

Vale Ron Sutton



It is with a deep sense of loss and regret that we report the recent death of our esteemed member and friend, Ronald Horace Sutton.

Ron was the great grandson of Enrolled Pensioner Guard Samuel Sutton born 1811 died 1891, who arrived on the Scindian in 1850 as a guard for the convicts being transported to Western Australia. That ship was the first of the many ships with Convicts, Warders and Enrolled Pensioner Guards to arrive between 1850-1868.

For his services, Samuel Sutton was granted land at Freshwater Bay (now Nedlands) and Butler's Swamp (now Lake Claremont.)

Ron had researched and was in the process of putting together the history of the Sutton family. He was also very interested in military history and the role played by those Pensioner Guards who had served in the British Army in many campaigns.

His great grandfather Samuel had served as a Marine Private in the Royal Marines from the young age of under 20, receiving Thirteen Pounds and Twelve Shillings until he was discharged in 1847 as unfit for further service due to an injury. He was then paid a pension of One Shilling a day. It is believed R.M. Sutton met and married Ann Twining during his service in Pembroke Dock, Wales.

In 1850 at Tilbury Fort, Essex, ex Royal Mariner Samuel Sutton was engaged as an Enrolled Pensioner Guard and left Portsmouth in March of that year aboard the Scindian for the Swan River Colony, arriving in June 1850. He was accompanied by his wife Ann, a daughter and a son. Sadly another daughter died at sea.

On arrival in their new country, Samuel Sutton was granted land at Butler's Swamp to establish a farm and also land for a house at Freshwater Bay. The family grew with the birth of Benjamin, then Francis.

The children attended Mrs. Herbert's school near their home (Anne Herbert was the wife of an Enrolled Pensioner Guard, Henry Herbert.)

Samuel Sutton died at Guildford in 1891 and is buried at East Perth Cemetery. His wife Ann predeceased Samuel and is buried with Samuel.



Ron standing next to Samuel Sutton's Grave

It is more than likely that Ron Sutton inherited the family trait to be of service to his country by joining the Australian

Army and in his retirement from military life to again be of service to his community in many ways.

Ron researched and put together many articles not only on his own family history, but also on the military service of members of the Enrolled Pensioner Force who later became so important in the history of this State. It is known Ron spent many hours delving into the workings of the computer world in order to be able to record not only his own family's military and civilian life story, but that of friends and fellow genealogists.

His involvement in the Enrolled Pensioner Guard Group for many years as Researcher, Newsletter Editor, Treasurer, active Committee Member and 'man of ideas' was appreciated and we can report with conviction that there were many in the Group who benefited from the generous sharing of his knowledge and assistance with military research.



Ron receiving an award from Liana Fitzpatrick, President of WAGS

Ron's recent submission for the July issue of our *EPG Gazette* was of particular interest to those whose ancestors also served in the same British Army Regiment as Ron's ancestor - it was titled *Royal Horse Guards/Samuel Sutton*. His final article appears above.

Ron will be missed by those who had experienced his friendship, knowledge and assistance.

Jean McDonald