

EPG GAZETTE

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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/
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Relief of Lucknow

1857

A Short Synopsis (Part 2)

In the last issue we left the defenders of the Residency in dire circumstances with little hope of surviving the constant pressure from the sepoys.

First Relief of Lucknow (Reinforcement)

Sir Henry Havelock (1795-1857) had command of about **1000 European** troops when he planned his relief operation for Lucknow. He left about 300 troops under command Colonel Neil to defend a fortified position near the Ganges River and on the 25th July 1857 set forth towards Lucknow. However, he met strong resistance and his force **was reduced by disease** and he had to return on the 13th August to Cawnpore when the sepoys again threatened the city. The pressure was somewhat relieved when reinforcements started to arrive under the command of Major General Sir James Outram (1803-1863). Outram was supposed to relieve Havelock however; Outram **consented for Havelock to continue to command the relief force.** On the 18th and 19th September, Havelock and Outram set forth to Lucknow with a significantly larger

force made up from the 5th, 64th, 78th (The Highlanders) 84th and the 90th Regiments of Foot, a Sikh Battalion, three artillery batteries and 168 volunteer cavalry. The relief force strength was 3179 troops. Resistance was still strong and the column had to fight many battles before entering the city on the 25th September. Tough fighting continued in the city as the British advance inched towards the Residency **which was entered by nightfall.** The lead troops were the 78th (Highlanders) and in the furious push to enter the Residency bayoneted a few loyal sepoys. The advance contingent of the relief force consisting of 2000 men suffered enormous casualties during the advance to the Residency including 535 killed and **wounded on the 25th September.** As a result the relief force became a battle weary reinforcement group not capable of removing the invalids and non-combatants **from the Residency.** The situation was relieved a little when a large stock of supplies were found under the Residency however; the Residency remained **under siege.**

Regiments of the Line (1st Relief)

The **5th (Northumberland Fusiliers) Regiment of Foot** was in Mauritius in 1847 and moved to India in 1857. After its deployment to Lucknow it remained in India until 1860 when it was redeployed to St Helena. The **64th (2nd Staffordshire) Regiment of Foot** was in India in 1848 and deployed to Persia in 1856 only to return to India in 1857. The **78th (Highland) Regiment of Foot** was stationed in Burnley, England in 1841 and moved to Bombay and Poona the same year. The unit was then at Scinde, India in 1842 and Karachi 1843, Kirkee and Poona in 1844-1845, Belgaum 1847-1849 then Poona in 1853. The unit saw service in Persia in 1857 but also returned to Bengal, India before joining Havelock's force. It remained in India until 1859 when it returned to Scotland. The **90th (Perthshire Volunteers) Regiment of Foot** was en route to China in the spring of 1857 but was diverted to Berhampore, Bengal in India. Detachments of the 90th quickly joined Havelock's relief force for Lucknow. After the capture of Lucknow in 1858 the **90th** stayed long in India returning to England in 1869.

2nd Relief of Lucknow

Sir Colin Campbell, the new Commander in Chief arrived at Cawnpore on the **3rd** November 1857 to take personal command of the second relief force. Campbell organized 5000 men structured as three infantry brigades, (**5th**, **8th**, **23rd**, **64th**, **75th**, **78th**, **82nd**, **84th**, **90th** and **93rd**) one cavalry brigade (**7th** Queens own Hussars), (**9th** Queens Royal Lancers) and one artillery brigade including eight heavy guns from the Naval Brigade making a total of 49 guns. The Naval brigade was under command Captain William Peel, the son of the former Prime Minister. Some of the force was made up from unit detachments/reinforcements that did not join Havelock's relief force. This explains why in some references it appears that some units were in two places at the same time. By now the total rebel force numbered over 30,000 but they were still uncoordinated and mostly occupied the city of Lucknow.

Campbell planned to avoid the city by approaching the Residency through Dilusha

Park and the School of Martiniere. After these positions were secured, Campbell's force attacked the position of Secundrabagh where the artillery fire from the Naval Brigade guns allowed the **93rd** Highlanders, part of the **53rd**, the **4th** Punjab Infantry and various other detachments to storm the walls. The result was a horrific defeat for the rebels with up to 2000 being killed in this battle alone. Twenty-four Victoria Crosses were awarded for this single action of the **16th** November 1857. On the **17th** November the heavy guns of the Naval Brigade bombarded further positions allowing the infantry to progress forward to the Residency. Havelock and Outram with six other officers dashed across the open space from the Residency under enemy fire to meet Campbell. When the three generals met surrounded by soldiers, Havelock announced in a singularly unembellished sentence, "Soldiers, I am glad to see you." Campbell decided that the city was to be abandoned. The relief force made no attempt to enter the Residency, instead it pacified the city long enough for the inhabitants to be withdrawn. The withdrawal commenced on the **18th** **19th** November much of which was made under enemy fire. During the withdrawal, Havelock died of a sudden onset of dysentery on the **23rd** November 1857. The entire army force and convoy moved firstly to Alambagh and then on to Cawnpore. The first siege had lasted 87 days and the second a further 61 days. Lucknow was given up to the rebels and they held control during the winter until Campbell returned and the city was retaken on the **21st** March 1858.

Regiments of the Line (2nd Relief)

7th Queens own Hussars The unit was in India in 1841 and served at the Gwalior Campaign in 1843 and the Sikh War in 1845. After the Sepoy Rebellion it returned to England in 1859. **9th Queens Royal Lancers**. Deployed to India for the rebellion and returned to England in 1870. **8th Regiment of Foot** In England 1843 then to India 1846. The unit was at Delhi at the start of the rebellion with the capture of Ludlow Castles in September 1857. After the relief of Lucknow, the unit was part of the force for the capture of Cawnpore in December 1857. In July 1857 renamed **8th** (the Kings)

CONVENOR'S REPORT

Regiment of Foot. The 8th moved to Malta in 1860 only to return to India later in the year and remained until 1878. **23rd (Royal Welsh Fusiliers) Regiment of Foot** Was in China in 1857 and deployed to India specifically for the Sepoy Rebellion. Returned to England in 1869. **53rd (the Shropshire) Regiment of Foot** In Ireland in 1843 then to India in 1844. The unit was deployed to the Sikh Wars, at the Peshawar Frontier 1851-53 and Calcutta at the start of the rebellion. After the relief of Lucknow the unit returned for the capture of the city in March 1858. Five Victoria Crosses were awarded for the Indian Mutiny. Returned to Devonport, England in 1860 and then to Ireland 1864. **75th Regiment of Foot.** In Ireland 1845 and India 1849. At Delhi at start of the rebellion. After the relief of Lucknow the unit returned for the capture of the city in March 1858. The 75th returned to England in 1862. **82nd (Prince of Wales Volunteers) Regiment of Foot.** In Canada at Fort York 1844-46. In England in 1856 and deployed to India through Singapore in July 1857. After Sepoy Rebellion deployed to Aden in 1869 and England 1870. **93rd (Highlanders) Regiment of Foot.** Deployed to India in 1857 specifically for the Sepoy Rebellion. Served at Peshawar 1861, Umbeyla Campaign 1863, Peshawar 1864 and Central India 1867. The 93rd returned to Scotland in 1870.

Medals

The combatants at the Defence of Lucknow 1857, the Relief of Lucknow 1857 and the subsequent routing of the rebels from Lucknow in 1858 were entitled to the Indian Mutiny Medal 1857-59. Three clasps were issued, "DEFENCE OF LUCKNOW", "RELIEF OF LUCKNOW" AND "LUCKNOW".

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

There has recently been very public discussion in the media and among interested parents and academics on the content of school education programmes. Opinions are so varied it would appear a solution acceptable to all parties is some way off.

Can we as a Group offer some assistance? Perhaps not actively in the sciences or specialized mathematical areas, BUT we can partake in a solution in the social science area — **HISTORY.**

Have YOU put YOUR family story into your computer or your diary? Have you told your children or grandchildren tales of 'days gone by'?

NOW is a good time to start — your Pensioner Guard ancestor played an integral part in the early history of Western Australia. Whether he was a success or a failure in his endeavours to make a new life in a new colony, his experiences are YOUR family history.

Your Pensioner Guard's record of military service is as important to your children, nieces and nephews as is the military service of their father, uncles and brothers in the recent and current global conflicts we hear and read about every day.

Our Group would be more than happy to receive a copy of your Pensioner Guard family history to add to the 60 plus stories already received by members and available on the shelves of the W.A. Genealogical Society Library shelves. Hand written, typed or by email, all are acceptable. By chance, 'your man' may already have details of his history in the files.

Keep a copy or two for your family — they may not at present have the time or the interest to listen or help. Life can be a merry-go-round sometimes, but your story will be available when they do have the

desire to know where Grandma or Grandpa came from.

We can offer limited assistance to members — our "Guide to Finding Your Pensioner Guard" has been updated by Jeanette Lee and is available for the cost of a stamp. Under W.A. Genealogical Research Guide Lines, Ten Dollars is the usual fee charged for basic research.

Make a move along the history road to discovery — play your part in the education of our children.

PROJECTS FOR 2007 proposed by your Group will include:

Bassendean Pensioner Guard Cottage — new panels in the cottage and promotion of the site in liaison with Bassendean Council through Paul Bridges' Interpretation Plan.

Toodyay Pensioner Guard Cottages — in co-operation with the Toodyay Historical Society, a plaque or signage to illustrate the involvement of the Pensioner Guards in the history of Toodyay area.

EPG Data Base — Continued input into the records of those Pensioner Guards who served in Western Australia, and their current researchers.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING and GENERAL MEETING SATURDAY 21st April 1 p.m. W.A. Genealogical Society, 48 May Street, Bayswater.

All members of your Committee have expressed their willingness to renominate for positions. However, it is essential for the ongoing existence of our very active and successful Group that members also show an active interest by submitting their names forward to assist on Committee.

I first joined the W.A. Genealogical in 1984 while researching my Pensioner Guard ancestor, Robert Helliwell (Hollywell). When The Genealogical Society moved from their premises in Hay Street, West Perth to Bayswater, I found it difficult to access their new Library. Family commitments also increased. My membership lapsed until 1999 when I responded to an advertisement in the newspaper seeking expressions of interest in Pensioner Guards — the rest is history (that word again!).

On a personal note, if re-elected for this coming year — 2007, my intention is to stand down next year. In effect this will be my last year as Convenor. I have 'been in the chair' since early 2002. My original election was to fill in for a 'short time'. That time is nearly up and I have other commitments which also take time.

I would be more than happy to support and assist a new **Deputy Convenor**, who would be prepared to take on that role, hopefully with the aim of taking over as Convenor in 2008. The job is not an onerous one, there is pleasure in meeting people and learning more about our illustrious Pensioner Guard ancestors, being involved in outside projects and having use of the facilities at W.A.G.S.

Of course I would be prepared, and honoured to stay on Committee (if elected) in 2008 and still take part in meetings and the occasional off site lunch!

Please give my comments your serious consideration.

Jean McDonald

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

At the Annual General Meeting on Saturday 21 April, at 1.00pm, all positions will be declared vacant. New members with new ideas are required.

We are required to fill the following positions:

Convenor
Deputy Convenor
Treasurer
Secretary
Newsletter editor
Researcher
Committee Members

There are only **four** General Meetings and **four** committee meetings a year,

TILBURY FORT

Tilbury Fort is of special interest to the Enrolled Pensioners as many Enrolled Pensioners embarked from Tilbury on at least 20 ships and at least a further six ships left from Gravesend, just a ferry ride across the river. (There has been a ferry across the Thames in the parishes of East and West Tilbury since **at least Roman Times.**) Therefore, many Pensioners would have stayed at the Fort for at least one or two nights before embarking on their ship to sail to the Swan River Colony.

The artillery fort at Tilbury on the Thames estuary protected London's seaward approach from the 16th century through to World War II. It has been termed the "Key to London"

Henry VIII built the first fort here, and Queen Elizabeth famously rallied her army nearby to face the threat of the Armada with her famous speech, "I know I have the body of a weak and feeble woman, but I have the heart and stomache of a king and a king of England too."

After the English Civil war King Charles II was exiled in Holland where he was influenced by European advances in military architecture. Following the disastrous 1667 Dutch attack on the English fleet moored on the nearby Medway - Charles II set in motion the re-fortification of the site by employing Dutchman Sir Bernard De Gomme who had been engineer in the Royalist army during the civil war and who followed Charles into exile.

The area around Tilbury is marshland so for protection they built Double Moats. The fort mounted powerful artillery to command the river, as well as landward defences. Later, two

magazines were constructed to store vast quantities of gunpowder.



Aerial View

After the Battle of Culloden in 1746, over 3 000 prisoners were shipped, on seven ships in bad repair, to England for trial. Three hundred of these prisoners were imprisoned in the redundant gunpowder magazine building in the south-east bastion of Tilbury Fort. There were only twenty prisoners selected for trial by lots.

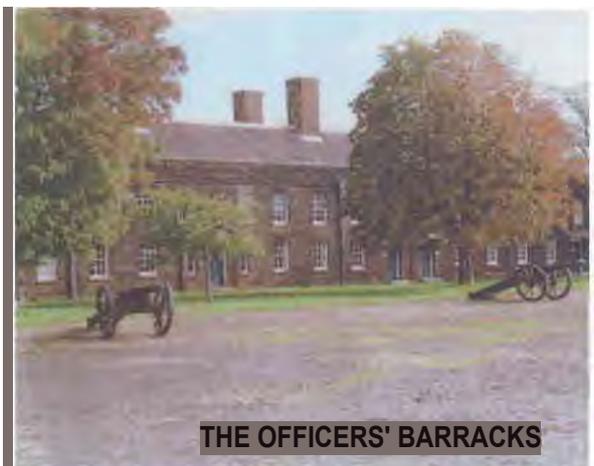


The Water Gate

Perhaps because of its strength, Tilbury Fort has never been involved in the kind of action for which it was designed. The worst bloodshed within the fort occurred in 1776, when a fight following a Kent-Essex cricket match left a cricketer and the fort's sergeant dead.

During the period when the EPG were embarking from the fort, Tilbury was undergoing refurbishment with new Rifled Muzzle-Loading (RML) Cannon, new magazines and wall reinforcements. The guns were mostly 9 inch calibre but there was one 11 inch, which weighed 25 tons.

Simultaneously **new forts were constructed down stream** so Tilbury became the second line of defence.



In 1857 an Army Sanitary Commission was established to review sanitation in England's forts. It would appear to have been needed as the description of Tilbury at that time was: Sanitation was in the form of a communal toilet — called the bog house — and a cold wash under the pump on the parade ground. Barrack rooms could be quite unpleasant places with an atmosphere thick with the smell of food, pipe and coal smoke, candle wax, damp clothes, body odour, dirty feet and the wooden tub that served as the night urinal. The commission led to gradual improvement: married quarters, proper toilets, running water and washrooms

together with recreation and reading rooms.

Tilbury Fort is now in the care of English Heritage and is open to the public.

There are several excellent web sites on Tilbury Fort, including the English Heritage site. Another good site for photos is:

<http://iohnsmilitaryhistory.com/tilbury1.html>

Thanks to Sue Baddeley and Ron Sutton for their resources.

References:

Tilbury Fort Guide Book, English Heritage, London, 2004.

Ormson, J.M. The Five Minute Crossing The Tilbury — Gravesend Ferries, Thurrock Local History Society, 1992, Essex, England.

<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/server/show/ConProperty.48>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tilbury>

<http://members.aol.com/jrtsales/fort.htm>

Editor

STORY TO TELL

Everyone has a story to tell. Please share with us a story about your Enrolled Pensioner Guard and his family. There will be someone else who had an ancestor who shared that time and place. The resources that you used in your research may help someone else.

Send your story either by email to rhsmith@aapt.net.au or post to Enrolled Pensioner Guards, A special Interest Group of the Western Australian Genealogical Society Inc., Unit 6/48 May Street, Bayswater 6053

SPEAKERS

The committee welcome suggestions for speakers and subjects for our General Meetings. What subject would help you understand the life and times of your Enrolled Pensioner Guard?

DEMOLITION OF THE PENSIONER BARRACKS, FREMANTLE

When I was a small child, in the early 1940's, my mother used to take me to visit my grandfather who lived in one of the tiny terrace houses next to Duffs Wine Saloon on the corner of South Terrace and Suffolk Street. On our walk down South Terrace my eye was drawn to a large dilapidated building on the east side of the street that my mother told me was the Old Base Hospital. At this time it housed people who were unable to find other accommodation either through financial hardship or illness.

As my grandfather died in 1947 the visits to this part of Fremantle became no more, it was not until I began to be interested in our Pensioner Guards the building again entered into my life as being the original Fremantle Barracks that housed our Pensioner guards. I found the site was now occupied by the Stan Reilly Centre, no evidence of the former building remained, not even a memorial plaque, although, there is one for a badminton club that had previously operated there. I could not recall when it was abolished.

Unlike the Pensioner Barracks, Perth, there was no public outcry, I could not find one voice raised in opposition when the Industrial Salvage Company Ltd., of North Fremantle wrote to the Secretary of the Public Works on 25 February 1955 advising their interest of buying the building for salvage purposes.

On March 11, 1955 The Under Secretary for works advised the Industrial Salvage Company no decision on the future of the Old Base Hospital had been made and they were still in the process of removing the last of the tenants. There was also the problem of the Police Boys Club

occupying a detached building at the rear on a monthly tenancy.

On June 10 the Minister for Housing wrote to the Minister for Works `.... the last inhabitants of the old base Flats at Fremantle has now left and the way clear for the eyesore to be demolished

The West Australian, Wednesday, August 10, 1955 contained the following notice:

OLD FLATS WILL GO IN FREMANTLE

The old Base Flats in South Terrace, Fremantle which were used as an Army base hospital in WW1, are likely to disappear soon.

The PWD has called for tenders for the purchase of the building.

It is believed that the Government wants to make it clear the site, possibly to make it into a car park.

The old flats are wooden fronted, dilapidated and very ugly. Fremantle residents have for long regarded them as an eyesore.

They were among the most decorated of Fremantle's buildings during the Royal Tour — evidently as a special patriotic effort to hide their ugliness.

Part of the flats was occupied by the Fremantle Police & Citizen's Boys Club until the middle of last month, when the Works dept. gave the club notice to

quit. The previous tenants had left the premises some months earlier.

The Industrial Salvage Pty., Ltd., tendered £101 made up of £95 for the demolition of the Old Base hospital and £6 for an adjoining building, the old school quarters.

The Public Works gave the reason for recommending sale of the building as 'no further use' their present value being £101. The amount of time allowed for the demolition was sixteen weeks from October 13 1855 and the finishing date was quoted as February 2, 1956.

The Industrial Salvage Company had no idea of the solid construction of the old convict built buildings and the difficulties they were to encounter; by February 29 they had to request an extension of three months to the original term, however, by April 4 events were still not going to plan and the Principal Architect overseeing the demolition wrote:

'....progress of demolition still very slow, all the roofing has been removed, and the stone walls to the 2 story building facing South Street are still standing up, also the demolition to premises in Hampton road is at the same stage. I consider the work of removal will take approx another 2 months

C. Pelgrim, Architect.

By June 7, progress was beginning to be made and they had now demolished the surrounding stone walls but it was not until November 15, 1956 more than a year after the commencement date that the contract was finally completed to the satisfaction of the Department for Works.

The Industrial Salvage Company had the penalty clauses waived after advising the Land Resumption Officer

'We regret the delay in getting the job completed but we hasten to point out that it was of a greater magnitude than expected, and we encountered many unforeseen difficulties. The removal of the stone presented our greatest problem, and also was the cause of the company making a loss on the project.'

In June 1960 the future of the site had not been settled when Barry Heyward, of the WA Amusement Coy. applied for a six weeks licence to rent the area for a fun fair. Ultimately the building chosen to be built on the site was again for pensioners, but this time aged, not Military, when the Stan Reilly Centre was erected. The site is again in the melting pot as Fremantle Council are in a redevelopment process.

After 1880 when the Fremantle Pensioner Barracks passed from the Imperial Government into the hands of the Colonial Government and was no longer used to house Pensioner Guards it had a multitude of uses, Immigration Hostel, Fever Hospital for the typhoid epidemics of the 1890's, Hospital for WW1 veterans, and a home for the disadvantaged amongst others. It was a monumental tragedy no one had the vision to see beyond the superficial degradation to the wealth of local history we lost with the demolition of this building. I have only found one photograph, circa, 1920 of the building.

Information for this article can be found in the State Record Office of Western Australia AN 7, Cons 689, Item 1549

Jeanette Lee

RECEIPTS

Your EPG Newsletter subscription receipt will be posted with the following newsletter. Those that receive their Newsletter by email will be emailed the receipt number

GERALDTON TOUR

David Meadowcroft has again offered his services by organizing a fantastic tour of the Geraldton area.

Here is the current itinerary for the WAGS Enrolled Pensioner Groups trip to Geraldton in **September 2007**.

Duration 4 days -Departs from WAGS on Monday 3 Sept, Geraldton 4th, 5th and return on Thursday 6th Sept

COST: \$450 per person

Accommodation:

Shared, self-contained units in Geraldton

Food:

Breakfast supplied - cereal, toast, jam, tea and coffee.

Morning tea supplied

Lunch - bring / buy your own

Dinner - Day 1 - Casserole, fruit and custard, tea and coffee

Dinner - Day 2 - BBQ

Dinner - Day 3 - BBQ

Current **Itinerary** - subject to some changes

Day 1 Depart from WAGS at 08:00 sharp - (Note - you will not be able to leave vehicles here)

Morning Tea - GinGin

Lunch - Moora

Dongara

Overnight (and every night) Geraldton

Day 2 As confirmed with Stan GRATTE of Geraldton

Day 3 Northampton / Nabawa | Mullewa / Pindar

Day 4 Walkaway / Elendale Pool | Windfarm / Miningew / New Norcia | WAGS

Note - like the last trip, there is a maximum of 18 places.

The trip costs have been kept as low as possible to hopefully make it easier for all to participate.

At this price of \$450 for 4 days (approx 110 a day) where as most tours are around the \$200-250 per day mark!

Please advise Jean (Email jeanmc2@bidpond.com or phone 9450 4304) very early of your intention to go, as I repeat, there are only 18 places!

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

APRIL **Saturday 21st**
Annual General Meeting

JULY **Saturday 21st**

OCTOBER **Saturday 20th**

**ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING plus GENERAL
MEETING**

Saturday 21 April at 1.00pm in Unit 4, May St,
Bayswater.

Have you any memorabilia such as photos, rifles, part of uniforms etc, from your Pensioner Guard, to show at this meeting? Please bring and share. This meeting is to share memorabilia not profiles.

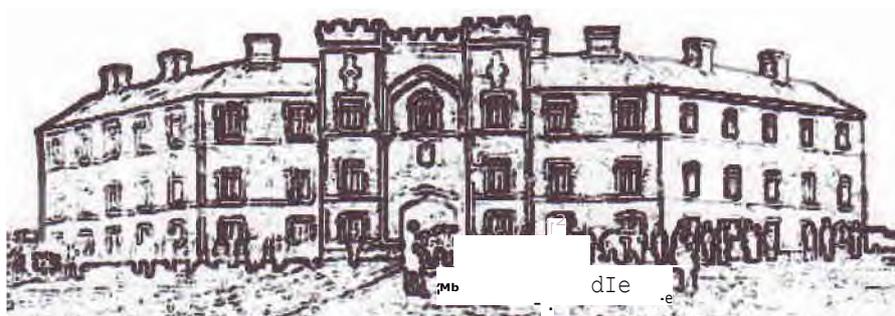
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Proposed tour to Geraldton 3 — 6th September



Pensioner Barracks & Parade 1860 (WA Museum)

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

NOMINATION FOR COMMITTEE 2007/08

Nominations are called for WAGS members who are registered with an interest in an Enrolled Pensioner Guard to serve on the Committee. If the number of persons nominated for each position does not exceed the number of vacancies, those persons shall be duly elected. If there are insufficient nominations, or; nominations exceed the number of vacancies, elections will be conducted at the Annual General Meeting to be held on the 21st April 2007.

Part I

I nominate. _____ for the position of.....
(Convenor — Deputy Convenor — Secretary — Treasurer — Newsletter Editor
Research Officer - Committee Member x 2)

Signed. _____ Date. _____

I second the above nomination.

Signed..... Date.

I accept the nomination for election to the committee in the position
of

Signed..Date.....

Part 2

_____ .nominate myself for election to the committee
in the position of

Signed . _____ Date

I second the above nomination.

Signed. _____ .Date.....