

EPG GAZETTE

January, 2008 Vol 8 No 1



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
ISSN 1443-945X

Editor: Beth Smith
Telephone 9450 5872
rhsmith@aapt.net.au

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I was very pleased to see the article by Ron Sutton on the Khyber Pass and the 1st Afghan War as my great great grandfather EPG Daniel McIntyre was a soldier in the 13th regiment of foot and was awarded two medals, one for the gun action of Jellalabad and the other for the recapture of Kabul.

WAGS Library¹ has a copy of the regimental records for the 13th Regiment of Foot that states when the regiment returned to India it was feted and welcomed as heroes.

“on the 17th December, 1842, the Regiment crossed the Sutlej, by the bridge of boats, and on the opposite side passed under a Triumphal arch, and received a hearty welcome from Lord Ellenborough, the Governor-General. The road for the next six miles was lined by troops who presented arms as the Regiment passed, the bands playing the National Anthem. The Governor-General’s order was as follows-

The Governor-General will request his Excellency the

Commander-in- Chief of the Army to give instructions in due time, that the several corps composing the garrison of Jellalabad, may on their return to India, be received at all stations at their route to their cantonments, by all troops, on such station, in review order with presented arms”.

Such were the days of glory, Daniel died in the poorhouse at Tullamore, Ireland.

Regards
Jeanette Lee

ANTIQUÉ ARMS & ARMOUR

Come and hear Dr Leo Laden speak on antique weaponry history, design modifications, and improvements.

His talk commences with the matchlocks used by the Dutch at the time of the Batavia wreck to the famous Brown Bess flintlock muskets.

This is a must. Mark your Diary Saturday 23 February 2008 at 1.00pm

¹ (WAGS ref UK REG 4096)

Soldiers and Quilting

Ron Sutton

One tends to accept that patchwork quilting is vested with women folk, however; history tends to correct our misconceptions. There is all English quilting tradition of men making quilts from soldiers uniforms which, prior to the introduction of khaki after the Boer War, provided a good supply of colorful woolen materials. This article examines the history of one such quilt made from soldier's uniforms.

The patchwork quilt shown is made from small square patches of even size, cut from the black, red, yellow and white woolen fabric of 19th century military uniform jackets and trousers of the 90th Regiment of Foot. Square patches are the simplest shapes for piecing together to form a patchwork quilt. The diagonal relationship of the small patches of this quilt, within the larger square block format creates a pleasing effect.



The quilt was probably designed by its makers, said to be ex soldiers or their wives of the 90th who migrated to Tasmania after the Crimean War, The

Veteran's were offered land in the Westbury and Deloraine areas of Tasmania. An estimate of the date of manufacture of the quilt is put at about the 1870 mark.

The 90th Regiment of Foot was originally raised as Colonel Morgan's 90th 'Irish Light Infantry in Ireland about 1759 however; it was disbanded in 1763. A second 90th was formed for the American War of Independence and disbanded in 1783. The third was raised in 1794 as the "Perthshire Volunteers". In the early 19th Century the 90th served in various exotic places such as St Vincent, Martinique, Guadaloupe, Grenada and Canada. The unit served under Wellington in Paris returning to England in 1816. Then it was another merry go round of tours of duties in Malta, Ionian Islands, Ceylon and the Cape.

The regiment landed at Balaklava in the Crimea on the 5th December 1854 and bore a distinguished part throughout the

siege of Sevastopol, including the attack on the Quarries and the assault of the 8th September 1855. The unit returned home in 1856. On the way to China in 1857

the unit was diverted to Bengal and were in the thick of things at the relief of Lucknow, in the defence of the Alumbagh, and at the subsequent siege and capture of Lucknow. The 90th remained long in India and did not return home until 1869.

There is no record of how this quilt was used. It is said to have spent most of its life since it was made stitched into a canvas sail bag. The quilt was discovered in Tasmania and had come through the family of Stan McDougal, a Victoria Cross winner of World War 1. A Tasmanian collector acquired the quilt for his wife and in 1982 it was subsequently acquired by Pierre Durand, a military historian. The quilt was purchased by the Powerhouse Museum, Darling Harbour, Sydney in 1998, registration No 98/48/1

Copyright.

Some Powerhouse Museum images and text have been used for this article. They have been reproduced in this newsletter for our subscriber's research, education and study purposes only and are not to be used in any form for commercial use. The author acknowledges Powerhouse Museum's copyright for this article.

At right >>> Uniform of the 90th Regiment of Foot c1850-1870.



Wear a copy of the badge your ancestor wore.

EPG BADGES



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

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 that shared that time and place. The resources that you used in your research may help someone else. *Send your story to the editor.*

CONVENORS REPORT

NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2008

Our last meeting for the year 2007 was addressed by Graeme Sisson and Filson Becket of the Police History Society. Their well received presentation included display boards with a selection of historic photos relative to buildings and events in the police history of W.A., some of which had not been seen by members. Their willingness to answer queries was also appreciated by those members present.

Our next General Meeting to be held on 23 February has the potential to be of great interest to members.

Speaker Leo Laden is a collector of Antique Arms & Armour and Leo has offered a 'hands on living history session' illustrating how the ancestors of our Enrolled Pensioner Guards would have been instructed to use their weapons. **MARK YOUR CALENDAR.**

We can look back on the last year with a degree of pride in our combined efforts to record and recognise the role played by the Enrolled Pensioner Force in the growth of this great State. As in all communities there will be those who for many reasons do not adapt to unsettling changes in their lives. However, it may be said that the major proportion of the more than twelve hundred ex British soldiers who enrolled to come to Western Australia, initially as guards for the convicts, remained and established their own dynasties. Research by members has uncovered stories of

bravery, resilience and success of their ancestor in the early history of this great state.

As a group, we can take pride in their endeavours.

We can also take pride in the efforts of your Committee who have played no small part in the reputation now held by the Enrolled Pensioner Guard, Special Interest Group.

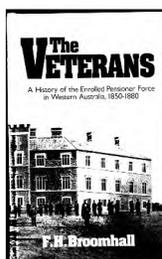
The Group's financial position is considered to be healthy and suggestions for projects in 2008 will be tabled at our Annual General Meeting scheduled for Saturday 19 April.

We look forward with confidence to a productive year and once again offer an interesting part-time position on our Committee to any member who has the same belief in the importance of promoting interest in the history of this great State of Western Australia. With respect to our recently deceased premier, Sir Charles Court.

Jean McDonald

EPG Reference

The standard reference on the Enrolled Pensioner Guard is available from the EPG Special Interest Group



This book by F. H. Broomhall is a must for all who are interested in the history of the Enrolled Pensioner Force in Western Australian between 1850 and 1880.

Price \$45.00 plus postage.

JOHN LAW DAVIS AND HIS FAMILY

John Law Davis, the son of a tanner named Benjamin Davis, was born in Wales in about 1827. He served as a private in a West India Company regiment and was eventually inducted into the Enrolled Pensioner Force. He arrived in WA on the 'Dudbrook', February 7, 1853 (1). Davis served briefly as a WA Police Force constable in Perth later in the year (2). As will be seen, his grandson revived this common EPF and police connection.

John Davis married Amelia, daughter of Peter Wood, in Perth on July 3, 1856. They had quite a large family – four sons and three daughters. One daughter, also named Amelia, married William Young, the son of another pensioner soldier (3).

John Davis was made caretaker of the EPF cottages at Guildford on November 27, 1857. Several cottages were built in the vicinity of Surrey Street and North Road, but only one was still standing by the 1940s. Among them was one called 'The Retreat', which was used by caretaker Davis. Recently Special Interest group member Ian Barnes took a fine photograph of the last cottage during a 'dig' in October 2007 (4).

EPF man Davis acquired a land allotment at West Guildford (Bassendean) in 1864, but died in his early 40s in 1870 (5). One of his sons was Benjamin Davis (1863-1930), who was in turn the father of Ernest William Davis (born Perth 1886), a public servant who began work as a messenger in the WA Police Force and eventually ended up as a member of the Police Commissioner's office staff (6). He was a clerk in the records section early in World War 1 and resigned to enlist. No doubt to his

extreme annoyance, he was rejected because of varicose veins. Davis then worked as a labourer until having another try. In early 1916 the army medical people were not so fussy – he was recruited into the 1 AIF and served in the 44 Battalion of Infantry.

Davis proved to be a first rate soldier and was promoted to sergeant in 1917 after surviving a bad bullet wound. One of the men serving with him was former police constable William Casterton, who later wrote a graphic letter to their mutual friend Constable Innes in Perth describing the sad but gallant death of Ernest Davis.

He was in the forefront of a night attack near Corbie on the Somme on the night of March 28, 1918 when his company was caught by enemy machine gun fire. Casterton wrote that Davis turned to his men and said 'I am hit, but carry on'. Davis then collapsed and died; his remains were never found (7). The story of this grandson of an EPF member is quite typical – so many young men of his ilk carried on a strong family service tradition from one generation to another.

- (1) Broomhall, F.H. *The Veterans* (Hesperian Press, 1989), B73; *Bicentennial Dictionary of Western Australians*, Vol.2, D-G, p781.
- (2) Bentley, M. *Grandfather was a Policeman* (Hesperian Press, 1993), p36.
- (3) Broomhall, B303.
- (4) Broomhall, B73; Thomas, A.L. *A History of Bassendean* (Bassendean Road board, 1947), p13; Carter, J. *Bassendean: a Social History 1829-1979* (Town of Bassendean, 1986), pp54, 57.
- (5) Guildford Land Application Deed 2017; Broomhall, B74.
- (6) *Bicentennial Dictionary*, Vol.2, D-G, pp776 and Western Australia

Police: service record of Ernest William Davis.

- (7) National Archives of Australia: Series B2455 – Ernest William Davis; Browning, N. *The Westralian Battalion. The History of the 44 Battalion AIF 1916-1919 and the Western Australian Rifles* (The Author, WA, 2004), p246, with p218 for a group photograph including Davis.

*Jean McDonald, Convenor
Peter Conole, Police Historian*

STRIKE UP THE (FAMILY) BAND

Sergeant THOMAS BRYAN, arrived in Western Australia as an Enrolled Pensioner Guard on the “Clyde” in 1863 as a guard for the convicts. He was accompanied by his wife Deborah and children.

Prior to enrolling in the Enrolled Pensioner Guards,th Sergeant Bryan had served in the 96th Regiment of the British Army, serving in Tasmania, India and Gibraltar.

Most British Army Units had in their ranks a drummer boy and/or young recruits who took up the Fife as their instrument, and these lads would play **as the troops marched, or on ceremonial occasions**. Thomas Bryan was 16 years of age when he enlisted and it is more than likely he showed some musical talent at that time.

Early settlers in Western Australia had made various attempts to encourage participation in music – concerts, recitals and the like and as the Enrolled Pensioner Guards had been in Western Australia since 1850, it is recorded that the Pensioners Band was formed soon

after that and performed on a regular basis on Fremantle Gaol Hill, as well as providing music at Balls and amateur theatricals.

The Royal Engineers who were instrumental in **supervising the construction of many of the early buildings in the young Colony** also contributed to the musical entertainment with their own Royal Engineers Band in those early years and they were missed when they were recalled to England.

By 1858 the original Pensioners Band had become redundant and the instruments were sold to a Mr. S. Mitchell who intended to hold musical classes. Unfortunately that venture appears to have petered out after a couple of years.

During the next decade, another Band was formed which performed for many musically enjoyable years in Perth and Fremantle. The **Metropolitan Rifle Volunteer Band** was made up of members from both previous Volunteer Rifle Bands, which consisted mainly of citizens of Perth and surrounding districts.

Sergeant Thomas Bryan had always been interested in anything musical and it was Sgt. Bryan who was instrumental in forming the new Metropolitan Rifle Volunteer Band. **Sgt. Bryan** had earlier started music classes for children and he became the first Bandmaster and leader of musical direction of the newly formed senior Band.

At the official laying of the foundation stone for the Perth Town Hall in May 1867, **Bandmaster Sgt. Thomas Bryan** composed a special lively piece “The Metropolitan Volunteer” especially for the occasion. In spite of torrential

rain, the ceremony went ahead.

(It is interesting to note that the actual foundation stone was laid under the direction of Williams Buggins, builder, who was the maternal grandfather of Cyril Bryan, son of Sgt. Thomas Bryan's son, John (Tom)).

At a concert the following year in 1868, held in the Public Garden under the direction of Bandmaster Sgt. Thomas Bryan, the players in the Band gave of their time 'gratuitously', except for light refreshment provided at the conclusion of the performance.

The Band also received accolades for other performances including a New Years Ball held at Government House. That concert was also lauded for the appearance of a visiting performing Troupe from Melbourne.

In 1873 the local newspaper "Gazette" contained an article that was aimed at readers in England – "the small capital of West Australia can muster a larger amount of musical talent in proportion to its population, than is to be found even in world-renowned classic lands."

Sgt. Thomas Bryan continued his involvement in the musical culture of Western Australia and the same must be said of his son –

John Joseph Bryan (known as 'Tom') was born in India in 1852 and inherited his father's love of music. Tom was in fact recorded as being a Bandsboy on his arrival with his parents in 1863. Tom's love of music kept him involved in the music scene in Perth, and on the retirement of his father, Tom Bryan was appointed Bandmaster of the Metropolitan Volunteer Rifles Band. Tom was married to Anne Louise Buggins and was a printer by trade involved in the early commercial

printing industry. Tom is believed to have operated a business in Howick Street (now Hay Street) and then in Murray Street, Perth.

Tom Bryan served more than 20 years as Bandmaster with the Band and was selected to accompany that Band to Melbourne for a Military Review to celebrate Federation in 1901. Family records indicate John Joseph (Tom) Bryan collapsed and died on parade on 10 May 1901 at Melbourne and his body was brought back to Perth for burial with full military honours at East Perth Cemetery.

Michael Bryan, second son of Sgt. Thomas Bryan, was born in India in 1854 and married Ellen McDonald in 1877 in Perth. Michael worked at various times as a warehouseman, a boat builder and in Government Stores. Michael Bryan inherited musical talent from his father and played the **bass drum in the Metropolitan Volunteer Rifles Band.**

To carry on the family tradition, Sgt. Thomas Bryan's third son, **Thomas William (known as Willie)**, born in Kildare, Ireland about 1861 also had musical talent. Willie Bryan played the **kettledrum in the Metropolitan Volunteer Rifles Band.**

Little is known about **George Bryan**, fourth son of Thomas and Deborah Bryan except his birth was in Perth in 1865 and his death in Melbourne in 1938. From a photograph of George Bryan in the possession of the family, which shows George in his Band uniform, it can be assumed he too had the Bryan musical talent.

Alfred Bryan, fifth son of Sgt. Thomas Bryan, born in 1866 is believed to have been the small boy pictured as having played the triangle in the Band in a

picture taken prior to 1879. Alfred eventually worked in the Goldfields before moving to New Zealand where he worked as a tinsmith. Alfred died in New Zealand in 1939.

However, we do know a little more about Patrick Francis Bryan, sixth son of Sgt. Thomas Bryan, late of the 96 Regiment. Patrick Bryan was born in Perth in 1868 but spent most of his life in Tasmania. His musical talents were evident as a Trombone player in the Launceston City Band.

It is of interest to record the fact that at least one of Sgt. Thomas Bryan's daughters was also a musician.

Caroline (Carrie) Bryan was born in Perth in 1873 and her second husband, William Byron, was a Theatre Manager at the Grand Opera House and Caroline herself was a talented pianist.

AND THE BAND PLAYED ON – 'WALTZING MATILDA'?

REFERENCES:

Family papers courtesy of Lynette Parker, descendant of Sgt. Bryan.

Broomhall, F.H. *A History of the Enrolled Pensioner Force in Western Australia 1850-1880*. Published by Hesperian Press, Victoria Park. 1989p B32;

Rica Erickson, Editor. *The Bicentennial Dictionary of Western Australians pre 1829-1888*. Published University of Western Australia Press. 1987 Vol 1 pp 368, 370, 371;

Kornweibel A.H. *Apollo and the Pioneers The story of the first hundred years of music in Western Australia*. Published Music Council of Western Australia (Inc). 1973. pp49, 59, 60, 65, 66, 71;

"Swan River Booklets No. 4. *The Story of the Birth of Perth. August The Twelfth, 1829. The Day on which Perth was founded*

by the Chopping down of a tree. By 'Cygnet'. Published by Patterson Brokensha Pty. Ltd. Perth. Bound 2 impression 1956. Copies No. 1-12.
{Originally published by Swan River Press, Perth 1935 as "Western Australia in the Making" C. Bryan (who wrote under the pseudonym of "Cygnet").

Descendants Day

Remember that we celebrate Descendants' day in June each year. If you have not received your certificate at the Prison, as a direct descendant from a Pensioner Guard, why not apply this year. Only one member per family may apply each year.

The only details required are the line of direct descent from the arrival to the applicant -

Applicants name
Parent
Grandparent
G.Grandparent
and a copy of the relevant certificates.

For further information ring the Prison on 08 9336 9200 or www.fremantleprison.com.au or visit the Fremantle Prison, The Terrace, Fremantle W.A. 6160.

THE BARRACKS FIELD FREMANTLE

In "Wharf Rats and other stories, 100 years of Growing up in Fremantle", **Beryl Dancer**, a subscriber to our Newsletter, wrote a nostalgic piece about her childhood. Her family lived in the Caretaker's Cottage at Fremantle Oval where Beryl was born.

On a return visit to the area in 2004, Beryl felt it was like making a full circle "in some ways two full circles" because her grandfather **WILLIAM JONES** had also lived at the Oval with his wife and family, but in his time it was called the Barrack Field.

WILLIAM STEWART JONES formerly a private in the 1st Battalion Rifle Brigade arrived as an Enrolled Pensioner Guard on the "Belgravia" in 1866.

The Jones family lived in the Pensioner Barracks between South Terrace and the Barracks Field where the Pensioner Guards paraded.

In later years, the Jones family moved to a cottage on the Pensioner Lot at North Fremantle granted to William Jones.

Beryl's father is reputed to have said his early days `were not always pleasant in a hot, blinding place with roads of sand`.

Have you been able to make a nostalgic trip to the area or land on which `your man` spent his youth?

THE INQUIRER AND COMMERCIAL NEWS,

Wednesday, June 5, 1867

EDUCATION.

We take the following report of the Inspector of Schools from the June Number of The Church of England Magazine:—

PERTH.

Pensioners' Barracks, Perth.-This School was examined at Christmas. It had then been but a few months in operation; during that time 90 children had been admitted, and three had left, leaving 87 still on the Roll. There were **77 present at the examination**. Of the total number on the Roll 63 were under seven years of age, the remaining 14 were but a trifle beyond that, with 3 exceptions. The elder girls in the first class answered fairly, but I should think their presence in the school rather a hindrance than otherwise. The children looked remarkably clean and neat. Mrs. Allmond has no easy task in managing such a number of infants, but appears to keep them in as good order as is possible.

[Ed. Note: The Pensioners' Barracks is the only school in the Perth area mentioned.]

**2008
MEETINGS
1:00pm- Unit 4 WAGS**

FEBRUARY **Saturday 23rd**

APRIL **Saturday 19th**
Annual General Meeting

JULY **Saturday 19th**

OCTOBER **Saturday 18th**

**FEBRUARY MEETING
Saturday 23 February**

1.00pm in Unit 4, May St, Bayswater.

Come and listen to:

Speaker Dr Leo Laden

collector of Antique Arms & Armour

**Enrolled Pensioner Guard SIG
WA Genealogical Society Inc
Print Post Approved
PP635823/00066**

**Surface
Mail**

**Postage
Australia**

**Unit 6/48 May Street
Bayswater WA 6053**



Pensioner Barracks & Parade 1860 (W.A. Museum)