

Pensioner Barracks

Fremantle

By Jeanette Lee

On 28th November 1891 prior to the Immigration Depot expanding the area it occupied in the Pensioner Barracks building in South Terrace Fremantle, Timothy McCarthy, (formerly 18th Foot) who was in charge of the Barracks, made an inventory of the twenty-one families living in the Pensioners quarters. He recorded the number of rooms they occupied and the names, ages and occupation of the children who lived with them.

Widow Hughes occupied two rooms and had one son Edward aged sixteen living with her, Edward was engaged as a carpenter.

Winnifred Barrett aged twenty-five occupied four rooms and also had an adult child John aged eighteen living with her. John was in employment. Apparently Winnifred and John were brother and sister their father having died shortly before the list was made.

Pensioner Farrell also occupied 4 rooms and had 2 grown up children Peter aged thirty and Mary aged twenty-four.

Widow Cantwell had two rooms, she proposed going to the Home.

Pensioner Attwood had a wife and eight children living with him they occupied four rooms. The children were John aged twenty-four, Alfred aged nineteen, Joseph aged seventeen and Harriett aged fourteen were all in employment. Amy aged twelve, Eveline aged nine, Hamilton aged seven and Ester Alice aged four were presumably still at school. Pensioner Atwood was the armourer to the Fremantle Rifles.

Widow Daniels had two rooms.

Pensioner Rutley had a wife and four children occupying two rooms. Pensioner Rutley's

widowed daughter Ema (Emma) Ingraham aged twenty-five and her three children Emilia aged seven, George aged three and six month old David were also living with them.

Pensioner Goodbody had three children occupying two rooms. Once again it was his married daughter Mary Pollett aged twenty-six and her two children, Laurence aged three and Stattela (Stella) aged two, lived with her parents. He notes Mary's husband is Police Constable Pollett and he does not know where he is stationed. Also living with Pensioner Goodbody is his daughter Kate Fitzpatrick aged twenty and her son Matthew aged two. McCarthy says that they moved into the Barracks without authority or him being notified. He also said Kate married in Adelaide.

Pensioner Ritchie with his wife and two children occupied two rooms. Ritchie was at Geraldton at the time of the report. The children are the children of Mrs Ritchie's first marriage to Pensioner Fahey. Sarah Fahey was aged twenty-four and Christopher Fahey aged fourteen.

Widow Walsh occupied two rooms and had two adult children living with her. The eldest John aged thirty is described as an idiot and Patrick aged twenty-one is in employment.

Pensioner Rubery had four children occupying two rooms. Peter Rubery aged twenty-one and Michael aged eighteen are employed, John is aged sixteen, and the fourteen year old Catherine is also employed.

Pensioner Kennedy and a wife occupied two rooms.

Widow Calvert together with her two children occupied two rooms. Joseph Calvert aged seventeen is a letter carrier for the Fremantle Post office and daughter Mary is aged fourteen. Mrs Bree wife of Pensioner Thomas Bree who had left the Colony lived in two rooms with one child, Thomas, who is fourteen years of age.

Pensioner Naylor occupied four rooms with his wife and one child William who at age twenty-two is employed as a cabinet maker.

Pensioner Kenny and his wife occupied two rooms.

Pensioner Connolly had a wife and one child occupying two rooms. William Connolly aged nineteen is employed as a shoemaker. Pensioner Connolly was employed as a night watchman for the railway department.

Pensioner Walsh together with his wife and one child occupied two rooms, son John aged twenty-four is employed as a labourer.

Pensioner Sweeney occupied two rooms with one child. The child Alexander, aged thirteen years and six months is the grandson of Pensioner Sweeney and is employed as a telegraph messenger and is going to be removed to Perth next month.

Pensioner Quin and his wife occupied two rooms.

Pensioner Ryan together with his wife and ten children occupied four rooms. Michael Ryan is aged twenty-four, William twenty-one, and Thomas aged eighteen are all employed. Mary is fourteen, Emily eleven, Luie (Louisa) nine, Harry six, George five, Arthur three and David aged one years.

Following the report William Dale, Superintendent of Relief, inspected the Barracks and made his recommendations regarding the reduction the number of rooms available to the pensioners. As a result Octavius Burt ordered that John Barrett, John, Alfred and Joseph Attwood, Mary Pollett and two children, Kate Fitzpatrick and her child, Sarah and Christopher Fahey, Patrick Walsh, Peter, Michael and John Rubery, William Naylor, William Connolly, John Walsh, Michael, William and Thomas Ryan must leave the Barracks by 30 January 1892. It was further ordered that Mrs Ingraham and her children be removed to the Home.

All in all fifty-two rooms were occupied by fourteen pensioners and eleven wives, five widows of pensioners, Mrs Bree and Winifred Barrett, and forty-four children in all 76 people. (This does not include Kate Fitzpatrick and her

children she does not appear on the list of occupiers.) Under the new allocation the Pensioners would occupy forty-one rooms.

All did not go peacefully and in a letter to the Under Secretary dated 7th March 1892 T. McCarthy (in charge of Barracks) wrote that the grown up sons of Pensioners Ryan and Rubery refused to vacate and he was powerless to make them and their fathers refuse to make them. He suggested they would have to be ejected by the police.

**This information was found at the SROWA
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