



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)

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YORK - A GREAT DAY OUT

We gathered outside WAGS on a Saturday morning in October enjoying the sunshine, all enthusiastic to commence on our journey to York.

As we headed out of the city David Meadowcroft showed us where the horse trains left from Guildford to head to York then later to the Goldfields. Guildford is one of our earlier settlements.

Our first stop was the Bilgomen Well and Convict Depot Ruins just off Darlington Road. In 1846 Chauncey surveyed the road from Guildford to York. Bilgomen is the name the Aborigines used for the water hole. Just near the well was the Convict Depot.

There were three buildings constructed in the 1860's. Unfortunately, today all that remains is several mounds of rubble.



Remains at Bilgomen

David mentioned other Convict Depots, one at Hovea near Clare Road. [I lived in Hovea for twenty-four years and did not know of the existence of the Convict Depot. Ed]

David must have spent many hours organising our trip. The night before our trip he traced the name of the owner of the Nineteen Mile Inn, now privately owned. The owner invited us to have our morning tea stop there. How wonderful



Nineteen Mile Inn

it was to wander around the historic buildings, which are so lovingly cared for. Near the Inn we could still see the cobblestones of the old York road.

St Ronan's Well, just off Great Southern Highway, was our next stop. In 1830 St Ronan's Well, was the first well to be dug when an exploration party, including Governor Stirling, were exploring inland.

From the early 1850's convicts were used for building roads. The Convict Depots were always placed near water. Therefore, it was not surprising to learn that a Convict Depot was established at St Ronan's Well. Unfortunately again no buildings remain.

After lunch in York, Joe, our driver, took us past the Pensioner cottages. With the help of the handout supplied by Jeanette Lee, we knew which Pensioner originally owned the different cottages.

Several have been magnificently restored.

We spent some time investigating the cemetery. Cemeteries are always a wonderful source of history.

Special thanks to David Meadowcroft who put in so much research and organization to make sure the day was successful. Also a special thanks to Jean McDonald and Jeanette Lee for their input into the day.

CONVENOR'S REPORT

2007 appears to be another year of changes — decisions made by those in power affect our daily lives. Fortunately most humans have the adaptability to change with the times. BUT sometimes those changes affect that very medium — TIME. Daylight saving to be exact.

Letters to the press provide an unending array of reasons for and against the implementation of changing the clocks. Western Australia has such a large expanse of country it is inevitable the effects vary from south to north. In the metropolitan area, summer evenings offer the opportunity to enjoy the outdoors for a little longer (if that is your choice). On a personal note, in the early evening, I take a book and a cup of my favourite beverage and sit in my back garden a little longer than usual.

One such recent acquisition was Andrew Gill's 2004 publication — "Convict Assignment in Western Australia 1842-1851." Andrew's book focuses on the boys, sometimes called 'apprentices' sent out from Parkhurst Prison, England. Gill's argument is these boys were in actual fact — 'convicts'.

That triggered the question in my mind — **WHAT IF OUR PENSIONER GUARD** ancestors had been enrolled to act as guards for those juvenile 'convicts' on the ships transporting the Parkhurst boys to Western Australia? Purely a hypothetical question, but an interesting one!

2007 also has the potential to be a year of change in the field of genealogical research.

In November last, I attended the 'Direction Setting Workshop' organized by the W.A. Genealogical Society. It was

immediately apparent from the theme of the workshop that some important changes were necessary to maintain membership and the interest in **genealogy**. There appears to be a worldwide decline in **volunteering**, in all types of Societies and Clubs.

With the increase in use of the internet and the immediacy in obtaining information, **it is** understandable some members, for many reasons, find it more convenient to work from home rather than travel to a Library or Resource Centre.

Therefore the theme of the Workshop was to address the current problems and devise a format for change. Positive suggestions were noted and plans were put in place to address and implement those ideas which would be financially and practically possible. Some of the suggestions were interesting and thought provoking -

Change the name of the Society (some felt the term **Western Australian** in the title led people to believe the Library only stocked information on this State;

More material available on the internet;

Review the present location;

Retain and increase membership via a number of strategies.

Consider boosting WAGS website.

Other key items were and referred to Management for action with a full report to be made at WAGS Annual General Meeting.

Your Enrolled Pensioner Guard Group has already addressed some of the issues raised. The posting of our Newsletter by email

to those members who have requested that form has already been used.

Profiles of Pensioner Guards are being received by email, making it easier to download and file in our Resource Files at WAGS.

Speakers at Meetings often hand out references to useful internet sites.

Not all members are 'into the net' and we certainly welcome their input and interest in the Group. In the long run, it is quite often a chance conversation with another member at a Meeting which generates a different approach to research.

We look forward to a productive and interesting 2007 and to meeting new and long time members.

Our first Meeting for the year is —
SATURDAY 17TH FEBRUARY,
1pm— UNIT 4

A member of the WAGS Computer Group will outline the principles of backing up our data to protect our hard won information in the event of an accident. There will be special emphasis on computer databases but the principles are more general.

W.A. GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY,
48 MAY STREET, BAYSWATER

Jean McDonald
9450 4304

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SIEGE OF LUCKNOW 1857

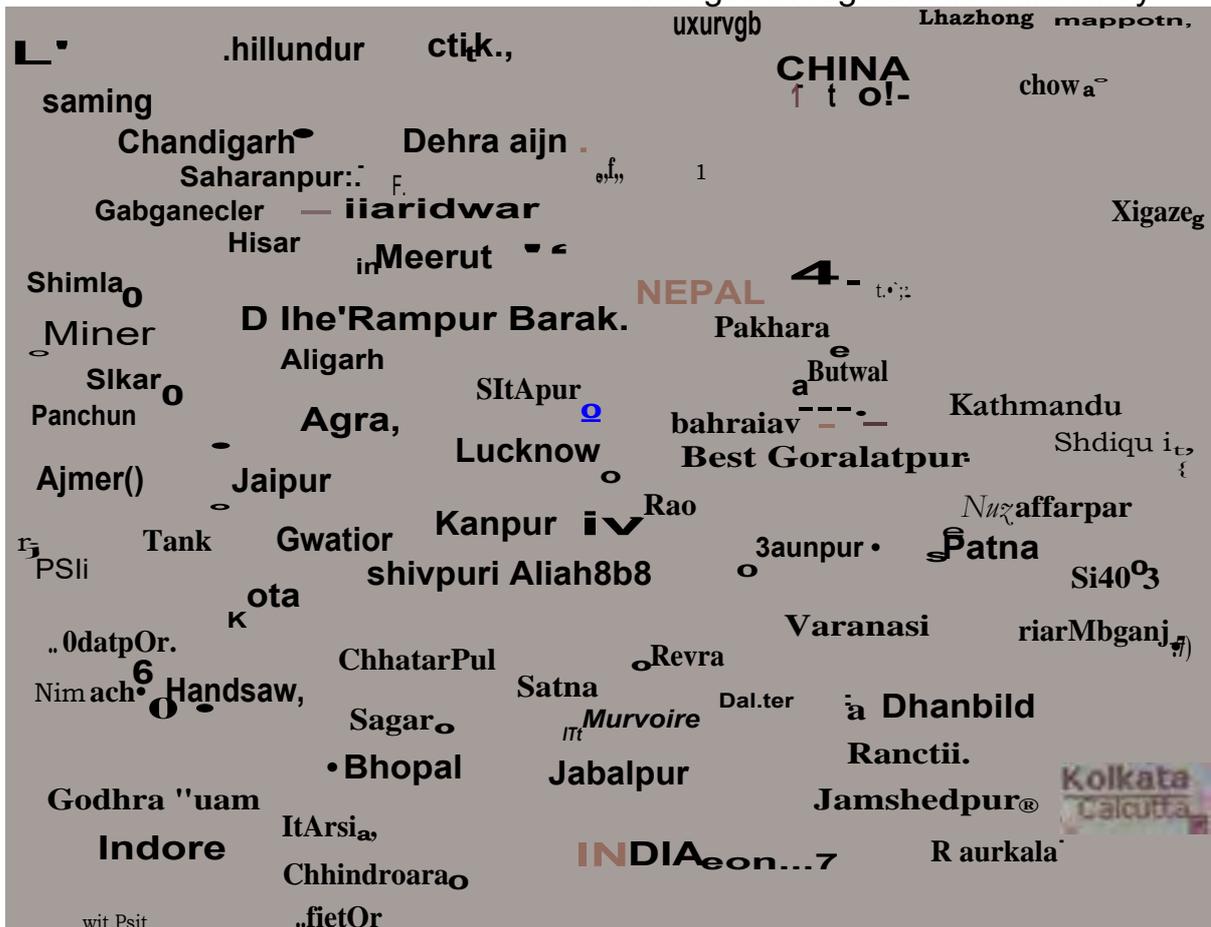
A SHORT SYNOPSIS (Part 1)

Introduction

There were many social and political factors that created the climate for unrest amongst the local population of India in 1857 culminating in the Sepoy Rebellion (Indian Mutiny). Many books and articles have been written on the subject over the years and this précis is not designed to subjugate past historians. This précis will however; attempt to give an overview on the military aspects of the Siege at Lucknow and endeavour to put you closer to your man.

Background

Indian soldiers of the British Indian Army, drawn mostly from Muslim units from Bengal, mutinied at the Meerut cantonment near Delhi on the 10th May 1857, starting a year-long insurrection against the British. The insurrection was sparked in part by the introduction of Lee Enfield rifles that fired a .303 cartridge. The rifle was single loading and required the firer to bite the end off the cartridge prior to loading. The cartridges were coated with pig fat and beef tallow both objectionable to Muslims and Hindus. The Indian soldiers were also dissatisfied with their pay and changes in regulations which they



interpreted as a plot to force them into Christianity.

Cawnpore (Kanpur) Massacre

Some historians note that the massacre at Cawnpore was the defining event of the mutiny. Over 1000 British soldiers with their wives and children took refuge in a fortified magazine at Cawnpore with the sepoys laying siege for twenty days. With out any water the defenders could not hold on any longer and on the 25th June 1857 they surrendered. The massacre commenced on the 27th and continued until all captured British personnel were killed. Most of the women and children were flung down a well at Bibighar.

Lucknow

Lucknow, situated on the banks of the River Gomti, was the capital of Oudh State. Oudh State was annexed by the British (East India Company) the year before in a move that caused great resentment amongst the Indians. Sir Henry Lawrence was the colonial representative at Lucknow and he had the foresight to prepare for possible reprisals from the local inhabitants. Lawrence had a number of units at his disposal but only two of these were regular British units of the line. On the 3rd May 1857 the 7th Oudh Irregular Infantry was disarmed after its soldiers refused to use greased cartridges. Lawrence then feared the worst and made preparations for any subsequent attack. The military garrison was located in an old fort known as Machhi Bhawan, however Lawrence selected the Residency area as the main area to be defended. The Residency originally built in 1780 was located in the northern part of the city and its buildings occupied the highest

elevation dominating the city. On the night of the 3^e May 1857 almost all of the native troops at Lucknow rebelled but were successfully defeated and dispersed. About 712 Indian troops remained loyal to the British at this point however 230 were to desert during the subsequent siege. 1008 Europeans made up the remaining fighting force with 1280 non combatants including women and children. All were located in the compound of the Residency which spread over about 33 acres surrounded with a high mud wall strengthened with earthworks, trenches, wire entanglements, booby traps and gun pits.

Regiments of the Line

The only two British Regiments at Lucknow were the 32nd (Cornwall) Regiment of Foot and the 9th (York and Lancaster) Regiment of Foot. The 32nd was stationed at Dublin, Ireland in 1843 and in 1846 it was recorded as being at Fermoy in India. The unit was actively on the move in India and in 1847 it was at Meerut unaware of what significance this cantonment was to play in history. During the Second Sikh War, the 32nd was at Ambalia and Ferozepore in 1848. During the period September 1848- 21st January 1849 the unit experienced first hand siege conditions at Mooltan. In the latter part of 1849 the unit was again on the move to Cheriote, Goojerat, Punjab and Jullumber. In 1852 to Peshawar, Rannazgce Valley, 1853 at Kussowlie, Subatha. In 1856 the 32nd under command of Colonel Inglis moved to Lucknow leaving a detachment of invalids under the command of Captain John Moore at Cawnpore (Kanpur) which was

77kms SW of Lucknow. The unit earned four Victoria Crosses at Lucknow and lost 15 Officers and four hundred and forty eight soldiers collectively at Cawnpore and Lucknow.

The 84th was stationed in Burma in 1842 then moved to India in 1845. The unit was at Madras and Rangoon in early 1857 before moving to Lucknow leaving sixty soldiers at Cawnpore and a reserve company at Calcutta. During the Cawnpore Massacre only one soldier of the detachment survived. During the hostilities at Lucknow six Victoria Crosses were awarded to members of the 84th. The unit returned to England in 1859 after 17 years in India and earned credit from Queen Victoria when she designated the unit as Light Infantry.

The Lucknow Siege

When the mutiny broke out in Lucknow, the sepoy tried to storm the walls but were always driven back. Twice the sepoy breached the perimeter but British sallies regained lost ground. The main problem was the constant barrage of artillery and musket fire that poured into the compound. One of the first shells killed Lawrence and command passed to Colonel Inglis. The sepoy also started tunnelling to undermine the walls with some of the underground charges exploding within the compound. The 32nd were forced to counter mine and fierce hand to hand fighting took place within the tunnels. Food started to run short, the casualties started to mount, rats swarmed everywhere and the July sun burnt down on the filthy, hungry and dispirited defenders. In the middle of August there were only 350 British soldiers and 300

loyal sepoy left to defend the compound with over 500 women, children, sick and wounded to look after. A note was received at the Residency that a relief column would arrive in four days however; the days became weeks and it wasn't until the 25th September that gunfire was heard on the outskirts of the city.

Next Issue, Help is on the way — or is it?

Bibliography:

1. *Battles of the Indian Mutiny*, Michael Edwardes, Pan, 1963.
2. *The Great Mutiny*, Christopher Hibbert, Penguin, 1978
3. *Our Bones are Scattered, The Cawnpore Massacre and the Indian Mutiny of 1857*. Andrew Ward, John Murray, London 1996.

Ron Sutton

**Wear a copy of the badge
your ancestor wore.**

EPG BADGES



\$10.00 from an EPG General Meeting or \$12.00 inc. postage & handling.

SUBSCRIPTION 2007/2008

A Newsletter Subscription form is attached to this newsletter.

Please send to:
Enrolled Pensioner Guards
Western Australian Genealogical Society
Unit 6/48 May Street
Bayswater WA 6053

Please make cheques or money orders payable to:
WAGS Enrolled Pensioner Guards

The \$10.00 Subscription is due on the 31st March.



HAVE YOU MOVED HOUSE OR CHANGED EMAIL ADDRESS?

Please advise
Ron Sutton
(epguards@hotmail.com)
or Beth Smith
(rhsmith@aapt.net.au)
(9450 5872)
if you have changed your address.

Proposed exploration of the Chapman and Greenough Rivers Region

After the success of the York Expedition in 2006 a suggestion that further exploration of the area to the north of the Swan River Colony is required.

A proposal has been put to the Executive Council (EPG Committee) that an expedition to the Greenough — Geraldton region be taken by those whose ancestors opened up the region to white settlement.

Those who have an interest in joining the proposed three day exploration are requested to advise the relevant authority:

Jean McDonald
jeanmc2@bigpond.com
9450 4304

or any other member of the Executive Council.

David Meadowcroft a member of our group who led the York expedition, will again be Guide and forward scout. His EPG ancestor was James Carson who was granted land at Greenough.

The expedition is proposed for the spring of 2007 to also allow botanical study of the peculiar flowers of the region and its approaches.

ENROLLED PENSIONERS ATTENDING THE CHURCH

In the convict days the Imperial rule was that prisoners should attend Church every Sunday, so that gangs of native prisoners, in chains, often attended the services. Later on another band of worshippers was that of ARMY PENSIONERS.

They were marched down from the Barracks and then paraded in the streets, whence they were drafted off to their own Churches. Those who came to the Cathedral entered by the west transept door and took their seats which were close by, just under the pulpit. Opposite them in the south aisle and close to the organ, sat the Orphanage children in the rather plain and not very becoming clothes given them in

those days.

Extract from - Chapter 1838-1876. "The Birth of a Cathedral. St. George's, Perth Western Australia 1829-1948" by Very Reverend Geoffrey Berwick (Dean of Perth) 1948.



St George's Cathedral, Perth 1948



St George's Church, Perth
Begun 1841 — consecrated 1848: Cathedral 1857
Wings Added 1864: Demolished 1889

**2007
GENERAL MEETINGS
1:00pm- Unit 4 WAGS**

FEBRUARY Saturday 17th

**APRIL Saturday 21st
Annual General Meeting**

JULY Saturday 21st

OCTOBER Saturday 20th

**February meeting
BACKING UP DATABASES**

Mike Murray or another member of the WAGS
Computer Group

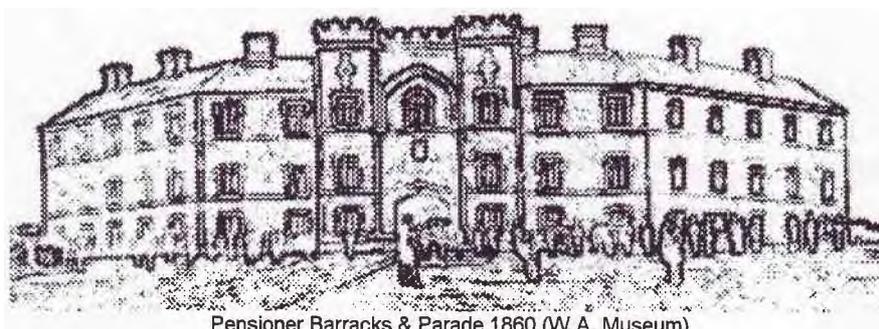
Whether we use a computer or many folders and exercise books, we all have an extensive database collected during our genealogical research. What would happen if somehow you were to lose some or all of your data? Mike will outline the principles of backing up your data, with special emphasis on computer databases but the principles are more general.

Enrolled Pensioner Guard SIG
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Pensioner Barracks & Parade 1860 (W.A. Museum)

