



## MEETING TIMES FOR 2001

Sunday 25th February	12noon	Unit 5/6 WAGS, 48 May St., Bayswater <i>(We have chosen this time to allow us to use WAGS Library, and it is air-conditioned)</i>
Saturday 21st April	12 noon	Unit 4 WAGS.
Saturday 28th July	12noon	Unit 4 WAGS
Saturday 12th November	12noon	Unit 4 WAGS

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### October 22nd Meeting in Unit 4, WAGS

We continue to have an excellent attendance rate and participation by members.

The meeting voted to celebrate the anniversary of the arrival of the Scindian again on the 1st of June in 2001. A number of people have volunteered to organise the event, and we have written to the museum for permission to use the venue. They will respond following their next board meeting.

\* We acknowledged the anniversary of the arrival of the second convict ship to W.A. - the Hashemy, which arrived on the 24th October 1850.

\* Terry Carroll and Cec Florey have offered to advise and assist us to put the information we are gathering, on to CD Rom

\* Jean McDonald spoke about how her ancestor Robert Helliwell had been defrauded, along with many other EPG, by Colonel Foss, and she has since donated a copy of the report of the Court Martial.

\* The "Can You Help" session covered various subjects Robert Brittain is having difficulties tracing the Military records of his EPG, Ash, Jordan, and William Connor, through the LDS. He is open to suggestions, as his next step appears to be engaging a professional researcher.

\* A new member of our Spec. Int. Group, Derrick Prall spoke about the construction of the convict ships in general, their rigging determining what they were called. He spoke about the camouflage on the ships to deter pirates. The ships were not armed, however, they did carry one cannon loaded with grapeshot. His information included the origins of the ships. It was a very brief talk covering timbers used, and other technical data. He explained that the usual number of EPG on each convict ship would have been thirty plus a sergeant. This was to allow three watches on board ship. He had a small display of regimental badges, which included the hat badge of the EPG, the badge of the Royal Artillery, and the Sappers Badge. The accompanying drawing is by Derrick of the actual size of the Hat Badge of the E.P.G. Derrick has offered to speak at future meetings about his research.

\* Trish Bylsma had informed us of the location of the EPG Firing Range on the concourse in front of the restaurant in Kings Park. Derrick confirmed this, and said that the men would fire out towards the river. He also said that the EPG had had two cannons in Kings Park, but they have been missing for many years. If anyone knows of their whereabouts we would be happy to know. We are very interested in following this up.

**See articles by Trish and Derrick in this newsletter.**

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### Replica of EPG Badge

Lawrence is making enquiries about costs involved in replicating the badge as a lapel badge /brooch for members of our Special Interest Group and descendants of the EP Force. This information should be available by our next meeting

We have had confirmation that this badge was used wherever the Enrolled Pensioner Force were, and was not restricted to Western Australia.

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**Request to buy secondhand book "The Veterans" by F.H. Broomhall. Please ring 9459 3280**

ENROLLED PENSIONER GUARD INTEREST LIST

<u>SURNAME</u>	<u>FIRST NAME/S</u>	<u>REGIMENT</u>	<u>SHIP</u>	<u>EPG/ PensionerWarder</u>
Adlam	James		Clara 1	EPG
Ahern	Michael		York	EPG
Ainsworth	William		Minden	EPG
Anderson	Francis		Merchantman 2	EPG
Annear	Samuel		Scindian	EPG
Arbuckle	John		Clyde	EPG
Armitage	William		Sea Park	EPG
Ash	Abraham		Hougoumont	EPG
Ashworth	Edmund		Java	Pensioner
Atkinson	John		Scindian	EPG
Atkinson	Robert		Belgravia	EPG
Attwood	Edwin		Racehorse	EPG
Bagg	George		Scindian	EPG
Bagley	Patrick		Merchantman 1	EPG
Baker	Robert		Scindian	EPG
Baker	Phillip		Isabella	Pensioner
Bandy	Thomas		Hashemy	EPG
Barrett	Edward		Lord Dalhousie	EPG
Barrett	Richard		Belgravia	EPG
Barry	Michael		Vimeria	EPG
Bartlett	George		Palestine ?	Warder
Batley	Richard		Clyde	EPG
Beardman	William	51st	Runnymede	EPG
Betts	William		Runnymede 2	EPG
Bishop	Thomas		Lord Dalhousie	EPG
Blight	William		Vimeria	EPG
Brennan	John ?			
Brennan	Michael		Racehorse	EPG
Brennan	Patrick		Hashemy	EPG
Brindley	Henry		York	EPG
Brown	Michael		Naval Brigade	EPG
Bull	Edward		Palmerston	Warder
Bunter	Luke	RM		EPG
Butler	Thomas		Corona	EPG
Butler	Thomas		Lord Dalhousie	EPG
Cable	Joseph		William Hammond	EPG
Campbell	John		Minden	EPG
Campbell	Kenneth		Minden	EPG
Campbell	William		Minden	EPG
Caple	William		Hashemy	EPG
Carr	William		Palmerston	EPG
Carroll	Michael		Pyrenees 1	EPG
Carroll	Patrick		Hashemy	EPG
Carson	James	RM		EPG
Clancy	Peter		Clara 1	EPG
Clark	Charles		Scindian	EPG
Clark	George		Scindian	EPG
Clinton	James		Clyde	EPG
Coffin	William		Norwood 2	EPG
Connors	James		Hashemy	EPG

## MRS. BRUCE

Wife of Colonel John Bruce, Commandant and champion of the EPG in Western Australia.

*From "The Military Ladies of Western Australia" by Miss Katherine E. Shenton*

The following particulars concerning Mrs. Bruce are taken from notes by Miss Dorothea Lefroy, one of her grand-daughters:-

Johanna Jacoba Bruce, nee Herklots, was the daughter of a judge in the Dutch Colony of Chinserra in India in 1808. She could just remember the Battle of Waterloo (presumably from reports), and always claimed that "at home at Mamma's" in Chinserra they had eleven curries every day. She also claimed to have 14 suitors who called every day and were taken around her father's museum of curios. Each suitor had a separate hour. Apparently her administrative ability was developed early in life. Finally, at the age of 20, she married John Bruce, an officer in an English regiment quartered in India. Born and married in India she remained there without a break until the age of 39.

Then, in 1838, Captain Bruce took her and their three children to Ireland and left them there with his father, near Athlone, as he had been transferred to China. Her children remembered how she used to send them with food to put on the tables which the poor people had outside their cabins in the Irish Famine.

After some years she took her children to France, and, about 1852, Captain Bruce was given an appointment in Western Australia. He was in command of the soldiers sent to guard the convicts, so it was in a convict ship that his family came out.

In Perth the Bruces first lived at the east end of the building now called "The Cloisters", in St. George's terrace. Then they moved into the house on the left-hand of the old West Australian Bank. (Foy and Gibson then David Jones have since occupied the spot where both houses stood.) They lived there until the Colonel's death in the seventies. Then Mrs. Bruce returned to England, living in London for some years with two of her daughters. When her daughter Emily married she left London for Stitford, where her son-in-law and daughter lived with her. She died there at the age of 96.

Mrs. Bruce was 30 years in India, 20 years in Australia, and the rest in England and Europe. She had a perilous adventure at the age of 90 when her attendant let her bath-chair run down a bank at the side of the road. It capsized and she was rendered unconscious for some time; but, in spite of that and of two black eyes, her first words on coming to were: "I hope I may have my beef tea at eleven as usual."

On her ninetieth birthday her daughter arranged for a large gathering of her remaining children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Mrs. Bruce was a great letter writer. People and her past life were her chief amusements. She took a keen interest in the doings of her friends and neighbours and was well known for her kindness. She was very charitable and would give to all who asked her, and founded the first society in Western Australia called the Dorcas Society. She was an excellent needle-woman but no housekeeper. She was a very handsome woman, very fair and tall, dressed always very well, and liked good clothes. Her correspondence and friends and her charities seem to have been her occupations and amusements. As a pre-Victorian she did not play any games beyond those associated with her fourteen suitors - who were, also, apparently all the pets she ever had. Her ideas on religion were a perfect belief in the Bible and its teachings.

Perth was a tiny place in the days when she lived there and Mrs. Bruce knew everyone from the Governor down to the working men and was a friend to all.

Mrs. Bruce had three daughters, born in India, and they were all married in the first year they were in Perth. The members of her family were (1) Elizaabeth Charlotte, who married, first -Urban Vigers, a lawyer in Perth who died two years later. She went to England, and married Charles Leithley, who died in 1878, leaving her with two boys and two girls. (2) Janie, who married Dr Galbraith, whose regiment was quartered here. She died shortly after the marriage. (3) Mary, who married Anthony O'Grady Lefroy, then private secretary to the Governor, afterwards Colonial Treasurer for 36 years. She had five children and died on June 22, 1913. (4) Clarrie, not married, who died in England. (5) Emily Helen, who married the Reverend Walter Hiley, with whom Mrs. Bruce lived in Stitford. (6) Edward, born in France, who married a daughter of General Webster of the Indian Army. He was known as Ned until he went to school in England. It is after him that Nedlands is named, the property was left to him by his father, and the streets in Nedlands proper are called after members of the Bruce family. He was Colonel of the 19th Bengal Lancers and died in England a few years after his mother. He had children. (7) Urban, who died in India as quite a young man, leaving one son. Mrs. Bruce had sixteen grandchildren.



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 St.,  
Bayswater 6053

Date.....

Please find attached my **2001/2002 Newsletter Subscription fee** of \$ 10.00  
( to the year ending 31st March 2002)

**Optional:**

I would like to make a donation to the Special Interest Group

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Total

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**WAGS Membership Number**

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### What about the Women?

In "The Veterans" Broomhall comments on the number of references to the plight of the wives and children of the Pensioners in Captain Bruce's correspondence. The wives of the Pensioners, especially those with children, were placed under enormous strain. Those Pensioners who were able to find work away from their army duties, were able to keep up a home, albeit a cottage at North Fremantle, York, Toodyay or Kojonup. The most unfortunate wives were those whose husbands succumbed to the temptations of drink, the lure of gold in the Eastern Colonies, or greener pastures elsewhere, and left their families destitute. Some Pensioners died of natural causes which was understandable when the age of the ex-soldiers and their circumstances was considered, but their wives were often left in dire circumstances.

Tom Stannage in his "People of Perth" cites cases of Pensioners' wives taking to prostitution in Perth to support themselves and family. Others joined groups of ticket-of-leave men, ex-pirees and other members of the poor class in card games, brawling, drinking and singing their way to 'oblivion or the lock up'.

Jane Hunt was one Pensioner's wife whose plight was documented. In 1862 a Request for Assistance was received on her behalf by the Colonial Secretary's Office. Jane's husband had ill-treated her and she moved in with another Pensioner, but both fell on hard times. She received temporary relief but was then to be admitted to the Poor House.

Mrs. McKiernan was the wife of Private John McKiernan previously of the 99th Regiment. He left his wife in desperate circumstances and Captain Bruce requested Captain Finnerty to look into the matter. He reported that McKiernan was a quarrelsome, violent character who had sold good land and bought useless property which would never yield any benefit. Captain Bruce felt her case should be considered for "private benevolence and not public almsgiving" and he and his Major subscribed 1 pound to be followed by an appeal to Perth Pensioners for help on her behalf.

Another unfortunate was John Hyland's widow Eliza. Private Hyland late of the 37th Regiment came to Western Australia in 1863 on the "Dalhousie". In 1868 he married Eliza who had already been widowed from Pensioner Michael Toohey. Unfortunately for Eliza, her second husband John Hyland also died aged 55 in 1874 leaving his wife and young son to fend for themselves. Eliza applied to the government for assistance, but she eventually found work in Guildford. Jenny Carter in her "Bassendean: a Social History" relates an incident in Eliza's life which illustrated how desperate widows were to obtain and keep work. On one occasion Eliza and son John were on their way by ferry to her work when young John fell into the river and the ferryman, a convict named William, rescued him. Because Eliza could not afford to be late or take time off work, she was obliged to leave her wet child in the care of the ferryman and carry on to work, collecting John on her way back later that day. Her concern for the safety of her child was unbearable. The threat of the Poor House loomed large over the lives of disadvantaged women.

In the case of Nora Fitzgerald, her misfortune led her to the Fremantle Lunatic Asylum. Nora with her husband and son came to Western Australia on the "Pyrenees" in 1851. Private Fitzgerald was stationed in Perth where he served as a guard for the convicts engaged in construction work. In 1860 he was admitted to hospital suffering from cancer. His wife and five children were sent to the Workhouse. After 5 months, due no doubt to the stress of having a terminally ill husband, no incoming money and with 5 children with no means of supporting them, Nora was recommended for removal to Fremantle Lunatic Asylum because the Medical Board were concerned for her safety. After 2 years in the Asylum, Nora did return to the Workhouse for convalescence where she was found to be 'very useful in attending to children at the Home'. No mention of whether that included her own 5 children! The ultimate fate of 34 year old Nora is not known.

There appears to have been a certain hostility of polite society towards Pensioners' wives. Pensioners' widows were inclined to remain among their own kind and were more likely to remarry single or widowed guards. Most of the official documents available with any reference to the women and children of the Pensioner Guards is mostly contained in court records and medical references because it was more important at the time to record the deeds and progress of male pioneers, soldiers and government officials than the women who accompanied and supported them, often doing the same work as the men in the fields, in home gardens and even in the construction of new cottages. One case records the husband requiring his wife to don his working clothes while helping him outside - she was not to be seen as a visible working partner, only appearing as a wife, homemaker and mother to his children, dressed no doubt appropriately!

By Jean McDonald      a descendant of Robert and Hannah Helliwell

## KINGS PARK RIFLE RANGE FOR THE PENSIONER GUARDS.

From Trish Bylsma, a member of our Special Interest Group

I joined the Kings Park Guides a few years ago after seeing an ad in the paper. The reason was, as I lived in Nedlands and near the University and Kings Park in childhood, Kings Park was an extra playground for us and the love of the bush was instilled. I thought I would like to be a guide as I knew a lot of history, particularly after doing Family History and discovering my early great grandfather was a Pensioner Guard and had some involvement with Kings Park. The flat area from just past the wishing well to the north and to the south was a rifle range for the Pensioner Guards. When they were having rifle practice a loud ring was made to alert the people and to keep them out of the way. Their rifle aim was a mound near or close to the main concourse.

The Barracks archway is the last remaining part of their accommodation in that area.

The course is quite comprehensive and concentrates a lot on the history of the park, we also learn a lot about the aborigines and their uses of plants for food and shelter. Whilst doing this I saw the opportunity to be a volunteer worker in the Science Laboratory, as I love Science, which I have done doing tissue culture etc. also got my Masters in gardening. All this has been an extra advantage to my guiding. We take tourists for a variety of walks.

Heritage Walk: Takes them along the escarpment involving the history and some exotic plants.

Botanic Walk: This walk takes you through the gardens and the water garden, also the Acacia, Marri and Tuart gardens.

Wildflower Trail: This walk takes you through the bushland and a variety of nature paths.

These walks are approx. 1hr - 1 1/2 hrs duration.

I would be pleased to take a group from our club for any of these walks.

*Trish has had discussions with members of the Kings Park Board with reference to having a commemorative plaque for the Pensioner Guard Rifle Range put on the site. She reports that they will be discussing it at the next board meeting, and she thinks that when it is ready, it would be nice to have a little ceremony for it.*

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### MEMBERS' SUBMISSIONS TO ASSIST YOU WITH YOUR RESEARCH.

**HEIC** Any soldier discharging to pension from the HEIC does NOT have a WO97/-. the HEIC soldiers receive a pension paid (but not automatically) from what is known as the Lord Clive Fund.

India was divided into three Presidencies - Bengal, Madras and Bombay, under the control of the HEIC and each had its own Army...Most of the HEIC EPG's who came to W.A. were from the Bengal Presidency. (From Sue Baddeley U.K.)

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### References to members of EPG in the records at Battye and State Records office WA

Several members have contributed to this file which is now in WAGS library. We particularly appreciate the time spent by Leanne Lee. It is still being added to, and well worth looking at. Jeanette has highlighted the names for easy checking.

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### Pensioner Lands file. (WAGS)

Almost complete. Indexed alphabetically by name and Location. Gives references for you to find the application documents for individual EPG where they had land, either free or purchased. We are endeavouring to have maps of all locations in the same file.

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### South Perth

Cec Florey has submitted a copy of the portion of his book "The Peninsular City" which relates to the Pensioner Village at South Perth. Any information relating to the EPG who had land at South Perth, please refer to us and/or the South Perth Historical Society at 111 Mill Point Rd, South Perth

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"The Army in Australia" by M.Austin is recommended reading by Michael Murrie-Jones, (Queensland) a Military researcher and collector with a particular interest in the accoutrements and uniforms of these forces. He says "It is a general historical work, but is well written and does contain some good basic information about Enrolled Pensioners.

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"Death in the 19th Century" by Marg Smith -History of Fremantle Cemeteries 1829 -1899

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"The Convict Ships and England's Exiles", by Colin Arnet Browning, 5th Edi. Hamilton Adams London1851. (Recommended by Robert Brittain)

## *Hashemy*

The Hashemy was the second convict ship carrying Pensioner Guards to arrive in Western Australia. The following data is submitted by Derrick I. Prall.

### "HASHEMY"

Sailing Vessel:

Built:	1817. Howra, Calcutta, Bengal (India)		
Tonnage:	479 (523)		
Hull:	Early Frigate	"	Material : Teak
Figure-Head	Male - Bust		Galleries: 2
Masts:	3		
Rig:	Ship	( 1846 changed to Barque )	
Decks	2	( Main deck and Prison Deck )	
		(There are of course, also the Upper deck and Hold)	
Length:	124.3ft.		
Beam:	50.6ft.		
Draught:	15.0ft (2 1/2 fathoms)		

### ENROLLED PENSIONER FORCE (DETACHMENT No. 2).

Ex. Tilbury Fort, Embarked Gravesend 12-7-1850

Commandant	Captain	BRUCE, John
Guard Commander	Serjeant Major	Brown., Thomas
Guards	Serjeant	1
	Rank and File	30

Wives 24

Childrem 49

(E.P.F. named:	HAYDEN Louisa	Born at sea
	COSTELLO Margaret	Died at sea
	CAMPBELL Christine	" " "
	CARROLL William	" " "

**PRISONERS** ex Portland 22-7-1850  
Prisoners 100

Surgeon -Superintendent	Dr. William T. Bowler	RN
Master	Capt. John Ross	MN
Religious Instructor	Rev. Matthew Fletcher	C of E
Crew	41	
Voyage:	Sailed	23-7-1850
	Anchored	25.10 1850
	Debarked	26-10-1950

**Submitted by Jean McDonald**

At our EPG Group meeting on 22 October 2000, I spoke about my ancestor, Robert Helliwell losing more than 50 pounds to the misappropriation of monies by his superior officer Captain Vaughan Foss, who had arrived on the "William Jardine" in 1852. He held office as Assistant to Captain John Bruce and Staff Officer-in-charge of Pensioners.

Mr. Wallace Bickley, a prominent Fremantle Merchant brought a case against Captain Foss for money owing and Captain Foss was brought before a Court Martial, with Private Helliwell (Holywell) being called to give evidence at the Court. Captain Foss was subsequently discharged from the Army and left the Colony in disgrace.

There were other members of the Pensioner Force who lost their savings to the dishonesty and foolhardiness of Captain Foss, including John Murphy, John Henthorn, Hugh McCann, John Denman, Patrick Kilmurray, William Whitehouse. The Pensioners recorded as having also lost money who arrived with Robert Helliwell on the "William Hammond" in April 1856 included Corporal Donovan, Henry Portlock, Robert Sly and Stephen Hogan.

As a follow up to the comments made by Mr. Bickley and other witnesses, it is interesting to note in Broomhall's "The Veterans" that Captain Bruce, Commanding Officer of the Pensioner Force was moved to offer words of support for his Assistant Officer Captain Foss, saying that perhaps Mr. Wallace Bickley was offended by having put his faith in a British Officer and having been duped, whereas Mr. Bickley may have perhaps contributed in some way by his own 'imprudent pursuit of gain'. There are other instances of Captain Bruce supporting and standing up for his men, officers and enlisted men alike.

It appears that Captain Foss left the Colony and was reported to have died in New South Wales. Descendants of his were believed to have equitted themselves with honour and distinction while serving in the Great War. Three brothers served in the AIF, one receiving the Military Cross and another being mentioned in despatches. All three served their country gallantly and ultimately lost their lives on the Western Front. Author Broomhall mentioned he had contact with Foss relatives and he had in his possession a letter from Miss. N. foss. It would seem Captain Foss had more than his Commanding Officer to stand up for him.

In the case of Wallace Bickley, he eventually served as a Member of the Legislative Council for Fremantle for years 1872-1876 He was a successful business man representing Lloyds and various shipping firms along with his other many business interests. A suburb in the hills of Perth still bears his name.

**Sources:** "The Veterans" by F.H. Broomhall, Hesperian Press 1989  
CO/18/98 July 1856

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**EVERYONE HAS A STORY TO TELL.....**Please share with us a story about your EPG and his family. There will be someone else who had an ancestor that shared that time and place. The resources that you used in your research may help someone else. **ALTERNATIVELY, HOW CAN WE HELP YOU TO LEARN MORE ABOUT YOUR EPG ?**

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**MAPS:** If any member has a map of the Pensioner Village where their EPG had his land, and would like to share it with us we would appreciate it. We have copies of North Fremantle, Guildford, Kojonup We would also like to build up a 'display' to put up wherever we as a group meet for reunions etc., and would like copies of photoes of guards and their families and houses, and any memorabilia which can demonstrate the lives our Pensioner Guard families lived.