

ENROLLED PENSIONER GUARDS

A Special Interest Group of the
Western Australian Genealogical Society Inc.
Unit 6/48 May Street,
Bayswater 6053

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Vol.4 No.1

THE SEASON'S GREETINGS TO ALL



Two Chelsea Pensioners Walking by the Thames.

Periodicals

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CONVENORS REPORT

A special welcome to new members of the Group. We look forward to seeing you at Meetings or receiving information about your Enrolled Pensioner Guard ancestor.

To our long time members, we offer our appreciation for the interest and attendance shown at our Display at the Army Museum in Fremantle. The response has been very positive and we are pleased the Museum has requested the Display be left in place indefinitely. For any one interested in all facets of Western Australian history, the Museum has a varied range of exhibits and artefacts.

Special thanks are due to Committee member, Jeanette Lee, the Co-ordinator of the Display. Her dedication and attention to detail is evident in the three large panels which depict various aspects of the role and lives of the Enrolled Pensioner Force in Western Australia, particularly in the Fremantle area.

Our Speaker, Nicholas Reynolds as Keeper of Photographs at the Museum gave a most interesting talk on the care and preservation of old photographs – a subject particularly relevant to descendants of Army personnel and in particular our own Pensioner Guards. Photographs of individual Pensioners are rare and to be treasured. Nicholas suggests a good copy could be made for general viewing and the original kept in a safe environment.

The Enrolled Pensioner Force Banner is now in the Display in the PRE 1914 Room at the Museum where it will remain for the time being.

I can now report that our Application for a Grant from the Lotteries Commission has been submitted and we eagerly await a response. The Application was made under the Lotteries Cultural Heritage–Conservation Grant Scheme, for funds to conserve the Opalotype photograph of Enrolled Pensioner Guard Michael Fitzpatrick. The original photograph was kindly gifted by the Fitzpatrick family to our Group and was in need of urgent conservation.

Members will be advised of the outcome of our Application.

Details of the now available Certificate of Descendancy are set out in this Newsletter. Members at the Army Museum Meeting were shown the first Certificate, which was to be forwarded to Sue Baddeley. A member of the Enrolled Pensioner Group, Sue is a Military Historian based in London and her personal interest is in William Gaunt, an Enrolled Pensioner formerly of the 31st Regiment. William Gaunt arrived in Western Australia on the “Minden” in 1851. Sue is a regular contributor to our Newsletter and her interest in the Pensioner Guards and their military history is of great benefit to our Group.

After such a busy year, we now look forward to our Meeting at noon on Sunday 2 February 2003 to be held in Unit 4 of the Library of WAGS. Our Researcher Daphne Byrne will give a brief summary of the resources in the Library, in particular those sources that are relevant to our Enrolled Pensioner Guards.

May I take this opportunity to extend to all our members the Compliments of the Season, and to wish you all good hunting in your meandering through the pages of history – especially if it relates to our illustrious ENROLLED PENSIONER GUARDS.

Jean McDonald
Convenor

Certificates of Descendancy of Enrolled Pensioner Guards are available on application to the EPG Special Interest Group. A Lineage Form must be submitted. Certificates are \$5.00 each collected at a General Meeting or \$10.00 postage & handling.

Badges are also available. \$10.00 collected from General meeting or \$12.00 postage & handling.

Display Co-ordinator - Jeanette Lee

Now that life has returned to normal after the very successful Artillery Barracks meeting I would like to thank everyone who contributed towards making the display a success.

Firstly, I would like to thank the Staff of the Fremantle Artillery Barracks for the use of their premises for the display and offering us an opportunity to give our Pensioners some well needed publicity.

It goes without saying Jean McDonald, the Convenor, and all the Committee were very helpful and supportive.

Daphne Byrne's research into Lt. Col Bruce and Phillippa Ward's submission on Michael Fitzpatrick, the result of many interviews with members of the Fitzpatrick family added to the overall success of the display. Furthermore I would like to thank the Fitzpatrick family, Jean McDonald, Terry Carroll, Robyn Hukin, and Roma Wiseman for their generosity in sharing their personal research of family members of the Enrolled Pensioner Force.

One of the comments regarding the display was the lack of acknowledgment of the part played by the wives of the Guards, something which has been raised previously and we would like to address. As many of the women were younger than their husbands, and possibly lived to a later date, it may be that more photographs of them exist than for the men.

I have already expressed the difficulty in obtaining photographs of our Enrolled Pensioners in uniform and would now like to suggest we amass a database of photographs of our men and women, in any dress and at any period of their lives. In that way when we are required to mount a display we can go to our database and extract the required photographs. With this in mind I would like to ask the members of the Group if they have a photograph of their man or his wife to let us have a copy which I can scan and return to them. Photos could be sent to me c/- of WAGS. If it is more convenient photographs could be e-mailed to me at Jeanettelee@bigpond.com

If anyone has not seen the display it will be on show until about April next year.



Members and Invited Guests at the Fremantle Artillery Barracks

HISTORICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The Centre for Western Australian History at the University of Western Australia is involved in the compiling and publishing of a Historical Encyclopedia of Western Australia.

Expressions of interest are now being called for and work has started on this ambitious project. People interested in Western Australia's history are being asked to submit entries for this most comprehensive history from early settlement to the 1990's. The Centre is promoting this forthcoming book as "W.A.'s biggest book". There are plans to produce a written version and an electronic version. It is hoped the electronic version will be made available to schools and libraries, hopefully by 2004. That year is the 175th Anniversary of the settlement of Western Australia.

The Enrolled Pensioner Guard Special Interest Group intends to submit an entry on the role of the Enrolled Pensioners.

Individual people may also submit entries on their own ancestor or particular historical interest. Information about the project can be obtained from the General Editor, Historical Encyclopedia of Western Australia, Centre for WA History, UWA Crawley 6009 or Email hewa@uwa.edu.au

Details should include your contact name and address along with your particular area of interest.

Jean McDonald
Convenor

ARMSTRONG BREECH LOADING GUNS

Mr. Derrick Prall of Gosnells (the gentleman who donated the Bayonets to the Group) contacted us about the existence of two Gun Barrels which had been in Geraldton and were now at the Royal Australian Artillery Barracks (Irwin Barracks), Karrakatta. Mr. Prall was of the opinion they may have been the Barrels of guns used by the Enrolled Pensioner Guards.

As a consequence of further information received, Jeanette Lee (Committee) and I paid a visit to the Irwin Barracks and were welcomed by Mr. Don Rae, the Curator of the Museum at the Barracks.

We were surprised to learn from Mr. Rae that the barrels were actually not the 12 pounders we had expected to see and were in fact 9 pounder Artillery Gun barrels. Mr Rae told us the 9 pounders were used at Albany Fort when it was feared there was the possibility of an invasion by the Americans or the Russians.

It is also believed two of the guns were at the entrance to Kings Park and a photograph of those guns are in the possession of the Army Museum of WA and the Kings Park Board.

Jeanette and I were escorted on a tour of the Artillery Museum where there is a very impressive collection of Artillery guns now restored and under cover. The Museum also houses memorabilia of Talbot Hobbs and Bessell Brown families along with many fine photographs from the 1890's. There are also military artefacts including art of Prisoners of War.

We were then taken to the Workshop area of the Barracks where we were shown the 9 pounder gun barrels in preparation for restoration.

As funds become available the Artillery Historical Society intends to gradually carry out restoration of the gun barrels and eventually display them under cover.

In spite of our interest in the gun barrels it appeared that we could not undertake such a project, let alone be able to display them and continue their preservation.

It is of great interest to our Group to hear of any items relative to the Enrolled Pensioner Guards. Perhaps we cannot hope to acquire such artefacts, but we can at least record their existence and their history. It all adds to a more complete picture of how our Pensioner ancestors were involved in the defence and development of this State.

Jean McDonald
Convenor

Researcher- Daphne Byrne

Continued from last newsletter.

Below is the article that Daphne picked up with her incredible memory for names and places as she was researching for something else. Perhaps you may have known one of the other students.

From "The Inquirer." Wed. April 20, 1887

RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION

In The Schools.

The following is the report of the examinations in religious subjects of the scholars attending the Perth Boys' and Girls' Government schools. The examinations were conducted during the week commencing March 20. The subjects for the year were the book of Genesis, *(sic)* the Gospel of St. Matthew, Psalms 8th, 1st, and 19th committed to memory, with the Ten Commandments and the Lord's Prayer.

Boys' School

Number of names given, 209; absent, 51; total number examined, 158. The boys were examined in five divisions; the first division, consisting of boys in the 7th Standard, gave written answers to questions on the Old and New Testaments. The results of the examinations are as follows:-

1st Division, 7th Standard, total marks 120: Edward Stokes 81; Edward Lockyer, 70; Thomas Williams, 70; Ernest Jeffery, 59; Edward Barnett, 54; In this division five obtained full marks for recitation and five answered fairly the written questions.

Girls' School

In this school the pupils are divided into three sections for religious instruction. There were 90 in all examined.

I. - In the first Division 26 girls were examined on paper. 14 gained more than 50 marks out of 100 and 24 gained over 30 marks. There were six who were perfect in the memory work. The four who stood highest in all subjects were: Ada J. Martyn, 99; Ethel Strutt, 90; Bella Gardener, 87; Mary Tomlinson, 86;

II. - In the second Division there were 40 girls examined. Of these 17 were perfect in the memory work. In the *viva voce* examination on the historical work the girls showed a very fair knowledge of the portions prescribed. The four highest in this Division were Jane Christie, Ada Lawrence, Emma Britnall, and Eliza Wearne.

III. - In the third Division there were 30 children examined. All were perfect in recitations. A few answered questions in Bible history. The three highest were Louisa Newton, Susan Halliday, and Alice Benson.

The above shows considerable improvement.

Also from Daphne

A sample from the 'Paupers Records'

CSR Vol 541 folios 203 . 370
18th Jan. - 27th December 1864
Folio 253-255 Residents Office
Fremantle 13.4.1864
Mrs. Game - well worthy of outdoor relief. Her husband was a Warder. Known in Guildford.
Pensioner Game whilst employed as a Warder was found drowned near Guildford in March 1861.
She was a hardworking woman since her husband's death, earning a living for herself and two children by casual needlework, children always attending Sunday School

CSR Vol 561 folios 40 - 175
7th Jan-30th December 1865
Folio 79 Fremantle Residents Office 5.3.1865
Family of Pensioner Howard (who went to Champion Bay promising to send money and did not), requiring poor relief.
Folio 145 Fremantle 1865
Pensioner Ellis 2nd Foot.
Unable to follow any employment and Perhaps never will be able to.
Folio 146 Residents Office
Fremantle December 20, 1865
Report on increase in Pauperism in this district to Col. Sec. Perth from Thomas Symmons, Resident.

JUBILEE DAY IN PERTH

The Celebration of Queen Victoria's Jubilee in Western Australia.

By J.H.M Honniball.

Extracts from the above article which appeared in the early Days Journal of the WA Historical Society, Volume 9, Part 5, (1987)

And so came the great day for pomp and ceremony in Perth, Tuesday 21st. It began with services in the two cathedrals. At the Catholic cathedral there was Low Mass at 7 a.m. and High Mass at 9.30 a.m. The service at 10 a.m. at the old St. George's cathedral was attended by the Governor and all officialdom and followed an order compiled by the Archbishop of Canterbury. During the course of the service, the sun broke through the clouds which had lately brought heavy rains, and it was perfect weather for the rest of the day.

From the cathedral Governor Broome drove his barouche, with a Mounted Police escort, the short distance to the Howick Street entrance of the town Hall. Inside, before a large gathering, he was presented with another loyal address to the Queen from the mayor, burgesses and citizens of Perth. From there the programme required him to be the focal point in a grand procession through the streets to the site of the new Public Library.

As soon as the audience began emerging from the Town Hall, the procession moved off, the band of the Metropolitan Rifles in the lead playing *Rule Britannia*. After the Rifles Corps four abreast, marched members of five Temperance and Friendly Societies, the clergy of the various denominations, senior Government officials, members of Perth City Council, Fremantle Town Council, Legislative and Executive Councils, two judges and a number of Aborigines. Barrack Street was lined on either side by the Perth and Naval Artillery and St. George's Terrace by the Fremantle and Guildford Rifles—altogether some 420 men in uniform.

Apparently it was only when the marchers had covered most of their route that it was realised 'an embarrassing hitch' had occurred. Broome had been left behind at the town Hall, having accepted an offer of refreshment by the Mayor (George Shenton), and unwittingly the order to start the procession had been given too soon. 'In this unfortunate predicament it was impossible for the Governor to pass through the lined streets in his carriage attended only by his guard of mounted police'. The marchers were therefore ordered to return, and the procession was repeated 'though scarcely in such good style as on the first occasion'. Still, Perth had never seen a more brilliant spectacle, declared the *Inquirer*.

From the Public Library where a foundation stone was laid to mark the occasion of the Queen's Jubilee amid much ceremony, the focus shifted to the new recreation ground below the Esplanade, where some 3,000 people witnessed a grand military parade and, in the afternoon, an athletic sports meeting. At lunch time the city council provided the volunteers with refreshment in the undercroft of the town Hall. As this was 'of such a beggarly description...consisting of a sandwich and a mug of colonial beer per man...very few of the number partook of the wretched fare. Indeed Captain Gardiner of Guildford was so disgusted that he at once marched his men off to the Governor Broome Hotel where he provided them with a substantial meal at his own expense.

The day ended with the Citizen's Ball at the town Hall—with some 200 couples on the dance floor, plus spectators—and a Jubilee Ball at Government House.

An account of the day's events in the city was recorded in the Geraldton newspaper by its 'own reporter'. Criticising some points in the Governor's key speech, this writer said 'he was further unfortunate in alluding to the beauty of the site, which though it might form a very delightful spot for a picnic, was too far from the town for a 'library'. In another column, 'a Perth correspondent' told the northern readership that:

The Jubilee Ball at government House was remarkable for three things – the bad floor, the overcrowded state of the ballroom, the unfashionable character of the majority of the dresses. Out of over 150 ladies who were present, not more than a dozen wore dresses which one would turn round to look at after the wearer had passed. Lady Broome's dress bore a suspicious resemblance to the one she wore at the May Ball last year, and inasmuch as I have described that dress at that time it does not need description now. There were four brides present, amongst them Mrs. Waylen (formerly the widowed Lady Leake) who looked particularly youthful in pure white, her dress, however, being decidedly décolletée...

In reference to the state of the floor...

Lady Broome, disregarding advice, had it treated with linseed oil, with the result that walking was unpleasant and dancing an absolute labour. Added to this, the dust mixed with the oil, and ruined several dresses. The wines and refreshments generally were of the class to which Government House guests have been accustomed for the past four years, and sensible people eschewed the champagne and sherry. The people went in to supper in three lots, the last two escaping the infliction of the Governor's speech.

Thank you Phillippa Ward for another interesting article. Ed.

A LITTLE HELP WITH IRISH FAMILY RESEARCH ..From the "net"

IRISH NAMING PATTERN.

- 1st son was named after the father's father
- 2nd son was named after the mother's father
- 3rd son was named after the father
- 4th son was named after the father's eldest brother.

- 1st daughter was named after the mother's mother
- 2nd daughter was named after the father's mother
- 3rd daughter was named after the mother
- 4th daughter was named after the mother's eldest sister.

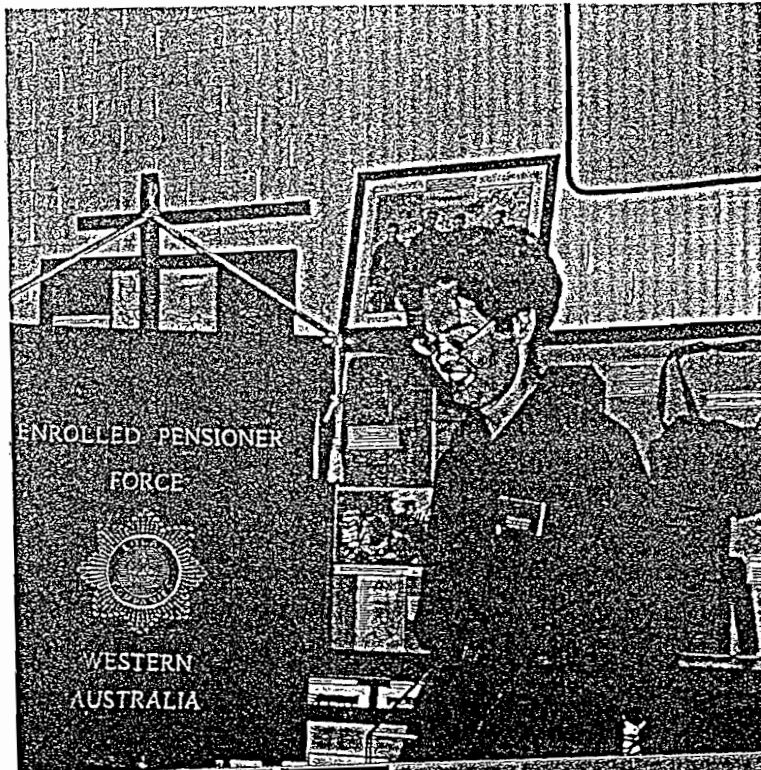
***This pattern is not set in stone. For instance, it was considered bad luck to have 3 people with the same name**

NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE DUE BY 31ST MARCH EACH YEAR

A Newsletter Subscription form has been included in this issue of the newsletter for your convenience.

GENERAL MEETINGS 2003

February 2003.	Sunday, 2 nd	at 12.00 noon Unit 4.
April, 2003	Saturday 26 th	at 12.00 noon Annual General Meeting
July, 2003	Saturday 26 th	at 12.00 noon
October, 2003	Saturday 24 th	at 12.00 noon



Guest Speaker -
Nicholas Reynolds
Fremantle Artillery
Barracks 26-10-2002



Mrs. Jean McDonald, Convenor, EPG Special Interest Group
Addressing the members at the Fremantle Artillery Barracks



Pensioner Barracks & Parade, 1860s.
(W.A. Museum)

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April, 2003
Vol 4. No. 2

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?"

Contd. Page 6

.....Contd from page 5

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



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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July 2003
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The Annual General Meeting of the Group was held on 26th April, 2003 with 21 Members present and 8 apologies. The Convenor of the Group Mrs. Jean McDonald presented her report, which is printed in this Newsletter. All positions were declared vacant. Nominations had been received for the following positions and Nominees duly elected.

Convenor	Jean McDonald
Deputy Convenor/Display Co-ordinator	Jeanette Lee
Treasurer	Ron Sutton
Publications Officer/Editor	Pam Anspach
Researcher	Daphne Byrne

As you can see our Committee is somewhat depleted with only five Committee Members. To keep our Group running efficiently Margaret Hickey has agreed to be co-opted onto the Committee, for which we thank her.

Toodyay is our feature town in this Newsletter. If anyone has any information on the other towns where our Guards were stationed and would like to share with our Group I would be happy to include it in future newsletters

Pam Anspach.
Editor.

We have recently opened our own bank account. When paying by cheque
to our Group please make cheques payable to:

WAGS - Enrolled Pensioner Guard

Dates to Remember

26th July, - General Meeting 12.00 noon

Unit 1.

Guest Speaker - Mr. John Clydesdale

CONVENORS REPORT

ENROLLED PENSIONER GUARD SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 26 April 2003

The past year has been a busy time for the Committee with extra Meetings scheduled. Our display in October at the Army Museum at the Artillery Barracks, Fremantle proved to be of interest to all those who attended on the day and visitors who have since visited not only our Display, but the Museum in general. Jeanette Lee co-ordinated the arrangement of the boards showing various aspects of Fremantle including the lands allocated to the ENROLLED PENSIONERS, various sites relative to the Pensioner Guards and profiles of some of the individual Pensioners and Staff Officers who were originally living in the Fremantle area, including Cockburn (Lake Munster). The display is still in place with the Curator of the Museum happy for it to remain until such time as our Group or the Museum decides otherwise.

At the invitation of the Canning District Historical Society Jeanette Lee set up a small display in June at the Woodloes historical house. Daphne Byrne and Margaret Hickey attended to talk to visitors. In spite of the inclement weather, and limited publicity, there were people who showed an interest in the ENROLLED PENSIONER GUARDS and the time frame of their activities. Some professed to not having had any prior knowledge of just who were the EPG.

Our July Meeting was joined by Professor Geoffrey Bolton, who gave a most interesting talk on the place and the role of the ENROLLED PENSIONERS in the early history of Western Australia.

Members were advised via our Newsletter of the submission through the Western Australian Genealogical Society to the Lotteries Commission for a Grant to conserve the Opalotype image of EPG Michael Fitzpatrick. We were hoping for news of success prior to our Annual General Meeting, but feel confident our application will be viewed favourably.

Outside visits by your Convenor during the last year included one to Buckland Hill Artillery Battery, Leighton, where the tunnels of the old Battery installation have been largely restored and opened to the public. My visit was initially personal through my family involvement during WW II. However David Carter, the Curator and a member of the Royal Australian Artillery Historical Society, mentioned the fact that he believed the Obelisk on the top of Buckland Hill was erected by convicts. I formed the opinion those convicts must have been guarded by our own PENSIONER GUARDS. Research did not uncover such evidence but records do show that the Obelisk was erected by convicts on Buckland Hill between 1878 and 1880 under the direction of John Forrest, who was Acting Surveyor General at the time.

On Sunday 15 December, as Convenor of the EPG Group I was invited to attend the 25th Anniversary Celebration of the Army Museum of W.A. at Fremantle Artillery Barracks. The Governor, Lt. General Sanderson unveiled a Commemorative Plaque. It was pleasing to see a member of the Army Museum Volunteers attend in a replica uniform of an ENROLLED PENSIONER. Jeanette Lee and Margaret Hickey were representatives of the Committee.

In March this year, I was invited by the Mandurah Family History Society to speak about the ENROLLED PENSIONER GUARDS at their Meeting – another opportunity to meet members outside the Metropolitan area and to promote the Group and the role of the EPG in the early history of Western Australia.

Our February Meeting was held in Unit 4, the Australasian Room of Western Australian Genealogical Society Library. Members were given a comprehensive summary by Daphne Byrne of the resources relevant to their search for EPG ancestors and their families.

Members are reminded there are a number of Resource Files on the Enrolled Pensioner Guards in Unit 4, WAGS, compiled by Phillippa Ward, Jeanette Lee and other members. They are a useful resource, but not for loan. A copy may be made of information relevant to their own EPG. Library Volunteer Staff will assist. We are grateful for donations of profiles of individual Enrolled Pensioners, as all information helps to build a human story behind the lives of those intrepid early arrivals.

Earlier this month, at the invitation of Jack Hanmer and his wife Lyn, Daphne Byrne, Jeanette Lee and I visited Toodyay. Jack is President of the Toodyay Historical Society and they showed us around old Toodyay and Newcastle, finishing up in Toodyay as it is today. We visited sites of the original Pensioner Guard Lots and other sites of the time, including two cottages in Harper Road still standing, but altered over the years. In the main street, Pensioner Guard cottages were identified, one of which is owned

by a member of our Group. At the demolition site of one of the original cottages, Jack told of a 'dig' which was organised to unearth artefacts which may prove to be relics of the families of the Pensioner Guards who occupied the cottage.

For me, as Convenor, it has been a most interesting year, educational and heart warming to meet so many people who are truly interested in the early history of our State and the part played by their ancestors in helping to establish a productive and growing community. The descendants of our often unheralded and unrecorded ENROLLED PENSIONER GUARDS can be congratulated for helping to bring into the public forum their ancestor's story.

Among those descendants we are grateful to Phillippa Ward, Lawrence Doran and Terry Carroll for having the inspiration and determination to form a Group with the aim of recording and recognising the ENROLLED PENSIONER GUARDS. With members' help, their endeavour will continue.

Jean McDonald

Convenor

April 2003



LOTTERYWEST

CONSERVATION OF ENROLLED PENSIONER GUARD PHOTOGRAPH

The Enrolled Pensioner Guard Group is very grateful and pleased to be granted funding under LOTTERY-WEST'S Cultural Heritage Conservation Program to now go ahead with the conservation of the Opalotype Photograph of EPG MICHAEL FITZPATRICK.

Work will commence in the near future under the direction of Glyde Galleries, Mosman Park, and members will be advised when the work has been completed.

We are all very appreciative of the generous donation by the Fitzpatrick family of the unusual Opalotype photograph of Michael Fitzpatrick who arrived with his wife and family in Western Australia on the *Norwood* in 1867. After serving more than 21 years in the British Army, Private Fitzpatrick was discharged to pension, and then selected to be engaged as a Pensioner Guard, escorting convicts to the new Swan River Colony. We look forward to the day when the imposing photograph of Michael Fitzpatrick can be displayed in the Library of the Western Australian Genealogical Society.

The following letter has been received from foundation member Phillippa Ward I share it with you with pleasure. Ed.

Dear Members,

Having stood down from the office of Membership Secretary of the EPG Special Interest Group, at the AGM on the 26th April just passed, I decided it was appropriate to write a little about my involvement and to say 'thank you' to all those who have helped to establish this group .

It was late 1999 that Lawrence Doran and I met at the WAGS library, he whilst working as a volunteer and myself whilst researching my Pensioner Guard, Michael Reilly, late Serjeant in the Honorable East India Company's 2nd Bombay European Infantry Regiment . At that time in 1999, all I knew of my Michael was his name, and that he had arrived in charge of convicts. His story after settling in Kojonup as a farmer was family history.

Lawrence and I decided to form a group to address the apparent lack of resources for researching our old soldiers. Following the guidelines set down by WAGS, we set about gathering the required number (15) of WAGS members to get us off the ground.

Those whose names were on the original application were Terry and Pauline Carroll, Debra Whitely, Ray Hartnett, Fred Grosvenor, Kay Peate, Jeanne Iles, Lawrence Doran, Phillippa Ward, Teena Ladhams, Judith Standing, Janice Hayes, Ross Crockett, Rosalie Raine, and Lynn Gray. The first meeting dealt with naming the group, recognising 'The Veterans' by Frank Broomhall as our only authoritative resource, establishing our priorities, and planning our progress.

We advertised widely in the Can You Help and in Eastern States papers to gauge the interest in the venture, and were rewarded with an overwhelming response. A second 'recruiting meeting' was planned, and we had already commenced our registers of Enrolled Pensioner Guards and their Researchers who shared with us information about resources they had found useful. Just prior to this meeting, WAGS accepted our application to form the Enrolled Pensioner Guards, *Special Interest Group*.

Forty seven people attended that meeting, and our newsletter was launched on that day, having accepted newsletter subscriptions for 29 on the day, and sent out forms for a further 62. We had no committee at this stage, so Lawrence and I were 'it'. We had to define our roles and Lawrence became the Convenor and I the Deputy Convenor and Editor.

The first 'Official Meeting of The Enrolled Pensioner Guards, *Special Interest Group* was held on the 15th April 2000. There were 35 enthusiastic members in attendance , and right from the beginning we had many offering assistance though were not able to form a committee, and did not achieve that until the first AGM in 2001. Daphne Byrne offered assistance from late June 2000 and has continued to meet every Thursday since then.

Those I would like to acknowledge are Daphne who we couldn't have done without in preparing the newsletter for posting, and being available to assist members with their research. Jack Herbert who was the instigator of the First Muster at the Claremont Museum in 2000, a very successful meeting, and Peggy Whitewood to whom we should give full credit for the great success financially and other wise of the Second Muster at the Claremont Museum. We have also to thank Peggy for being the member first approached by a member of the Fitzpatrick family wishing to donate the portrait of Michael Fitzpatrick. We are aware of only one other full portrait of a member of the EPF, that being John Tunney, which is held by his family. Peggy and I visited Ron Benton to receive the donation. and she did the initial work of locating a restorer. I would also like to thank Eileen Baughen and other members of the Fitzpatrick family for their assistance in writing the history of Michael Fitzpatrick.

Bev Iffla of the Convict Special Interest Group gave me assistance with the protocols of WAGS, and was often on hand as a sounding board. Ray Hartnett of the Irish Special Interest group, who also has an EPG, has offered advice on many occasions. Paul Bridges of the Army Museum and the

Bassendean Pensioners cottage has been 'in touch' since our second meeting, and introduced Michael Murrie-Jones in Queensland, another military researcher who has shared his own research on a number of occasions.

Though living in Harvey, Terry and Pauline Carroll have attended nearly all of our meetings, and have always been available to help out. I must not forget the lovely fruit cakes which Pauline has made for most of our meetings. Terry's contribution in the use of the computer has been a great help, and his availability to step in to help out during some rough patches is very much appreciated.

Guest speakers, Sue Baddeley (Military Historian, and great supporter of our group), Derrick Prall R.E. retired (designer of our badge), John Kelly (who spoke on Lighthouses, and was always willing to share information when we met in at the SRO), and Jean McDonald who has shared much of her own research and information from her extensive library to add to our resources, have provided inspiration to members involved in researching their own old soldier.

Jeanette Lee and I spent many hours in at the Battye and Alexander Libraries researching for the benefit of the group, and were joined by Daphne Byrne who has a great knack for storing in her mind all the little bits of information she sights. It was while we were researching in at the SRO that Jeanette and I met up with David Barker, author of the Warders and Gaolers Dictionary. Our group was instrumental in bringing it to the notice of WAGS who have published it.

It is usually those in the foreground that get the most acclaim, and I would like to acknowledge Bryan Dunne for helping me get started with the photographic account of our group, Gay Fielding in Queensland who has shared so much of her own research, and has constantly referred those seen on the internet looking for information about the EPG, to us. Trish Bylsma, who gave us the story about the 'Rifle Range' at Kings Park, approached the Kings Park Board on our behalf with a view to erecting a plaque.

Thank you to all the members who have written or phoned with suggestions and opinions, and thanks, or have come to the meetings to share your research. Thank you to all the committee members who have given me support over the three years. Your committee puts in many hours each week both at WAGS and home, and needs your support.

I wish Jean and the team all the best for the coming year.

Phillippa Ward.

Guest Speaker at July 26th Meeting is John Clydesdale.
He will speak on his book **Pioneer of the Road** which tells the story of the first self-powered vehicle to run on an Australian road and carry people.
The book also tells of the building of the first stone road built by the convicts in the Port Gregory/Grennough area.

Many thanks to Val Casey for doing the calligraphy on our Decendancy Certificates. We would particularly thank her for doing the ones so promptly for Mother's Day

Jack Hammer, Toodyay Historical Society Historian has kindly sent this article on the Pensioner Force at Toodyay.

The Enrolled Pensioner Force:- The Toodyay Connection.

In August 1851, forty ticket of leave men and thirteen Pensioner Guards were sent to Toodyay.

The convicts were set to work at once to build a Convict Hiring Depot, a large roofed compound with several cells inside it. This was on the lower slopes of "The Government Depot". A 45 ½ acre lot 2 miles upstream from Toodyay, on the left bank of the Avon River.

"The Government Depot" was already occupied by the Military, in the form of the Sappers and Miners, and included officers Quarters, Commissariat Store, blacksmith Shop, a deep well etc. and in short order had stables, an infirmary and dead house, warders quarters, Depot Superintendents house, then a Courthouse, Post Office, Police buildings, and kindred Government buildings. None of these remain but archaeological investigations have lately discovered significant underground relics, including foundations, meantime, back at Toodyay, the Pensioner Guards and their families had been allotted their 10 acre blocks, nos. P1 to P13 and housed in hastily constructed 'A' frame huts, made of straw with a mud chimney at one end, and a mud wall with door at the other. These were apparently quite substantial for they were used long after the Pensioners left in 1856, by various tenants including church goers, and a batch of Irish Immigrant Girls.

It is very probable that the straw wall/roofs were plastered inside and out side with river mud in the manner of stone age huts of England. This may explain the notion that Toodyay's pensioner Cottages were of plastered mud with thatched roofs.

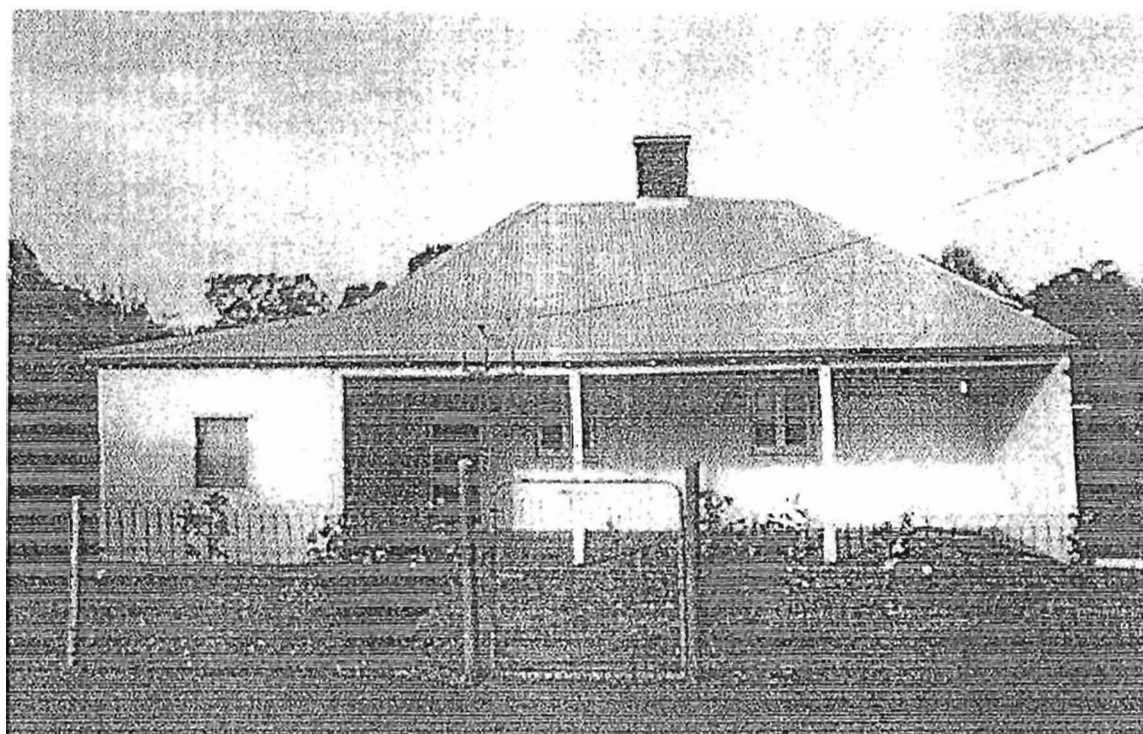
In fact, when the original Toodyay pensioner lots were revoked and replaced by lots S1 to S13 around the Government Depot. the two roomed pensioner Cottages built thereon were of burnt brick and shingled.

Quite several of these cottages remain in Toodyay today, somewhat modified, in what was once known as "The Pensioners' Village", then "Newcastle" and finally "Toodyay".

More information is available from the Toodyay Historical Society (Inc)

Jack Hammer

Toodyay Historical Society Historian



Lot 510 New Road - Owen Hackett EPG.

TOODYAY VISIT

9th April, 2003

At the invitation of Lyn and Jack Hammer of Toodyay, Jeanette Lee, Daphne Byrne and I visited Toodyay. Jack Hammer took us around the sites relative to the ENROLLED PENSIONER GUARD era. After a delightful country morning tea prepared by Jack's wife Lyn served in their friendly house with the wonderful view over the hills, we started off in Old Toodyay, the location of the original Pensioner Guard land allocations. We saw the area where the original sites of the Police Barracks, Catholic church site, and the sites where two of the old inns stood.

We then visited the headquarters of the Toodyay Historical Society in the cottage originally allocated to EPG Donegan, now restored. The Society has the two large diorama models of the area made by Scott Properjohn some years ago which show the layout of old Toodyay and the site of Newcastle which was two miles distant, and is now Toodyay.

After a well deserved lunch snack at the Coca Cola Cafe, we set off again. (The Coca Cola Cafe has the most comprehensive collection of Coke memorabilia I have ever seen, some items which were quite rare.

Jack Hammer, his wife and their friend, Roy Criddle then took us to two of the original Pensioner cottages in Harper Road, Toodyay. We were fortunate to find the owners home at Lot S25 who invited us to inspect the interior, including the original stone outside wall, which is now the inside wall of their kitchen. They are still in the process of restoring the cottage at the same time as erecting a hay-bale building at the back of the property.

After photographing both cottages, we continued into Toodyay main thoroughfare, Stirling Tce., previously New Road. There are three cottages still visible, with at least two more still standing, but now in side the new structures built over the years.

Between the Bank and the Wendouree Tea Rooms, we inspected the site of the recent demolition of the original Pensioner Cottage. Prior to demolition, the owner permitted a 'dig', supervised by Archaeologist Gaye Nayton. Many artefacts were found under the floor and in the subsoil of the site, and may prove useful in identifying some of the activities of the previous occupants.

Mention of the dig was made in the "West Australian March" 4 2003 and the March issue of the "Toodyay Herald".

We concluded our tour with a drive up Clinton Street - now cut by the railway line - to see the sites of the original Convict Depot, Court House, Residency and Police Stables.

Jack Hammer and the Historical Society are to be congratulated on their endeavour to record and map the Toodyay and Newcastle of old.

Jean McDonald

Convenor

EPG Special Interest Group



Lyn Hammer, Jeanette Lee, Daphne Byrne, Jean McDonald, Jack Hammer.

Extracts from

'Catherine Gavin's Story: 1839-1923. An Irish Exile at 'Solomon's Well' on the
Old Plains Road. By Rica Erickson.

In 'Early Days' Vol. VII Part 1 1969. p89-101
Royal Western Australian Historical Society.

Catherine Ellen Gavin nee Fitzgerald was born at Fethard, County Tipperary, Ireland in 1839. Her brother Tom and some other relatives had migrated to Western Australia during the 1850's, and when she married Edward Gavin in January 1861, he also left for the Colony, leaving his bride to wait until he sent for her to join him.

She was not wanted on board the ship on which he travelled as a guard over the convicts. In later years Edward Gavin used to tell his children and grandchildren about the chains and leg-irons, and the terrible life aboard a convict ship when he explained why his wife could not accompany him. He arrived in March 1861 [possibly the "Palmerston"]

Catherine arrived with six other women migrants from Tipperary in July 1863 and travelled to Newcastle where she lived for a few months at the Police Station.

Over the next ten years Catherine moved with her husband Edward to his various postings, including at the 'Nine-Mile' road-party camp on the Toodyay Road; Baylup Police Station; Guildford Police Station and Gingin Police Station. While at Gingin, Catherine acted as Post-Mistress.

In 1869 Catherine, Edward and family moved to 'Culham' where Edward worked for Squire Phillips. After three years, the family again moved, this time to 'Yere-Yere', the Drummond's station at Dandaragan where they stayed for five years. By this time the Gavins had 5 girls and 2 boys.

In 1873 a final move took the Gavin family to 'Solomon's Well' on the Old Plains Road, for an annual rental of Eleven Pounds. Catherine was a true Irish Catholic and this move pleased her greatly. It was only about 20 miles drive to the New Norcia Mission where the family could attend Mass.

Two more sons were born to Catherine and Edward to complete the family.

The mud-walled cottage was built at 'Solomon's Well', one of the watering stages on the old road to New Norcia. The Government had built the well for travellers to the Champion Bay area. Catherine drew water every day from the well using the bucket and chain, conveying the water back to the cottage in a cask mounted on sleds. Bread was baked in an earth-covered oven outside her door.

Hospitality was always offered to travellers, especially the Priests on their way to and from New Norcia Mission.

Family life was a busy round of shepherding sheep, tending crops, vegetable gardens and poultry. An education for the children was minimal, but Catherine was able to keep an Account Book in which she recorded transactions of purchases and major events. That account book was really a journal of the daily lives of the Gavin family, and Catherine maintained her entries into her book until her writing became almost illegible.

Two of Catherine's daughters became Nuns, and every New Year, Catherine would dress in her best black frock, shawl and bonnet and make her way to Fremantle to visit the girls at their convents. The times the Nuns were able to take holidays and spend time with the family were truly happy occasions.

Edward Gavin died in 1903 after 42 years of marriage, but Catherine live for another twenty years before blindness and old age and a hard life took her to her final resting place in the New Norcia Monastery.

"a simple, hearty, generous and gallant battler, a pious Catholic, a blind opponent of Orangemen and, to the end of her days, an exiled Irishwoman."

The following articles are from the *Perth Gazette & W.A. Times* and refer to the floods in and around Toodyay and Newcastle in the years 1865 and 1872 although flooding occurred in 1857 and 1859 causing much damage to the surrounding area.

COUNTRY NEWS.

(From our own Correspondent)

"The River" is the only rain-gage in these parts, and, judging from the height it has reached within the last fortnight, I should say that more rain has fallen during that time than during a similar period for the last ten years; in fact there seemed every probability of a flood. A few days ago only the ground was generally too hard for field operations, and latterly it has been so soft and boggy that ploughing and sowing have been completely suspended.

oooOooo

On Sunday last, Newcastle and the neighbourhood were visited by the heaviest gale which had been experienced in these parts for some years. Beyond some trifling interruptions on the telegraph line between and Guildford I do not hear of any damage of consequence being done. A good quantity of rain fell during the morning.

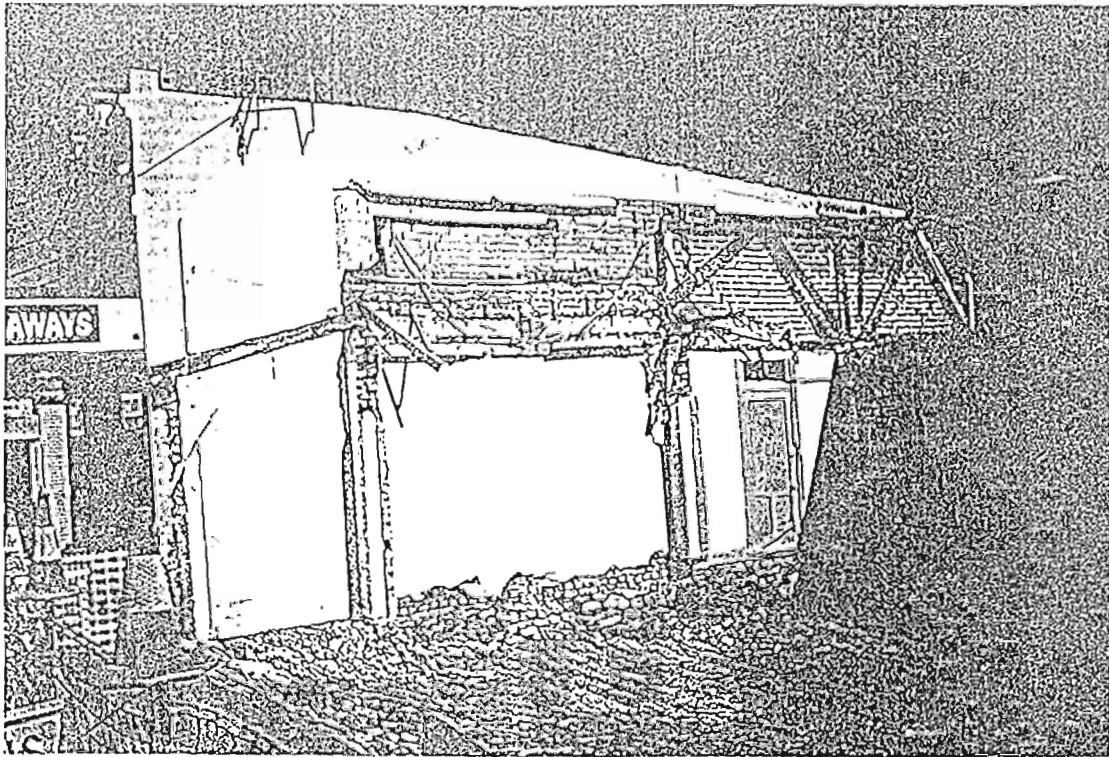
12th March 1872

oooOooo

The almost continuous rain of the last six weeks has nearly put a stop to farming operations, and the unusual height of the river has, in many instances, occasioned serious loss, and amongst small proprietors, comparative ruin. No such flood has occurred within the memory of any person in the district. the Newcastle Bridge has withstood the tremendous strain upon it and, while I write, appears to have suffered only in the loss of some of the metal spread upon its flooring. A few nails may have started from the hand-rails and planking; but these can be replaced, and fresh metal laid on as soon as the river has sufficiently gone down. At one time great fears were entertained for this bridge, and certain precautionary measures were taken to secure communication in the event of its being carried away. On Thursday last the river was at its highest, and by midnight was quite a foot above the hand-rail of the bridge. On Saturday passengers on horseback were enabled to cross, and on Monday the bridge may be said to have been reopened to traffic. Rain has been falling, more or less

for the last week but the water has not been again over the flooring of the bridge. A new bridge, erected, a few months ago across the Toodyay Brook on the road to the old townsite has been swept away, and innumerable culverts on the main and byeroads have been destroyed or injured. I hear of several heavy losses sustained principally by small people living on the banks of the river, some of whom had much difficulty in effecting their escape. On Thursday the dwellinghouse attached to the store of Mr. C Monger, near the Newcastle Bridge, gave signs of falling, and an immediate removal of both from house and store were rendered necessary.

24th July 1872



Demolition work on Pensioner Cottage Toodyay - April 2003.

Toodyay Historical Society

THE TOODYAY HERALD - May 2003.

Social events for this month included a visit from members of the Pensioner Guard Group, and Roy Criddle author and publisher of historical books. They were taken on a conducted tour of Pensioner Guard sites, and Old Toodyay which proved very interesting.

On a recommendation of the members of the Enrolled Pensioner Guard Group, who were taken on a conducted tour of Toodyay in April, we received a visit from four more members of this group in May. They also enjoyed a day on a conducted tour of Toodyay, and were furnished with some information on their ancestors and on local history.

The Enrolled Pensioner Guard Group is comprised of members who are the descendants of Pensioner Guards. As such they have a big interest in the remaining Pensioner Guard Cottages in Toodyay, and the history of the Convict Hiring Depot, which was one of the first to be established in a country town.

June 2003.

Lyn Hammer, Secretary



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
 ISSN 1443-945X

October, 2003
 Vol 4. No. 4.

In this Newsletter there are articles on the various northern areas where Pensioner Guards were stationed mainly the Greenough area.

If you were able to attend the last meeting of the Group you will already have received a great deal of help from the talk given by John Clydesdale with reference to the Lynton Station when he spoke at our last meeting on his research of Australia's first self-powered road vehicle.

To add some interest from members of the Group it has been decided to try a Can You Help Column. Send in your question, it will be published in the Newsletter and hopefully someone will be able to help you. The question and answer will be published in the next newsletter. Space available will determine the number of questions and answers that can be published. The first question appears later in the Newsletter. Please send them to The Enrolled Pensioner Special Interest Group at WAGS.

Pam Anspach

Editor

We have recently opened our own bank account. When paying by cheque to our Group please make cheques payable to

WAGS - Enrolled Pensioner Guard

Dates to Remember

25th October 2003 - General Meeting 12 00 Noon

Unit 1

Guest Speaker - Mrs. Carol Cahill

CONVENORS REPORT

The interest in the Enrolled Pensioner Guard Group continues to grow and small paragraphs in the 'Can You Help' column of the *'West Australian'* Newspaper have resulted in contact from descendants of Enrolled Pensioner Guards who are eager to unravel the story of the involvement of their ancestor in the early history of Western Australia. There will no doubt be renewed interest in 2004 when this State celebrates its 175th Anniversary and various celebratory events will be held to recognise that milestone. Although our EPG ancestors did not begin to arrive until the *Scindian* in 1850, their timely arrival boosted the economy and expanded settlements in rural areas. As a reward for their military service, they were granted land where many established small farms or businesses. It is true some EPG did not succeed, but those who remained and created their own dynasty provided stability and hope for the struggling young colony.

This year, for the first time, the descendants of Enrolled Pensioner Guards and Warders were invited by the Government of Western Australia to participate in the Descendants Day Ceremony held at Fremantle Prison on June 2. Lineage forms submitted by those descendants who chose to apply were checked for authenticity by the appointed Genealogist, Gillian O'Mara. More than 105 descendants attended and it was evident from the information given by the Master of Ceremonies that the majority were descendants of Pensioner Guards, although some could claim to have ancestors from both sides of the Prison Walls – Enrolled Pensioner Guards and convicts. The Premier, Geoff Gallop presented the Certificates after Professor Tom Stannage gave an interesting talk on the era and the involvement of the Pensioner Guards and difficulties encountered.

The Enrolled Pensioner Guard Special Interest Group were invited to mount a display in one of the Gaol Divisions. Jeanette Lee prepared 6 panels depicting various aspects of the Pensioner Guards land locations and profiles of individual Pensioners, together with a display of relevant artefacts in a glass cabinet, all of which created interest.

On Sunday June 15, the Enrolled Pensioner Group held a Workshop in Units 5/6 of WAGS when members were able to carry out individual research. A source list of possible military references was prepared as an aid. Some members had success while others were happy to exchange stories of their own success or failure. Further Workshops will be planned for 2004.

Early in July we were invited to visit the Rockingham and District History Society, where I spoke briefly on the role of the Enrolled Pensioner Force and some of the difficulties encountered. Jeanette prepared a small display and we were able to answer questions from those members who had not previously had any knowledge of the EPF in the history of Western Australia.

We appreciate the interest shown in the Enrolled Pensioner Force by members of the various History Societies branches outside the metropolitan area.

Another outside experience was to attend the launch of the new Heritage Walk at Fremantle Cemetery. The booklet issued on the day sets out a route around the numbered sites of 'Heroes and Villains' last resting places. Interspersed along the official Heritage Walk are headstones from the old Skinner Street Cemetery in Fremantle. A walk at a later time is planned to check those old headstones in an endeavour to establish the identity of any Pensioner Guards were buried at Skinner Street.

Our General Meeting held on 26 July was well attended and the Speaker, John Clydesdale, gave a most interesting resume of the problems he overcame during his research into the story of the first self-powered vehicle to come to Australia used in the building of the stone roads in the Port Gregory area. His talk was of particular interest to descendants of the Pensioner Guards based in the Port Gregory and then Greenough areas. John is a noted motoring and transport journalist who has spent more than 30 years writing for newspapers and motoring magazines including the *West Australian*, *Sunday Times* and the more recent *Quokka* weekly newspaper.

I would like to especially thank those members of the Group who have donated copies of the profiles of their EPG ancestor. They all make interesting reading and add to the information on individual men who served as Guards for the convicts and then as colonial employees, policemen, warders and as settlers who helped to stabilize a struggling colony.

We would also appreciate copies of any photographs of not only the Pensioner Guards, but also their wives. To put a face to a name gives it real life.

Jean McDonald,
Convenor

Warders and Gaolers what next?

Those that have been fortunate enough to find their pensioner employed by the Convict establishment can further their research by searching the Superintendents' Order books.

Located in the State Record Office, the reels are found in the drawers marked Acc 1156, numbered from SO1 – SO15 and in chronological order. The years 1856-1867, and 1872-1874 are indexed, the index located at the back of each piece with the exception of SO10 and SO11 where the index is in SO14. The writing in the indexes is microscopic and a magnifying glass could be helpful.

As well as convict information, the entries cover a diverse range of topics for warders and guards, such as, appointments and resignations, petty fines and infringements, dismissals, work locations and movements, allocation of warders cottages, pay levels and adjustments, and applications for leave of absence, as well as snippets of general interest.

The following is typical of what can be expected.

Acc 1156, SO1, 25th August 1850-19th November 1852.

Page 45.

30th June 1851. **WARDER McCALL** is directed to take 26 boys and one man as cook, with a stove to cook their meat, together with sufficient tools to cut wood and erect 'A' huts. They will start first thing every morning take their breakfast and dinner with them and return to supper, - flat will be in readiness at shipyard to ferry them over to

Page 50

3rd July 1851. **WARDER McCALL** is directed to accompany the draft of men to North Fremantle Night Warder **Johnstone** to be Assistant Warder in charge of Barracks, North Fremantle

We were rather intrigued by the first entry and decided the 'boys' referred to were probably Parkhurst Boys who at this time were still serving their time, and the 'A' huts were more than likely the first homes of the pensioners at North Fremantle.

Thanks to Jeanette Lee

Can you help?

What is the difference between Warders, Gaolers and Enrolled Pensioner Guards.

If you can help solve this question please send your answers to the

**Enrolled Pensioner Guards Special Interest
Group, c/- WAGS.**

Did your Pensioner Guard and his family come out on the "Racehorse"?

A clipper ship, the "Racehorse" was originally named the "**Matilda Wattenbach**" and renamed in 1863. If you have access to the internet a picture and details can be found by typing *Palmer List of Merchant Vessels* click on search. This will bring up a list of Palmer information, click on *Palmer List of Merchant Vessels* This will give you an A to Z click on the letter of your slip and a list of ship's names in alphabet order appears, click on the name of ship, and there is the information. *hopefully!*

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ADDENDA

Some copies of "The Veterans" were purchased without the
Addenda insert

This slip can be obtained by contacting the E.P.G. Special Interest Group

EXTRACT FROM "THE INQUIRER & COMMERCIAL NEWS"

Wednesday February 3, 1864

In May last, our attention was called to some alleged distress among the members of the Pensioner Force, but, upon enquiry, we found that very little distress prevailed, and that it was confined to those who by their own irregularities were their own tormentors; that in fact it was the idle, the improvident, the reckless and dissolute, who suffered, as all will suffer, whether pensioners or not, who sacrifice everything to sensual indulgences and gratifications.

The subject has been again introduced, but, with our correspondent Volunteer, we must confess our inability to disentangle from the array of *non-sequiturs* which have been published, the positive meaning of our contemporary. Whether he objects to pensioners as soldiers or as immigrants, or both, or whether he desires them to be located upon barren or scrubby land as a punishment or a reward, it is impossible, without further explanation, to decide. Our safest course in again dealing with the matter is to assume generally that some evil exists, and that some redress is required.

Are we to consider the pensioners as soldiers or as free immigrants? If the former, they are as good as any military force we could possess; if the latter, taking into consideration their previous lives, habits, and training, they are on the whole the most undesirable class of men we could have. It must be borne in mind that they are enumerated as emigrants by the Imperial Government when apportioning the supply of bond and free labour sent to the colony.

As soldiers, they are induced to come out. This is at present the only place out of England where pensioners are stationed, and they have the choice of spending their bare pension in the thickly populated Mother Country, or of coming here on the *chance* of continuous military duty, with pay in addition to pension, and on the *chance* of becoming settlers – of being, in fact, placed in the same position as ordinary immigrants, with this material difference, that they have a pension ranging from 6d to 1s 8d per diem, as a sort of grant in aid.

We state that they are induced to come out as soldiers, on the *chance* of having to perform military duty, because prior to their leaving England they are expressly advised of the War Office Regulations, which are as follows”- “Every pensioner, who has not been returned as a defaulter during the voyage, shall, *for one month after his arrival, be entitled to the local rate of pay (2s for a private) and good conduct pay (6d.) granted to men employed in permanent duty in the colony, instead of the lower rates (1s 3d for a private) received by them during the voyage.* Any pensioner arriving with a convict guard, who may prefer remaining on military duty to being otherwise employed or transferred to another colony, shall have a preference in the selection for military duty over those who may have been longer in Western Australia.

If after twelve months residence in the colony the pensioner shall not be able to find the means of providing for himself to his satisfaction, he will be at liberty, if he wishes it, to proceed with his family to any other colony at his own expense.”

We perceive from the above that the men are engaged as soldiers, having to perform duty on board ship, but that they are only *guaranteed* one month's service in the colony. The new comer has the preference over his longer established comrade, and this is but fair, for however hard it may appear that a certain number of old hands should be displaced upon the arrival of a convict ship, it would be still more hard if the newly arrived pensioner was to be left to his own resources.

Although there is no guarantee that they will be employed beyond a limited period, yet really the well conducted pensioners have seldom any difficulty in becoming all but permanently attached to the enrolled force, and the good man, who does not desire inactivity, but a certain amount of labour with increased pay, is eager to serve in the ranks.

There are however, industrious and intelligent members of the force who prefer other than military occupation, and although they men cannot claim land as a right, yet any well-conducted pensioner will have no difficulty in locating himself, on, not scrubby and worthless land, but good arable land on the Greenough Flats or other selected spots. True it is stated in a circular from the War Office “*that no grant of land has been promised to them,* but if they acquire money to purchase it in the interior there will be no objection to their settling there, even though the distances should prevent them from serving as enrolled pensioners;” yet notwithstanding this, any well behaved man can have as a gift 20 acres of land on the Greenough Flats, together with the sum of £15 towards erecting a cottage thereon. But, as a precautionary measure, the money is not given until the pensioner has made some advance towards settling himself. Otherwise it might be unprofitably spent.

From the above it is clear that although no decided guarantee is given that they should have continuous military employment, or that they should have free grants of land, yet that, as before stated, they have a *chance*, nay more than a chance, a certainty, of becoming benefited by both one and the other, and they are thus placed

(Continued on page 5)

in a situation far superior to that of free immigrants. As immigrants, taking them as a class, pensioners are not the men colonists would choose to introduce; yet many of them have made good settlers, some have amassed money, and not a few have left the colony with the earnings gained by prudence and diligence.

As soldiers, the enrolled pensioners are equal to any which we have ever had in the colony. They are picked men, most of them are in the prime of life, and they are more capable of enduring fatigue and exposure than the boys who form the majority of the regiments of the line.

Of course the drunkard and the idle must depend solely on their pensions. They cannot serve as soldiers; they will not help themselves as settlers. In any part of the world such men would be in a similar position. They may engage, but do not deserve, pity, and cannot expect assistance.

Having failed in discovering a grievance, it is possible for us to apply a remedy. So far from being wronged, these men to have been treated by the Imperial and Colonial Governments not only with fairness, but with liberality, and they have the prospect of being placed in a far better position than those immigrants who arrive with no other capital or income than their sobriety, their industry, and their thrift.

OBITUARY MRS. ELLEN COMMERFORD

One of our oldest residents in the person of Mrs. Ellen Commerford of Sanford Street, passed away at an early hour this morning, at the advanced age of 86 years. The deceased lady had been ailing for three weeks, but it was only within a few days of her death that any serious symptoms manifested themselves.

Throughout yesterday though evidently weak, she engaged in bright conversation with her family but at about 11 p.m. a grave change took place, and it was plainly to be seen that the end was near. The patient quickly grew weaker and departed from this life at 2.45 a.m., being conscious and able to converse up to within ten minutes of her death.

The late Mrs. Commerford arrived in West Australia with her husband, Mr. Martin Commerford, by the troopship "Lord Raglan" in 1858. He was a British soldier, and had taken part in the battles of Alma, Inkerman and Sebastopol in the Crimean War of 1854, winning clasps in those engagements.

Three months after their arrival in the colony, the late Mr. Commerford was appointed by Governor Kennedy to take charge of the Customs at Geraldton, and in 1864 his responsibilities were increased by the addition of the duties of Postmaster – both of which positions he held up to the time of his death in 1889.

The late Mrs. Commerford was a native of Nana, County Tipperary, Ireland. She leaves four daughters to mourn her loss – Miss Susan Commerford of Geraldton, Miss Bridget Commerford (now in Melbourne), Mrs. E.C. Griffin of Colin Street, West Perth and Mrs. J. M. Drew of Geraldton. Mrs. Griffin arrived from Perth on Friday last to attend the bedside of her mother. All the daughters living in the State were present at the deathbed. The deceased lady was widely known and respected, and the relatives have been the recipients of many evidences of public sympathy. The funeral takes place at 4 p.m. tomorrow. This evening the remains will be taken to St. Francis Xavier's Cathedral, where a requiem mass is to be celebrated at 9 a.m. tomorrow, and in the afternoon, after the usual religious ceremonies, which commence at 8.45, the funeral procession will move from the Church to the Catholic cemetery.

EXTRACT from GERALDTON EXPRESS
26 June 1922

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The following is an extract of an article published in **Western Ancestor** December 1985, page 159. Courtesy of the Fremantle Port Authority

Loss of the Schooner

"Emma"

By Chris Hall

"The EMMA, a two masted, carvel built schooner of 117 tons had been launched in 1859 at Lowestoft, Suffolk. In September 1865 her registry was transferred from London to Fremantle where, in the following year, she was bought by Walter Padbury, a prominent local shipowner.

She was a large craft by sail coaster standards of those days. But Padbury, an ambitious man, purchased only British built vessels of considerable tonnage for it was his intention to monopolise the carrying trade between Fremantle and the ports of the Pilbara coast where he also had pastoral holdings."

During her first two years of trading along the coast the EMMA suffered various mishaps.

"The EMMA was fitted up with new rigging and thoroughly renovated 'aloft and alow' in preparation of her third voyage. Padbury appointed Captain Badcock, former mate in the BRIDGETOWN, to command the schooner. Supplies for the sheep stations of the North West and the settlers' provisions were loaded then the passengers, among whom was Robert J. Sholl the new Resident Magistrate for Port Walcott filed aboard. So on January 22 1867 the EMMA stood out to sea and after an uneventful passage, arrived at her destination

For the return voyage the EMMA'S cargo comprised bales of wool consigned by the Roebuck Bay Company and Messrs Taylor, knight and Co, plus several tons of pearl shell.

Forty-two passengers boarded the vessel at Port Walcott and on March 2, 1867 the EMMA put to sea on her fatal last voyage. She got underway on a good slant of wind which ought to have carried her safely round the North West Cape on an estimated nineteen day passage to Fremantle.

Included among her passengers on that fateful day were several pioneers and many prominent citizens of the Roebourne district almost all of whom were the breadwinners for large families. Mostly they were travelling south to buy horses, cattle, and sheep with which to stock new stations inland.

Unfortunately however, no complete passenger list is extant but the following are known to have been onboard her when the schooner disappeared: Trevor Sholl, son of resident Magistrate; Mr C. Nairn, manager for Walter Padbury at Port Walcott; Captain Abbott late master of Padbury's schooner NEW PERSEVERANCE, which at the time was lying grounded at Butcher's inlet; Mr J. Tays, a master pearler, formerly of Camden Harbour and the Hungarian naturalist Louis Blagrav. Seven Military pensioners returning from duty at Roebuck Bay, four policemen in charge of two or three aboriginal prisoners and three free natives of the Nichol Bay region; European government labourers and tradesmen, with the vessels seven men crew, completed the complement.

A crowd of relatives and friends on the jetty watched the schooner's departure but there were none among them who could have guessed that once out of sight, the vessel would pass out of all human ken.

The first intimation that any concern might be felt for the vessel's safety came on April 24th, when the shipping reporter of Inquirer Newspaper, commented that she was "considerably overdue"

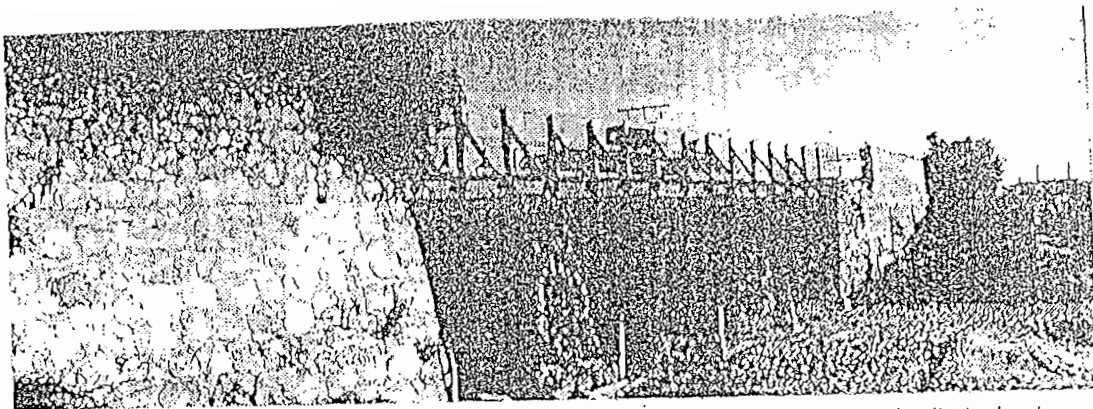
Then, on July 10th, when three months had passed without a word of the missing vessel reaching her owner Walter Padbury, he reluctantly wrote to the press.

"As regards the EMMA there are few, I think, have more reason to lament the sad catastrophe which must have befallen her. As owner of the vessel, with property at stake and relatives aboard, I feel keenly the want of positive intelligence as to her fate, and there are none more anxious to know it.

I had no cause for uneasiness before the end of April and from that time I did what I could to send another vessel. I have my own opinion as to the nature of the accident that has lost the EMMA and should it prove correct, it will show that though we had despatched half a dozen vessels we could have afforded no relief or saved the vessel or her crew."

"The fate of the EMMA in March 1867 remains today one of Western Australia's most puzzling mysteries of the sea"

There is of course much more information in the original article which makes interesting reading. Early copies of **Western Ancestor** are on the shelves in the Australasian Room at WAGS.



This convict-built bridge over the Greenough River has withstood two of the worst floods the district has known.

V. I. MALONE describes a devastating natural disaster at Greenough 100 years ago which became known as . . .

The year of the flood

The day was hot and still.

The flash flood came roaring down towards the small farming district with no warning, sweeping everything along in its path.

At almost the last minute, one man heard its roar and the warning was passed to people living near the dry river bed. But a strange quirk of fate caused the flood to divert and silently encompass land much farther afield, catching unawares people who would never have envisioned drowning on a hot summer's day.

THE year, 1888.

The date, Saturday, February 4.

A swelteringly hot, still day at Greenough, Western Australia, a farming district just south of Geraldton comprising 565 hectares on its Front Flats, nearest the sea, and 16,160 hectares on its Back Flats.

To those living farth-er away from the dry river bed it was a typical Saturday morning. Farmers were working in the fields, hats on their heads to counter the blistering sun. The women were doing household chores such as making butter, bread or soap, or perhaps scrubbing clothes, with the smell of perspiration permeating the still, stuffy wash-houses. The children went about their own chores or played. A little later, usually

At 10 in the morning, 12-year-old Nora Silcock was told by her mother to go up to the hill paddock and bring down the cows to the paddock next to the house.

While in the top pad-

deck, the girl looked down towards Georgina and Bootenall, two nearby districts, and was transfixed with surprise. There was water as far as her eyes could see. She took the cows home, then went into the house and told her mother what she had seen.

Mrs Silcock stopped what she was doing and looked at her daughter carefully. "Nora," she asked, "are you feeling all right?" There was no doctor in the district and she was frightened of her children catching fever.

After satisfying herself that Nora was all right, she hurried to the high ground where she, too, stood transfixed. Mrs Silcock's immediate conclusion - for the sea seemed too far away to travel that distance under "normal" circumstances and there had been no rain to cause a flood - was that it was the coming of the end of the world.

Quickly she ordered Nora to get Liz and Sarah and the two

boys, Joe and George, who were out clearing a nearby paddock. She believed that they should all be together at this apocalyptic time.

On the previous day, Friday February 3, another Greenough resident, Jim Eakins, was visiting his sister, Mary Eves. While sitting outdoors enjoying the quiet, still surroundings and drinking tea, they heard a roaring noise in the distance.

Jim realised that the river was coming down and decided to hurry back across the dry river bed before the water appeared. By the time he reached the centre of the river, warning waters were already running up to the horse's belly and the noises further upstream had become frighteningly loud.

Cloud burst

Three days earlier there had been a cloud burst hundreds of kilometres farther north. With no form of communication except by horseback, the northerners had no way to

warn those in the south in time. The huge volume of rain was quickly filling the dry creek beds and was now crashing down on the south at a fantastic pace.

Jim galloped his horse over the short cut to the Front Flats, arriving at the police station at 8.30pm to give the first warning. The police quickly passed the word along to the settlers close to the banks.

Early the next day, Saturday, February 4, a few hours before young Nora Silcock had climbed the hill to get the cows, Frank Wallace called in to the police station asking for help; water was running well over a metre high through his store. Police and helpers banded together to move his stock to a safer place.

A little later on the same day, William Bone called in to the station to say that at 3pm the previous day, two of his boys had crossed the river to look for his cows and had not returned. Worried, he left the police to cross the bridge near the station to search on the opposite side.

Approximately 270 metres from the station, in view of the police, he was washed from his horse. Corporal Kennedy and Constable Meares rushed into the water and swam about 45 metres towards him, but had to turn back. William Bone and his horse had disappeared. Only his horse could be found, some time later, entangled in a wire fence but still alive.

One homestead built near a limestone ridge was safe from the water and two families who lived opposite

moved in with the owners, the Eakins, for safety; but one of the neighbours' workers had been told to drive the cows over to the dry land.

It took him a while to get the cows together and by the time he was ready to return the water was about 30cms deep. It deepened quickly, and as the cows started to swim, the man, finding the waters too strong for him, grabbed a nearby tree and became stranded, while the cows reached dry land.

Mr Eakins yelled that he would come over with a horse, and that the worker should grab the horse's tail and be brought back to dry land. However, the man's nerve froze and he signalled that he couldn't do it.

People on the shore could see him wildly brushing away ants which had been swept along and were climbing the tree, but not until a drifting snake claimed the tree did he agree to signal for the horse.

A story of a similar incident came in to the station at 11am. William Whitby, marooned up a tree near Henry Criddle's house, about 90 metres out in the water, had been calling for help since 7am. Constable Meares was greeted by a worried group on the shore, and riding one horse out into the water and leading another, he helped the man to safety on the second horse.

Although the river was spreading over the Flats in many places, no one was yet aware of the even greater danger which was to come. Naturally, those closest to the banks expected the river to spread to a considerable degree as it rushed through to the sea, but that was all. They felt they could simply move their stock and moveable property back from the banks and wait for the water to subside.

Over the years, however, huge hills of white beach sand had formed along the extremely windy coast of the area, blowing away again to re-form into new sandhills. Their constantly changing positions had never attracted any interest.

Unnoticed

Now, unnoticed by anyone, the shifting sands had banked up the Greenough River's outlet to the sea and prevented the water from flowing through. The thundering, churning water had nowhere to go but back and within a short time it was to submerge 48 kms of land.

As the water started to run south, the south, which was lower in some parts than the north, was covered by water three metres deep. At one stage a baby placed on top of a hay stack for safety while its mother worked to save the property, was carried away when the hay stack moved with the

water. The baby was found a long time later—still on top of the hay stack—unharmcd.

On returning to the station, Constable Meares had to leave immediately with two settlers and six horses; for a cottage housing

65-year-old Mrs Hackett and her son and daughter, who were stranded with deep water around their small patch of dry ground.

The Browning family was not so lucky with their home which was more low-lying. As the waters rose, they stood on a sandhill and watched their limestone and mud home crumble to pieces.

On Sunday, February 5 at 5.30am, John Davys arrived at Greenough with two boats from Geraldton. A few hours later, one was used to rescue a distraught Mr Bridgeman, his daughter-in-law and two grandchildren from the roof of their house. As their house was considered a safe distance from the river bank, they had not been warned. The backwash had come up so suddenly that they were locked in the house.

Mr Bridgeman had smashed a hole in the roof and helped up his grandchildren and daughter-in-law, but Mrs Bridgeman, who had been beside them in the water one second, had disappeared the next. She was nowhere to be found in the room of swirling furniture.

The flooded river continued to rise until it finally broke through the sandbank to the sea. Once started, the river soon cleared away the opening.

Over the next few days, as the waters receded, the bodies of William Bone, Mrs Bridgeman and a Mr and Mrs Cole—who had drowned in unknown circumstances were recovered.

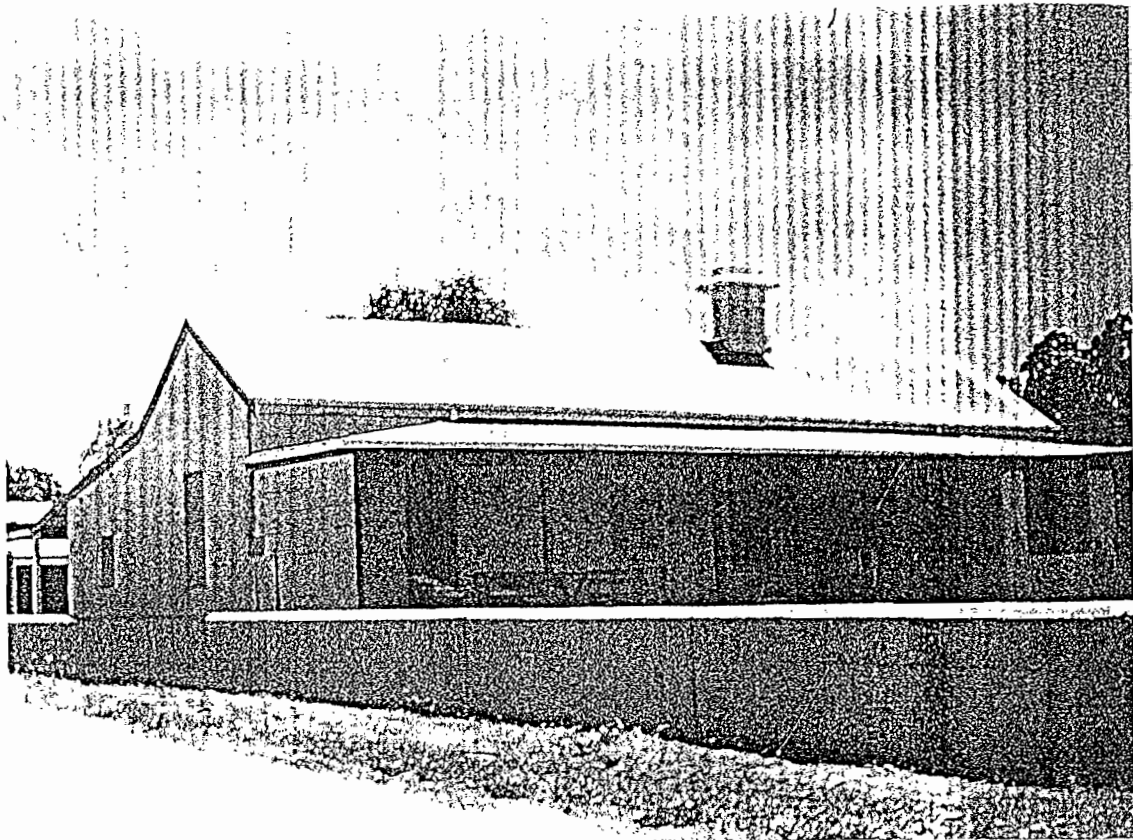
Many people had been forced to leave their homes and were stranded on sand plains and hills, and 90 farmers had been made destitute.



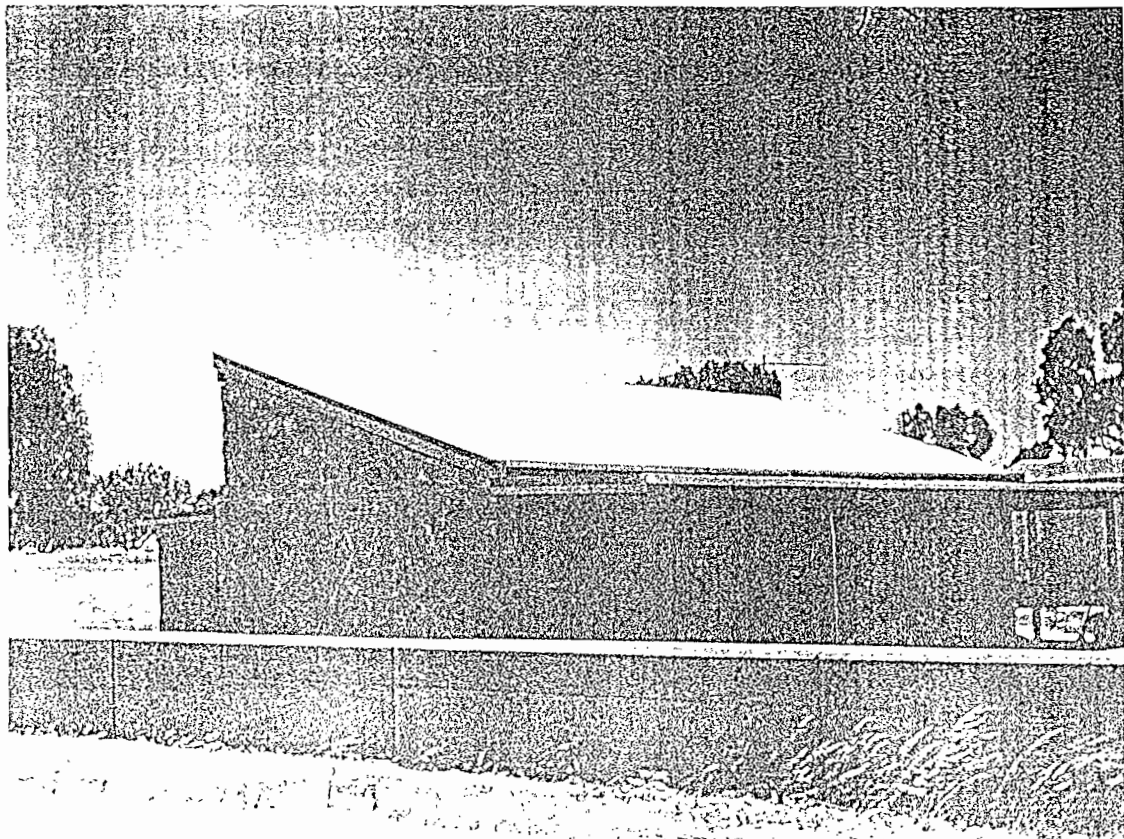
ROAD

OCEAN

NOT TO SCALE



*Pensioner Kelly's Cottage
Off Geraldton Highway, Greenough
Title C.G. X14, constructed 1888*



*Pensioner Kelly's barn - constructed 1888
stone & Galvanised Iron roof.
Title C G x14*

More information of the Geraldton and Greenough areas is available in a book by Sister Mary Albertus Bain, O.P. "A Life of Its Own" It is a social and economic history of the City of Geraldton and the Shire of Greenough, 1846 - 1988. This book was available through my local library.

The Last Word On Floods:

The West Australian, Friday February 10, 1888

THE GREENOUGH FLOODS
Sympathy at Northam - An Offer of Help
(from our Correspondent)

Great sympathy is expressed here for Greenough farmers. The Municipal Council started a relief fund to which all residents will, I am sure, cheerfully subscribe, according to their means. Would donations of chaff and corn be accepted? If so, free railage and freight could doubtless be secured. The weather is very hot, and a storm is brewing

TELEGRAM FROM THE GOVERNMENT RESIDENT.

Telegraphing at 6.p.m. on Wednesday, the Government Resident at Geraldton (Mr. Maitland Brown) says:- The small boat in charge of Welsh, visited the Eves family on Sunday, and found all safe. The bodies of Mrs. Bridgeman, Thomas Cole and Mrs. Cole recovered yesterday. They were found in Mrs. Duncan's paddock in the flood waters. The inquests commenced this morning at the Cemetery. The burials will take place at once. Temporary restoration of the telegraph progressing satisfactorily, and will probably (sic) be completed tonight. Mr. Snook is inspecting line today, and concurs with me that probably a temporary office need not be established beyond King's place. It is reported that the water has been above the telegraph posts at the South end of the Flats and near King's place.

Thanks to John Kelly
Researcher of Lighthouses and
Pensioner Guards for sharing his
family photos with us.

Enrolled Pensioner Guard
John Kelly & Wife

