



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 Street,
Bayswater. 6053.

Quarterly Newsletter
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CONVENORS REPORT

After a busy year in 2002, we now look forward to a range of activities in the coming year to reinforce our aim of promoting and recording the **Enrolled Pensioner Force** and their place in Western Australian history.

We extend a warm welcome to our new members and look forward to reading and hearing about your Pensioner ancestors. Profiles of some of those Pensioner Guards have already been donated to the Group for inclusion in the Resource Files in the EPG section in Unit 4 of WAGS.

Our emphasis is on continuing to develop a register of all members of the **Enrolled Pensioner Force** and to encourage and assist where possible the descendants of Pensioner Guards to carry out their research. This information will add to that already available in Broomhall's "The Veterans".

As an aid to members research, our General Meeting on February 2 this year was held in Unit 4 of WAGS when Daphne Byrne, our hard working Researcher, prepared and gave a Summary of the resources available in that room which may assist members in their research. More than 25 members took advantage of Daphne's notes to use the facilities in Unit 4. Daphne has kept copies of her detailed notes which could be made available to members who for some reason or other, were not able to attend the Meeting.

In addition to our regular quarterly Meetings in April, July and October 2003, we will hold a Workshop on **JUNE 15** in Unit 6 of WAGS Library. This will give members another opportunity to access the resources available in their research efforts. Further details will be advised at our April Meeting.

Members are asked to keep in mind the Meeting in April, as it is our **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**. We are asking members to seriously consider putting their names forward to serve on the Committee as several long serving members of the present Committee are retiring. The job is not onerous and does include some social contact with other Committee members when business takes a back seat in favour of a little more informal conversation.

Nomination forms are enclosed with this Newsletter.

I am always happy to talk to members about their concerns and successes and I look forward to a year of working with the Group to further their aims and endeavours.

Jean McDonald
 Convenor

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
26TH April, 2003 12.00 Noon
Unit 1. 48 May Street, Bayswater.

<u>Positions Required on Committee</u>		
Convenor	Jean McDonald	Available for re-election
Deputy Convenor	Terry Carroll	Position Vacant
Treasurer	Margaret Hickey	Position Vacant
Minutes Secretary	Position Vacant	Position Vacant
Secretary	Phillippa Ward	Position Vacant
Newsletter Editor	Pam Anspach	Available for re-election
Committee Member/ Research Officer	Daphne Byrne	Available for re-election
Committee Member/ Display Coordinator	Jeanette Lee	Available for re-election
Committee	David Johnston.	

The following research has been received from Joan Blight on the Pensioner Guards in Albany
We thank her for sharing it with us.

The Pensioner Guards in Albany

The following information was taken from "*The Veterans*". A History of the Enrolled Pensioner Force in Western Australia. 1850-1880. By F.H. Broomhall

"The Enrolled Pensioners wore a double breasted blue frock coat with red cuffs and collar, loosely fitting so it could be worn over a mans civilian jacket in cold weather.

Dark grey trousers with red stripe similar to those worn by Sappers and Miners. And a black cloth forage cap with a red band and brass star.

The privates were armed with muskets and bayonets. The sergeants with swords and cavalry carbines, adapted to infantry service by 'removing their side ribs and rings and fitting them with bayonets when such were missing'."

According to Rica Erickson in her book "*The Brand of His Coat*",

"Pensioner Guards were retired soldiers who volunteered to act as guards on the convict ships and for a period of time after their arrival, in return for a ten acre grant of land and assistance in building a cottage".

Terms were drawn up from the Despatches of the Secretary of State, and the letters of the Secretary of War.

Western Australia

Terms on which Cottages & Allotments are held by Enrolled Pensioners.

1st Seven Years occupancy and Service in the Enrolled Force to give the Pensioner the Fee Simple of his Cottage and Land.

2nd Should a Pensioner be dismissed from the Enrolled Force for Misconduct, he at once forfeits his Holding.

3rd Should a Pensioner die within seven years and the Cottage be required for another Pensioner, the family shall receive a Grant of Land of the same extent as was originally held by the deceased Pensioner, together with £15 to cover expenses of building a suitable residence for themselves, and they shall not be removed until such residence has been provided, and is ready for occupation
In addition to this, the improvements are to be valued, and the amount paid to the family by the Pensioner succeeding to the vacancy.

4th Should a Pensioner be struck off the Enrolled Force within seven years for Unfitness to serve in the same arising from infirmity, his case will be dealt with the same as in Article 3.

5th The Pensioner forfeits his Allotment by permitting Spirits or other intoxicating Liquors to be sold there or by allowing his house to become the resort of improper characters.

6th Any family, the Members of which are proved to the Governor's satisfaction to be quarrelsome and an annoyance to their neighbours, will be likewise ejected from the village.

Pensioners thus holding a Cottage and Land are liable to attend under Arms every Sunday for Church Parade, without any other remuneration than the free occupancy thereof and they will not receive Any pay for the twelve days in each Year that they are called out for Exercises.

By order of

His Excellency the Governor.

(Colonial Secretary's Records Vol. 334/45; also CSR Vol. 316/87)

Even though it was stated by Rica Erickson that ten acres of land could be granted to the Pensioner Guards, in January 1852 when Private Patrick White applied for a grant of land, the Assistant Surveyor Philip Chauncey, was instructed to mark out twenty five blocks of three acres each.

One of the pensioners, Private Philip McGuire was employed on the survey of these acres. A claim he made for compensation in respect of clothing accidentally destroyed by fire while he was serving with Chauncey at this time, was approved on July 7.

These blocks were situated in the area bound by Albany Road and two other streets which have had name changes, or no longer exist, Lake Street and Low Street.

Possibly one of these would now be Lion Street.

As for Pensioner Street: following a suggestion that the name may be taken as derogatory to the pensioners of the day, this was changed to Pioneer Road, which lost the whole context on why it was named.

After the blocks were surveyed the Pensioner Guards were allocated the three acre lots, subject to residence and improvement conditions, on December 31st 1853

P1 to Private Philip McGuire, of the Royal Marines

P2 to Sergeant John Clarke, of the 78th Regiment

P3 to Private Patrick White

P4 to Private Michael Fitzgerald,

P5 to Private John Dignan, of the 17th Dragoons,

P6 to Private Matthew Carter, of the 15th Hussars,

P7 to Private Kilner Gregory,

P8 to Private William Fuller of 37th Regiment

In the Colonial Secretary's Records Vol. 319, it states:

"The following Enrolled Pensioners have built cottages for themselves at Albany and would receive the sums affixed.

Patrick White from the 3rd Foot £15

Michael Fitzgerald of the 40th Regiment £15

Kilner Gregory from the 78th Regiment £15

Samuel Booth from the 35th Regiment £15.

In September 1854, Mr Bruce reported to the Governor on his inspection of the detachment, had this to say of them:

"There being one sergeant and six privates in occupation of the" Barracks in the town, I turned out this party without any previous intimation and found them in a highly creditable state. The

arms appointments and clothing were as clean as if specially paraded for my inspection and the ammunition was carefully arranged in the pouches, in fact, the praiseworthy condition of these men was in keeping with what I subsequently heard of them from the Resident Magistrate that 'they are so well behaved that no one ever hears of them'."

The NCO then in charge of Albany, Sergeant Clarke, was an old soldier from the 78th Regiment who had acted as sergeant major of the Pensioner Guard on the "Pyrenees" coming over from England. Among the men was one, Private J. Dignan who had thrown up his job in the Police in order to gain inclusion in the detachment.

But in correspondence to the Colonial Secretary on May 14, 1855, Private Dignan was in trouble.

The Staff Officer was reporting a crime of a grave nature against Private John Dignan.

I beg to recommend that he be struck off the Duty Detachment at Albany with the loss of one months pension".

Private J. Dignan from the 17th Dragoons was confined by Sergeant Tunney for being drunk when he was the Commissariat Magazine Guard at Albany on the evening of May 1st, 1855. The above crime is further supported by the evidence of Acting Corporal Patrick Kilmurray and Private Michael Fitzgerald.

According to the Colonial Secretary's Records Vol. 3. 338/29: Correspondence from the Resident Magistrate John W. Sillifant.

On the 22nd March 1855 a Court of Inquiry was held, *into the circumstances attending the death of Patrick White: Enrolled Pensioner, on Wednesday the 21st March."*

The Magistrates present were: The Resident; J.W. Sillifant; Lt. William Crossman R.E. and Henry Connell D.A.C.G.

The Jury consisted of Messrs Hugh McDonald, John Uglow, John McDonnell, and William Somness.

Several witnesses were called, including Kilner Gregory, Pensioner Guard; Herbert R. Harris, Ass. Colonial Surgeon; Mrs. Elizabeth White, wife of the deceased; Frederick O'Connell Lane, Publican; Sgt. D.I. Cavill of the Royal Sappers and Miners

The evidence given by Mrs. White who arrived home from work to find the house locked and in darkness, and the key not in the usual place. She returned to town to find her husband.

Being unsuccessful she returned home and climbed through a window. Going to the bedroom to find some matches, she tripped over her husbands body.

Her husband was a heavy drinker but had not been drinking since Saturday. (five days). She thought he may have been drunk, she stooped and felt his hand cold and lifeless.

Her reaction was to run to her neighbour Kilner Gregory. She found the door was locked on the inside, the key still in the lock.

Kilner Gregory returned to the house and found the deceased lying on the ground just inside the bedroom, with his throat cut and the razor lying by his side. He went to town for the doctor.

Doctor Herbert Harris examined the body and found the deceased had firstly cut his throat with a kitchen knife, then twice with a razor, severing from ear to ear. The Doctor remarked that:

"if drinking is suddenly stopped, the delirium is generally more severe".

Contrary to Mrs. Whites declaration that her husband had not been drinking since Saturday, when the publican give evidence, he stated

"the deceased came to my house Friday, he appeared dejected. I would not give him further credit, so he got 2/6 from some man, and spent this at my house. Saturday was St. Patrick's Day, he remained at my house in company with others all day. He was quite sober in the evening

ooOoo

Computer News: Web Sites that may help in your research.

Fremantle Cemetery: www.fcb.wa.gov.au (Fremantle Cemetery Board)

Karrakatta Cemetery: www.mcb.wa.gov.au. (Metropolitan Cemetery Board)

**AN INTERESTING FIND
IN AN UNEXPECTED SOURCE**

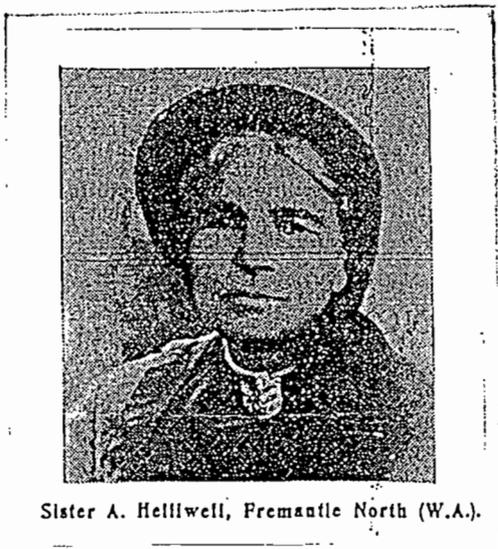
By Jean McDonald.

While researching my Enrolled Pensioner Guard, I found references to his wife having been involved in the local Salvation Army whilst she was living in North Fremantle during the late 1880's.

After finding details of her death in 1902 and the fact that she was buried in the Salvation Army section of the Fremantle Cemetery, I looked for reference to her death in the local newspapers.

In the "West Australian" of 26 February 1901, her death is noted as "Death of an old Colonist" which mentions the fact that she came to Western Australia with her husband on the "William Hammond" which arrived in 1856.

On further investigation I found an article about Sister Ann Helliwell, Fremantle North, W.A. in the "War Cry" dated 30 March 1901. The fact that she was "promoted to Glory after Nine Years Faithful Service" was a dedication to the service of a loyal and faithful soldier. Sister Ann was given a "real Army funeral". A fitting send off for one who had been the wife of a British Army soldier for 46 years.



Sister A. Helliwell, Fremantle North (W.A.).

Sister Ann Helliwell, Fremantle North (W.A.).

Promoted to Glory After Nine Years' Faithful Service.

The death angel has been at work in our ranks at North Fremantle, and has called our dear comrade, Sister Ann Helliwell (better known as Granny), to take up her abode in the mansion above.

Granny passed away peacefully on February 23rd, and was given a real Army funeral on Sunday afternoon. The comrades of the corps turned out well to pay a last tribute to one who was a loyal and faithful soldier.

We deeply regret our loss, but rejoice in the hope of meeting her again. A memorial service was held in the barracks on the following Sunday, when several bore testimony to

Granny's soldiership.

The Spirit of God was at work, and although no one decided, we believe that a mark was made for God and the kingdom.

We trust that ere long we shall have the joy of seeing someone step into the breach and take up the work where Granny left off. God comfort and bless the bereaved ones, and lead the unsaved to Himself. HADDON and JOHNSTON, C.O.'s.

WAR CRY 30 3 1901

Our Convenor Jean McDonald has sent in a Report on her visit to Mandurah Family History Society Inc. on 8th March, 2003.

Mandurah Family History Society invited me, as Convenor of the Enrolled Pensioner Group to visit and speak about our Group and the Pensioner Force.

On Saturday 8th March, accompanied by Committee member Jeanette Lee, we were welcomed by the President, Barbara Mitting in front of a group of more than 30 members and guests of the Society.

There were several members of our Group present and others who had registered their interest in their Pensioner Guard ancestor.

Jeanette prepared a small display with photos and examples of Pensioner Guard Land locations. We had also taken various large files listing Ships, Guards and examples of land allocation maps for those interested to peruse.

I spoke about the aims of our Group with a brief explanation of "Who Were the Pensioner Guards?"

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I included a brief outline of life on board the convict ships for the Enrolled Guards and the Staff Officers engaged to command the Force.

The locations of the land allocated to the Pensioners in the areas within a reasonable distance of Mandurah were mentioned, despite there being no allocation in Mandurah itself. However, in Pinjarra, George Campbell of the 79th Regiment was granted Lot 78 in Pinjarra in 1882.

Records do show that at some time Governor Fitzgerald and Captain Henderson visited the area and chose sites in Mandurah and Pinjarra for Pensioner Villages but nothing eventuated.

An episode of some interest to the area concerned the well-recorded escape of the Fenians in the 1870's. In Ronald Richards book, "The Murray District of Western Australia, a history", the author mentions the existence of a lifebuoy and a rowing boat being used by the residents of "Creaton Estate" up river from Mandurah. Both items came from the ship "Catalpa", the whaling ship used in the escape of the Fenians.

Discussion and questions followed, and those members interested in the Pensioner Force told of their experience and success with research on "their man".

The contact with the Mandurah Family History Society was a rewarding experience - except perhaps the weather - 40 degrees was really a little warm and a dust storm over the Freeway on our return journey made for an interesting end to the day.

Jean McDonald

Convenor.

THE CHARGE OF THE LIGHT BRIGADE

Alfred Lord Tennyson.

1.

Half a league, half a league,
Half a league onward,
All in the valley of Death
Rode the six hundred.
"Forward, the Light Brigade!
Charge for the guns!" he said:
Into the valley of Death
Rode the six hundred

2.

"Forward, the Light Brigade!
"Was there a man dismay'd?
Not tho' the soldier knew
Some one had blunder'd:
Their's not to make reply,
Their's not to reason why,
Their's but to do and die,
Into the valley Death
Rode the six hundred.

3.

Cannon to right of them,
Cannon to the left of them,
Cannon in front of them
Volley'd and thunder'd;
Storm'd at with shot and shell,
Boldly they rode and well
Into the jaws of Death,
Into the mouth of Hell
Rode the six hundred.

4.

Flash'd all their sabres bare,
Flash'd as they turn'd in air,
Sabring the gunners there,
Charging an army, while
All the world wonder'd:
Plunged in the battery-smoke
Right thro' the line they broke;
Cossack and Russian
Reel'd from the sabre-stroke
Shatter'd and sunder'd.
Then they rode back, but not,
Not the six hundred.

5.

Cannon to right of them,
Cannon to left of them,
Cannon behind them
Volley'd and thunder'd;
Storm'd at with shot and shell,
While horse and hero fell,
They that had fought so well
Came thro' the jaws of Death
Back from the mouth of Hell,
All that was left of them,
Left of six hundred.

6.

When can their glory fade?
O the wild charge they made
All the world wonder'd.
Honour the charge they made!
Honour the Light Brigade,
Noble six hundred.

WARDERS and GAOLERS
A DICTIONARY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIAN PRISON OFFICERS
1829 – 1879
compiled by DAVID BARKER

On 2 February 2003, I attended the launch of "Warders and Gaolers" by David Barker, published by Western Australian Genealogical Society Inc.

As quite a number of Enrolled Pensioner Guards were at times employed as temporary warders, I purchased a copy to read at my leisure.

The forward and explanatory notes are informative and quite detailed in the lists of sources and records used by the author in compiling the biographies of hundreds of mostly men, but quite a number of women employed in the prison system of Western Australia between 1829 and 1879.

David Barker notes that "the Dictionary contains entries for all identified Imperial and Colonial warders, matrons and gaolers, Enrolled Pensioners employed as warders, Instructing Warders of the Corps of Royal Sapper and Miners and Corps of Royal Engineers, police lock-up keepers, Lunatic Asylum warders and matrons, and former prisoners employed as prison officers."

On closer reading of the biographies I started to make notes of Enrolled Pensioner names. As my notes grew, I began to cross check the names against Broomhall's "The Veterans". I found more than 150 members of the Enrolled Pensioners mentioned in David Barker's book are listed in "The Veterans". Some only have a small entry as temporary Warders.

The greatest number were in the early years of transportation when the number of warders required far exceeded the number of men who were already employed as Warders in English prisons and were recruited to serve on the convict ships and on arrival in Fremantle. Barker nominates 115 Warders as recruited in England and embarking on convict or emigrant ships between 1850 and 1868. This number seems insignificant against the approximately ten thousand convicts who were transported during those years.

The shortfall of manpower was boosted by the employment of Temporary Warders from the ranks of the Enrolled Pensioner Force, particularly in the early years of the Colony.

Barker notes that those members of the Enrolled Force employed as Temporary Assistant Warders were paid three shillings per day if they were already in receipt of military pay. There is no doubt this extra pay would have been an incentive to enroll as a Temporary Warder.

More than 190 members of the Enrolled Pensioner Force are listed in "Warders and Gaolers" as being employed by the Convict Establishment or at Hiring Depots set up in country districts or work parties throughout the Colony

On checking those names against the research interests of members of the Enrolled Pensioner Guard Special Interest Group, it was noted that more than 60 were at some time employed as Warders, on a temporary basis or for some time.

David Barker in his detailed and interesting work does offer another line of sources for research for those of our members who desire to continue to add more information to that already gathered on their Pensioner Guard ancestors in Western Australia.

As a footnote, the A4, 224 page soft bound book retails at \$25.00 from WAGS.

Jean McDonald
Convenor

Meeting Dates for 2003

Saturday, 26th April, 2003 12 Noon Annual General Meeting

Saturday, 26th July, 2003 12 Noon

Saturday, 24th October, 2003 12 Noon

These meetings are scheduled to be held in Unit 1.

Workshop Sunday June 15th Unit 6. 11.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m.

Our Researcher, Daphne Byrne has submitted the following extract taken from
"The Inquirer and Commercial News" Wednesday, April 6, 1887(held at Battye Library)

*THE DISBANDMENT OF THE
ENROLLED GUARD.*

Shortly before noon on Thursday 49 members of the enrolled guard left the Barracks, preceded by the band of the Perth Volunteers, and proceeded to Government House. His Excellency, Lady Broome and a number of other influential people were in attendance to meet the men, who were drawn up in a line in front of the house. After some military exercises had been gone through, His Excellency (Sir F.N.Broome) addressed them as follows:- Captain Smith, non-commissioned officers and men of the Enrolled Guard: As you know, this is the last day you will parade in Her Majesty's uniform and with arms. Your disbandment brings to a close the existence of any Imperial troops in this part of Her Majesty's Empire, and your places will be occupied here, as they are in other parts of Australia, by a fine corps of volunteer troops which are represented here to-day by the band of the Perth Rifles. They have come to do honor to you to-day, and to them we must in future look to supply the places of her Majesty's regular forces. I am sure everyone will regret that your services are being brought to a close, and I myself regret that you will no longer mount guard at Government House, where there has been an Imperial guard for the last half century. As your commander-in-chief in this colony I think I may say that you have under your commandant, Captain Smith, for the last five years done good service to the country and have performed honorably and well the duties allotted to you. On your disbandment this day you will fall back into the ranks of civil life, where already so many of your comrades - pensioners of the Crown - have preceded you, and you will become part of the general public of this colony. I feel sure that you will, in private as well as in military life, continue those habits of good behaviour which have made your career on the Enrolled Guard honorable. I am glad to think that some of you have more or less substantial pensions, but on the other hand I am sorry that there are others who are not so well off as I should wish to see them. I have written strongly to the Imperial authorities to see if we cannot obtain some addition to your pensions in consideration of your five years additional service in this colony, and I can only hope that

my appeal will be successful. It will now be the duty of those requiring it to get some civil employment, and I shall be pleased to give to any of you any assistance that lies in my power. Some of you have for some time past occupied the barracks, and you will be permitted to continue to occupy them. I shall, I say again, be glad to assist an old soldier as far as means will allow me. You must not, however, depend solely upon the Government. You are soldiers and men, and you must try to get employment for yourselves. This is your last parade, and I shall not have the pleasure of seeing you again in uniform bearing arms, and I will therefore now wish you health and happiness in the future. To render the occasion less melancholy than it might be, I beg to ask you, after your parade, to partake of dinner in the ball-room of Government House. Once more I wish you and your families long life and happiness in the future.

Captain Smith, addressing His Excellency, said:- On behalf of the Enrolled Guard permit me to address to your Excellency a few words. On the last occasion you inspected the guard I seized the opportunity of explaining who and what the men were, and therefore suffice to say now that these men are the representatives and remnants here of England's old army - an army organised and armed somewhat different to the army now, but one that has performed many doughty deeds in sustaining the honor of Old England. I think these men are worthy of consideration on the part of the colony, for it is well known that a by-no-means insignificant portion of the population is composed of the children and grandchildren of the pensioners who came to this colony. Many of the sons of these men have volunteered and enrolled themselves in what will be the future army of Western Australia. I shall be sincerely glad if everything that can be done may be done to enable these old men to pass the evening of their lives in comparative comfort. Your Excellency has always taken an interest in these men, and on this the last time you will have an opportunity of inspecting them permit me to address you in the words of the Roman Gladiator, *Morituri te salutem*.

Three cheers were then given for the Queen, His Excellency and Lady Broome.

The guard and those present were then photographed and the guard were marched into the ball-room, where they were hospitably