

Settlers Sazette

Newsletter of the Swan River Pioneers 1829-1838 Inc. An Affiliated Member of the Family History WA Inc. & The Royal WA Historical Society Inc.

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Coming up Saturday 1 June 2024 - Save the date!

Breakfast at the Parmelia Hilton (see page 12 for the booking sheet—get in early as this is a popular event) Celebrating Western Australia Day formerly Foundation Day.

What is the history of WA Day?



Prior to 2012, June 1 was known as Foundation Day, which marked the day when the first European settlers, under the command of Captain James Stirling RN, Lieutenant Governor, arrived from Britain to settle the Swan River Colony. In April 2012 Foundation Day was formally changed to WA Day following bipartisan political support in the Western Australian Parliament.

The legislation emphasizes the new 'State Day' was to be inclusive of all people no matter how long they have called themselves Western Australians.

On this day our Group celebrate the arrival of our early pioneer ancestors who arrived between 1829 and 1838 the period of Sir James Stirling's governorship. We present Certificates to those who can prove their ancestry from those plucky pioneers who played their part in establishing the Colony of Swan River. Since the introduction of the Certificates we have produced nearly 8000 Certificates which includes the 'Á' Certificate for the first child that arrived with their parents or was born in the Swan River Colony between 1 June 1829 and 31st December 1838.



tpp Easter 2024

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Volunteers are always wanted!

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Swan River Rioneers 1829-1838 Snc.

President's Report: Graeme Ferguson

A descendant of the Ferguson & Morley Families

Hello Members

As we conclude the first quarter of 2024, I am pleased to present to you the quarterly report highlighting the progress and achievements of our community.

As mentioned in my previous report, significant work has been undertaken in the review of our Constitution and By-laws. The draft amendments will be presented to the next meeting of the Committee for discussion.

Significant work has also been undertaken in the revamp of our website and Facebook page. Information on the First Families section of the website will undergo an expansion over the next few months. These changes are ongoing, and I recommend you visit these pages from time to time to observe the changes being made.

It is pleasing to see the number of members on the Facebook page increasing and also an increase in visits to the web site. These two sources provide you with all the ongoing information about the activities of the Swan River Pioneers and information about the early settlers of the Swan River Colony.

Members and guests who attended the High Tea held in the Harbour Master Room at the Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle, on Sunday, 24 March 2024 were treated to a delightful afternoon of elegance and indulgence. The event was a resounding success, with attendees enjoying a selection of delectable treats and exquisite teas in the historic surroundings of the Esplanade Hotel. In addition to the culinary delights, attendees were also treated to a presentation by Allen Graham, a local historian and author, who provided guests with the story of the life and times of Daniel Scott. Daniel was a significant figure in the early development of the Swan River Colony from 1829 including being the Harbour Master, Post Master and an entrepreneur. Special thanks go to Committee Member Marie Broad for undertaking the research and producing a paper into the life of Daniel Scott.

The next major event being organised by the Committee is the WA Day/Foundation Day breakfast which will be held on Saturday, 1 June 2024 at the Perth Parmelia Hotel.

Please check the Swan River Pioneers website or Facebook page for the booking form. You are encouraged to register your participation in this event without delay as it is always a very popular event.

In conclusion, I would like to express my gratitude to each and every member of our committee for your dedication and support. It is through our collective efforts that we continue to thrive and progress as descendants of the Swan River Pioneers.

Sincerely

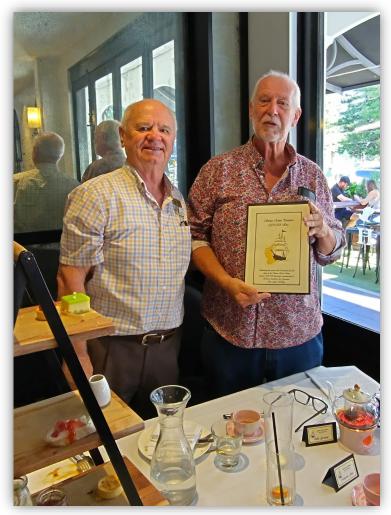


Presentation of Certificate of Descendancy at the High Tea

We learnt that our speaker Allen Graham, a Fremantle Historian, at the High Tea was descended from William & Lucy Palmer Glover who arrived in the ship '*Marquis of Anglesea'* on the 23rd August 1829.

We thought it would be fitting to present him with a Certificate of Descendancy and 12 months membership to the group as a gift for his talk at the High Tea.

There is a short history on the Glover family on Freotopia on the web: https://www.freotopia.org/people/glover.html



L-R: President Graeme with Allen Graham a proud descendant of the Glover family.

Allen Graham & our Committee Member Marie researched the history of Daniel Scott the first Harbour Master of the Swan River Colony.

It was very fitting that the High Tea was in the Harbour Master's Restaurant in the Fremantle Esplanade Hotel.



It was an elegant affair and the food was delicious.

The event was a sell-out and thank you to the members who supported this event.

As President Graeme said in his report it was a very elegant affair and we all had a lovely afternoon. Speaker Allen Graham also brought some of his latest book Ínns & Outs of Fremantle' and sold some of them at a special price to members. Thank you Allen!

Suests at the High Cea....photos by Kim Edwards our paparazzi chick....

Kim has downloaded the photos onto Dropbox: https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/tiijqlgvp8nbtibbmh5xn/h?rlkey=xyf0pmlz3kv16kq279hvork1b&dl=0



Laura Davies & the Davies Family—great supporters of our Group. The Davies family descend from: Mews/Stirling (Edmund)/ Read/Armstrong/Davies & Williams families. Real sandgropers with multiple pioneer families...





L-R: Ernie Strahan, Roma Strahan & Lyn Coy - Ernie & Lyn are descendants of the Davis Family who arrived on the 'Parmelia'. The cousins catching up...

If you can't download a photo please contact us and we will email to you.



Ruth dedicated her life to family, charities and community groups. A Freeman of the Cities London, Nedlands and Wanneroo.

The Commander of the most Venerable Order of St John of Jerusalem of Western Australia. Founder of the Government House Foundation.

Patron of Family History WA (formerly WA Genealogical Society).

The list of her interests and charities goes on and on...

Ruth passed peacefully on 3rd January 2024 aged 102 years.

Ruth was a much loved, respected lady with an infectious laugh and twinkling eyes, always ready with a kind word. We will always remember you Ruth.

Wale to Graham Bown - former Projects Officer and long standing Committee member of Swan River Eioneers since 1993. Graham passed away 5th Sanuary 2024.

Graham was the leader of our series of CD's produced in 2005 that contains information about the early pioneers of the Swan River Colony in 1829-1838. He was a researcher of great note and helped compile the Cemeteries indexes of WA, First Families of the Swan River Colony, Passenger Arrivals 1826-1838, The Perth Gazette and Western Australian Journal 1834, Colonial Secretary's Office

Inwards Correspondence January 1829 to December 1832.

Graham was an enthusiastic Committee Member, patient and dedicated.

Photo of our early days in WA Genealogical Society Library. Graham with Lyn Coy and Lorraine Evans. He was a much valued member of our Group.

Sympathy to Lois and Family...



THE STORY OF REV. GEORGE & MARY ANN DUNNAGE Arrived in the ship 'Gilmore' 15th December 1829—came out under the Thomas Peel Settlement Scheme but disillusioned returned to England on the Édward Lombe'12th April 1831.

Helen Dunnage has sent us his story... Thanks Helen

My GGG grandfather George Dunnage born 21/7/1803 in Marylebone in London, England and later lived in Upper Mall Hammersmith in a beautiful

home called Hyde Lodge. He graduated from Cambridge having studied law – but had no love for it. His family had been involved in the hatting business and had made quite a lot of money from it, so there was quite a bit of inheritance when his father died.

George married Mary Freeman who was from a family involved in the London stage (acting and dancing).

George saw the publicity for the Peel settlement and decided to take a chance on a great new opportunity. He went ahead and booked passage on the Gilmore.

George and Mary were considered some of the wealthiest passengers on this boat and took a lot of items with them – like pre-fabricated house, furniture, pianoforte, 45-50 tons of personal property, cash, tents. It seems he was entitled to receive 20,000 acres of good farming land when he arrived. I believe he also took 7 servants. Also, George's uncle, Charles Larkin came along too as he had farming experience.

Unfortunately, the arrival of this ship was met with lots of delays and because of this the land my grandfather got was not particularly good, they had given the better land to people who has arrived earlier – even though they didn't have the wealth to build it up. Also, George had given Peel 500 pounds to purchase stores and livestock to be delivered to the colony from Sydney after his arrival - this never eventuated.

All of these problems led to my grandfather being completely disillusioned with the project. His uncle Charles Larkin died from dysentery and was buried among the sandhills in Clarence. George and Mary Dunnage had a son also called George born 8 July 1830 in the Swan River Settlement. He became a Lieutenant in the Austrian Army in 1848.

My grandfather did try to recover the 500 pounds from Thomas Peel but was not successful.

So disallusioned, he left the colony on the "Edward Lombe" with his wife, son and 1 servant on 12th April 1831.

When he got back to England, he made a formal complaint about all that was wrong with the whole project.

George had lost most of his inheritance in this venture and so returned to Cambridge to gain a Master of Arts degree and to read theology.

He was then ordained as a Deacon at Durham Cathedral and given the curacy of Kirkby Lonsdale in the Diocese of Chester. He then took up various posts in Europe and eventually had a total of 7 children.

George then decided that he would try again to move and start afresh in Christchurch NZ – which was called the Canterbury Settlement.

They left on the ship 'Fatima' 8th April 1851.

George was appointed the ships chaplain for the journey and was to take up a post in St Paul''s Church in Papanui, Christchurch.

He suffered a slight stroke on the journey but was able to continue with his duties whilst on board. He didn't get to take up his post as he was still unwell and died in 1853 shortly before he turned 50 and he is the first burial in St Paul's in Papanui.

Unfortunately because of the failure of the Peel Project the Swan River Colony and Western Australia missed out on the services of a good man.



Rioneering Women of the Swan River Polony

by: Lyn Coy (Descendant of the Davis Family who arrived on the ship 'Parmelia' 31st May 1829

Much is written about our pioneering menfolk who arrived in the Swan River Colony but the women who came out with their husbands and children are often not given their due credit.

I would like to hear about your pioneering grandmother and her early life in the Colony. The trials and tribulations she had to face in those early days.

There are many stories of courage which have been forgotten and as the 200th anniversary of the Foundation of Western Australia is coming up in 2029 it would be good if we could pay homage to the womenfolk (as well as the men) who played their part in the founding of this great State of Western Australia.

So please put pen to paper as they say and send in a story about the pioneer women in your family tree.

The first woman who comes to mind is Ellen Stirling wife of Captain James Stirling who came out on the ship 'Parmelia.'



Ellen Stirling (née Mangles, 1807–1874) was known in her lifetime as the 'mother of Western Australia'. The daughter of James Mangles – an East India Company director and Member of Parliament – Ellen was thirteen when she snared the attention of naval officer James Stirling (1791–1865), a family acquaintance. Described as 'adventurous, not yet introduced to the simpering ways of high society, well-educated, amusing and attractive,' Ellen is held by family lore to have been appealing to Stirling for her energy and lack of affectation. They were married on her sixteenth birthday in September 1823 and their first child was born the following year. In 1827, Stirling was given command of a voyage commissioned with identifying a new site for a British garrison on the west Australian coast.

On his return to London, he presented the Colonial Office with a case for the establishment of a settlement on the Swan River.

He was appointed lieutenant-governor of the new colony and in early 1829 Ellen sailed with him to the place that became Perth. Ellen's unpretentious manner served her well in a colony that, for the early part of Stirling's tenure, was a dishevelled assortment of tents and timber houses. Stirling's surveyor-general, John Septimus Roe, considered her 'affable and unaffected' and her friend Georgiana Molloy wrote of Ellen as 'exceedingly amiable and pleasingly natural.'

Ellen maintained a gentrified style of living and as the colony's pre-eminent lady presided at race meetings, hunts and other 'entertainments.' Her charm and youth are said to have reflected well on her husband, softening some of the criticism of his governorship. Ellen had seven children during her ten years in Western Australia and another three following her return to Britain.

But despite the refined life of the 'First Lady of the Swan River Colony' it would not have been as we would say 'a walk in the park.' Ellen gave birth to her second son Frederick Henry on 26th March 1829 at sea around the Cape of Good Hope. Her third son William was born 27th February 1831 and was buried 2nd May 1831 at Perth.

Life was extremely hard for women facing childbirth in the Colony. There were very few doctors.

Elizabeth Dent nee Dodd (c1799-1891) arrived in the ship 'Marquis of Anglesea 23rd August 1829.

Due to heavy seas and gales, the passengers were unable to disembark - these gales eventually drove the ship to ground. As Elizabeth's confinement was imminent, she was brought ashore to give birth - sheltered in a hog's head - to their third daughter Sophia on September 1, 1829. Sophia is reputed to be the first white female child born in the colony.

Her husband Thomas was continually in the courts for various reasons including a 3-month prison term for assaulting his wife. Eventually, in 1845, Thomas was committed to the Round House as a lunatic (said to be an epileptic) where he died in April 1849. Elizabeth lived with her son George's family, dying in 1891 at the ripe old age of 92 years. Both are buried at East Perth Cemetery although Elizabeth's headstone was later moved to Karrakatta Cemetery.

Sarah Morley nee Bassett (c1805-1884) arrived in the ship 'Wanstead' 30th January 1830.

After the Morley's' arrival in 1830 they lived in Upper Swan for the next twenty-three years. Granted Perth Lot 02 in 1830. Henry and Sarah's family grew to five daughters and three sons. They all worked under primitive working conditions. Tilling small acreages, the soil to cultivate of wheat and barley, plant vegetables and fruit trees and bred from a few animals. At fifty years of age Henry purchased 20 acres to farm in Chittering for 20 pounds. Five years later he purchased an additional fifteen acres. The family home Énderslea Farm 'was built in 1853 and in the late 1850's a large barn was constructed by convict labour. The barn's 60 square metre wooden floor provided the isolated local farming community with the opportunity to attend occasional social dances accompanied by an accordion player. The Morley family would travel 40kms to Guildford and would exchange farm produce (barter) for credit to purchase cloth and iron implements.

Sarah Morley, pioneering wife, and mother raised three grandchildren as a second family. Within a week after the death of her daughter Caroline in 1862, Sarah at the aged of fifty-six years travelled by horse drawn buggy to Greenough. Sarah was determined to retrieve her grandchildren because Daniel Baughan, Caroline's widower, had no satisfactory means to support his children who were aged one, three and six years old. Sarah travelled 12 hours a day, resting to water the horse. Sarah, to ensure that she safely made that arduous journey trip hobbled the horse at night. The round trip lasted 25 days covered 400kms along a bush track. Sarah died 2 August 1884 at Upper Swan. Husband Henry and Sarah are buried at All Saints Church, Upper Swan.

Catherine Davis nee Flemming (c1798-1836) arrived in the ship 'Parmelia' 31st May 1829.

The Davis family, with their nephew John, were amongst the first free settlers to the Swan River Colony. After some 16 weeks, they finally reached the western coast in the midst of a winter gale, the Parmelia struck a sandbank. To lighten the load, the women and children of the artificers were offloaded and transferred to a small rowing boat to Carnac Island where they stayed for four days - deprived of shelter, blankets, and food. They had one cup, one knife, salt beef and biscuits to share amongst the twenty-eight. Catherine Davis and her children were amongst those hapless souls. Tragedy struck the Davis Family - Catherine Davis died of typhoid fever August 1836, nephew John Davis was drowned in 1837 whilst employed with the Carnac Whaling Company.

The families that arrived under the Thomas Peel scheme and who were stranded on the beach at Clarence near Rockingham.

There were 29 deaths before they were moved back to the Fremantle area.

Elizabeth Eacott nee Bray (1803-1830) arrived in the ship 'Rockingham' 14th May 1830.

Elizabeth married Thomas Eacott in England in 1826.

They had two children but only one, Ann Priscilla, arrived with them in Rockingham. Elizabeth aged 27 years died in childbirth on the beach at Clarence on 13 June 1830, soon after the traumatic grounding of the 'Rockingham' in Cockburn Sound and was buried in the sandhills nearby. Presumably the child was stillborn or died soon after and was buried with her as no record has been found for the child. Thomas was an indentured servant to Thomas Peel. Thomas and the other immigrants looked to Peel for leadership during the difficult and harrowing times at Clarence and for some time after the arrival of the 'Rockingham' Peel's behavior was callous and indifferent. In August 1830 a petition was sent to the Governor and signed by Thomas and several other indentured servants, for fresh provisions. By the time summer had arrived most of his workers had sought release from their indentures and left him. Being a widower with a small child, Thomas and Anne Priscilla followed Thomas Peel to Mandurah, and despite all the hardships suffered at the hand of Peel, he was eventually free of Peel and consequently owned his land.

Georgiana Molloy nee Kennedy (1805-1843) arrived in the ship 'Warrior' 12th March 1830.

Eighteen-year-old Georgiana married Captain John Molloy, born 1780, twenty-five years her senior, veteran of Waterloo. The ship 'Warrior 'anchored off Rottnest Island in 1830 and a ship's boat sailed the passengers up the river to Perth, and Georgiana stepped ashore in the country she would spend the remaining years of her short life.

James Stirling welcomed them and told them the best land had gone and enthusiastically described the beauty of the south coast. So, the Molloy's chose Augusta, sight unseen, on the Blackwood River and with the Bussell family, became the first settlers of the district.

Some of the mighty jarrah trees were cleared and Georgiana's home was a leaky canvas tent. An umbrella was fixed above her bed when it rained. Here her first child was born – and died almost at once, an experience which scarred her so deeply that even three years later she wrote:

Language refuses to utter what I experienced when mine died in my arms in this dreary land, and no one but Molloy near me... I thought I had but one little bright object left to solace all the hardships and privations I endured and still had to go through. It was wicked, and I am not now thoroughly at peace.

<u>The story of Georgiana Molloy was indeed a remarkable one and it is worth reading the book.</u> 'Portrait with Background' by Alexandra Hasluck.

The women above are just a few of many, many women who faced the harsh conditions and their stories should be recorded as they showed great bravery to accompany their menfolk to an unknown land on the other side of the world, many only living for a few short years. Their surviving children went on to carve out new lives for themselves and their families in the foundation of Western Australia.

<u>Send in your story of your pioneering female ancestor – we would love to learn how they played their part in the</u> <u>development of Western Australia.</u>

<u>Lyn Coy – Editor</u> <u>Email: swanriverpioneers@gmail.com</u>

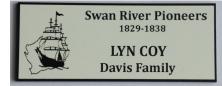
Swan River Pioneers - Name Badges

We are offering name badges for you to wear at our meetings and functions.

Cost is \$10.00 (which includes postage) for the normal size badge 75mm x 30mm. If you have multiple family names then the cost is \$12.00 and of course the badge is a bit bigger to fit in all your family names.

The badge is good quality (we have numerous club badges produced from this supplier). If you are interested you can email or call me to order.

<u>Please make cheques payable to Swan River Pioneers. Or you can order at a meeting or function from Lyn Coy</u> <u>Telephone: 041 790 8972 or</u> <u>email: swanriverpioneers@gmail.com or you can post your order to:</u> <u>Lyn Coy (Swan River Pioneers) at PO Box 2672, Ellenbrook WA 6069</u>



Thanks to our dedicated volunteers...

It certainly makes the workload lighter when we pitch in and assist. Do you have any spare time?



Subscriptions are due for 2024-25 by 1 July 2024. As we have to prepay for the Foundation Breakfast if you can assist by paying subs a bit earlier that would be a big help. We will recoup the money as bookings come in. The Subs notice is attached.

Many thanks - Lyn (Acting Treasurer)

Swan River Rioneers 1829-1838 Snc.



PO Box 2672 Ellenbrook WA 6069 Email: swanriverpioneers@gmail.com Social Convenor: Marie Broad Tel: 0438 505 753 Secretary : Lyn Coy Tel: 041 790 8972

elebrating WA Day - formerly Foundation Day

Breakfast at the Perth Parmelia Hotel Mill Street, Perth W.A.

Saturday, 1st June at 9:00am

Cost: \$55 per person

(Drinks available at your own cost e.g. glass champagne) Bookings and payment required by 15th May 2024 Bookings Limited so get in early! ...Friends & Family welcome...

BOOKING FORM

Please reserve tickets f	or the following guests:	
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4		-
Post Cheque to: Swan River Pionee or: <u>Please debit my credit card:</u>	rs 1829-1838 Inc., PO Box 267	<u>2 Ellenbrook WA 6069</u>
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