forts 1860 Clasp** to the 1st The King's Dragoon Guards, 1st, 2nd, 60th, 67th and 99th Regiments of Foot. **Pekin 1860 Clasp** to the 1st The King's Dragoon Guards, 1st, 2nd, 60th, 67th, and 99th Regiments of Foot.

Abyssinian War Medal 1867

This is an unusual medal with a small head of Queen Victoria and the word ABYSSINIA appearing between the points of a 9 pointed star. No Clasps were struck. Issued to soldiers of the 3rd (Prince of Wales) Dragoon Guards, 4th, 26th, 33rd and 45th Regiments of Foot.

Now that you have done the sums and determined that your man falls into the date periods of respective campaigns, you now have to determine if he actually was entitled to a medal. The fact that a soldier was on the posted strength of a Regiment does not determine if he was at the actual battle. The campaign medal records are arranged by campaign and regiment on microfilm in the WO100 list at the National Archives, Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Surrey, England.

Ron Sutton

George Campbell EPG last Gaoler Roundhouse Prison.

At the west end of High St Fremantle sits an icon, the Roundhouse. Built by 18 January 1831 it is now one hundred and seventy five years old. Because the history of the area had a great influence on our state, what stories those walls could tell.

After 1850 the Pensioner Guards had a

part to play in the history of this historic building as they guarded the convicts who built the Water Police station and the Police Station at the foot of the steps. I suspect they also built the second courthouse in 1851 and later, in 1876, the lighthouse on Arthur's Head. The commissariat was built under the supervision of the Pensioner Guards.

George Campbell (Gaoler):

At the age of forty-five George, as an Enroled Pensioner Guard, arrived on the 24 October 1850 on the second convict ship (Hashemy) with his wife Mary (Margaret) and three children, George 12, William 5 and Christine 2. William had received medical attention during the voyage.

George's military history commenced when he enlisted on the 30th May 1825 at the age of seventeen as a private in the 79th Regiment spending 21 years 74 days in the army. He was pensioned on 10th August 1847, aged 41 years. His records show that he was 5'7" tall with a dark complexion. On his arrival in Fremantle he and his family would have been quartered in the old warehouse in Essex St., South Beach (the site of the Esplanade Hotel today). George Campbell had been a gaoler in a small country prison in Glasgow, Scotland, and had no trouble joining the Colonial Police Force on 20th August 1852 as a Police Constable at Arthur's Head Police Station. In those days, a constable's entitlement was only one room at the Police Station for all of his family. In due course, he was to help Laurence Welch in his duties as gaoler as Welch's health was fading quickly. By the 1st October 1854, George Campbell took over as gaoler at the Fremantle Roundhouse moving into quarters in the Round House.

The Roundhouse and Arthur's Head:

The Roundhouse was the first Public building in Western Australia. It has eight rooms for prisoners. Originally it was only intended for short-term prisoners, and was only meant to have two prisoners to a room. Seven rooms were used continuously; one was used as the dark room for prisoners who were also put on bread and water as punishment. This room was also used for inmates who had mental problems. It was lined with jarrah boards to stop inmates hurting themselves. The longer-term prisoners were sent to Tasmania. The authorities and magistrates at Arthur Head law precinct often gave shorter terms but

substituted lashes. Punishment was often carried out below the steps of the Round House. The front of the Roundhouse is the gaoler's reception rooms; the gaoler's quarters are very small.

By 1838 the Roundhouse was regularly overcrowded, on occasions it held forty two to forty three prisoners, natives, seamen, indentured servants, ladies of the night, sealers and whalers, so in 1838 Rottne native prison was established. This did relieve Fremantle.

In 1840 the stocks were introduced but only lasted a decade. Perth prison was an unsecured lockup. When the convicts arrived after 1850 a bell was placed on the steps of the Roundhouse and rang at 9:50 at night to get the ticket of leave men off the streets of Fremantle otherwise if it wasn't obeyed you were thrown inside for the night.

George Campbell became goaler and his wife, Mary became the matron of the Prison, for in those days the matron was the gaoler's wife. Her job would have been unpleasant .

It was Campbell's task to see prisoners were on work parties, keep them quiet at night, an onerous task on its own. His job was never finished. In 1856 the convict prison at Fremantle was finished and convicts from Essex St Fremantle moved in. On completion of both these buildings as prisons it took the importance of the Round House as a main prison away and in 1858 George Campbell was transferred to Albany Prison. George Campbell was the last of the Gaolers for the Round house. The Round House closed in 1886.

George Campbell's day in court.

On the 8 December 1855 a ticked-of-leave man was bought before the magistrate at Arthur's Head after he had abused Campbell at the Round House. After the magistrate sentenced the prisoner to seven days in the dark cell on bread and water (the dark cell is still at

the Round House today). The prisoner called Campbell a damned scoundrel and commenced a violent assault against him in court by striking him on the face. Had it not been for the immediate assistance of Sergeant Hicks who was a most powerful man the consequences might have been more serious. The gaoler's conduct throughout was most **mild, firm and correct**. The prisoner was then sentenced to three years hard labour in irons and 100 lashes, a very hard sentence indeed. The prisoner being a ticket-of-leave would have served this sentence at the convict prison in Fremantle.

A Move to Albany

In 1858 the importance of the Round House was becoming less. Campbell was appointed gaoler of Albany Prison on £95 per year and his wife, Mary was the matron on £5 per year. His conveyance to Albany would have been by coastal sailing ship. In 1862 the Police was under the charge of Sergeant William Finlay a Pensioner Guard's son from the Scindian. One of Campbell's duties would have been to transfer long-term prisoners to Perth prison by stagecoach, along the track from the sound. It was also one of his duties to help keep the town safe from the fighting of sealers, whalers and seamen.

On one occasion, 30 November 1862, a theft occurred at Campbell's quarters at

the gaol. £15 in gold was stolen from his sitting room. He complained to the Resident Magistrate and bars were ordered to be placed across a window.

He was appointed as Assistant Superintendent of Rottnest Island but this move was squashed by the magistrate and Campbell remained at Albany until he retired on the 1 February 1876 receiving a pension of £33.5.0 per annum.

George Campbell, ex soldier, Pensioner Guard, ex Gaoler, died 19 March 1886, aged 81.

Although George Campbell was a gaoler he puts the Pensioner Guards squarely at the Round House and adds to the story of that icon and the history of Western Australia.

Les Green.

References:

*Barker, D.J. Warders & Gaolers, W.A. Genealogical Soc. 2000 Page 31.
Broomhall. F.H The Veterans, a History of the Enrolled Pensioner Force 1850-1880 Hesperian Press 1989 Page B44.*

Footnote:

Les Green is a descendant of Pensioner Guards and works as a volunteer guide at the Round House, Fremantle every Tuesday 10.30 to 3.30. He is always pleased to meet other descendants.

THE WEST AUSTRALIAN, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1937 **THE FENIANS ESCAPE.**

What a Boy Saw at Fremantle.

From two old colonists we received first-hand accounts of the sensational incidents of April 1876, when six Fenian prisoners escaped from Fremantle. The prisoners were picked up by an American whaler, the Catalpa. The colonial steamer Georgette went out in pursuit and, after firing several warning shots, demanded that the convicts be surrendered, but the American being on the high seas, defied the challenger and sailed

off in safety. The excitement caused in the colony is well described below.

Mr. "Bill" Lynch, of Elizabeth Street, Geraldton, writes as follows:-

"I was 13 years old at the time, and was living in the top barracks in Fremantle, my father being a military pensioner, and one who went on the Georgette to bring back the prisoners. Being a school holiday on Easter Monday morning, the boys of the barracks got together to see how we would spend the day. We decided to go bird-nesting out in the bush along the Rockingham road. We got as far as the Government house on that road, and after another 'confab' we decided

to go swimming. Going down the street towards the beach we met four men in convicts dress coming towards us. One I knew well to be Big Bob, the prison letter carrier. I spoke to him like I had done before, but he told me to go away. I watched them go across some spare ground to the Rockingham-road corner, and then took no more notice of them.

We went on to the beach but again I and another boy decided to go to the north jetty on the river where the paddle steamer, the Lady Stirling, was taking on passengers to go to Perth for the regatta; and we tried to steal our passage but were hunted off twice. So we watched the steamer going to Perth with a full load of passengers. Then I decided to go to the long jetty fishing.

Coming at Full Gallop

I went along Cliff-street, and when I got to high-street I saw a horse and rider coming down the street at a full gallop. The horse was frothing at the mouth and the rider had no coat on, his hat was tucked on his head and, with his red whiskers and his legs bare he looked every inch a madman. He pulled up at the police station, not 50 yards from me, and dismounted.

I stood there for a while and then I saw a mounted policeman and his black tracker go galloping towards the water police quarters, and when I got that far I saw the water police in a great excitement running about everywhere, and then launching their boat from the shed and sailing off towards Rockingham. Now with all the water police gone I was safe to go on to the jetty fishing, because fishing on the long jetty was not allowed at this time. So, after catching a couple of dozen herring, I got home about 1 o'clock; and it was then I got the news that those prisoners I met at 9 o'clock that morning were making their escape. All pensioners were ordered to be confined to barracks until further notice.

At 3 o'clock that evening the water police boat came back from their chase and reported that they had sighted the runaways and then the excitement started. About 60 pensioners were called on for duty. They were all served out with 25 rounds of ball ammunition, and in marching order went to the jetty and embarked aboard the Georgette. The first casualty took place just before going on board, when one of the old men

collapsed and was sent back to hospital. Now there were two old cannon that had been in a yard at the end of the jetty for years, and these were run down the jetty and put aboard with some shot a bit bigger than a cricket ball. This was the ammunition for the cannon.

The Watching Women

Late that night the Georgette got away. Now I will not try to describe the scene among the wives of those old pensioners who were away on war duty that night, except to say that, like my mother none went to bed, and they were very pleased women next day when their husbands returned safe.

On the night of the Georgette's return I went with my father to the single men's room, and I listened to the story of the encounter from the gunner who fired the two shots at the Yankee ship. He said that Mr. Stone, who was Comptroller of the Fremantle Prison, called on the captain of the Catalpa to stop and to hand over his ship. The answer came back that he had no convicts on his ship, and his captain was on shore. Stone replied, "Unless you stop I will sink your ship." The man on board replied that his ship sailed under the American flag and he was on the high seas, and for any damage done to his boat they would be responsible to the United States government. The gunner continued: So I received orders to fire the first shot at her stern but not to hit her. She did not stop and I was ordered to fire

the next shot across her bows, but again not to hit her. This shot went close to her bows and at once the stars and stripes went up to the masthead, but she did not stop. Stone and Major Finnerty, who was in charge of the pensioners, now consulted and, having no orders to fight on the high seas, returned back to Fremantle and abandoned the chase.

A Song Banned

Mr. Lynch also gives a fuller version of the song which was sung to celebrate the escape. He agrees with other correspondents that the ditty was banned by the Government, and it meant gaol for one to be singing it.

His version is:-

She was a Yankee whale ship and commander

Called the Catalpa by name

Came out to Western Australia

And stole six of our convicts away

CHORUS

So come all you screw warders and jailers

Remember the Perth regatta day

Take care of the rest of your Fenians

Or the yanks they will take them away.

The Georgette well maned with bold warriors

Went after this yank to arrest

But then she hoisted her star-spangled banner

Saying "You better not board me I guess"

For seven long years have they served you

And seven more would have stayed,

For defending their country, Ould Ireland;

It was for that they were banished away.

You remember those six Fenians colonial

And sing o'er these few verses with skill

And remember the Yankee that stole them

And the home that they left on the hill.

For now there in the States of America

When all will be able to cry

'We will hoist the green flag with the shamrock

Saying "Hurrah for Ould Ireland we die"

Mr. Lynch also refers to another song which suggested that certain warders had a hand in the escape and refers to "Fenian gold."

Hatching the Plot

Mr. Alfred Douglas, of South Perth, giving his version of the affair, refers to the fact that in 1867, several years before the deliverance of the prisoners the American whaling ship Catherine put into the coast of Fremantle and lay in Careening bay at Garden island for three days. A certain Captain Fisher landed at Fremantle from the Catherine. Mr. Douglas says that Captain Fisher remained at Fremantle for two years whaling for the late Mr. John Bateman, and prepared a chart of the coast of Fremantle and the landing places on the coast. Then he moved on to Albany, and went whaling for the late Captain Thomas. In March 1875, there was a vacancy for the caretaker at the Albany

Quarantine station and this Captain Fisher for the situation. In March 1876, three American gentlemen arrived at Albany on board the outward bound P. and O. Royal Mail Steamer Siam. They were the only three passengers for this state, and they were quarantined for nine days. These three Americans, Mr. Douglas alleges, were the real accomplices working on behalf of the Fenians. After they were freed from quarantine they left Albany for Fremantle by the Rob Roy and stayed at a boarding house in High-street, Fremantle." I can prove this," the correspondent says, "as I was in their company three times – twice in Albany with Captain Fisher and once in Fremantle by chance at a boarding house. In March, 1876, the Catalpa put into Frenchman's Bay Albany, and took fresh water on board and she put out to sea the same day. Captain Fisher was the only person who went on board her at Albany on this occasion. I beg to say the Catalpa was not the first ship that came to rescue these three Fenians. The first ship was wrecked on the West Australian coast, and I know where her bones lay."

Jeanette Lee

**A SERVICE FAMILY
SOME DESCENDANTS OF
JAMES CUNNINGHAM OF THE
ENROLLED PENSIONER FORCE**

James Cunningham, formerly a private in the 51st regiment of Foot, arrived in WA as a member of the Pensioner Force at some unknown date in 1850 or 1851 (1). Little is known of this old soldier, but his sons and grandsons made a name for themselves in WA as police officers, soldiers and citizens. It is a classic example of how a tradition of service in the armed forces and police was created and maintained.

George James Cunningham, son of James, was born in Perth on December 27, 1851. He was a labourer in his youth, until joining the WA Police Force in October 1872. His first period of service did not last long – George resigned in November 1873 and moved to Adelaide. From January 1874 he was a constable in the South Australian Police Force (2). There is a possibility he had already made important personal commitments in WA. On July 1, 1874 he

married Fanny Lavinia Mortimer at St Patrick's Cathedral in Adelaide. She was the grand-daughter of the prominent WA colonist John Burtenshaw Cox and must have gone east once arrangements for the marriage were ready (3). As will be seen, they had a large family.

George resigned because of health problems on July 31, 1890 and the family returned to WA. He rejoined the WA Police as a 2nd Class Constable in August 1891 and must have been very well thought of by people in high places. In October of the same year he was appointed Police Orderly to the Governor, Sir William Robinson. He was to hold the position for the remarkable period of 29 years and was promoted within the Police Force into the bargain – 1st Class Constable in 1894, Corporal in 1901 and Sergeant in 1916. He was an orderly to seven successive Governors and was well-respected by all of them (4).

In a May 1982 meeting of the Royal Western Australian Historical Society, historian Ruth Marchant James read a paper called "Memories of Old East Perth". They were the recollections of Frederick (known as 'Fred') Cunningham, one of the seven sons of George and Lavinia. Fred was born on March 29, 1893. The Cunninghams had living quarters suitable for the police officer's job, and Fred had vivid memories of living with his father in the ground floor of the old Legislative Council building situated between Government Gardens and Government House, Perth.

According to Fred, George Cunningham wore a different uniform to other members of the Police Force. In summer his outfit was all white, plus a bandolier over the left shoulder. In winter he wore a dress coat reaching to 9 inches above his knees, a leather waist belt and a bandolier. The head-wear was a peaked cap in winter and a white helmet in summer. George was a distinguished looking man well into old age and had a full beard and moustache.

There were problems if important guests arrived; in 1901 the Duke and Duchess of York (Later King George V and Queen

Mary) visited Perth and the Cunningham quarters were required for the Duke's Staff.

The move into the grounds of government House had taken some time to achieve. For a while the family had to live in Brookman Street until Sir Arthur Lawley claimed it was inconvenient, as his orderly really had to be 'on site' when required. The move to an old limestone building in the grounds of Government House was not very comfortable according to Fred Cunningham. Fleas, mice and rising winter river waters caused problems. In Sir Frederick Bedford's time things were improved when a lodge was built for the family at the driveway entrance into Government House. There they remained until Sergeant George Cunningham retired on October 1, 1920.

The veteran police sergeant was also a founder member of the Saint John's Ambulance Council in WA and was Chairman in 1915–1916. In 1905 he was made an honorary serving brother of the Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem and was presented with a diploma and medal by the Governor (6).

George Cunningham died on 21/12/1925, with full knowledge that family traditions had already been enhanced by his sons. The May 1918 issue of the 'Police Review' listed in the footnotes provided some surprising details. James Cunningham served in the Boer War, was wounded twice and was perhaps the first WA man to suffer injury in that conflict. He served as a mounted trooper in the WA police Force from 1906 until 1911, being stationed as far afield as Derby and Southern Cross. Former police constable James persisted with an adventurous life – he joined the 1st AIF and was a member of an artillery outfit in World War 1 (7).

His younger brother Edward had fought alongside him in the Boer War, then went on to serve as a Lance Corporal in the famous 10th Light Horse Regiment during the World War. To complete the picture, four other Cunningham brothers – Alexander, John, William and Frederick (who wrote about good times and bad in the Governor's service) also served in the artillery in the

same conflict, whether as non-commissioned officers or privates (8). All six brothers survived to return to WA – a remarkable achievement in itself and probably a difficult one to match in any State of the Commonwealth.

***Jean McDonald, Convenor,
Peter Conole, Police Historian***

References

- (1) Broomhall, F.H. The Veterans, Hesperian Press, Victoria Park, 1989, B67
- (2) Cunningham, George: Record of Police Service; *Police Review*, May 1918, p18
- (3) Information supplied by Mrs Sheryl Milentis and Mr Graeme Sisson
- (4) Cunningham, George: Record of Police Service
- (5) "Memories of Old East Perth" in *Early Days: Journal of the Royal Western Australian Historical Society*. Vol. 8, part 6, 1982, pp25-38.
- (6) *Police Review*, May 1918, p18
- (7) Cunningham, James: Record of Police Service; Australian War Memorial Website for further details of military service
- (8) The Australian War Memorial site and the May 1918 edition of 'Police Review' provide the bare outlines of the military service of the brothers.

GENERAL MEETING Saturday 15TH July

Time: 1.00

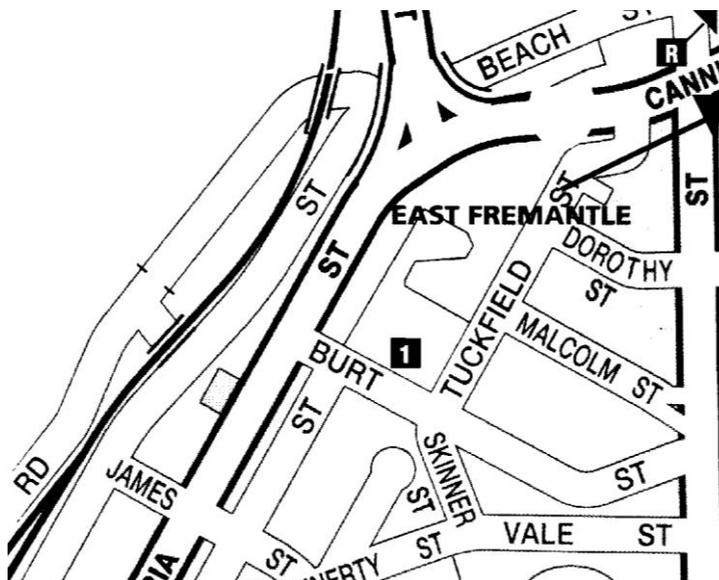
Place: **Army Museum of Western
Australia, Artillery Barracks,
Burt Street, Fremantle**

Speaker: Medals Curator –

Graham Donley

Entrance Fee: \$6 to the Army Museum which includes afternoon tea. Parking is available on the grounds of the Army Museum, which is free.

Sorry no access for the disabled as the meeting will be held upstairs.



1. Fremantle Army Museum

Field Trip October Meeting Saturday 14 October

Thanks to our EPG member, Mr David Meadowcroft who suggested and helped organise our October Meeting. This meeting will be held in the form of a Field Trip to York. We will be visiting various EPG relevant sites on our coach trip to York. Lunch will be in York. Cost is \$35.00 per person including morning tea. (Bring your own lunch).

The Field Trip will leave May St at 8.45am and return approximately 5.00pm.

Places will be strictly limited so be prepared to get in early!