

# EPG GAZETTE

January, 2008 Vol 8 No 1



## ENROLLED

## PENSIONER

## GUARDS

*A special Interest Group of the*

**WESTERN AUSTRALIAN  
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY INC.**

**Unit 6/48 May Street  
Bayswater 6053**

[www.wags.org.au/groups/  
sigepg.html](http://www.wags.org.au/groups/sigepg.html)

**Quarterly Newsletter  
ISSN 1443-945X**

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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I was very pleased to see the article by Ron Sutton on the Khyber Pass and the 1<sup>st</sup> Afghan War as my great great grandfather EPG Daniel McIntyre was a soldier in the 13<sup>th</sup> regiment of foot and was awarded two medals, one for the gun action of Jellalabad and the other for the recapture of Kabul.

WAGS Library<sup>1</sup> has a copy of the regimental records for the 13<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot that states when the regiment returned to India it was feted and welcomed as heroes.

“on the 17<sup>th</sup> December, 1842, the Regiment crossed the Sutlej, by the bridge of boats, and on the opposite side passed under a Triumphal arch, and received a hearty welcome from Lord Ellenborough, the Governor-General. The road for the next six miles was lined by troops who presented arms as the Regiment passed, the bands playing the National Anthem.

The Governor-General's order was as follows-

The Governor-General  
will request his  
Excellency the

Commander-in- Chief  
of the Army to give  
instructions **in due**  
time, that the several  
corps composing the  
garrison of Jellalabad,  
may on their return to  
India, be received at all  
stations at their route  
to their cantonments,  
by all troops, on such  
station, in review order  
with presented arms”.

Such were the days of  
glory, Daniel died in the  
poorhouse at Tullamore,  
Ireland.

Regards  
Jeanette Lee

## ANTIQUE ARMS & ARMOUR

Come and hear Dr Leo  
Laden speak on antique  
weaponry history, design  
modifications, and improve-  
ments.

His talk commences with  
the matchlocks used by the  
Dutch at the time of the  
Batavia wreck to the famous  
Brown Bess flintlock  
muskets.

This is a must. Mark your  
Diary Saturday 23  
February 2008 at 1.00pm

<sup>1</sup> ( WAGS ref UK REG 4096)

# Soldiers and Quilting

Ron Sutton

One tends to accept that patchwork quilting is vested with women folk, however; history tends to correct our misconceptions. There is all English quilting tradition of men making quilts from soldiers uniforms which, prior to the introduction of khaki after the Boer War, provided a good supply of colorful woolen materials. This article examines the history of one such quilt made from soldier's uniforms.

The patchwork quilt shown is made from small square patches of even size, cut from the black, red, yellow and white woolen fabric of 19<sup>th</sup> century military uniform jackets and trousers of the 90<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot. Square patches are the simplest shapes for piecing together to form a patchwork quilt. The diagonal relationship of the small patches of this quilt, within the larger square block format creates a pleasing effect.

Veteran's were offered land in the Westbury and Deloraine areas of Tasmania. An estimate of the date of manufacture of the quilt is put at about the 1870 mark.

The 90<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot was originally raised as Colonel Morgan's 90<sup>th</sup> 'Irish Light Infantry in Ireland about 1759 however; it was disbanded in 1763. A second 90<sup>th</sup> was formed for the American War of Independence and disbanded in 1783. The third was raised in 1794 as the "Perthshire Volunteers". In the early 19<sup>th</sup> Century the 90<sup>th</sup> served in various exotic places such as St Vincent, Martinique, Guadeloupe, Grenada and Canada. The unit served under Wellington in Paris returning to England in 1816. Then it was another merry go round of tours of duties in Malta, Ionian Islands, Ceylon and the Cape.

The regiment landed at Balaklava in the Crimea on the 5<sup>th</sup> December 1854 and bore a distinguished part throughout the



The quilt was probably designed by its makers, said to be ex soldiers or their wives of the 90<sup>th</sup> who migrated to Tasmania after the Crimean War, The

siege of Sevastopol, including the attack on the Quarries and the assault of the 8<sup>th</sup> September 1855. The unit returned home in 1856. On the way to China in 1857

the unit was diverted to Bengal and were in the thick of things at the relief of Lucknow, in the defence of the Alumbagh, and at the subsequent siege and capture of Lucknow. The 90<sup>th</sup> remained long in India and did not return home until 1869.

There is no record of how this quilt was used. It is said to have spent most of its life since it was made stitched into a canvas sail bag. The quilt was discovered in Tasmania and had come through the family of Stan McDougal, a Victoria Cross winner of World War 1. A Tasmanian collector acquired the quilt for his wife and in 1982 it was subsequently acquired by Pierre Durand, a military historian. The quilt was purchased by the Powerhouse Museum, Darling Harbour, Sydney in 1998, registration No 98/48/1

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At right >>> Uniform of the 90<sup>th</sup>  
Regiment of Foot c1850-1870.



**Wear a copy of the badge your  
ancestor wore.**

#### **EPG BADGES**



**\$10.00 from an EPG General Meeting or \$12.00  
inc. postage & handling.**

## **STORY TO TELL?**

**Everyone has a story to tell. Please share with us a story about your Enrolled Pensioner Guard and his family. There will be someone else who had an ancestor that shared that time and place. The resources that you used in your research may help someone else. *Send your story to the editor.***

# **CONVENORS REPORT**

## **NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2008**

Our last meeting for the year 2007 was addressed by Graeme Sisson and Filson Becket of the Police History Society. Their well received presentation included display boards with a selection of historic photos relative to buildings and events in the police history of W.A., some of which had not been seen by members. Their willingness to answer queries was also appreciated by those members present.

Our next General Meeting to be held on 23 February has the potential to be of great interest to members.

Speaker Leo Laden is a collector of Antique Arms & Armour and Leo has offered a 'hands on living history session' illustrating how the ancestors of our Enrolled Pensioner Guards would have been instructed to use their weapons. **MARK YOUR CALENDAR.**

We can look back on the last year with a degree of pride in our combined efforts to record and recognise the role played by the Enrolled Pensioner Force in the growth of this great State. As in all communities there will be those who for many reasons do not adapt to unsettling changes in their lives. However, it may be said that the major proportion of the more than twelve hundred ex British soldiers who enrolled to come to Western Australia, initially as guards for the convicts, remained and established their own dynasties. Research by members has uncovered stories of

bravery, resilience and success of their ancestor in the early history of this great state.

As a group, we can take pride in their endeavours.

We can also take pride in the efforts of your Committee who have played no small part in the reputation now held by the Enrolled Pensioner Guard, Special Interest Group.

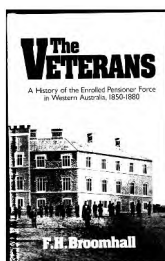
The Group's financial position is considered to be healthy and suggestions for projects in 2008 will be tabled at our Annual General Meeting scheduled for Saturday 19 April.

We look forward with confidence to a productive year and once again offer an interesting part-time position on our Committee to any member who has the same belief in the importance of promoting interest in the history of this great State of Western Australia. With respect to our recently deceased premier, Sir Charles Court.

*Jean McDonald*

### **EPG Reference**

The standard reference on the Enrolled Pensioner Guard is available from the EPG Special Interest Group



This book by F. H. Broomhall is a must for all who are interested in the history of the Enrolled Pensioner Force in Western Australian between 1850 and 1880.

Price \$45.00 plus postage.

# JOHN LAW DAVIS AND HIS FAMILY

John Law Davis, the son of a tanner named Benjamin Davis, was born in Wales in about 1827. He served as a private in a West India Company regiment and was eventually inducted into the Enrolled Pensioner Force. He arrived in WA on the 'Dudbrook', February 7, 1853 (1). Davis served briefly as a WA Police Force constable in Perth later in the year (2). As will be seen, his grandson revived this common EPF and police connection.

John Davis married Amelia, daughter of Peter Wood, in Perth on July 3, 1856. They had quite a large family – four sons and three daughters. One daughter, also named Amelia, married William Young, the son of another pensioner soldier (3).

John Davis was made caretaker of the EPF cottages at Guildford on November 27, 1857. Several cottages were built in the vicinity of Surrey Street and North Road, but only one was still standing by the 1940s. Among them was one called 'The Retreat', which was used by caretaker Davis. Recently Special Interest group member Ian Barnes took a fine photograph of the last cottage during a 'dig' in October 2007 (4).

EPF man Davis acquired a land allotment at West Guildford (Bassendean) in 1864, but died in his early 40s in 1870 (5). One of his sons was Benjamin Davis (1863-1930), who was in turn the father of Ernest William Davis (born Perth 1886), a public servant who began work as a messenger in the WA Police Force and eventually ended up as a member of the Police Commissioner's office staff (6). He was a clerk in the records section early in World War 1 and resigned to enlist. No doubt to his

extreme annoyance, he was rejected because of varicose veins. Davis then worked as a labourer until having another try. In early 1916 the army medical people were not so fussy – he was recruited into the 1<sup>st</sup> AIF and served in the 44<sup>th</sup> Battalion of Infantry.

Davis proved to be a first rate soldier and was promoted to sergeant in 1917 after surviving a bad bullet wound. One of the men serving with him was former police constable William Casterton, who later wrote a graphic letter to their mutual friend Constable Innes in Perth describing the sad but gallant death of Ernest Davis.

He was in the forefront of a night attack near Corbie on the Somme on the night of March 28, 1918 when his company was caught by enemy machine gun fire. Casterton wrote that Davis turned to his men and said 'I am hit, but carry on'. Davis then collapsed and died; his remains were never found (7). The story of this grandson of an EPF member is quite typical – so many young men of his ilk carried on a strong family service tradition from one generation to another.

- (1) Broomhall, F.H. *The Veterans* (Hesperian Press, 1989), B73; *Bicentennial Dictionary of Western Australians*, Vol.2, D-G, p781.
- (2) Bentley, M. *Grandfather was a Policeman* (Hesperian Press, 1993), p36.
- (3) Broomhall, B303.
- (4) Broomhall, B73; Thomas, A.L. *A History of Bassendean* (Bassendean Road board, 1947), p13; Carter, J. *Bassendean: a Social History 1829-1979* (Town of Bassendean, 1986), pp54, 57.
- (5) Guildford Land Application Deed 2017; Broomhall, B74.
- (6) *Bicentennial Dictionary*, Vol.2, D-G, pp776 and Western Australia

Police: service record of Ernest William Davis.

- (7) National Archives of Australia: Series B2455 – Ernest William Davis; Browning, N. *The Westralian Battalion. The History of the 44 Battalion AIF 1916-1919 and the Western Australian Rifles* (The Author, WA, 2004), p246, with p218 for a group photograph including Davis.

Jean McDonald, Convenor  
Peter Conole, Police Historian

## **STRIKE UP THE (FAMILY) BAND**

Sergeant THOMAS BRYAN, arrived in Western Australia as an Enrolled Pensioner Guard on the “Clyde” in 1863 as a guard for the convicts. He was accompanied by his wife Deborah and children.

Prior to enrolling in the Enrolled Pensioner Guards,<sup>th</sup> Sergeant Bryan had served in the 96<sup>th</sup> Regiment of the British Army, serving in Tasmania, India and Gibraltar.

Most British Army Units had in their ranks a drummer boy and/or young recruits who took up the Fife as their instrument, and these lads would play as the troops marched, or on ceremonial occasions. Thomas Bryan was 16 years of age when he enlisted and it is more than likely he showed some musical talent at that time.

Early settlers in Western Australia had made various attempts to encourage participation in music – concerts, recitals and the like and as the Enrolled Pensioner Guards had been in Western Australia since 1850, it is recorded that the Pensioners Band was formed soon

after that and performed on a regular basis on Fremantle Gaol Hill, as well as providing music at Balls and amateur theatricals.

The Royal Engineers who were instrumental in supervising the construction of many of the early buildings in the young Colony also contributed to the musical entertainment with their own Royal Engineers Band in those early years and they were missed when they were recalled to England.

By 1858 the original Pensioners Band had become redundant and the instruments were sold to a Mr. S. Mitchell who intended to hold musical classes. Unfortunately that venture appears to have petered out after a couple of years.

During the next decade, another Band was formed which performed for many musically enjoyable years in Perth and Fremantle. The Metropolitan Rifle Volunteer Band was made up of members from both previous Volunteer Rifle Bands, which consisted mainly of citizens of Perth and surrounding districts.

Sergeant Thomas Bryan had always been interested in anything musical and it was Sgt. Bryan who was instrumental in forming the new Metropolitan Rifle Volunteer Band. Sgt. Bryan had earlier started music classes for children and he became the first Bandmaster and leader of musical direction of the newly formed senior Band.

At the official laying of the foundation stone for the Perth Town Hall in May 1867, Bandmaster Sgt. Thomas Bryan composed a special lively piece “The Metropolitan Volunteer” especially for the occasion. In spite of torrential

rain, the ceremony went ahead.

*(It is interesting to note that the actual foundation stone was laid under the direction of Williams Buggins, builder, who was the maternal grandfather of Cyril Bryan, son of Sgt. Thomas Bryan's son, John (Tom)).*

At a concert the following year in 1868, held in the Public Garden under the direction of Bandmaster Sgt. Thomas Bryan, the players in the Band gave of their time 'gratuitously', except for light refreshment provided at the conclusion of the performance.

The Band also received accolades for other performances including a New Years Ball held at Government House. That concert was also lauded for the appearance of a visiting performing Troupe from Melbourne.

In 1873 the local newspaper "Gazette" contained an article that was aimed at readers in England – "the small capital of West Australia can muster a larger amount of musical talent in proportion to its population, than is to be found even in world-renowned classic lands."

Sgt. Thomas Bryan continued his involvement in the musical culture of Western Australia and the same must be said of his son –

John Joseph Bryan (known as 'Tom') was born in India in 1852 and inherited his father's love of music. Tom was in fact recorded as being a Bandsboy on his arrival with his parents in 1863. Tom's love of music kept him involved in the music scene in Perth, and on the retirement of his father, Tom Bryan was appointed Bandmaster of the Metropolitan Volunteer Rifles Band. Tom was married to Anne Louise Buggins and was a printer by trade involved in the early commercial

printing industry. Tom is believed to have operated a business in Howick Street (now Hay Street) and then in Murray Street, Perth.

Tom Bryan served more than 20 years as Bandmaster with the Band and was selected to accompany that Band to Melbourne for a Military Review to celebrate Federation in 1901. Family records indicate John Joseph (Tom) Bryan collapsed and died on parade on 10 May 1901 at Melbourne and his body was brought back to Perth for burial with full military honours at East Perth Cemetery.

Michael Bryan, second son of Sgt. Thomas Bryan, was born in India in 1854 and married Ellen McDonald in 1877 in Perth. Michael worked at various times as a warehouseman, a boat builder and in Government Stores. Michael Bryan inherited musical talent from his father and played the **bass drum in the Metropolitan Volunteer Rifles Band.**

To carry on the family tradition, Sgt. Thomas Bryan's third son, Thomas William (known as Willie), born in Kildare, Ireland about 1861 also had musical talent. Willie Bryan played the **kettledrum in the Metropolitan Volunteer Rifles Band.**

Little is known about George Bryan, fourth son of Thomas and Deborah Bryan except his birth was in Perth in 1865 and his death in Melbourne in 1938. From a photograph of George Bryan in the possession of the family, which shows George in his Band uniform, it can be assumed he too had the Bryan musical talent.

Alfred Bryan, fifth son of Sgt. Thomas Bryan, born in 1866 is believed to have been the small boy pictured as having played the triangle in the Band in a

picture taken prior to 1879. Alfred eventually worked in the Goldfields before moving to New Zealand where he worked as a tinsmith. Alfred died in New Zealand in 1939.

However, we do know a little more about Patrick Francis Bryan, sixth son of Sgt. Thomas Bryan, late of the 96 Regiment. Patrick Bryan was born in Perth in 1868 but spent most of his life in Tasmania. His musical talents were evident as a Trombone player in the Launceston City Band.

It is of interest to record the fact that at least one of Sgt. Thomas Bryan's daughters was also a musician.

Caroline (Carrie) Bryan was born in Perth in 1873 and her second husband, William Byron, was a Theatre Manager at the Grand Opera House and Caroline herself was a talented pianist.

### **AND THE BAND PLAYED ON – 'WALTZING MATILDA'?**

#### **REFERENCES:**

Family papers courtesy of Lynette Parker, descendant of Sgt. Bryan.

Broomhall, F.H. *A History of the Enrolled Pensioner Force in Western Australia 1850-1880*. Published by Hesperian Press, Victoria Park. 1989p B32;

Rica Erickson, Editor. *The Bicentennial Dictionary of Western Australians pre 1829-1888*. Published University of Western Australia Press. 1987 Vol 1 pp 368, 370, 371;

Kornweibel A.H. *Apollo and the Pioneers The story of the first hundred years of music in Western Australia*. Published Music Council of Western Australia (Inc). 1973. pp49, 59, 60, 65, 66, 71;

"Swan River Booklets No. 4. *The Story of the Birth of Perth. August The Twelfth, 1829. The Day on which Perth was founded*

*by the Chopping down of a tree*. By 'Cygnet'. Published by Paterson Brokensha Pty. Ltd. Perth. Bound 2 impression 1956. Copies No. 1-12.

{Originally published by Swan River Press, Perth 1935 as "Western Australia in the Making" C. Bryan (who wrote under the pseudonym of "Cygnet").

## **Descendants Day**

**Remember that we celebrate Descendants' day in June each year. If you have not received your certificate at the Prison, as a direct descendant from a Pensioner Guard, why not apply this year. Only one member per family may apply each year.**

**The only details required are the line of direct descent from the arrival to the applicant -**

**Applicants name  
Parent  
Grandparent  
G.Grandparent  
and a copy of the relevant certificates.**

**For further information ring the Prison on 08 9336 9200 or [www.fremantleprison.com.au](http://www.fremantleprison.com.au) or visit the Fremantle Prison, The Terrace, Fremantle W.A. 6160.**

## THE BARRACKS FIELD FREMANTLE

In "Wharf Rats and other stories, 100 years of Growing up in Fremantle", **Beryl Dancer**, a subscriber to our Newsletter, wrote a nostalgic piece about her childhood. Her family lived in the Caretaker's Cottage at Fremantle Oval where Beryl was born.

On a return visit to the area in 2004, Beryl felt it was like making a full circle "in some ways two full circles" because her grandfather **WILLIAM JONES** had also lived at the Oval with his wife and family, but in his time it was called the Barrack Field.

**WILLIAM STEWART JONES** formerly a private in the 1st Battalion Rifle Brigade arrived as an Enrolled Pensioner Guard on the "Belgravia" in 1866.

The Jones family lived in the Pensioner Barracks between South Terrace and the Barracks Field where the Pensioner Guards paraded.

In later years, the Jones family moved to a cottage on the Pensioner Lot at North Fremantle granted to William Jones.

Beryl's father is reputed to have said his early days `were not always pleasant in a hot, blinding place with roads of sand'.

Have you been able to make a nostalgic trip to the area or land on which `your man' spent his youth?

## THE INQUIRER AND COMMERCIAL NEWS,

Wednesday, June 5, 1867

## EDUCATION.

We take the following report of the Inspector of Schools from the June Number of The Church of England Magazine:—

## PERTH.

*Pensioners' Barracks, Perth.*-This School **was examined at Christmas**. It had then been but a few months in operation; during that time 90 children had been admitted, and three had left, leaving 87 still on the Roll. There were **77 present at the examination**. Of the total number on the Roll 63 were under seven years of age, the remaining 14 were but a trifle beyond that, with 3 exceptions. The elder girls in the first class answered fairly, but I should think their presence in the school rather a hindrance than otherwise. The children looked remarkably clean and neat. Mrs. Allmond has no easy task in managing such a number of infants, but appears to keep them in as good order as is possible.

[Ed. Note: The Pensioners' Barracks is the only school in the Perth area mentioned.]

**2008  
MEETINGS  
1:00pm- Unit 4 WAGS**

**FEBRUARY**      **Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**APRIL**      **Saturday 19<sup>th</sup>**  
**Annual General Meeting**

**JULY**      **Saturday 19<sup>th</sup>**

**OCTOBER**      **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup>**

**FEBRUARY MEETING  
Saturday 23 February**

**1.00pm in Unit 4, May St, Bayswater.**

**Come and listen to:**

**Speaker Dr Leo Laden**

**collector of Antique Arms & Armour**

**Enrolled Pensioner Guard SIG  
WA Genealogical Society Inc  
Print Post Approved  
PP635823/00066**

**Surface  
Mail**

**Postage  
Australia**

**Unit 6/48 May Street  
Bayswater WA 6053**



**Pensioner Barracks & Parade 1860 (W.A. Museum)**

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Quarterly Newsletter  
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### CONVENORS REPORT

Our General Meeting held at WAGS on 23<sup>rd</sup> February was well attended and interesting.

The speaker, Dr. Leo Laden, of Antique Arms & Armour gave a sometimes graphic demonstration of some of the weapons relevant to the Pensioner Guards- those ex-British Army soldiers who served in Great Britain's various theatres of war.



The collection included the Brown Bess Rifle, the Snider and Enfield Rifles and also smaller firearms, revolvers and examples of ammunition and firing mechanisms. Leo's demonstration of the actual arming and firing of the weapons gave members an insight into just how time consuming and on occasions a case of 'hit-and-miss' or 'hit-and run' would have been

during field battle between two opposing enemies. The smoke sent up by some of the rifles when fired would have made accuracy somewhat dubious.

My delight was in having a hands on experience with a Rifle actually stamped "**EPG**" and with its original number still visible!

Your Group has now procured copies of those maps relevant to the allocations of land to EPG's. Some of those lots were not taken up for various reasons, but it is all part of the resources available to researchers. Your Committee has voted to donate \$150.00 to WAGS towards the acquisition of a Steel Map Hanging Cabinet to preserve those maps. Negotiations are underway with the Librarian, Edwina Shooter in the hope of obtaining a good second-hand cabinet. *[Offers of monetary assistance would be gratefully accepted.]*

Your Group can be proud of the interest and input by members in our Group to research and promote the importance of the arrival in Western Australia of the Enrolled Pensioners to act as guards for the convicts arriving in Western Australia.

**Jean McDonald**

# An Unfortunate Life

*Ron Sutton*

When reading about the history of our Pensioner Guards we sometimes find a statement that is intriguing and requires further investigation. This is true when we look at the various ways our brave soldiers met their maker. We have the Guard that got drunk and on the way home fell into a puddle of water and drowned, another came to grief when a horse harnessed to a sulky bolted. This story follows the circumstances of one of our own who was killed by a Sikh.<sup>1</sup>

## The Background

The Mararajah of the Punjab, Ranjit Singh established and built up the powerful Sikh Army, the “Khalsa” over the twenty years of his reign. It had taken his towering personality to control the turbulent “Khalsa” he had established. Until the death of Ranjit Singh, relations between the Sikhs and the British East India Company had been harmonious. Ranjit Singh co-operated with the British during the First Afghan War and the Sind War. However, Ranjit Singh’s death in 1839 triggered acrimonious disputes within his family and with the powerful “Khalsa”, an institution motivated by aggressive antipathy to the British. Six years later, this built up aggression led to the war that broke out in 1845.

The core of the “Khalsa” was its body of infantry regiments modeled, equipped and trained as Europeans troops even wearing red jackets and blue trousers. The traditional weapon of the Sikh warrior is the “Kirpan”, a

curved sword kept razor sharp. In battle, at the first opportunity the Sikh warriors would abandon their muskets and engage in hand-to-hand combat with sword and shield. Horrific cutting wounds, severing limbs and heads, were a frightful feature of the Sikh Wars in which neither side gave quarter to the enemy.

On the 11<sup>th</sup> December 1845, the Sikh Army crossed the Sutlej River to attack the British garrisons in the towns of Ferozeshah, Ludhiana and Ambala. The first Sikh War had begun.

## The Commander

The Commander of the British forces was General Sir Hugh Gough, an Irishman. Hugh Gough was born in Woodstown, County Limerick on the 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1779. After obtaining his commission in the Army he served with the 78<sup>th</sup> (Highlanders) at the Cape of Good Hope and then with the 87<sup>th</sup> (Royal Irish Fusiliers) in the West Indies. In 1809 he served with Wellington in the Peninsular Wars where he was severely wounded having his horse shot from under him. He was again wounded at the battle of Nivelle. After some years away from active service, he was promoted Major General in 1830 and in 1837 was sent to India to take command of the Mysore division of the Army. The China War intervened and he was dispatched to China as Commander in Chief of the British Forces. For his numerous achievements and victories including the capture of the Canton forts he was created a baronet.

He returned to India in 1843 as Commander in Chief of the British

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<sup>1</sup> The Veteran’s, a history of the Enrolled Pensioner Force in Western Australia, 1850-1880, Broomhall, FH, Hesperian Press, pB262.

forces. Gough was immensely popular with his troops for whose welfare he was constantly solicitous. The troops admired his bravery, in action wearing a conspicuous white coat he would draw fire away from his soldiers. In response to the Sikh threat, Gough mobilized a combined strength of British and Bengal force of 12,000 troops and 42 guns. He designated this force the "Army of Sutlej". The Sikhs had 10,000 Cavalry 4000 infantry and 22 guns under the command of Lal Singh.

On the 18<sup>th</sup> December 1845 after a long day's march, the Army of the Sutlej approached the small town of Moodkee. The combatants met at nightfall on the south bank of the Sutlej River. Gough's tactics were based on launching headlong attacks and, as a consequence, his casualties were high. He commanded the British/Indian army at 6 of the 7 major battles of the First Sikh war with his final battle at Goojerat decisively winning the war. He again commanded the British forces in the 1848 war and subsequently his peerage was raised to that of Viscount and promoted to Field Marshall. He died on the 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1869.

### **The Regiment**

The 50<sup>th</sup> (Queen's Own) Regiment was originally raised as the 52<sup>nd</sup> Regiment of Foot, but was renumbered in 1757 following the disbandment of the existing 50<sup>th</sup> and 51<sup>st</sup> Regiments. It spent most of the Seven Years War in England, raiding the French coast in 1757 and fighting in Germany in 1760. The regiment was deployed to Jamaica in 1772 and then to New York in 1776. At this point, troops were transferred to

other regiments so that a new regiment could be raised in England therefore; the unit in name did not see action in the American Revolutionary War. In 1782 the unit became the 50<sup>th</sup> (West Kent) Regiment of Foot. During the Napoleonic Wars, the regiment saw action in Egypt, Denmark and the Peninsular War, including the Battle of Corunna. After a battle in the Peninsular War the regiment was nicknamed the Dirty Half – Hundred: the regiment had worn uniform with black facings and when they wiped their faces the dye stained their skin. In 1827 the unit became the 50<sup>th</sup> (Duke of Clarence's) Regiment of Foot and then in 1831 as the 50<sup>th</sup> (Queen's Own) Regiment of Foot in honour of King William the Fourth's wife Queen Adelaide. The unit escorted convicts to Australia in the 1830's and then was deployed to India in 1841. The regiment was garrisoned at Dum Dum in the Punjab district and fought with distinction in the Gwalior campaign in 1843.

In 1845 the regiment was placed under command of General Hugh Gough in his Army of the Sutlej. The unit was allocated to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade under Colonel Wheeler with the 42<sup>nd</sup> Regiment of Foot and the 48<sup>th</sup> Bengal Native Infantry. The brigade was in the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division under Command Major General Sir Harry Smith. At the commencement of hostilities at Moodkee the regiment was in the thick of the battle. As the infantry advanced on the Sikh positions, Wheeler's Brigade on the right of the line was threatened by a mass of Sikh cavalry forcing the Brigade to form squares. With the Sikhs driven off, the order was then

given to form line and continue the advance; only the 50<sup>th</sup> complied leaving the other two regiments in square. The Divisional Commander, General Harry Smith seized one of the 50<sup>th</sup>'s colours and led the regiment into the Sikh lines. The infantry attack drove the Sikhs from their positions after savage hand to hand fighting. The 50<sup>th</sup> suffered 109 casualties. Reinforcements arrived and the 50<sup>th</sup> again saw action at Ferozeshah on the 21<sup>st</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> December 1845, Aliwal on the 28<sup>th</sup> January 1846 and Sobranan on the 10<sup>th</sup> February 1846. The four battles earned the regiment Battle Honours for each battle. The regiment returned to England and after a short stint in Malta were soon in the thick of battle again in the Crimea at Alma, Inkerman and Sevastopol. In 1860 they were back in Australia and in 1864 in New Zealand fighting the Maori Wars. In 1881 the unit amalgamated with the 97<sup>th</sup> (Earl of Ulster's) Regiment of Foot to form the Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment). The present unit, The Princess of Wales Royal Regiment (Queens and Hampshires) named for Princess Diana can trace its origins to the 50<sup>th</sup> (Queens Own) Regiment of Foot.

### **The Soldier**

William Smith was born in Merton, County of Surrey, England. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> May 1843 at age 19 years he enlisted in the 50<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot in London for a bounty of three pounds seventeen shillings and sixpence. His records show he was 5' 7¼" in height with fresh complexion, brown eyes and brown hair. He was stationed at Chatham as a reinforcement until he embarked from Gravesend for Bengal on the 9<sup>th</sup>

September 1843. He arrived in Bengal on the 17<sup>th</sup> January 1844 and joined his regiment at Dum Dum. He remained at the Dum Dum garrison for the period February – December 1844. His unit was later to join the Army of Sutlej in 1845 and on the 18<sup>th</sup> December he was in the Battle of Moodkee one of the fiercest encounters of the First Sikh War. He was wounded in battle at Moodkee. It appears he remained in India to at least October 1845 as he was noted as being at Ludhiana, India on the 8<sup>th</sup> October 1845. The 50<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot returned to England and their home base was at Maidstone, County Kent. William's daughter Elizabeth was born in Maidstone in 1850.

He was subsequently discharged and awarded a military pension. In 1859 he joined the Enrolled Pensioner Guard Force and joined the convict ship "***Sultana***" arriving in the Swan River Colony with his wife and daughter on the 19<sup>th</sup> August 1859. He was granted a block of land at Butler's Swamp, Claremont and became friends with fellow Enrolled Guard John Atkinson. More bad luck was to follow William as his wife died in Dongara when his daughter was about fifteen years old.

He then left Western Australia after about five or six years to try his luck on the Victorian Goldfields at Benalla.

The statement in the "Veteran's" that William was killed by a Sikh is viewed with some scepticism by William's descendants. William was not the most law abiding of citizens and he did spend some time incarcerated in Perth. It appears he also ran into trouble with the law in

Victoria. It is believed he returned to India for a period of time then back to Western Australia where his trail runs cold.

His daughter subsequently married and William's destiny was fulfilled with the many descendants now living in Western Australia.

**Footnote:** William Smith would have qualified for the award of the Sutlej Campaign Medal 1845-46. The medal would have the first battle ("Moodkee 1845") engraved on the reverse side and if by chance he did participate in the other three battles they would have been on clasps attached to the ribbon.

#### **Acknowledgment**

Many thanks to Mrs Caroline Tupling, a descendant of William Smith, for contributing information for this article.

## **SUBSCRIPTION 2008/2009**

Please send to:  
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Western Australian Genealogical  
Society  
Unit 6/48 May Street  
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WAGS Enrolled Pensioner Guards

The \$10.00 Subscription was due on  
the 31<sup>st</sup> March.

## **THE BENEVOLENCE OF ENROLLED PENSIONERS**

As a follow on to Ron Sutton's interesting article in the July 2007 EPG Newsletter on the 'Florence Nightingale Fund', it seems fitting to record the ongoing culture of 'helping your ex-army mates' when they need monetary or practical assistance.

Readers and users of Frank Broomhall's *The Veterans. A History of the Enrolled Pensioner Force in Western Australia 1850-1880* would have noted references to individual Enrolled Pensioner Guards who subscribed not only to the "**Florence Nightingale Fund**" but also to the "**Pensioners Benevolent Fund**"; the "**Indian Relief Fund**", the "**Lancashire Relief Fund**" and also the "**Greenough Fire Fund**."

In the case of the disastrous fire that swept through the Greenough area in 1863, big areas of crops were destroyed. The financial loss to many local farmers was in the thousands of pounds, which took many years to recoup. Local citizens formed groups to raise funds to assist the victims of the fire. Among those contributing to the fund were 180 Pensioners – the average donation was equal to two days pay. Local Pensioner farmers were among those who benefited from the Fund. (1).

To add to the already difficult early years experienced in the Greenough area and the later years recovering from the disastrous fires, those Pensioners who were attempting to re-establish themselves were faced with another disaster of mammoth proportions – the **Greenough River flood**.

In 1888 the Greenough River overflowed its banks without any warning during the night of 4<sup>th</sup> February 1888 (120 years ago this year).

The morning scene revealed the river rushing seawards carrying with it animals, haystacks, debris from homesteads and shrubs and small trees. The homes that had been inundated with water were in many cases wrecked by the force of the rushing water. (2)

A vivid description of the scene, the rescue attempts and the resulting disaster to homes and property is well covered in Mary Albertus Bain's *Ancient Landmarks*. The courageous efforts by a few brave men to save many settlers in the lower lying farms highlights the ability of some men to

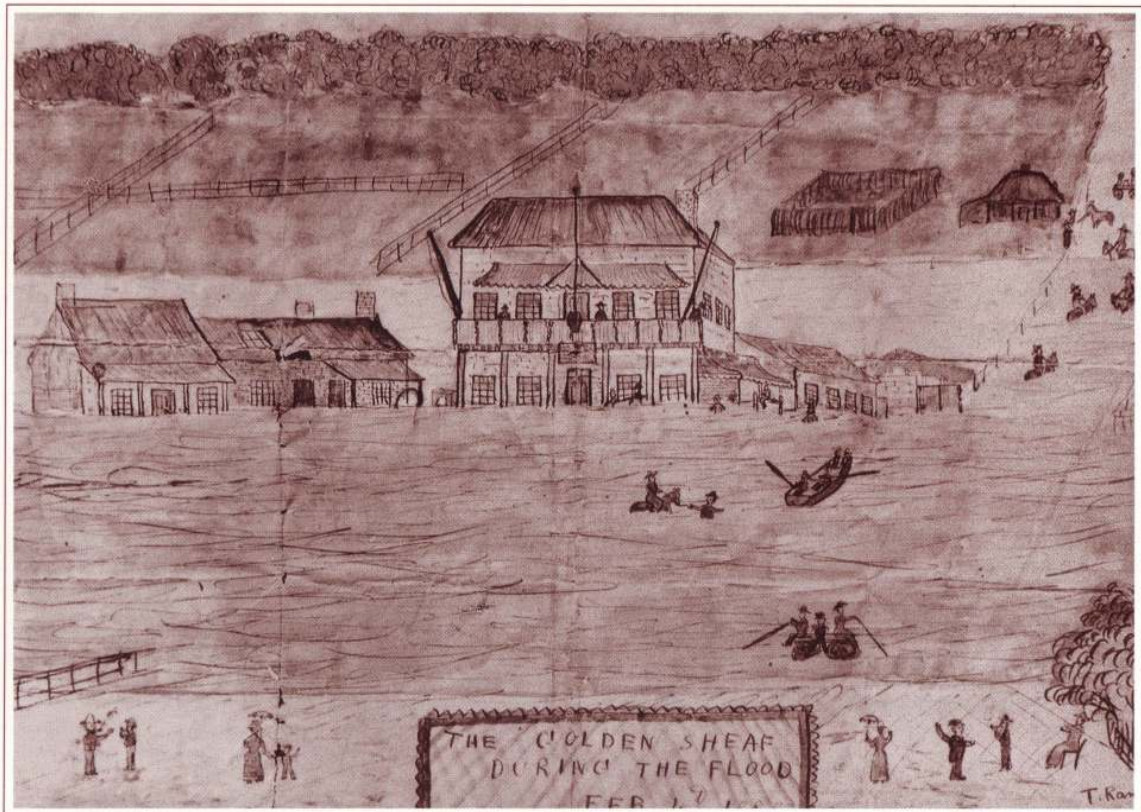
distinguish themselves in times of need. Again the ex-Army Pensioners were in the forefront of the willing to help their neighbours, as were local members of the Police Force.

Money was collected as soon as news of the disaster reached Perth.

A **Greenough Relief Concert** was organized in Fremantle along with a charity cricket match. Funds were also suggested to buy wheat seed. A total of One Thousand Eight Hundred and Thirty Pounds was collected by public donation.

A survey was also commissioned to assess the losses in potential crops, stock, wells, fences, houses and their contents etc. The estimate was in the range of Eleven Thousand Seven Hundred Pounds.

In some fiscal quarters however, the



Golden Sheaf Hotel, North Greenough during the floods of 1888, watercolour, artist unknown.  
Many popular entertainments were held in the Hotel's large ballroom. Photograph courtesy of R P Duncan.

estimated figure was felt to be a little high – “to wit ‘stubble feed’ 5/- an acre”. The stubble in February is very little value and the grass and stuff that will now rapidly spring up should be much better for the stock ...”

It is recorded that settlers who lost homes, stock etc. received one seventh of their losses in cash. It is also noted that many received less. e.g. one settler received Ten Pounds against his great loss – crops, buildings, tools and another received just over thirty-six pounds where he believed he had lost Two hundred and seventy pounds. (3) (4)

Another example of Pensioner Guards’ benevolence is apparent in individual donations to another project set up to assist people in need - the **Lancashire Relief Fund** in the north of England.

In the *Inquirer* of 25<sup>th</sup> February 1863, Lieut. Colonel John Bruce, Commanding Officer of the Enrolled Pensioner Force, acknowledges the donations made by citizens of Western Australia to the Lancashire Relief Fund. A list published in *The Inquirer & Commercial News* nominates members of the general community who have donated various amounts. Donations gathered by Reverend Richard Alderson, who was Chaplain for the Fremantle Convict Establishment, included money donated by members of the Enrolled Pensioner Force.

The Resident Magistrate of Fremantle also collected many donations. That list included names such as Sgt. Maj. Gorman; Sgt. James Fallon; Sergeants Graham, Conlan, Kelly and Caldwell. In

addition more than 70 members of the Enrolled Pensioner Force donated sums varying from one shilling to ten shillings. (5)

*[Note – the average pay of a private would vary from sixpence a day to more than one shilling a day depending on the length of his service in the British Army.]*

A slightly different Benefit Society was one set up officially under the auspices of Captain John Bruce, Commanding Officer of the Enrolled Pensioner Force.

**The Pensioner’s Benevolent Society** was set up in the 1850’s. A revised *Rules & Regulations* was published in August 1853.

Pensioners would subscribe one shilling a month. There were conditions attached to membership including good general and mental health or any disability that would prevent him from earning a living.

Loans were available to acceptable applicants who met certain criteria, with rules set out for repayment. It was also noted that subscribers were obliged to buy a copy of the *Rules*, costing one shilling.

A very interesting Statement of Receipts and Disbursements from January 1855 to June 1863 is on page 221 of Frank Broomhall’s *The Veterans*..... Lists include payments to widows and sick subscribers; loans to members etc. Receipts include loans repaid, profit on flour purchased by Col Bruce, rents received etc.

The survival of such a document provides a valuable insight into the benefits and problems existing at the time.

As in all societies there were those who would slip through the net where no financial help or support whatsoever was available. It could be said the average ex British soldier who enrolled to come as guards for the convicts and who did not succumb to the vagaries of fate in the form of serious illness, alcoholism or desertion, remained to become responsible citizens of their adopted country – a human being who would help his fellow man in their time of need.

Jean McDonald

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(courtesy Jeanette Lee)

6. Pensioners Benevolent Society *Rules and Regulations* as devised by the Subscribers at General Meetings held in August 1863. Perth 1863. See Broomhall. P 122.
7. Photocopy CSR Vol. 596 pages 17-184. (courtesy Jeanette Lee).

## Annual General Meeting

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on **SATURDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 1 P.M. at WAGS.**

### DO YOU KNOW?

- How rewarding volunteering can be?
- How easy the 'work' is?
- How all the Committee are 'good guys and gals'?
- How we manage a 'working lunch' occasionally
- How they are all doing a really great service to our EPG ancestors by bringing to the notice of the public their importance in the early history of WA?
- How WAGS appreciates the input of the Group?
- **HOW MUCH WE NEED YOU?**

I await your phone call or email

Jean McDonald

9450 4304

Email [jeanmc2@bigpond.com](mailto:jeanmc2@bigpond.com)



Pensioner Force in charge of Artillery Field Pieces C 1870 (A Stirling)

J.S. Battye Library of Western Australian History Reproduction Permit No 272B = 53318P

### THANK YOU

I thank all our wonderful volunteers that have supplied many articles for the EPG newsletters, especially Ron Sutton, Jean McDonald, Peter Conole and Jeanette Lee. Without their interesting and informative contributions the newsletter would not have happened, especially with the busy year I have had.

Please remember we are always looking for articles of any length for our Newsletters.

Editor

**Wear a copy of the  
badge your ancestor  
wore.**

**EPG BADGES  
FOR SALE**



**\$10.00 from General Meeting  
or \$12.00 inc. postage &  
handling.**

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting is on **Saturday 19 April, 1.00pm**, at Unit 4, May St, **Bayswater**. All positions will be declared vacant. New members with new ideas are required to fill the following positions.

Convenor  
Deputy Convenor  
Treasurer  
Secretary  
Newsletter editor  
Researcher  
Committee Members

There are only **four** General Meetings and **four** committee meetings a year,

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Bayswater WA 6053



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

# EPG GAZETTE

July, 2008 Vol 9 No 3



## ENROLLED PENSIONER GUARDS

*A special Interest Group of the*

**WESTERN AUSTRALIAN  
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY INC.**

Unit 6/48 May Street  
Bayswater 6053

[www.wags.org.au/groups/  
sigepg.html](http://www.wags.org.au/groups/sigepg.html)

Quarterly Newsletter  
ISSN 1443-945X

Editor: Beth Smith  
Telephone 9450 5872  
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### ENROLLED PENSIONER GUARD SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING CONVENORS REPORT 19th April 2008

At the second Annual General Meeting of our Enrolled Pensioner Guard Group held on **27<sup>th</sup> April 2002**, I was rather surprised and honoured to be elected Convenor of the relatively new Special Interest Group of the Western Australian Genealogical Society.

With the support of the Committee and Members of the Group, we have been able to promote and record the history of 'our men'. Visible evidence of the existence and of the role played by the Enrolled Pensioner Force in Western Australia is reward for the efforts put in by all those Members and the Committee.

For example:

**Kings Park** – signage on the site of the original Rifle Range used by the Enrolled Pensioner Force and the Volunteer Rifle Force in the 1860's.

**Lake Coogee** – Limestone Wall and Plaque on the shore of Lake Coogee records the sites granted to those Enrolled Pensioner Guards who settled in the area.

**Munster** – Plaque at the site of an old well on the west side of Lake Coogee commemorates the use of the well which had been hand dug and used by a Pensioner settler in the 1870's.

**Plaques** – in the limestone wall of the Eastern Gates Lookout near John Curtin College of the Arts, Fremantle,

records the previous use of the site as the Skinner Street Cemetery. Remains of individual guards and some members of their families still lie beneath the Sports Ground.

**Army Museum of Western Australia** – Enrolled Pensioner Guard static display in the pre-1914 Gallery of the Museum in Burt Street, Fremantle.

**Maps** – Copies of Maps of the locations of land allocations to Enrolled Pensioner Guards have been copied and laminated. **A Map Cabinet has been purchased from EPG funds and donated to WAGS for the Maps to be hung and made available for reference. A plaque will be attached to the cabinet nominating the donor as the EPG Group.**

As indicated in my **Annual Report for 2007**, that was to be my last as Convenor of the Group. With a sense of gratitude for the support from Committee and members; a sense of achievement by the Group in my six years at the helm; a sense of anticipation for the continued growth and relevance in the recording of the role played by 'our men' in Western Australian history, I now stand down in **2008 with every confidence in the future of the Enrolled Pensioner Guard, Special Interest Group.**

*Jean McDonald*

# The First Opium War

*Ron Sutton*

## **Background**

Between 1821 and 1837 the Chinese government had made strenuous efforts to halt the illegal opium smuggling conducted by foreign, mainly British ships at Canton. Quite apart from the physical dangers to native Chinese of opium smoking there was, particularly since 1830 or thereabouts, the considerable damage caused by the drainage of cash silver from the country to pay illegal imports.

Although the British government connived at the trade by allowing imports of the drug from the East India Company's distribution centre at Bengal in India, the British naval officer, Captain Charles Elliot, then supervising the legal trade at Canton, incurred the ire of his countrymen when he posted a public notice citing the danger to the regular trade of illegal trafficking by British merchants which was rapidly staining the British character with deep disgrace.

The entire situation was transformed, however, with the arrival of the special Imperial Commissioner, Lin Tse-hsu at Canton on the 10<sup>th</sup> March 1839, the signal that the Chinese government meant to deal the death-blow to the trade by finally attacking the evil at its root-the foreign ships in the harbour. One week later the first of Lin's edicts was issued both to the co-Hong and foreign merchants; all opium cargoes in foreign store ships in the harbour were to be handed over and bonds given that, on the penalty of death, no more would be brought in. Lin eventually forced Captain Elliott to hand over all remaining stocks of opium consisting of 20,000 chests with each chest holding about 20 pounds

for destruction in May 1839.

However; in July 1839 rioting British sailors destroyed a temple near Kowloon and murdered a Chinese man Lin Weixi who tried to stop them. Because China did not have a jury trial system or even a evidenciary process, the magistrate was the prosecutor, judge, jury and would be executioner. The Chinese authorities demanded the guilty sailors be handed over for trial, the British government refused. Six sailors went to trial by the British authorities in Canton, but as the court had no legal authority they were immediately released.

The Chinese authorities then insisted that British merchants would not be allowed to trade unless they signed a bond promising not to: smuggle opium, to agree to follow Chinese laws and acknowledged Qing (Manchu) legal jurisdiction. Refusing to hand over any suspects or agree to the bonds, Captain Charles Elliott ordered all the British community to withdraw from Canton and prohibited trading with the Chinese.

## **The War**

Preparing for war, the British seized Hong Kong (a minor outpost) on the 23d August 1839 to be used as a base. Fighting began on the 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1839 when the British and Chinese navies engaged each other at the mouth of the Pearl River. The Royal naval vessels outclassed the Chinese and many Chinese vessels were sunk. During 1840 the British increased the number of troops and naval vessels for the expeditionary forces in the area. The 18<sup>th</sup> (The Royal Irish) Regiment of Foot had six companies in Ceylon, three companies in England and one Depot company in

Ireland. Logistically the companies in Ceylon were the most likely to be deployed to China. The 26<sup>th</sup> (The Cameronian) Regiment of Foot was stationed in India, as was the 49<sup>th</sup> (Princess Charlotte of Wales) Regiment of Foot, and the 55<sup>th</sup> (Westmoreland) Regiment of Foot. The 98<sup>th</sup> (The Prince of Wales) Regiment of Foot was later deployed from England. The 37<sup>th</sup> Madras Native Infantry was also mobilized from India combining with the other regiments to bolster contingents of Royal Marines deployed aboard the many ships. The regiments were in a different tactical warfare situation as they had constant naval support shelling of the respective Tartar forts. On the morning of 7<sup>th</sup> January 1841, about 1400 Royal Marines and troops including artillery under command of Major Pratt of the 26<sup>th</sup> attacked the approaches to Canton. The British force had already captured the Bogue Forts which guarded the mouth of the Pearl River. By the end of January 1841, the British forces commanded the high ground around

the Chinese endeavoured to get the upper hand. By the middle of 1842, the British had defeated the Chinese at the mouth of the Yangtze River, occupied Shanghai which had the main trading route with the capital Nanjing. However; Shanghai was evacuated on the 23<sup>rd</sup> June 1842 for the purposes of mounting an offensive into the Yangtze River Delta SW of Shanghai. The main objective however; was Nanjing. The British forces were the 18<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, 49<sup>th</sup>, 55<sup>th</sup> and 98<sup>th</sup> Regiments of Foot with some Royal Artillery and engineers. The entire fighting force included about 9000 troops and Marines and 3000 seamen. Battles raged to and fro from the 6<sup>th</sup> July 1842 with the main battle taking place at the city of Chingiang (now Zhenjiang). Even after the gates of Chingiang fell there was still considerable amount of fighting. When further resistance was hopeless many of the Tartar defenders slew their wives and children and committed suicide. The material and moral effects of the blow, dealt at a spot 150 miles from

the sea, against the best of the Tarter troops, upon the important waterways of China, and within a short distance of a major provincial capital of China had a devastating effect on the Chinese leadership. Before the British could mobilize to Nanjing, a Chinese Imperial High Commissioner was on his way to seek a peace treaty.

### Settlement

On the 29<sup>th</sup> August 1842, the British and Qing negotiators signed the Treaty of Nanjing on board HMS *Cornwallis*. The Treaty



Canton defeated the Chinese at Ningbo, Amoy, Tinghai and the military post at Chinhai. Minor skirmishes continued during 1841 as

included the following Clauses:

Hong Kong Island to be ceded to Britain in perpetuity;

China to pay an indemnity of 21 million silver dollars to pay for the confiscated opium and the cost of the war,

five ports to be opened to foreign trade

a tariff agreement entailing China's loss of tariff autonomy;

right of extraterritoriality (loss of Chinese jurisdiction over foreigners in China) and;

Britain to enjoy most favoured-nation status.

The 18<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot was deployed to Bengal, India in 1848, the 26<sup>th</sup> to Scotland in 1842, the 49<sup>th</sup> to India 1843, the 55<sup>th</sup> to England in 1844 and the 98<sup>th</sup> was deployed to Dinapore, India in 1846.

### **Conclusion**

The Opium War initiated a process of fundamental change in China's foreign relations with further acts of foreign aggression and the imposition of subsequent "unequal treaties" accelerating the process of dynastic decline which eventually led to the collapse of the Qing Empire in 1911. In the twentieth century, the Chinese have embarked on a long and arduous struggle to expunge the humiliation which they suffered during and since the Opium War. When Hong Kong ceased to be a British colony in 1997, the last reminder of that unpleasant encounter with Britain was over. British troops received the China Medal 1840-1842 for serving in the 1<sup>st</sup> Opium War and participating Regiments of Foot received in 1843 the Battle honour in the form of the China Dragon

Battle Badge subscribed "China".

### **Enrolled Pensioner Guards**

The Enrolled Pensioner Guards currently being researched and related to the regiments that served in China are: Edward Green and Timothy McCarthy of the 18<sup>th</sup> both served in the Crimea but not China. John McKay of the 26<sup>th</sup> served in China and noted as receiving the China Medal 1840-42. James Doran of the 26<sup>th</sup> has no military history. John Flynn of the 49<sup>th</sup> served in the Crimea but not China. There are no military histories for Brian Doran or Michael Walsh of the 49<sup>th</sup>. Thomas Bandy of the 98<sup>th</sup> also has no military history. Can you help?

**GENERAL MEETING**  
**SATURDAY 19TH July at**  
**1:00 P.M.**

**Jill Maughan**

Honorary Librarian of the Royal W.A. Historical Society has agreed to speak on the services and collection in the Library situated in Stirling House, Broadway, Nedlands which is open to the public

The Royal Historical Society has a photographic collection as well as old newspapers, books and artifacts of historical interest, including colonial dresses etc.

## THE PERTH BARRACKS



This photo was taken by Betty Foster, a member of the *Enroled Pensioner Guards*, when she was an Air hostess with MMA from the back window of a DC3 in 1960, long before she knew about her pensioner guard great great grandfather, John Pratt.

Betty Foster's future husband was working there at the time, as it was the offices of the Main Road's Department.

The old building has a double link in her family history memories.

*Thank you Betty for this wonderful photo.  
Ed.*

## TIME TO THINK

AUTUMN in Western Australia presents a very visible change in the seasons – slight chill in the air, a visible kaleidoscope of colours in the trees and shrubs as if nature is preparing itself for regeneration after the coming winter.

Those of our Enrolled Pensioner Guard ancestors who arrived by ship at this time of year would have been confronted by an entirely different environment to that from which they had just travelled.

My great grandfather arrived in

Western Australia in June having come from midsummer in Yorkshire. He left no written word to describe his thoughts on the transition from the northern to southern hemisphere.

Did he notice the trees? Did he notice the smell of the Australian Eucalypt trees – a species native to this country but far different from the English Oak and Elm.

The Eucalypt tree is a unique Australian tree with approximately 600 different species. They are often referred to as 'gum' trees – the name probably originated from the early settler's reference to the sticky substance which oozes from the tree.

Did my ancestor become aware of the many uses of the 'gum' tree?

Did he use its unusual oil as an antiseptic, as a gargle for a sore throat, inhale its fumes to ease a head cold, rub it onto his aching knees?

We now know it has been used as an ingredient in shoe polish and the resin has been used in tanning and dyeing.

The timber of the Eucalypt tree itself is used for house building and as paving blocks for roads and nowadays for garden path blocks.

I was also told by an old farmer the leaves could be distilled into a fairly potent liqueur!

I have a Weeping Eucalypt in my back garden under whose shade I sat and read, made notes and wrote about my Yorkshire and EPG ancestors.

I appreciate the privilege of my peaceful surroundings.

*Jean McDonald*

# EDWARD DOUGLASS HARVEST

## 1824 – 1901

### Commandant of the Troops, Staff Officer of Pensioners in Western Australia 1872-1880



Courtesy Battye Library  
5077B

Edward Douglass Harvest was born at Winchester, Hampshire on 20 November 1824<sup>i</sup> and baptised on 16 December of that year at St. Thomas Church Winchester.<sup>ii</sup> His parents were Hector & Susannah Elizabeth Harvest nee Smith, the daughter of Charles Douglass Smith. Hector was a serving British army officer.

The Smith family was influential in court circles and had a long association with the military and navy. One of his grandfather's brothers was Sir Sidney Smith, who had a long and distinguished career in the navy, was one of the four admirals on whom C. S. Forrester based the exploits of Horatio Hornblower.<sup>iii</sup>

On the 18 April 1842 the eighteen-year old Edward D. Harvest, gent, was appointed an Ensign in the 97<sup>th</sup> Foot regiment, without purchase, an

association that he was to maintain throughout his life. By 6 February 1846 the young Edward was promoted to Lieutenant, this time by purchase.

The 97<sup>th</sup> Foot regiment was posted to Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island between 1848 and 1853. To Edward this must have seemed almost a home coming as his grandfather, Charles Douglass Smith, had been a very controversial Lieutenant Governor of Prince Edward Island between 1812 and 1824.<sup>iv</sup> When the generally disliked Charles Smith quitted the island some of his children who had married locally had remained. His daughter Mary had married Ambrose Lane, a Tipperary born officer formerly of the 99<sup>th</sup> Regiment, whom Charles appointed to several official posts and eventually was appointed Administrator.<sup>v</sup> The Lane family had six children one of whom, Theresa Maria, married her cousin Edward Douglass Harvest on 26 May 1852 at St. Paul's Church, Charlotte-Town, Prince Edward Island.

They were married by the officiating chaplain to the garrison.<sup>vi</sup> At this time it was the army policy to actively discourage both the rank and file and officers marrying while serving abroad but possibly because of the close family connection an exception was made in this case

In 1853 the 97<sup>th</sup> regiment returned to England and Edward and Theresa's first son Augustus Charles H. was born at Dawlish, Devon in 1854.<sup>vii</sup>

The regiment served in the Crimea conflict from 1854 to until 1856,<sup>viii</sup> Edward was promoted to captain, without purchase on December 29, 1854, awarded a medal and clasp for his services and promoted Brevet Major. Theresa Maria and her family must have been one of the officers' wives who accompanied the regiment as their son Henry Ambrose Lane Harvest was born at Malta about 1856.<sup>ix</sup> The regiment returned to England and Captain Harvest commanded the depot of the 97<sup>th</sup> regiment at Colchester.<sup>x</sup> Another child Helen Frances was born at Richmond, Surrey on 22 May 1857 followed by Georgina Maria in Colchester, Essex in 1859,<sup>xi</sup> William Sidney Smith was also born in Colchester in 1860 and Edmund Douglass was born at Dawlish, Devon in 1862.<sup>xii</sup>

On 11 April 1862 Edward was promoted to the rank of Major while serving in India. The couple's daughter Lucy Penelope was born at Sangor, India on 7 December 1863 and baptised at Nowgong, West Bengal on February 21 1864.<sup>xiii</sup>

On August 14, 1866 Edward was promoted to half-pay Lieutenant Colonel – without purchase and their son Hector Douglass was also born in India in 1867 prior to the regiment returning to England.<sup>xiv</sup> The family was living at St. Peter Port, Guernsey in the Channel Islands on the 1871 Census of England and Edward is recorded as a major on half-pay and the children were at school.<sup>xv</sup>

With the unexpected death in Western Australia of Major Crampton, the Staff Officer of Pensioners and Commander of the Troops, Captain Finnerty filled the post until on January 11, 1872 the

Governor of Western Australia was advised by the Undersecretary of State that Major E.D. Harvest, half-pay, unattached, late 97<sup>th</sup> regiment was appointed to the posts of Commandant of the Troops in Western Australia, Staff Officer of Pensioners, and to hold the Queen's Commission to administer the government in the event of the Governor being unable to do so.<sup>xvi</sup> He was also awarded the local rank of (Brevet) Lieutenant Colonel.

Edward Harvest was called upon to administer the Colony twice, the first time between 4-11 January 1875 between the time of the departure of Governor Weld and the arrival of William Cleaver, and the second time from 7 September 1877 and 12 November 1877 between the departure of Governor Francis Robinson and the arrival of Sir Harry St. George Ord.

Captain Finnerty's chagrin at being overlooked by the appointment of Major Harvest was echoed by Colonial Secretary Fred Barlee's bitter disappointed with the decision of the Undersecretary of State as to the chain of command in Western Australia. Barlee considered he had earned the privilege of being second in command and on March 12, 1872 wrote to the Governor pointing out "he had frittered away the most valuable years of his life in a convict colony without reward."<sup>xvii</sup>

Lieutenant Colonel Edward Harvest, his wife and six of their children arrived on the "Robert Morrison" on 17 August 1872,<sup>xviii</sup> and appear to have settled happily into the social life of the colony. An article in 'Early Days' said "The wife of Colonel Harvest was a very nice, pleasant, agreeable woman of middle age. Both she and her husband were short stout people. They had three

daughters and five sons. That she was agreeable is very certain, as everyone who remembers her- and there are many- are unanimous on this point".<sup>xxix</sup>

Not everyone had the same opinion of Colonel Harvest and Alfred James Hillman in his diary generally referred to him as 'Old Blowhard'. He recorded that at one time he and Colonel Finnerty had a great row in the Governor's office that resulted in 'Old Harvest lost his temper completely, a very easy matter for him to do'.<sup>xxx</sup>

The family was joined by the eldest son, Augustus Charles, who arrived on the "Pera" on 8 October 1874 to work as a clerk in the Colonial Secretary's department from 1874-1881.<sup>xxxi</sup>

After his arrival Lieutenant Colonel Harvest set about reviewing the Enrolled Pensioner Force and suggested on September 1872 that additional fifty men be sent to bolster the aging force. As a result the final detachment of men for the Enrolled Guard was sent on the Naval Brigade. However, by 1874 the Colonial Office in London were determined to reduce the expense of maintaining the Force and Lieutenant Colonel Harvest was instructed to cut expenditure which he did to the satisfaction of the Undersecretary of State for War.

On April 28 1875 he was gazetted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

Not only did Edward Harvest improve the Enrolled Pensioner Force he also worked to improve the Volunteer Force so much so that in 1877 Governor Robinson recommended he have a raise in rank resulting in him being promoted to a substantive Lieutenant Colonel on 27<sup>th</sup> November 1877.

By March 1878 the War office instructed Lt. Colonel Harvest that the Pensioner Force at Perth be disbanded by 1<sup>st</sup> April 1879 whereby the sentries at Government House and the Perth gaol would be withdrawn. From this time onward, at the direction of the British Government, Lt. Colonel Harvest worked tirelessly at winding down the force until it was finally disbanded and the subsequent setting up of the Enrolled Guard. (The disbandment of the Enrolled Pensioner Force is covered comprehensively in '*The Veterans*').<sup>xxii</sup>

On January 23, 1879 he wrote to wrote to the Governor whereby he says

"As regards to myself I place myself entirely in the hands of the Government simply expressing a hope that after thirty-seven years service, seven of which I have been in my present position I may be removed to a similar or other appointment in the UK in which my service should count towards the qualifying period for the rank of colonel, which I hope to complete in April 1880. I have a large family, three of my sons are at present at the Guernsey College and I have no private means".<sup>xxiii</sup>

By the 2<sup>nd</sup> December 1879 Lt. Colonel Harvest's health was beginning to suffer and he wrote to the Under Secretary of State for War stating that his health in not to be depended upon and he requested that an officer who could, in the case of necessity, take over from him.<sup>xxiv</sup> The letter is accompanied by a report from Dr. Alfred R. Waylen, Colonial Surgeon in charge of Military at Perth stating "Lt. Colonel Harvest is suffering from chronic rheumatism, dyspepsia (sic) and

slight congestion of the liver, with nervous disarrangement of the system- the latter symptom is now the most prominent and is aggravated by the heat of summer". He recommended a change to a cooler climate.<sup>xxv</sup>

On 28 April 1880 Lt. Colonel Edward Douglass Harvest was made a Colonel.

On November 10, 1880 Governor Robinson advised the Earl of Kimberley "I have the honor to report that the Enrolled Pensioner Force has this day been disbanded and that Colonel Harvest proceeds to England by the outgoing mail".<sup>xxvi</sup>

He also wrote to Colonel Harvest "to yourself I express great personal regret, which I feel at your departure from the Colony and my most cordial thanks for the efficient and satisfactory manner in which the important duties entrusted to you have been performed I believe I can pay you no higher compliment than to say that whether as Commandant, a member of the Executive Council, or temporary administrator of the Government, you have been guided by no other wish than to do your duty as a faithful servant of the Crown and that your conduct has been marked by a sense of right and honourable (sic) dealing on all occasions".<sup>xxvii</sup>

Colonel and Mrs Harvest left Western Australia on the steamer Rob Roy for Albany enroute to England on November 12, 1880. (This date varies in the local newspapers; the children had left prior to this date).

'The Herald' had this to say: "In the discharge of the responsible duties devolving upon him as Commander of the force stationed in the Colony, as a member of the Executive

Council and as the temporary Administrator of the Government, Colonel Harvest has by his strict sense of justice and unswerving integrity, won the respect and esteem of all classes. The highly complimentary observations of His Excellency, addressed to Colonel Harvest in the General Order read to the Pensioners on their disbandment- given in another column- will be fully endorsed by the public".<sup>xxviii</sup>

Once again the Hillman Diaries recorded Colonel Harvest's departure less formally as follows:

'Old Harvest went away by the mail today; Sutherland got a very respectable turn out of his men to see him off. I don't think any people who have been in this Colony for so long who leave it so totally unregretted and uncared as Old Harvest and his family. He was a good office man and as I found when I knew him better, the easiest man in the world to get on with, you had simply to "butter" him.<sup>xxix</sup>

On May 21 1874 the Governor interceded on behalf of Lt. Colonel Harvest and Captain Burke for a grant of land using their certificates of service as had been allotted to their predecessors however, this was refused despite both men having to pay the cost of the passages for their families.<sup>xxx</sup> On 26 January 1881 the Legislative Council petitioned the Governor on behalf of Colonel Harvest that in recognition of his service to the Volunteer movement he be awarded a grant of not exceeding 1200 acres "seeing that Colonel Harvest had been debarred from the privilege of selection which was accorded to his predecessors in office and to military

settlers under the legislation". This request was approved by the British Government.<sup>xxxii</sup>

The 1881 Census of England recorded Mrs. Harvest and her three daughters living at 4 Brookdale Terrace, Dawlish in Devon,<sup>xxxiii</sup> while Edward Harvest, Colonel (Half-pay) is a visitor in the home of Lieutenant General Fowler Burton (Half-pay), 2 Osborne Villas Devonport, Stoke – Damerel, Devon.<sup>xxxiii</sup> Edward Harvest retired on 24 August 1881 with the honorary rank of Major-General.

Despite his derogatory references to 'Old Blowhard, Alfred Hillman had a genuine regard for Colonel Harvest and wrote to him regularly after his retirement sending him news of the Colony. In 1883 when visiting England Hillman visited the Colonel's home in Dawlish and made the following entry in his diary:

Arrived at Exeter about 3.30 and changed at St. David's into the Great Western line to proceed to Dawlish which we reached in about 20 minutes and found Old Harvest waiting for me at the station and walked up to his house with him; after meeting the old lady and two of his handsome daughter.

Old Harvest has a nice home and is very comfortable, he looks a great deal better than he did in W.A. He tells me he walks 8, 10 or 12 miles a day, his face does not look so much like a full moon as it used to and I observed he took no spirits or beer, drinking claret only, probably this may account for his healthier appearance, the old woman does not look so broken down and miserable as she used to, both she and her

daughters would like to return to Australia'.<sup>xxxiv</sup>

The 1891 Census has Major General Edward Douglass Harvest, retired; living with his wife and daughter Lucy at Hollington house, Charlton Kings, Gloucestershire, finances must be looking up by this time as they have both a live in cook and housemaid.<sup>xxxv</sup> They are still at the same address in the 1901 Census but the family has been rejoined by their daughter Georgina Maria.<sup>xxxvi</sup>

Edward Douglass Harvest died on 23 December 1901 and was buried in the Cheltenham Borough Cemetery, Gloucestershire, as was his wife Theresa Maria who died on 1<sup>st</sup> October 1905.<sup>xxxvii</sup>

Colonel Edward Douglass Harvest's name was commemorated in the naming of Harvest Terrace in West Perth.

Colonel Harvest sons Edward, Henry Ambrose Lane, Edmund Douglass and Hector Douglass, all had careers in the British Army while William Sidney Smith was attached to the Royal Marines. Their son Augustus Charles H. appears in the 1881 Census of England as being a Colonial Foot Officer in Western Australia. None of their three daughters married prior to the 1901 Census.

*Jeanette Lee*

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<sup>i</sup> Stephen Lewis's website 'Officers Died'.

<sup>ii</sup> [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)

<sup>iii</sup> Further information see Wikipedia.

<sup>iv</sup> [www.gov.pe.ca](http://www.gov.pe.ca)

<sup>v</sup> [www.gov.pe.ca](http://www.gov.pe.ca)

<sup>vi</sup> London Times 25 January 1853

<sup>vii</sup> 1871 Census of England and the Channel Islands RG10/5765

<sup>viii</sup> Hart's New Army List 1858

<sup>ix</sup> 1871 Census RG 10/5765

<sup>x</sup> Australian Joint Copying Project CO/18, piece 188, page 94

<sup>xi</sup> www.familysearch.org  
<sup>xii</sup> 1881 Census RG 11/0875/4/3 & RG 11/1430/81/7.  
<sup>xiii</sup> www.familysearch.org  
<sup>xiv</sup> 1871 Census RG 10/5765  
<sup>xv</sup> 1871 Census RG 10/5765  
<sup>xvi</sup> AJCP CO 18/174, page 227  
<sup>xvii</sup> AJCP CO 18/172, page 172  
<sup>xviii</sup> The Herald, Saturday August 17, 1872, page 2 column 3  
<sup>xix</sup> Royal Western Australian Historical Society 'Early Days' volume 2 part 7.  
<sup>xx</sup> Battye Library. The Hillman Diaries 1877-1884. Alfred James Hillman, 1990. Entry July 25 1879.  
<sup>xxi</sup> Bi-Centennial Dictionary of Western Australians Volume 2 D-J  
<sup>xxii</sup> 'The Veterans', F. H. Broomhall, pages 66-76.  
<sup>xxiii</sup> AJCP CO 18/190, page 124, 23 January 1879.  
<sup>xxiv</sup> AJCP CO 18/193, page 360.

<sup>xxv</sup> AJCP CO 18/193, page 360.  
<sup>xxvi</sup> AJCP CO 18/193, page 77.  
<sup>xxvii</sup> AJCP CO 18/193, page 77.  
<sup>xxviii</sup> The Herald, November 13, 1880, page 4 column 1.  
<sup>xxix</sup> Hillman Diaries November 15, 1880, page 435  
<sup>xxx</sup> AJCP CO 18/179, page 104 & 108  
<sup>xxxi</sup> AJCP CO 18/193, page 153  
<sup>xxxii</sup> 1881 Census RG 11/2157/19/36  
<sup>xxxiii</sup> 1881 Census RG 11/2211/74/15  
<sup>xxxiv</sup> Hillman Diaries April 7, 1883, page 856  
<sup>xxxv</sup> 1891 Census RG 12/2041/4/2  
<sup>xxxvi</sup> 1901 Census RG 13/2463  
<sup>xxxvii</sup> Stephen Lewis's Web-site 'Officers Died'.

All military appointments are taken from the London Gazette of the relevant date unless otherwise noted.

## DONATION

The Enrolled Pensioner Guards have formally donated to WAGS a Map Hanging Cabinet along with laminated copies of Maps relevant to Pensioner Guards' land allocations.

The Cabinet is housed in Unit 5, with Maps named and hung. We estimate the value at about \$1000.00. Edwina Shooter, WAGS Librarian is very happy with the donation and is sure it will be used by members of the Society.



Jean McDonald and Jeanette Lee  
showing the map cabinet.

### Maps deposited in WAGS:

Albany, 1882;  
 Belaring Springs & St; Ronan's Well;  
 Bunbury, 1896;  
 Cockburn, Lake Koojee & Willagee Swamp  
 1874;  
 Dongara & Dennison;  
 Fremantle, 1877;  
 Greenough Flats, 1857;  
 Greenough & Geraldton;  
 Freshwater Bay & Butler's Swamp, Claremont;  
 Kojonup, 1892;  
 Northam;  
 North Fremantle, 1873;  
 Perth, 1877;  
 Melville Waters & Mt. Eliza Rifle Range  
 Perth, Melville Waters, 1895;  
 Port Gregory/Lynton, 1853;  
 South Perth, 1858;  
 Toodyay/Newcastle, 1853;  
 York, 1881

**2008  
MEETINGS  
1:00pm- Unit 4 WAGS**

**JULY                      Saturday 19<sup>th</sup>**

**OCTOBER              Saturday 18<sup>th</sup>**

**JULY MEETING  
Saturday 19 JULY**

1.00pm in Unit 4, 48 May St, Bayswater.

Come and listen to:

**Jill Maughan**

Honorary Librarian of the Royal W.A.  
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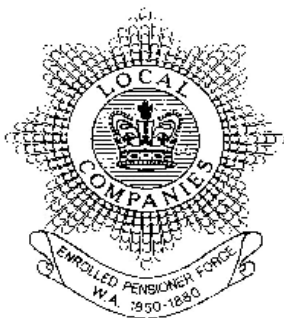
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Pensioner Barracks & Parade 1860 (W.A. Museum)



## ENROLLED PENSIONER GUARDS

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Quarterly Newsletter  
ISSN 1443-945X

Editor: Beth Smith  
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## SERGEANT ROBERT RAMSAY

A recent article in EPG Gazette outlined some information about the opium wars in China during the 1840s and 1850s. There is a link to Western Australia's pensioner guards in this matter.

Sergeant Ramsay, ex Royal Artillery, was a veteran of war service in many parts of the world before coming to Fremantle as a pensioner guard in 1851. He arrived on the Minden with his family. Initially an overseer of convict activities in and around Fremantle he later was in charge of the new asylum building with his wife Mary, the matron. Both retired in 1872. Their youngest child, Lucy married James Bell Junior the son of James Bell, a farmer at East Rockingham.

The elder Bell had arrived in 1845 on board HMS Driver, the first steamship to arrive in WA. Tired of the hard life on Driver, Bell deserted. Thus he became the first migrant in our state to arrive by steamship. The ship had been based at Hong Kong, the China Station for the British Eastern fleet, as part of the Opium Wars squadron. Driver had been ordered to New Zealand for the Maori Wars. Curious colonists both at Fremantle

and Sydney flocked to see Driver when she arrived.

From the 1770s the East India Company claimed a monopoly over opium products in Bengal. They sold them throughout Asia and Europe as a medicine and recreational drug. Its use was illegal in China but company servants smuggled it to agents in exchange for silver that was used to buy tea for the British market. The opium trade paid for all of Britain's tea purchases meaning they did not have to export bullion for it. European ships smuggled the opium in chests each weighing about 60 kilograms giving a gross profit of 1000 silver dollars per chest. The Chinese government insisted on payment in silver for their tea which otherwise would have been a drain on the British Treasury.

The Chinese forcibly resisted the opium trade which led to gunboat diplomacy. The first opium war began in 1840 when Britain sent a fleet of ships to force China to buy opium and open her ports to British shipping. In January 1841 East India Company ships and British gunboats destroyed a fleet of Chinese

war junks in Anson Bay. The value of the paddle warships, like Driver, was that steam power gave manoeuvrability and allowed them to operate in shallow waters and up rivers. Small boat raiding parties could be landed more easily. The first opium war lasted until September 1842. China was forced to settle and agreed to pay Britain an indemnity and to cede the barren island of Hong Kong. The latter was then turned into a fleet base that quickly grew as a major Asian trading centre.

The Ramsays' link was further extended when another of their daughters, Mary Jane married Richard Vincent, son of the Rottneest Island prison Superintendent, Henry Vincent. The Vincents had various roles in convict supervision particularly with road works development. Another daughter, Phoebe married Captain Thomas Shaw to raise a large family at Fremantle. Many of the daughters' descendants today live state wide. However, sons of Robert Ramsay and his wife travelled to the Eastern states where they settled and raised large families. This meant that the Ramsay surname from this line died out in WA. Ramsay and Vincent graves are located at Karrakatta Cemetery and Bells at East Rockingham Cemetery. The Eastern Ramsays are well aware of their lineage, however, and have already held some reunions, in recent years. The Bell descendants through Robert Ramsay also have had gatherings in recent years. Some western relatives from Robert and Mary Ramsay's daughters have been in contact with their t'othersider cousins but more notable is the fact that a number of Australian Ramsays from Robert's lineage are still in contact with Ramsay descendants in both Scotland and Ireland. A book about the Ramsay history was written two years ago.

The Ramsays originally lived near Edinburgh and Robert's father William had gone to Ireland with troops to help put down the 1798 rebellion. Typically the British Government of the times did not want to pay their soldiers so gave them land grants in lieu of wages. The land granted to the Ramsays near Athlone is still occupied by the family. It was here that William Ramsay settled to raise a family but son Robert joined the army in

1825 to eventually come to Fremantle as a pensioner guard after he retired from the Royal Artillery in 1847.

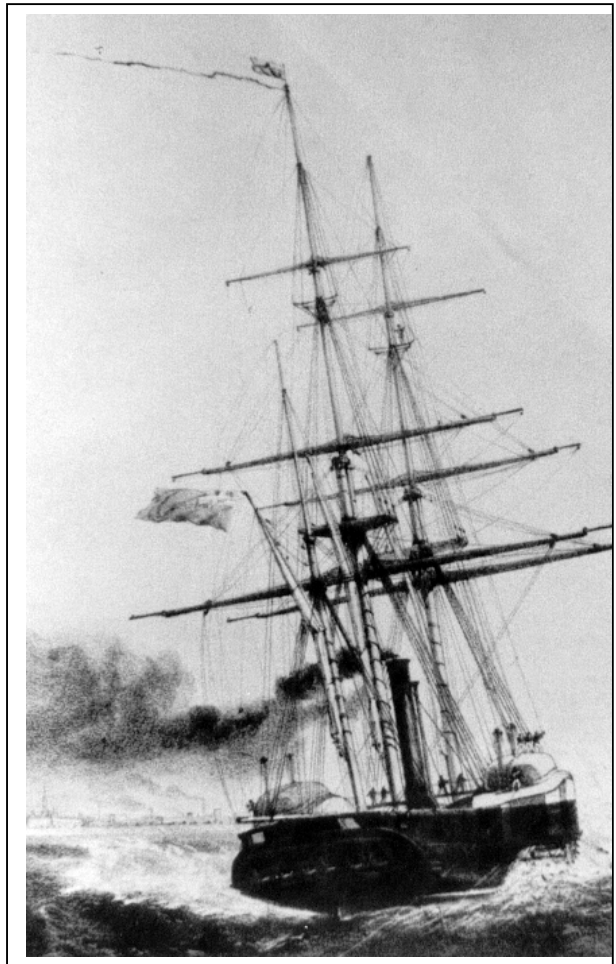
Should anyone be further interested regarding Ramsay particulars then contact can be made with me at email –

[mervyn.reger@bigpond.com](mailto:mervyn.reger@bigpond.com)

Further information about the Ramsays can be found in Mr D. Barker's book about pensioner guards in Western Australia.

***Mervyn Bell Regehr.***

***[Thank you Mervyn for this article which is a sequel from Ron Sutton's article on the Opium War in the July issue]***



HMS Driver

# THE WAR OF THE TWO BROTHERS

*Ron Sutton*

When one looks at the wars and campaigns of the British military, the major campaigns, such as the Napoleon Wars, the Indian Mutiny and the Crimean War, come readily to mind. However, England participated in many more skirmishes of varying magnitude and importance. This essay examines an unusual conflict in Portugal.

## **Background**

With the defeat of Napoleon in 1814 Portugal entered into a brief period of political hiatus. The royal family was in exile in Brazil and British officers were carrying out many of the functions of everyday administration. This uneasy state of affairs came to a sudden end in 1820 when liberals launched an uprising to demand a proper constitution for the nation.

In October all the British officers were expelled and the *Cortes*<sup>i</sup> assembled in Lisbon and prepared a constitution abolishing feudalism, ending the Inquisition and limiting the powers of the king in relation to an elected assembly.

John VI made a hurried return from Brazil arriving in Lisbon with his wife, Carlota Joaquina, and their second son, Dom Miguel. In 1822 the king swore allegiance to the new constitution but his wife and son refused to do so maintaining their preference for absolutist rule.

During April 1824 Dom Miguel led an insurrection and briefly toppled his father from the throne but with British assistance the King recovered

his Sovereignty. Dom Miguel escaped to Vienna.

The conflict reignited on the death of John VI in 1826.

John's eldest surviving son, now the Emperor Pedro 1 of Brazil inherited the Portuguese throne. However; Pedro 1 relinquished his throne in Portugal in favour of his seven year old daughter, Maria da Gloria, on the condition that his brother Dom Miguel (Maria's uncle) marry her and accept a liberal charter, which Pedro promulgated in place of the constitution.

Dom Miguel immediately accepted and arrived in Portugal as regent in 1828. However; he deceived his brother and with the support of the absolutist faction he was proclaimed king and began a vigorous persecution of his liberal opponents.

## **The War of the Two Brothers**

By the end of 1828, Dom Miguel was undeniably the de-facto king of Portugal. The liberal leaders and the Royal child Maria had fled into exile in Britain. From this distant outpost, a campaign was launched and a Regency was set up on behalf of Maria. Her father, Pedro, after abdicating in Brazil arrived in the Azores in February 1832 with a fleet and an army, composed mainly of British and French troops.

Pedro's force reached Portugal in July 1832 and succeeded in capturing the northern port town of Oporto. Here they were besieged for a year until a fleet of British ships

with reinforcements arrived in the summer of 1833.

In a sea battle in July 1833, off Cape St Vincent, Dom Miguel's fleet was destroyed. Later in the month Lisbon was taken over by the liberal forces having marched north through the Alentejo region from Faro. Support for the absolutists from the aristocracy and rural areas ensured the resistance continued into 1834.

### Family Connection

On the 27<sup>th</sup> March 1833, **HMS Donegal**, a 1901 ton sailing ship with 76 guns and under command Captain Arthur Fanshawe berthed at the Naval Station, Sheerness, Isle of Sheppey allowing a contingent of Royal Marines from 89 Company, Woolwich to embark for deployment to Portugal. Private Samuel **Sutton** (my great grand father) was on the RM manifest that boarded the ship. The Donegal then sailed to Portugal via Portsmouth.<sup>ii</sup>

### Conclusion

After a series of battles during the winter of 1833-34, Dom Miguel's absolutist armies were finally defeated. Dom Miguel, the absolutist king, surrendered in May 1834 and was banished from Portugal never to return. Pedro 1, the ex-emperor of Brazil, died before the end of the year aged 36 years. The War between the brothers was finally over and Maria (now fifteen) was undeniably the queen of Portugal.

**HMS Donegal** sailed to Portsmouth and Private Samuel **Sutton** left the ship on the 20<sup>th</sup> June 1834 and returned to the barracks at Woolwich. He later served as a RM

on **HMS Rhadamanthus** (a steamer) and **HMS Inconstant**.<sup>iii</sup>

There were no battle honours or campaign medals issued for this conflict

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<sup>i</sup> General Assembly composed of Nobles, members of the middle class and representatives of all municipalities.

<sup>ii</sup> HMS Donegal Ships Log, 1833-1834, PRO, Kew, England ADM 53/448

<sup>iii</sup> Divisional Board, PRO, Kew, England ADM 157/831

## WHAT HAPPENED TO THE VETERANS OF THE CRIMEAN WAR?

Come and hear, our guest speaker Diane Oldman, an experienced genealogist and speaker at our EPG Meeting, Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> October 2008 at 1:00 pm at WA Genealogy Society, May Street, Bayswater.

Find out the causes, combatants, battles and medals, casualties, outcomes and three outstanding women.

The talk will include a description of a database of Crimean Veterans in Western Australia and indicate what happened to them (handouts available for copying).

# Thomas and William McCreery

Thomas McCreery, the son of a man of the same name, was born in 1829 at Enniskillen in County Fermanagh, Northern Ireland. By the time he was 17, young Thomas was working as a weaver at Dundee in Scotland. On May 21 of that year, he enlisted in the 6<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot. About three years later a medical board proposed his discharge because of a disability – he was suffering from impaired vision because of ophthalmia. Thomas left the army on the last day of 1849 and was eventually admitted as an Out-Pensioner of the Chelsea hospital on May 20, 1851 (1).

Thomas settled and married in Scotland and by 1856 he was in good enough shape to be accepted into the Enrolled Pensioner Force. He and his family arrived at Fremantle on the 'Runnymede', September 10, 1856. Pensioner McCreery did rather well in the colony of Western Australia, although sadly he was widowed twice and was married for the third and last time in 1882. His service with the Enrolled Pensioner Force probably ended when it was disbanded on November 10, 1880 (2). Thomas was active as an EPF man in Fremantle and acquired property at North Fremantle and in Perth. He survived to attend the 1897 Diamond Jubilee celebration dinner held in honour of Queen Victoria at St Georges Hall and died at Northam in the home of his son William John McCreery on June 21, 1908 (3).

Thomas McCreery left six children, but the aforementioned William McCreery of Northam is the person of interest for present purposes. He was born at

Dundee in 1851 and was apprenticed at the age of 13 to William Leach, a boot maker of Fremantle. Many years later William McCreery was a respected and prosperous boot maker at Northam and was interviewed by the local newspaper about his early life in colonial WA. William noted that the workers in the Leach firm were all ticket-of leave men, except for the apprentices. He had interesting memories of the visit of the Duke of Edinburgh to WA in February 1869: "he was rowed from his ship to the small jetty. On the jetty six military pensioners dressed as hussars were drawn up as an escort. The few volunteers acted as guard of honour...The Duke didn't even stay in Fremantle. He came straight through to Perth." (4)

It was not easy at the time to make a living in the trade so William McCreery joined the WA Police Force on August 9, 1871 on the recommendation of Captain Charles Finnerty, a senior Staff Officer of the Enrolled Pensioner Force (5). McCreery served at Perth, Northam, York, Younegin, Beverley, Kojonup and Guildford in turn and was promoted to Lance Corporal on January 1, 1876. Newspaper readers would have been amazed by some of his reminiscences, which showed how tough, demanding and isolated the working lives of police officers were in the rural districts of the colony during Victorian times: "my lock-up [at Younegin] was a gum tree with a bolt through it, a ring on one end of the bolt and a large nut on the other end...during five years and three months my wife saw only two white women pass the station." (6)

William McCreery resigned from the police on March 31, 1884 and worked at a boot factory in Swan Street, North Fremantle for some time before moving to Northam in October 1884 and establishing his own highly successful firm there. He had married Marion Hope Murray and the couple raised several children, some of whom continued to manage a family business after William the patriarch died on May 17, 1935 (7). Descendants have continued the tradition.

- (1) Cook, J.R., 'Thomas McCreery 1829-1908 – Soldier and Pensioner Guard' (unpublished paper, 1988), pp1-2
- (2) *Bicentennial Dictionary of Western Australians*, Vol. 3, K-Q, p1950; Broomhall, F.H. *The Veterans* (Hesperian Press, 1989), B182; Cook, pp5, 7-8
- (3) Cook, pp4-7; Broomhall, B182
- (4) *Northam Advertiser*, November 3, 1933
- (5) WA Police: Record of Service of William McCreery; Cook, p5
- (6) Record of Service of William McCreery; Police General Duties Book, January 1, 1876; *Northam Advertiser*, November 3, 1933
- (7) Cook, p8; Record of Service of William McCreery; *Bicentennial Dictionary of Western Australians*, Vol.3, K-Q, p1951.

My thanks to Jean McDonald for drawing my attention to the Cook paper, likewise to Mr Ken Ross for additional insights on the life of William McCreery.

*Peter Conole  
Police Historian*

[Ed Note. My 101 year old mother (granddaughter of EPG Richard Henderson) still talks of having to go to Mr McCreery to have her boots made when she was a young girl in Northam.]

## OUTSTANDING TRACKERS

*By R. M. Tompkins*

An article in the West Australian several decades ago was devoted to some of the outstanding native trackers in the service of the police during the convict period (1850-1868). Among those useful aborigines were Chum-Chom Harry, Geordie and Winnie all of whom could, with unerring exactness give the time of day or night that a track was made by a person for whom they were searching.

The force also had some daring officials in the ranks who knew how to place the skill of the trackers to the best advantage. Prominent among these was Sergeant (afterwards inspector) Finlay, whose arrest of the notorious bushranger Graham gave him well deserved promotion (it being one of the cleverest captures with which the police force was associated during those troubled times).

After making his escape, by scaling the walls of Fremantle prison, Graham was outlawed for attempting to shoot Mr Quartermaine of the Williams River. At that time Sergeant Finlay was in charge of Albany Station and by his demonstration of strategy and knowledge of bush lore, he managed to capture the escapee about 120 miles north-east of the southern township.

Sergeant Finlay left Albany in search of Graham, having with him two mounted constables and two native assistants. They laid in a three-weeks' stock of provisions and the whole party started for the farthest sheep station to the east-ward. On arrival there Finlay learned from the wife of a shepherd that a man answering to the description of Graham, with a double barrelled gun, was there on the

previous day and had lent his gun to a native to kill a kangaroo, afterwards engaging another native to guide him to Dempster's cart track, made by those pastoralists when they were en route to Esperance Bay.

The native returned while Finlay was there and he immediately engaged him to guide his party on the same track.

On the following day Graham's tracks were so fresh that Finlay halted and, making the two native assistants assume the dress and appearance of bush natives, sent them on with the guide, instructing him to get into Graham's company, if possible and to get his gun from him on pretence of shooting a kangaroo. If successful in doing so, they were to get within hearing of Finlay and his party, and discharge the gun as a signal; or if unsuccessful in that, they were to continue with Graham till an opportunity offered of seizing the gun and discharge it. The natives soon got up with the desperado, and with him, stopped in the bed of the Fitzgerald River, near Bremer Bay, to cook some food; and while doing so an emu made its appearance on a hill nearby, which was pointed out to Graham who was induced to lend his gun to one of the native police and the guide, leaving the other native with Graham.

The two succeeded in driving the emu in the direction in which Finlay was and then shot it, which gave the agreed signal, and the native with Graham, hearing the party close at hand, suddenly threw himself upon the outlaw, to prevent him using a revolver, and before he could shake his burden off, Finlay and his party got up and handcuffed the runaway.

For the smart capture of one of Western Australia's most daring criminals, Sergeant Finlay was highly complimented by Major Crampton who was at the head of the police in those days. He was shortly afterwards

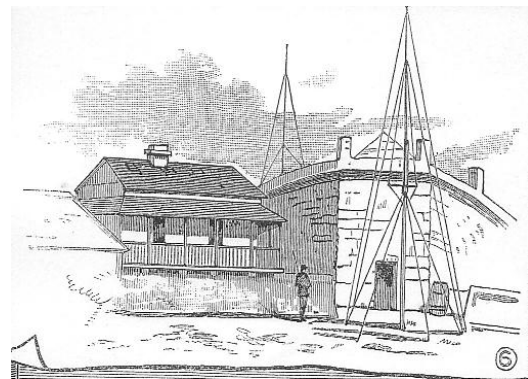
raised to the position of sub-inspector, and retired from the force with the rank of Chief inspector.

(Finlay was son of William Finlay EPG (Scindian 1850)

(No date and source)

## **Whaling Jetty Barracks and Court House.**

When Captain Henderson requested a detachment of one sergeant and twelve rank and file Enrolled Pensioners be sent to Fremantle in 1850 there was no suitable accommodation available for the men, their weapons and accoutrements. In desperation they were lodged in the Court House near the Round House.



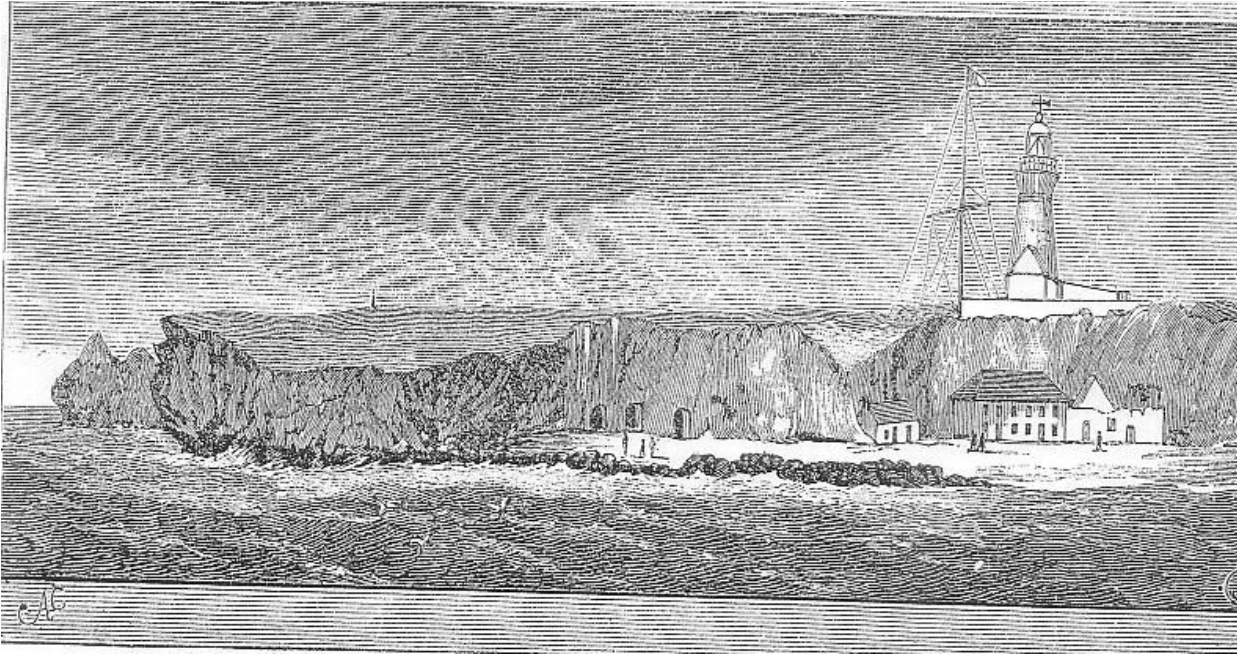
**The Round Tower**

*The Illustrated Australian News* Nov. 29, 1882 p 181

[Readers will, of course, recognise this as the Round House.]

### **Pensioner Barracks at the Whaling Jetty**

Due to the inability to find any premises suitable for the accommodation of the Enrolled Pensioners in Fremantle, Captains Irwin, Henderson and Bruce decided the then disused premises of the whaling company at Fremantle would, with alterations, prove suitable until



Fremantle Lighthouse

*The Illustrated Australian News* Nov. 29, 1882 p 181

[This Woodcut shows the Pensioner Barracks at the foot of the cliff.]

Captain Henderson could erect purpose built barracks. Captain Stirling had originally awarded himself a parcel of land including Garden Island and Arthur's Head; he then presented the Whaling Company with a parcel of land at Bather's Bay on which they constructed various buildings used for their whaling enterprise. The whaling company had spent between 3-4,000 pounds on the buildings, however, the British Government had disallowed the grant and the land reverted to the Crown. The company was eventually paid £1200 for the buildings. The existing buildings were extended by adding a further accommodation building, a guardhouse, a small magazine, privies, and gates to the tunnel.

These dreadfully overcrowded and inadequate buildings were used by the Enrolled Pensioners until 1854 when the Barracks in South Terrace were built; they were later used by the Royal Engineers and the Commissariat.

**Jeanette Lee**

[Thanks to Dorothy Altmann of Victoria for the two pictures in this article.]

## Historic Fremantle Walk

Sunday October 26<sup>th</sup> 9:45 am

**Les Green**, long time supporter of EPG Group and a guide at the Roundhouse Fremantle has developed a walk around the historic sites relevant to the EPG. To join this walk assemble at Bathers Bay before 9:45 am.

Sites include, Commissariat, arrival of *Scindian* and *Stag*, Lighthouse, Henderson St EPG cottages, *The Knowle* (Residence of Supt Henderson).

Lunch of Fish and Chips may be ordered at the start.

This should be a great informative day so come along - ring or email Jean McDonald 94504304 or [jeanmc2@bigppond.com](mailto:jeanmc2@bigppond.com)

## ANOTHER DATABASE FOR ENROLLED PENSIONER FORCE MEN

Many members will probably have come across this URL link already, but it is still worth mentioning. The site is free and simple to operate and can be very useful for genealogical research, given that so many Enrolled Pensioner Force men served in India. We are referring to the following: India Family Research; the access point is <http://indiafamily.bl.uk/ui/sources.aspx>

The material online consists of transcriptions of records from British India, covering births, deaths, marriages, baptisms and the like for British Army and civil personnel, including even East India Company clerks. The records sometimes go back into the early 1700s. When we 'arrived' there in June this year it was partly to try and solve a long standing problem. Namely, where on earth was Matthew Skinner Smith (1836-1887) born and who were his parents? The gentleman was a former soldier who became Chief of Police in WA and Commandant of the Enrolled Guard, which replaced the EPF in 1880. The rank and file were all former EPF men. A lot of digging around several years ago, including work by researchers at a couple of Australian universities, got nowhere.

However, there were two good starting points: his date of birth was known; his father was known to be the future Lieutenant General Matthew Smith.

The answer came quickly, courtesy the India Family Research site. Using the advanced search option, after keying in his name, the date and the event (birth) and then clicking on his name for the 'history' we came up with an answer. Matthew Skinner Smith

was born at Cawnpore in August 1836 and baptised there in October of that year. His parents were Captain Matthew Smith of the 16<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot and Isabella Fraser Morris.

However, as we discovered after keying in 'Matthew Smith, 'marriage' and the date range '1830-1836', there is a hitch. The name of the captain's wife is incomplete. The extra record shows that Brevet Captain Matthew Smith married Isabella Fraser Morris Hook, the daughter of Colonel Hook, at Chinsurah in Bengal in 1832. A bit predictable, when one thinks about it. Unrelated evidence suggests the Matthew Smiths were members of a staunch family of English landed gentry with strong Indian kinks.

In fact we suspect these Smiths were ultimately of Anglo-Indian descent and that the older Matthew is identifiable as a man born in 1805, the son of an East India Company official, who in turn was acknowledged as the 'natural son' of another EIC clerk in the 1770s...and so on. That all requires clearer proof and could be wrong. The site is a very worthy work-in-progress and is highly commended for EPF research.

***Peter Conole, Police Historian  
Graeme Sisson, Archivist, WA  
Police Historical Society***

**HISTORIC FREMANTLE  
WALK**

**SUNDAY 26 OCTOBER 2008**

**COMMENCING AT BATHERS BAY**

**AT 9:45am.**

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**W A GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
OPEN DAY**

**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> OCTOBER**

**OCTOBER MEETING**

**Saturday 18 OCTOBER**

1.00pm in Unit 4, 48 May St, Bayswater.

Come and listen to:

**Diane Oldman**

**What happened to them?  
THE VETERANS OF THE  
CRIMEAN WAR**

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