



**JOURNAL
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PORT STEPHENS FAMILY
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Thomas & Elizabeth Peck (nee Cromarty) & Family

HISTORY & HERITAGE OF TANILBA HOUSE

250 YEARS - CAPTAIN COOK'S VOYAGE

CONVICT BIOGRAPHIES

DIALECT OF THE ORKNEY ISLANDS

Glossary of terms peculiar to Orkney land rentals

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The Society welcomes contributions from members on their families or any aspect of their research that they believe is of particular interest to fellow historians. Non-members wishing to submit articles of interest to the Port Stephens area are welcome to do so. All articles should be submitted as a word document via email to Society. If forwarding photos please compress image for ease of use.

Entries for Research Enquiries and Member's Interest are also welcome.

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Contents

Office Bearers	2
Contents	3
From the President's Desk	4
Book Launch at Tanilba House	5
History & Heritage of Tanilba House– latest publication	6
250 years: Captain Cook sights and names Port Stephens	7
Beyond the Seas: convict William Hawkins to VDL	8 – 9
First Fleet: convict Ann Forbes– Part 1	10 – 11
Lt. W. Caswell, Tanilba House: convict Ninian Melville	12 – 13
Australian Agricultural Co.: convict Henry Lambourne	14 – 15
Australian Agricultural Co.: convict Thomas Peck	16 – 17
Capt. W. Cromarty & A.A. Co.: convict Thomas Maytom	18 – 19
Capt. W. Cromarty & A.A. Co.: convict James Stacey	20
Capt. W. Cromarty & A.A. Co.: convict Joseph Mayers	21
Glossary of terms used in the Rentals & Tenures of Orkney: Dialect of the Islands	22 - 24
Research– Can You Help?	25
Society Publications For Sale	26-27
Society Details	28

From the President's Desk

Dear members & kindred societies,

I sincerely apologise to all our exchange societies and repositories for the delay in our journal being sent out. Our membership is small in comparison to other societies and we have to job share to fill committee positions. I think being "time poor" comes to mind when you take on multiple volunteer roles. However, the role of Journal Editor now passes onto Kerrie Huxley who is very keen to publish some of her new ideas and interesting articles for you.

We have welcomed some wonderful new members, actioned some new fund raising ideas and in May last year we launched our newest publication, "HISTORY AND HERITAGE OF TANILBA HOUSE". Within a couple of weeks, we will be ordering a second print run for this best seller.

If you have not yet been to Tanilba House for one of their speciality 'HIGH TEA' Sundays, then watch out for advertisements around April 2020, beautiful food and venue with superb hosts. It is also available for weddings, conferences, group lunches etc. and a very popular bed and breakfast stay.

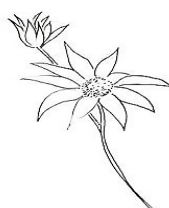
Our next project will concentrate on further research, collecting early photographs and conducting interviews for our next publication. This will include not only a completely revised history of the Tilligerry Peninsula but the surrounding places of the Tilligerry Creek catchment area.

2019 was another very successful year, I would like to thank all of the committee and dedicated members, they are always very supportive as well as being generous with their time and they have a wonderful community spirit. Special thanks to Kerrie and Peter Huxley for hosting our Christmas party at their home, together with the beautiful food supplied by Kerrie and our members, it was just lovely to relax and mingle with everyone.

I do hope you take a moment to read the submitted articles on some of our convict stories we have put together in this edition! The Orkney section I found while researching my husband's line of Captain William Cromarty, first white settler to Port Stephens who was born in the Orkney Islands, Scotland.

This year, on 11 May 2020, Port Stephens will be celebrating, it will be 250 years since Captain James Cook, whilst charting the east coast, sighted and named Port Stephens and Point Stephens, both noted in his journal. [see article]. The replica of the barque "Endeavour" will be berthed in Newcastle from 7 May to 12 May 2020 for those maritime history buffs who wish to go onboard her. Further information is available on National Maritime Museum website and more planned events will become available later on the National Trust Heritage Festival website in April.

Denise Gaudion



History and Heritage of Tanilba House

LAUNCH OF NEW PUBLICATION

The History and Heritage of Tanilba House [c1831] book was launched on Friday 17 May 2019, and it was simply a most beautiful day. The event was held at State Heritage listed Tanilba House with Councillor Paul Le Mottee, Chairperson of the Port Stephens Council's Heritage Advisory Committee, launching the book for us.

We are deeply grateful to owners Glenn Short and Deirdre Hall for all their help with research documents, pictures and their time, and especially for opening up their beautiful home to us for the book launch.

What started out as a revised version of the small booklet that the late Helen Taylor had produced, grew into one very large book and huge research project, and we were also on a deadline to publish and finalise the Heritage grant acquittal.



Councillor Paul Le Mottee



Author Denise Gaudion

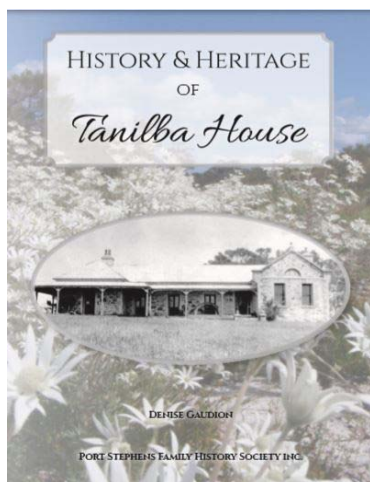
If you love history and enjoy reading about the people and places that have left us with such a unique and enduring legacy, you will certainly find a wealth of fully sourced referenced material in this book about Tanilba House, "A place of white flowers".



Left to right:

*Pauline Eltoft
Helen Roberts
Denise Gaudion
Kathleen Davidson
Susan Jeffreys*

OUR LATEST PUBLICATION !



Price: \$30 + \$13.50 p & h

PORT STEPHENS

TANILBA: "Tenil-bah"

[place of white flowers, near the water]

- ◆ Lt. William Caswell
- ◆ Caswell & Hoddle families
- ◆ Tanilba homestead in Port Stephens
- ◆ Caswell's 40 assigned convicts
- ◆ Overseer Charles Stuart's diaries
- ◆ Tanilba after the Caswells
- ◆ Tanilba House: State Heritage Listed
- ◆ The enduring legacy to our nation

This story is one of many hardships, tragedies and triumphs for the Caswell family from Deptford, England, who, in 1828, sought to start a new life in the colony of New South Wales. William was initially granted land at the William's River [Balickera], and Port Stephens [Tanilba], choosing Tanilba, with its magnificent views across the harbor, as the homestead block, to "build a fine brick, elegant mansion" for his family.

We reveal the full naval career of Lt. William Caswell, later made Commander [Retired], and a biographical dictionary of the forty [40] known convicts that were assigned to him, and in addition, the transcriptions of the daily diaries of Caswell's Overseer, Charles William Stuart.

This fully referenced publication provides an overview, from a heritage perspective, of all the people who, in times past, made such a significant contribution to Tanilba in Port Stephens from 1830. Today, apart from still being a beautiful family residence, Tanilba House, built in 1837, is a culturally significant, convict built, stone building and as such, leaves us with an enduring legacy of not only our local and state history, but also provides our nation with tangible evidence of our colonial past, which must be preserved at any cost.

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250 years ago—Sighting & Naming of Port Stephens

50 years ago—200th Anniversary Plaque & Sextant

The European history of Port Stephens begins with the voyage of HMS 'Endeavour', commanded by James Cook. Cook had been instructed by the Royal Society in London to observe the transit of the planet Venus across the face of the sun, an event predicted to occur on 3 June 1769 in Tahiti. Following the observation in Tahiti, Cook was further instructed [by secret orders] to then search for the legendary great southern land, Terra Australis Incognita.



1728 - 1779

Following his successful circumnavigation of New Zealand, he turned west and sailed up the east coast of Australia – the first European to do so – naming it first 'New Wales' and then 'New South Wales' and taking possession of it in the name of King George 111 at an island he named 'Possession Island' off the tip of Cape York.

On 11 May, 1770, during the voyage northward up the east coast, Captain James Cook sighted, named and commented in his log book about Port Stephens:

Friday 11th May - *'At 4pm, past at the distance of one mile a low rocky point which I named Point Stephens—on the north side of this point is an inlet which I called Port Stephens that appears from the masthead to be sheltered from all winds. At the entrance lay three islands, two of which are tolerable height, and, on the main near the shore are some high round hills, that make at a distance like islands. In passing this bay at a distance of two or three miles from the shore our soundings were from 33 to 27 fathoms, from which I conjectured that there must be a sufficient depth of water for shipping in the bay. We saw several smokes a little distance in the country on the flat land.'*



1743 - 1820

Both Point Stephens and Port Stephens were named in honour of Sir Phillip Stephens, who was Secretary to the 'Lords Commissioners' of the Admiralty. Cook did not enter into nor examine the port at that time.

Accompanying Cook on the voyage was wealthy naturalist, Sir Joseph Banks, a 'Fellow of the Royal Society' who had negotiated a passage for himself and his party of eight. Banks also kept a journal and the following entry is a quoted extract from his journal:

Friday 11th May - *"Fair wind continued. Land today trended rather more to the northward than it had done, look'd broken and likely for inlets. At sunset three remarkable hills were abreast the ship standing near the shore, of nearly equal size and shape; behind them the countrey [sic] rose in gradual slopes carrying a great shew [sic] of fertility."*

50 years ago Port Stephens celebrated the 200th Anniversary

There is a little-known memorial to Capt. James Cook on an island located just off Port Stephens, it is a replica of Cook's sextant and memorial plaque.

11 May 1970 -Athol D'Ombra [pictured], together with some friends, placed the sextant and commemorative plaque on Boondelbah Island on the 200th Anniversary of the day Cook entered into his journal that he had seen *"an inlet, which I called Port Stephens that appeared to be sheltered from all winds."*



“Beyond the Seas” Convict William Hawkins

William Hawkins was born in Banwell, Somerset, England, to parents George Hawkins and Sarah Cox, his baptism took place on the 19th July 1807 at St. Andrew’s Parish Church in the village of Banwell. William was the first of five [5] children born to the couple.

He had been born midway through the Napoleonic War years and in 1815 following the defeat of Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo and the subsequent return of the British forces, the country experienced a very serious unemployment problem .

By 1820, many ex-soldiers and immigrants had taken up options of settlement to the Cape Colony in South Africa, Van Dieman’s Land and the NSW Colony, Australia. However, by 1825 with little or no work available for farm labourers like William Hawkins, now age eighteen [18], a fateful decision to commit robbery would end up making a new life for him, beyond the seas.



The following extract is taken from the Ilchester Gaol records:

“On the 23rd October 1825 about three in the afternoon of the same day, at the Parish of Somerset, a home was entered by force, with no person being in the dwelling, was feloniously robbed.

On the 17th January 1826, a 19 year old lad of Banwell was apprehended and placed in Ilchester Gaol, Somerset, being charged, and awaiting trial for breaking into the home of Mary Urch at which he did steal goods, chattels and monies of the said Mary Urch”.

William Hawkins was described as being aged 19; single and born in Banwell; he weighed 11 stone 6lb;

On the 25th March 1826 William Hawkins was found guilty of the charges and sentenced to transportation for fourteen [14] years. He was received at the Prison Hulk *‘Justitia’*, moored at Woolwich on the 26th March 1826 awaiting transportation. The prisoners were taken ashore on a daily basis and placed under hard labour.

William was transferred to the ship *‘Andromeda’* on 29th September 1826 , with his prison hulk report stating that “he conducted himself orderly”. This was to be the first voyage the *‘Andromeda’* was employed in transporting convicts. The ship’s Master was Captain John Mudde and Surgeon William Bell Carlyle together with the 146 male convicts.

The ship set sail from London on 16th October 1826 bound for Van Dieman’s Land. The sea voyage took 132 days [4½ months], arriving to Hobart Town on 23rd February 1827. Of the 146 convicts embarked in London, 3 had died and were buried at sea. With the arrival of all convict ships to the Colony of NSW or Van Dieman’s Land, and before being taken ashore, a convict indent was recorded ie. name; personal description; age; crime; length of sentence; occupation; name of ship. Numerous convicts with the same name, William Hawkins, can be found in the indents, however my convict ancestor is revealed by his ship, William Hawkins—Andromeda [1]

(the number in brackets indicates the first voyage of the ship).

Once ashore, the convicts were taken to Hobart Town Gaol which was located on the corner of Macquarie and Murray Streets, where they would be put into the various work classes and assigned to free settlers or public works.

William was assigned to a free settler, a Mr James Parker of Sorell Plains [renamed Hamilton], just north of New Norfolk.

On the 16th October 1827, an entry on William's conduct sheet recorded that he had been absent without leave and received as punishment three [3] months working in irons at New Norfolk.



Hobart Town Gaol

William is recorded as being assigned to Government Public Works at the time of the 1830 and 1832 Convict Muster lists. Convicts who continually misbehaved were usually supervised in Government work, they provided a labour workforce that built roads and infrastructure of the island. A quarry was founded to build the Government buildings, bridges and churches with the convict sawyers, brickmakers, shipbuilders and grain farmers working the treadmill. Some were assigned to the coal mines and the building of rail tracks for the coal trams.

It is unclear as to why William remained on public works for three years following his three months punishment in irons, to date, no other information gives any indication of why he was not re-assigned to a free settler. By 1833 William was granted his Ticket of Leave and in 1835 he requested permission to marry convict Mary Ann Wall, a widow. William had met Mary Ann Wall, a widow, whilst attending the Sunday Services at St. John's Church. The couple were married by banns at St John's Church of England, New Town, Hobart Town on the 9th November 1835.

The couple welcomed the birth of their first child, daughter Eliza, on the 8th January 1837 at Hobart Town. William is listed as a gardener on the birth record.



St. John's Church of England, New Town c 1835

In 1838 William received his Conditional Pardon [1115].

1839, twins George and Sarah were born, however, sadly son George passed away before his first birthday.

1840, 24 April, William was granted his Certificate of Freedom.

William died on the 2nd March 1873 aged 66 years. His death record states that he was a gardener living in the district of New Norfolk. Wife Mary Ann had died in 1863 in Hobart Town.

By Susan Jeffreys

First Fleet

Convict: Ann Forbes– Part 1

Born: 1 September 1771 Spitalfields Stepney, London, England.

Died: 29 December 1851 Sackville, NSW, Australia.

Buried:

Ann was the second child born to John Forbes (b. 4.2.1745 Shoreditch, London, d. 23.10.1787 Spitalfields, Middlesex) and Hannah Davis (b. 1750). John Forbes and Hannah Davis married 1.8.1768 at Stepney, London. John was a gardener and green grocer.

In April 1787 Ann Forbes, a dressmaker, appeared in court at Kingston-on-Thames with her co-accused Lydia Munro for stealing ten yards of printed cotton.

Place and date of trial: At the Surrey Lent Assizes which began at Kingston upon Thames on Monday 2 April 1787 before Sir Henry Gould, and Sir Alexander Thomson [1]. Tried on Thursday morning 5 April 1787. (1)



Crime and Sentence: (a). Ann Forbes (aged 16) and Lydia Munro (aged 30) (q.v.) committed 30 October 1787. [2]

(b). ... *that Ann Forbes late of the parish of Saint Olave within the borough of Southwark in the County of Surrey , Spinster and Lydia Munro late of same place, Spinster On the 28th October day of October ... ten yards of printed cotton of the value of 20 shillings of the goods and chattels of James Rollinson in the shop of the said James Rollinson ... feloniously did steal ..* [2]

Verdict: Guilty no chattels, to be hanged. The sentence was commuted to transportation to the new colony of New South Wales. Ann was sentenced to 7 years and Lydia for 14 years. Sent 30 April 1787. (1)

Ann was assigned to the only all-female convict ship in the First Fleet – the ‘*Prince of Wales*’. The time spent in Newgate Prison and the long sea voyage provided many challenges for young Ann to overcome, particularly to her health and from other inmates. Most of the women were sea sick for the duration of the sea voyage.

Arrival: 20 January 1788 to Port Jackson. It became apparent, that as with all female convicts, Ann had no rights and with no protection, and probably in company with most female convicts, decided that as a young woman of just seventeen years, she needed the protection of a “relationship”. Ann formed a de facto relationship with George Bannister [per ‘*Alexander*’] and had a daughter Sarah who was baptised 15 November 1789.

Appears in – Ross’s Returns, p. 328.

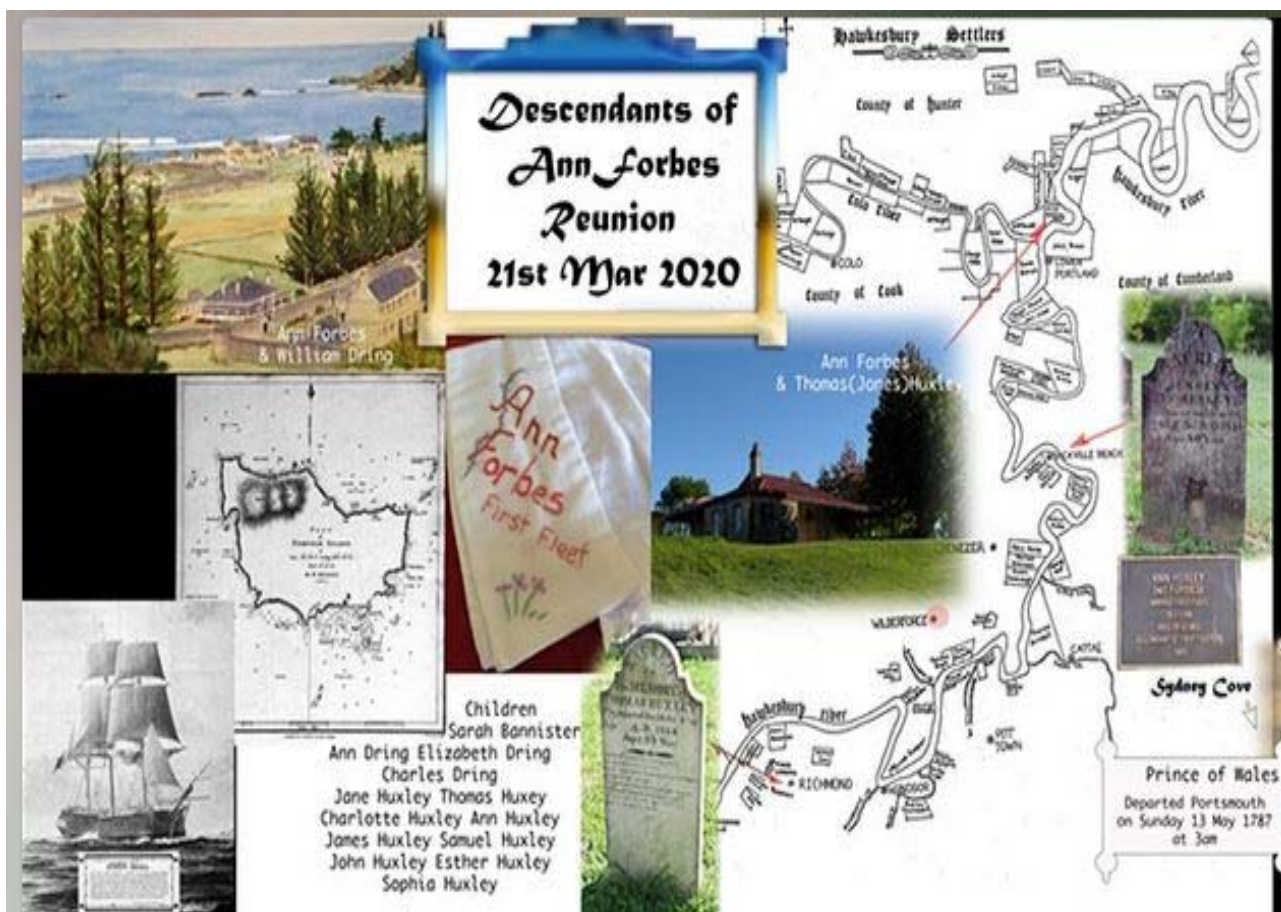
References – [1]PRO Assizes 31/15, p. 51, no. 20; [2]PRO Assizes, 35/227, no. 20.

Four months later, in March 1790, Ann and George were sent to the fledging first settlement on Norfolk Island. Baby Sarah is presumed to have died prior to them leaving Sydney on board the 'Sirius'.

George Bannister disappears from Ann's life, it is thought that he returned to Sydney where he became a fisherman. Ann Forbes married William Dring in a mass ceremony on Norfolk Island in November 1791.

Part 2 of Ann's family story together with William Dring, and then with Thomas Huxley will be continued in the next journal.....

By Kerrie Huxley



Venue: Australiana Pioneer Village, 10 Rose Street, Wilberforce, New South Wales

Time: 10am to 4pm

Bookings: www.eventbrite.com.au/e/ann-forbes-descendants-reunion-2020

Tanilba House

Convict: Ninian Melville assigned to Lt. William Caswell

Ninian Melvel [Melville] was born in Aberdeen, Scotland and baptised on 1 November 1810. He was the son of Ninian Melvel, a corporal in the Royal Military Articers and was a stonemason and builder by trade, as was his father and grandfather before him, and Mary Kydd, a sister of the well-known artist William Kydd, who was a member of the Royal Scottish Academy.

Young Ninian became a very gifted apprenticed cabinet maker. However, he became friends with David White, who was not a good influence on him, and who also had several prior convictions to his name. In Dundee, the pair stole clothing which had been left out to dry over night by a widow washerwoman. In the dark, they decided to hide the clothing under some stones and planned to return the next morning to collect the goods. Naturally, upon their return in broad daylight they were seen and promptly arrested then sent to Perth. At the joint trial held on 20 April 1833 they were both found guilty and sentenced to transportation to NSW for 7 years.

Ninian arrived to Sydney Town on 15 February 1834 per ship '*Fairlie*'. He was described as being aged 23 years, 5' 5¼" tall with a fair ruddy complexion, light sandy brown hair and brown eyes. He had a thick nose, a small scar on left cheek bone, a small scar on left side of his chin, scar on back of right hand, scar on top of forefinger of same, small scar on back of left hand, scar on forefinger of same, and also his breast was hairy.

On arrival, Ninian was assigned to Lt. William Caswell RN at Tanilba [Tanilba] and was one of the assigned convicts who helped build Tanilba house. With his skills as a cabinet maker and wood turner, Ninian also built some beautiful dining furniture, beds and wardrobes for the Caswell family.



The beautiful mahogany timber sideboard, crafted and carved out by Ninian Melville for Tanilba House in 1837.

The heirloom sideboard is now in the possession of Melville descendants.

Ninian was a well-behaved convict and on the recommendation of the Magistrate at Paterson, was granted his Ticket of Leave on 25 July 1838.



Ninian returned to Sydney Town where he met Catherine Hayes from Limerick, Ireland. Catherine had arrived as a free servant, single, accompanying her sister Bridget and brother-in-law Charles Browne. It is thought that Ninian met Catherine by his association with Charles, who was also a cabinet maker.

In early September 1840, he received his Certificate of freedom and on 27 December 1841, the couple married at St. James Church, Sydney, Ninian, now free by servitude, was 28 years old and Catherine 22 years. In Clarence Street, Sydney in 1843, their first son Ninian Jnr. was born, he was to grow up to be quite a famous politician. A daughter Tenelba [named for Tanilba] was born in 1857, sadly of the twelve children born to Catherine and Ninian, only Ninian Jnr. and a daughter Tenelba survived to adulthood.

Ninian passed away at his Newtown home in January 1882, a well respected citizen, his wife Catherine died in 1901.

NOTES: Son Ninian was a well-known politician and as Member for Northumberland represented the Newcastle area for fourteen years. Melville Street [now Union Street] Newcastle was named after him.

He advocated free education and protection against imports.

By PSFHS Research Committee

Australian Agricultural Company

Convict: Henry Lambourne

Henry Lambourne was born c1810 in Taunton, Somerset to parents William and Susannah Lambourne. Henry already had one prior criminal conviction when was tried in Taunton for house-breaking. On 5 April 1827 he was sentenced to transportation for Life [14 years].

He was a single Protestant harness maker who could both read and write. He was described as being 5' 5" tall with a fresh fair complexion, brown hair and blue eyes. He was quoted as being, "well looking and speaks with a nasal twang." He arrived to the Colony of New South Wales per the ship '*John [1]*' on 25 November 1827 and from the ship he was then assigned to the Australian Agricultural Company at Port Stephens on 13 December 1827.

1828 he was still assigned to the A. A. Company where he is listed as a labourer.

1829 February Henry was still assigned to the Company where he was employed as a harness maker.

1830 4 December Henry [listed as Henry Lambert] was engaged in repairing harnesses in the Saddlers Section working under William Street, an indentured servant who was employed by Australian Agricultural Company as a saddler at Carrington.

1832 6 September and 12 November Henry Lambourne is recorded in the Bench Book of the Port Stephens Magistrates, along with others, as being tipsy/ drunk.

1837 he was still assigned to the Australian Agricultural Company at Port Stephens.

1838 he was granted his Ticket of Leave [38/170] for the district of Port Stephens.

1842 November Henry was living in Newcastle.

1844 he was recommended for his Conditional Pardon.

The recommendation came from the Newcastle Police Magistrate, Major J. H. Crummer, and John Cook JP.

1845 26 June Henry was still a Ticket of Leave holder when he was granted permission to marry Jane Griffiths [came free] in the district of Newcastle [Christ Church]. Henry was aged 35 and Jane aged 27.

1846 2 March Henry received his Conditional Pardon [46/78].

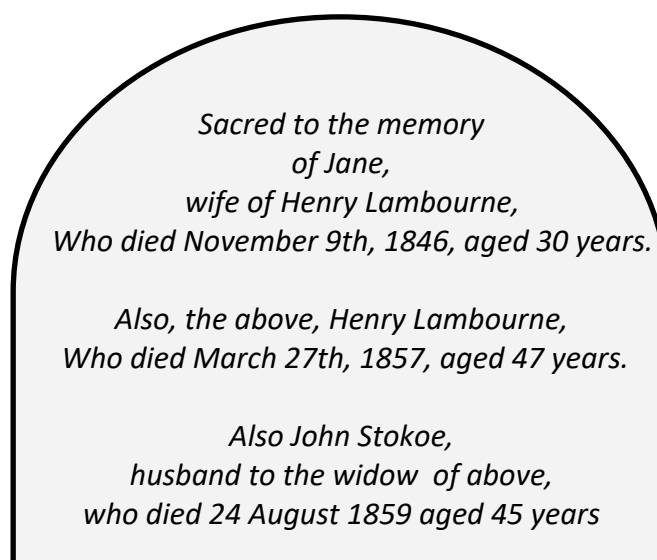
1846 9 November Henry's wife Jane died aged 30 years and was buried at Christ Church burial ground, Newcastle.

1847 2 March He married Sarah Priest [born in colony] by licence at Christ Church, Newcastle. Sarah was the daughter of convicts Edward Priest and Elizabeth Flanagan. At the time, Henry is recorded as a shoemaker.

Children of the marriage– Elizabeth b. 14.12.1847, d. 1847; Henry E. b. 1851, d. 1922; Stephina M. b.1855, d. 1917; Jane A. b.? All born Newcastle. By 1855 he had his own store in Newcastle.

Henry died on 27 March 1857, aged 47 years of and he is buried at Christ Church Cathedral Cemetery Newcastle with his first wife Jane. Following Henry's death, his widow Sarah married John Stokoe in 1858 and they had a daughter Elizabeth Isabella born 1859, but sadly John died the same year and he was also buried with Henry and Jane Lambourne.

The transcription found on the headstone makes for interesting reading, one wonders just what family connections the casual observer of the transcription would make regarding John Stokoe.



NOTES: Widow Sarah Stokoe [late Lambourne, nee Priest] married again for a third time on 2 April 1861, to a widower Thomas Warland, who already had six children. Thomas died 1880 in Sydney. Sarah then married for a fourth time to widowed Lighthouse Keeper, William Glover at Nelson Bay. Two of Sarah's daughters, Sarah and Ruth married two of William's sons Walter and Clarence respectively.

Henry's son, Henry Edward Lambourne, was appointed to the Government Lighthouse Service on 2 November 1883, and following the death of Lighthouse Keeper William Glover in 1892 at the Inner Light, Nelson Bay, Henry took over there as Lighthouse Keeper on 1 August 1892. In addition, he was appointed the Customs Officer at Nelson Bay in 1896.

By Denise Gaudion

Australian Agricultural Company

Convict: Thomas Peck

Thomas Peck was born on 19 November 1802 on Norfolk Island to parents Joshua Peck [First Fleet 1788] and Mary Frost [Second Fleet '*Neptune*' 1789]. His baptism was recorded at St. Philip's C of E, Sydney [V1803 714A], his parents now being 'free' and living on Norfolk Island. [see NOTES].

1821 Thomas was tried at the Court of Criminal Jurisdiction, Van Dieman's Land, for stealing 8 sheep, the property of the Crown, and slaughtering a heifer belonging to another settler.

1821 May he was sentenced to transportation to Newcastle for 14 years.

1821 June Thomas arrived to Sydney on board the ship '*Jupiter*'. He was then held in Sydney gaol until sent to Newcastle on board the ship '*Governor Bligh*'.

1822 Thomas was working in Government employ in Newcastle.

1823 he was assigned to William Smith in Newcastle. His father, Joshua Peck, petitioned the Governor, Sir Richard Bourke, for a mitigation of Thomas' sentence.

1825 still working for William Smith in Newcastle.

1827 Thomas was granted a Ticket of Leave [27/856].

1832 October he was assigned to the Australian Agricultural Company where he was employed as a shipwright, He was sent to Carrington to caulk the Company vessel '*Lambton*'. When Thomas was granted a further Ticket of Leave [32/877] it was for the district of Newcastle, Sir Edward Parry, Commissioner of the Company, wrote to the Superintendent of Convicts requesting that the district be altered to Port Stephens as Thomas wished to remain in the Company's employ.

1833 October 8 Thomas married Elizabeth Cromarty, the daughter of Captain William Cromarty, at Christ Church, Newcastle.

1835 August 3 he received his Certificate of Freedom [35/827].

1840 March Thomas was living at Booral with his wife, Elizabeth, and their 3 children, Thomas William b. 1835; Joshua Jeremiah b. 1837 and James Cromarty b. 1840. Thomas is recorded as a boat builder.

By 1842, Thomas had returned to Tasmania with his young family, and a further seven children were all born at Patterson's Plains, Mary Ann b. 1842; Elizabeth Cecilia b. 1846; Ellen Louisa b. 1848; John Magnus b. 1850; Eliza b. 1852; George Cromarty b. 1855; Stanley b. 1857.

Thomas died in 1889 aged 88 years at Patterson's Plains, Tasmania. His wife Elizabeth had died in 1886 aged 69 years, both are buried in the Peck family vault in the Church of England Section of St. Peter's Cemetery, St. Leonards.



Thomas and Elizabeth Peck [nee Cromarty] and family

PECK NOTES: Thomas was tried along with his father Joshua Senior, and two of his brothers, William and Joshua Junior, for the same offence, stealing sheep, and all were transported to Newcastle Penal Settlement from Van Dieman's Land per the ship '*Jupiter*'.

His father Joshua Peck was a First Fleet convict. Born in Devon circa 1755, he was tried and found guilty of Felony at Exeter on 20 March 1786, sentenced to 7 years and transported to the Colony of New South Wales per ship '*Charlotte*'. Joshua Snr. had at one time been employed on a tobacco plantation in the West Indies. Joshua married Mary Frost, a Second Fleet convict, whilst on Norfolk Island [both were recorded at the time as being 'free'].

CROMARTY NOTES: In January 2017, an old yellowed envelope was found in a cupboard drawer during a Cromarty descendant's spring clean. Found within were some very old handwritten documents. The ink was faded but very neatly written. One lot of documents in particular was titled Memories– Elizabeth Cromarty, as dictated to her daughter Sissey [Cecilia 2nd] in 1886. the date shown on the first page is January 1886 with the concluding page dated 3 April 1886.

The Cromarty family history in Port Stephens has been very well recorded, but, Elizabeth's memories bring to light just why and when the family left the Orkneys. By 1821, when William Cromarty joined the Merchant Navy, William and Cecilia Cromarty [nee Brown] with daughters Elizabeth and Nellie, were residing in Rotherhithe, London. It was here that a third daughter named Cecilia was born 12 October 1821, but sadly died just 5 days old. Their first son William Christopher Bell Cromarty was born 24 September 1822 in Rotherhithe, his father was in Sydney at the time as 1st Mate on ship Fame. Second daughter Nellie died aged 4 and was also buried 16 March 1823 at St. Mary's Church, Rotherhithe, London.¹

On 29 March 1824, Cecilia, daughter Elizabeth and son William depart Plymouth onboard the convict ship Phoenix, bound for Sydney. So, after many years of trying to find their eldest son William's baptism in Orkney, another piece of the Cromarty family history falls into place, plus the birth/ death of another daughter, Cecilia. [1st]

By PSFHS Research Committee

1. Kilmartin, Leslie: Elizabeth Cromarty, Colonial Girl [2018]

*Captain William Cromarty
& Australian Agricultural Company
Convict: Thomas Maytom*

Thomas Maytom was born c1806 in Kent, England to parents John and Sarah Maytom [nee Fagg]. He was a single Protestant, farmer and shepherd who was unable to read or write; and had no previous criminal convictions; he stood 5' 8¾" tall with a ruddy freckled face, brown hair and eyes. Thomas had a tattoo 'H. SOLLY' on his right arm, and a small scar in the right hand corner of his mouth.

1826 1 August Thomas, together with his younger brother John, was tried at the Kent Assizes for stealing a sheep and was sentenced to transportation for 14 years. He was then transported from gaol and held at Woolwich, onboard the prison hulk *Retribution*.

**SUSSEX ADVERTISER: Monday 7 August 1826, p.2
SHEEP STEALING**

Thomas Maytom, aged 20, Henry Vandeppeer, aged 19 and John Maytom, aged 26, were indicted for killing and stealing a sheep, the property of Mr David Harris at Harae on the 12 April, last.

The detection of the prisoners was rather curious:- When they killed the sheep, they left all those parts, the skin and c....., by which in all probability, they considered it could be brought to proof against them. On searching their houses, a day or two after the sheep was killed, a quantity of meat was found in their possession, for which they could not account. They, however, stoutly denied that they, stole it; and, as it is rather difficult to swear to meat, the constable was at fault, until, on examining the skin, part of the spine bone was found attached, and, on comparing the part found with the bone attached to some of the meat in the prisoners possession, it corresponded exactly.

The prisoners were then taken into custody, and subsequently acknowledged their offence. The witness for the prosecution underwent a severe cross-examination by Mr J. Dowling, but nothing material was elicited.

Verdict. Guilty, and sentence of transportation for fourteen years immediately passed on them.

1827 24 May convict ship '*Champion*' left England bound for the NSW colony.

17 October Thomas arrived in Sydney Cove

1828 Thomas was assigned to Captain William Cromarty of Ronaldsha, Port Stephens.

1834 14 January Capt. Cromarty wrote to the Board for Assignment of Servants requesting that Thomas be reassigned to the Australian Agricultural Company at Port Stephens.

1839 Thomas was granted his Ticket of Leave [39/616] for the District of Port Stephens.

1839 he was granted his Ticket of Leave [39/616] for the District of Port Stephens. He applied for permission to marry Mary Massey [arrived as convict per ship Sarah and Elizabeth] in the District of Port Stephens. This marriage was refused as Mary Massey was sent to Newcastle Gaol for refusing to work on 1 November 1839.



Thomas Maytom

1840 20 August Thomas was aged 34, and listed as being 'Free', when he was granted permission to marry Isabella Leech/ Leach, aged 26 and on a 'Bond' [arrived as a convict from Ireland per ship 'Thomas Harrison' 1836] in the District of Port Stephens.

28 August The marriage took place on the Australian Agricultural Company's estate at Stroud. At the time Thomas had lost his Ticket of Leave.

1841 28 June a son Thomas Archibald was born at Booral, NSW.

1841 31 July Thomas was still assigned to Mr Nicholls, one of the Company's indentured servants, at Stroud, where he was working as a labourer.

1842 20 June he received his Certificate of Freedom [42/940].

1843 25 March a daughter Sarah was born at Stroud, NSW.

1844 16 November second daughter Maria was born at Stroud, NSW

1849 13 March second son William was born at Booral, NSW.

1851 25 March youngest son born at Booral, NSW.

1872 23 September death of wife Isabella. She is buried in St. John's Church graveyard.

1887 9 May Thomas died at Booral and was buried in the grounds of St. John's Church of England, Stroud. Thought to be buried with wife Isabella.

NOTES: Thomas' brother, John Maytom, was tried on the same day for the same crime and was also transported to NSW per ship 'Champion'. John drowned at Wiseman's Ferry 20 May 1828.

At the time of their arrival, Thomas had savings in his Bank of New South Wales passbook of £1. 12 shillings, and brother John had £1. 13 shillings and ninepence.

TICKET OF LEAVE.	
No. 29/616	St. John 1859
Prisoner's No.	
Name	Thomas Maytom
Ship	Champion
Master	
Year	1827
Native Place	
Trade or Calling ..	
Offence	
Place of Trial	Port Phillip
Date of Trial	August 1 st 1826
Scenes	14 years
Year of Birth	
Height	
Complexion	
Hair	42/940
Eyes	
General Remarks .	
Allowed to remain in the District of Port Stephens	
On recommendation of the Bench	
Date	August 1838

Captain William Cromarty & Australian Agricultural Company Convict: James Stacey

James was born c 1802 in Berkshire, England. He was a Protestant who 'ploughs, milks and sows', and a married man with four children. James could also read and write and it was noted that he had no previous convictions. He was 5' 6" tall with ruddy skin, brown thinning hair and hazel grey eyes. He had a scar near his right eyebrow.

1831 9 July James was tried at Abingdon for manslaughter and sentenced to transportation for 14 years.

1832 13 February he arrived to Sydney per ship 'Asia 1[6]' (see note below) and was assigned from the ship to Captain William Cromarty, who, at that time, was employed by the Australian Agricultural Company at Port Stephens.

1834 14 January he was still assigned to Capt. Cromarty, however, Cromarty had written to the Board for Assignment of Servants requesting that James be re-assigned to the Australian Agricultural Company.

1837 James was assigned to the Australian Agricultural Company at Port Stephens.

1838 8 April he was granted his Ticket of Leave [38/544] for the District of Port Stephens.

1842 1 February he was granted a Ticket of Leave Passport [42/187] allowing him to remain at the Peel River in the service of the Australian Agricultural Company on the recommendation of Captain King, Dungog Bench, dated 11 January 1842.
[42/609]

1846 24 August James received his Certificate of Freedom [46/799]. It was also noted that James had lost part of a front tooth in the upper jaw, scar under the right eyebrow, two small scars back of the finger of right hand, scar back of middle finger of left hand.

NOTE: Varying convict records have the ship ASIA 1 arriving to Sydney on 13 February 1832 as either [6] or [9] voyage to Australia. In actual fact, shipping references show that it was the 11th voyage the ASIA 1 made to Australia.

By PSFHS Research Committee

No.	19/187	1 st July 1842
Name	James Stacey	
Ship	Asia (9)	
Year of Arrival	1832	
Where Tried	Berkshire 1831	
When Tried	9 th July 1831	
Sentence	14 years	
Ticket of Leave No.	38/544	
Allowed to	reside at Peel River in the service of the Australian Agricultural Company, for 12 months	
On the recommendation of	Chief Magistrate Bench, dated 11 th Jan'y 42	

*Captain William Cromarty
& Australian Agricultural Company
Convict: Joseph Mayers*

Joseph was born c1790 in Staffordshire, England. He was a Protestant aged 28, a shoemaker by trade but also a coal miner. He was described as being 5' 3½" tall with a fresh complexion, brown hair mixed with red, and blue eyes.

1818 31 August Joseph was tried at the Chester Session of Peace for stealing a gelding and was sentenced to transportation for Life.

9 November he was transferred to the prison hulk '*Justitia*' moored at Woolwich.

1819 26 June arrived to Sydney per ship '*Baring* [2]'.

1821 8 November Joseph was admitted to Sydney Gaol [no crime stated] and received 50 lashes.

16 November he was sent to Newcastle per cutter '*Sally*'.

1822 16 April Joseph was punished at Newcastle for 'taking to the bush' and received 75 lashes.

1825 Joseph was in Port Macquarie Penal Settlement.

1826 16 July Joseph was first assigned to the Australian Agricultural Company at Port Stephens.

1828 Census he was still assigned to the Company where he was employed as a labourer.

1834 14 January Joseph was still assigned to the company when Captain William Cromarty wrote to the Board for Assignment of Convicts requesting that Joseph be re-assigned to him in exchange for Thomas Maytom [see p. 17] and James Stacey [see p. 19]. At that time, Joseph's name was recorded as Joshua Meares.

9 August he received his Ticket of Leave [34/896] for the District of William's River.

1835 5 August Joseph's Ticket of Leave was altered to the District of Port Macquarie.

1842 1 April Joseph was granted a Conditional Pardon [43/151] which was not officially received until 12 June 1843.

1850 4 June the Principal Superintendent of Convicts issued an announcement stating that:-
the Absolute' 'Exceptive Absolute' or 'Conditional Pardons' granted to the undermentioned individuals, being still in my office unapplied for; it is hereby notified that the parties in whose favour these Pardons have been prepared, are required by the Government within three months from this date to make application for the same; either at my Office, or to the Clerk of Petty Sessions of their respective Districts; and failing in so doing, they will become liable to all the consequences that may arise from their not possessing these instruments.'

Joseph Mayers was listed as having failed to collect his Conditional Pardon.

By PSFHS Research Committee

Glossary of terms used in the Rentals & Tenures of Orkney, and peculiar to the Dialect of the Islands

In 98 AD Roman geographers called the Orkney Islands "Orcades".

Nowegian settlers arriving from the late 9th century, reinterpreted 'orc' as the Old Norse word 'orkn', meaning "seal", and added 'eyjar', meaning "islands" to the name being Orkneyjar or Seal Islands.

Orkney & the Bishoprick

The first rental of the Earldom of Orkney was made by Lord Henry Sinclair in the years 1497, 1503 and intervening years. [Lord Sinclair's grandfather had surrendered the Earldom of Orkney to the King of Scotland]. This Lord Sinclair was killed at the Battle of Flodden in 1513.



The second rental is titled "Rentale Orchade, pro Rege et Episcopo 1595", or Bishop's Law Rental. *Reference Source: Peterkin, Alexander. Rentals of the Ancient Earldom and Bishoprick of Orkney.*

Dialect Glossary

A

An+, Antiquitus: antiently, of old

Aiduc: hitherto, heretofore, besides

Air: a bank or beach of sand or gravel, heaved up by surges of the sea

B

But: without, not burdened with

Bowland: sometimes written Borland, paying no scatt

Bar: barrel

Buir, Bear: butter

C

Cost: victual, two-thirds whereof are malt, and one-third meal

Conquest: acquired, purchased

Casie: a large basket made of straw, used for holding corn, meal and malt; the weight allowed for it on the malt pundlar being a settin, and on the bear pundlar eight merks

Chalder: 18 meils of malt; 36 meils of bear upon the bear pundlar, and 24 upon the malt pundlar make a chalder of bear, which will measure 21 bolls Linlithgow measure. The firloot is about 1½ settings, but it varies according to the quality of the grain. The boll of meal is about 4½ settings, Orkney weight

Cowsworth: a cowsworth sometimes indicates the third, at other times the fourth, and in some instances the eighth part of a mark of land

D

D, d.: abbreviation for penny— indicates also merks in Lord Sinclair's rental

Dett, Debt: rent or duties payable by vassals and tenants to superior and land lord

E

Excambion: exchange of land

F

Farding terre: fourth part of d. land

Fat good: butter, oil

Forcop: pre-emptio, payment by anticipation; scot forehand payment, grassum

Forop lands: lands liable in grassum

Foud: the Chief Magistrate under the antient jurisdiction of the country called

Foudrie: which consisted of a sort of government by chief and subordinate fouds, latterly called baillies throughout the different parts of the district. This authority was abolished along with the other heritable jurisdictions in 1748.

G

Gavelkind: on the death of a father in Zetland, the youngest got the dwelling -house and the rest, both moveables and heritage, was divided gavel-kind

H

Holm: a small island, and uninhabited, and used only for pasture

J

Jam: now, at present

Jnde: from, thence

L

Leispund, Leisp or Settin: 2½ merks, equal to 28 lb at 16ozs per lb.

Last: the highest denomination of weight, being of malt 24 meils, and of bear 38 meils

M

Maile, Maill, Male: rent

Meil, m: 6 leispund in weight

Merk-land: the fourth part of a penny land

O

Ob: obulum, half-penny

Oyse: the oy being pronounced like the Greek V, an inlet of the sea

P

Parochin, Parrochin: parish

Pundler, Pundlar: a beam or steelyard marked with crosslines, on the short end of which there is a hook to which the casie of corn or other substance is fastened, and the weight of it is ascertained by shifting the ring of the pundlar stone upon the longer shaft of the beam. The pundlar stone of the malt pundlar should be a settin weight, and on the bear pundlar 16 merks

Plank, Planking: the process by which runridge lands are laid into severalty, being generally separated only in small portions, often not exceeding a plank in one place

Q

Quoy: an enclosure with a turf or stone fence

Quoyland: a possession enclosed from common, and not intermixed with the town-lands; it pays no scat

R

Runrig, Rundale: arable lands and pasture, which lie intermixed, belonging to different proprietors, or occupied by different tenants

S

Stent: the portion of scat according to extent of land

Scat, Skatt: tribute, land-tax payable to Kings of Norway, afterwards to Kings of Scotland, and their donatories, from Udallers of Orkney

Span: lispund, setting

Set: fe fs, abbreviation for Settin, when applied to articles weighed— f.Ŧ s Shilling, when applied to money

Skerries: small islands, or rather rocks in the sea, on which there is little or no vegetation or mould

T

Tantum: only, so much, so many

Terre, Terrce, Tere: land

Tumal, Tumail: a piece of detached land not included in the town-lands, but taken in from the common or hill

Town: a space of land, varying in extent and denomination; generally surrounded by a hilldike, separating it from some other town or common, and, including a number of houses or separate possessions lying runridge and intermixed—these being called the townlands, to distinguish them from tumails. A town is of no definite extent but is known by the different denominations of URIS, or 18 pennyland, 9 pennyland and so forth. The total extent of each town being fixd by the rentals or other evidence, the titles of possessions of the several inheritors interested indicate the proportions which belong to each when the town is sub-divided

U

Uthale. Uthell, Udal, Ud: lands not subject to feudal rules, writs or casualties held and transferred originally without written titles and liable in scat and tiend; sometimes not feudalized.

Uthallers, Udallers, Uthalmen: proprietors of feudal— lands. “possessing their lands these many ages conform to Danish law, for payment of scat and tiend”. Register of Parliament of Scotland, June 28, 1633

Umboth, Umboth-tiend: “the great tiend of either half of the parish, so called, because every other {alternate} year it was changed with the minister for his half; for the word umboth signifieth time abot”. Wallace

Uris Terrae, 18d: ie. 18 pennyland, sometimes written in the rentals “xviijd terre” and sometimes written at length

W

Warthill, Wardhill: the highest ground in an island or district on which the warders kept watch and kindled the beacon— fires to raise the country

Wart: the heap of turf prepared for the beacon— fires

SAMPLE RENTAL:

JAMES CROMARTY compts for 1 mk. p. Rege in Dykeside. The oyr. mk. ley, and ps. ut supra. Rests all is L.5, 17s. 5d.

ELIZABETH WILSON, relict of James Cromarty, compts for 3 mk. ud. land p. Rege, ps. 18 mk. oyle, 9d. scat sr. 1½ poultry, 5 m. bear, and for flesh L.1, 5s. Rests all is L.17, 8s. 9d.

Research – can you help?

The PSFHS has for some time now been gathering research for a new, revised publication about the history of not only the Tilligerry Peninsula but all the surrounding areas of Parading Ground [part of early Williamstown], Salt Ash, Bobs Farm, Majors Flat, Lower Anna Bay and Taylors Beach [formerly Banks Farm]. The additional settlements are all found within the Tilligerry Creek catchment, conservation area.

The original book published by the society in 1996, “A History of the Tilligerry Peninsula”, is now ‘out of print’ and our new book will not only update and correct some of the previously published information, but also present some wonderful new historical data about the earliest landholders to the Tilligerry Creek catchment areas and also the unique maritime history of the waterways of the southern shores of Port Stephens.

We are asking all readers of our journal ‘Lemon Tree’ and kindred societies if they can help with their family history, photographs or land grants/ records regarding the early settlement and the pioneers of these areas. All deposited information will be acknowledged to the submitter in the publication and please quote any records or reference source used. Any oral histories and interesting stories about the families would be a wonderful addition in putting a human face to our pioneering ancestors.

CONTACT: Denise Gaudion

EMAIL: psfhsi@gmail.com

PHONE: 0422 303 171

RESEARCH ENQUIRIES

Please send all research enquiries to PO Box 32, Tanilba Bay NSW 2319
or email: psfhsi@gmail.com

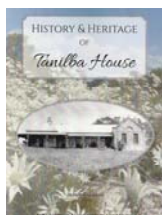
Download request form from website: www.portstephensfamilyhistory.com.au
Please include and attach as much relevant information that you have regarding any brick walls.

- Initial Research Fee is \$30 (limit of 10 resource documents printed or copied) and further detailed research will incur additional \$10 per hour fee.
- Email enquiries: advice only– research officer will quote on a needs basis.

EFT payments on application re bank account details

All enquiries are welcome, and we do endeavour to answer paid requests as soon as possible, however, if at times we have numerous requests, please be patient.

Publications

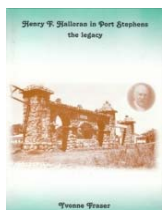


History and Heritage of Tanilba House

By Denise Gaudion

A full history of the Caswell family, and complete history and heritage of Tanilba House and its subsequent ownership. We reveal the full naval career of Lt. William Caswell and biographies of the forty [40] known convicts that were assigned to him, and in addition, the daily diaries of Caswell's Overseer, Charles William Stuart.

Soft cover, pages, \$30 + postage



Henry Halloran, the Legacy

By Yvonne Fraser

Realtor, surveyor, town planner, engineer with a penchant for history and poetry. His versatility, energy and tenacity helped shape Port Stephens and other areas of New South Wales.

Soft cover, 44 pages, \$15 + postage

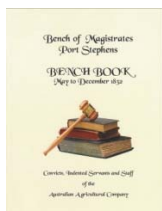


Convicts of the Australian Agricultural Company, 1825-1850

By Yvonne Fraser and Marie Dial

Biographical index of the 1,329 convicts who served with the A.A.Co. Includes birth & death, trial and sentence, shipping, assignments, tickets of leave and pardons.

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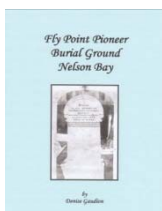


Bench of Magistrates, Port Stephens May to Dec. 1832

By Denis Nichols et al

Complete transcriptions of court proceedings. Includes employees, convicts & indentured servants of the A.A.Co. The areas covered of the Port Stephens Bench are Booral and Stroud.

Soft cover, 87 pages, \$25 + postage



Fly Point Pioneer Burial Ground, Nelson Bay

By Denise Gaudion

Biographical information on the early settlers buried at Fly Point, the first cemetery at Nelson Bay, Port Stephens. Includes chapters on the first settlement at early Teramby Village.

Soft cover, 58 pages, \$20 + postage



Bob's Farm Cadre Camp: Refugees from Timor in Port Stephens During World War II

By Yvonne Fraser

This book rediscovers a piece of our fascinating history in Port Stephens. It brings to life a time when Bob's Farm, a sparsely settled area, played an important role in the international relations between Australia, Portugal and Timor. The story also uncovers the extensive military operations to evacuate the 600 refugees from Portuguese Timor and bring them to Australia.

Soft cover, 68 pages, \$25 + postage

CD- Roms

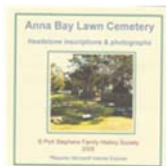


Port Stephens Pilot, Jul 1926-Feb 1930

Index of Domestic & Other Notices

The CD contains all entries from the domestic notices in the newspaper, covering a wide area of Port Stephens and the Hunter Valley.

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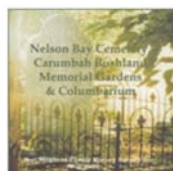


Anna Bay Lawn Cemetery, Headstone Inscriptions & Photographs

The CD includes photos and transcriptions for burials and cremations within the Anna Bay Lawn Cemetery. Burial index Included..

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Nelson Bay Cemetery

Carumbah Memorial Gardens and Columbarium

Includes colour photos and inscriptions of the three sections of burials and cremations at the Nelson Bay Cemetery. Full index with content listing.

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Established 1986



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Please send your request and payment to society with as much relevant detail as possible

See website for details

Email enquiries: refer to form in this journal.

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