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PUBLICATIONS

Publications of the NNHIC include:

- * New Norfolk Homes and Pioneers (Series I)
- * New Norfolk Homes and Pioneers (Series II)
- * New Norfolk History and Achievements (Series III)
- * St Matthews Burial Records (Series IV)
- * North Circle Public Cemetery (Series V)
- * People and Places (Series VI)
- * Historic New Norfolk (Series VII)
- * Memoirs of J J Cowburn (Series VIII)
- * Federation to Millennium (Volume I)
- * Federation to Millennium (Volume II)
- * Boyer and the Peg Factory

All of the above are available from the New Norfolk Newsagency.



Derwent Echo

Keeping it in the Family (Part One)

When businesses change names and their owners change hands, it sometimes seems that businesses and the ownership of them are both short-lived. However, these changes sometimes hide the fact that the same family has been involved in the same business on the same premises for many decades. An excellent example of this occurred in the nineteenth century at what is now Lawitta/Hayes where on the surface several different families were involved in several different hotels.

The connections began with John Bailey who, with his wife Catherine and five children, arrived in Tasmania as a free man in 1829. They soon settled at Broadmarsh, then acquired a farm at Tea Tree and later another at New Norfolk. John soon expressed an interest in the hotel business, and in 1832 he tried to open *The Fountain Inn* at Lawitta, but soon went broke.

The family interest in hotels would continue through John's daughter Emily, a 16-year old who in 1840 had caught the eye of a 30-year old convict who had been assigned to work in the vicinity of their farm at Tea Tree run by Mrs Bailey. Thomas Piety, transported in 1829 for stealing a horse, was reported for being on Mrs Bailey's property "with the intention of an illicit interview with Mrs Bailey's daughter" – a quaint legal term meaning he wanted to have sex with her. As a result, it was recommended that he be "sent to the other side of the island, never to return to Brighton". But, as proof that love can overcome obstacles, in November 1842 Thomas Piety, having been granted permission to do so, married Emily Bailey at New Norfolk.

Thomas became a farmer at Black Brush, where he and Emily had five children. It was through their youngest daughters, Louisa (born in 1850) and Catherine (born in 1854) that the Piety family became and continued to be involved in the hotel business.

In 1865 the 15-year old Louisa Piety married the 28-year old William Pilkington. Born in England in 1837, William had been brought to Tasmania by his widowed mother Sarah Pilkington in the 1840s. In 1848 she remarried, and her new husband was a widower John Robinson. In 1865 they became the licensees of *The Derwent Hotel*, which had been known until 1856 as *The Jolly Ploughman* and was apparently not far from where John Bailey's failed *Fountain Inn* had stood. Its exact location has been debated, but one clue lies in the fact that "its first owner had a land grant at the property now called 'Mayfair'" (Paul McMaster, *New Norfolk Inns, Pubs and Hotels: The First 130 Years*, p. 83).

John and Sarah Robinson died within a fortnight of each other in August 1869 and William Pilkington became the new owner and licensee of *The Derwent Hotel*. Although William remained the owner, in 1872 Louisa's father Thomas Piety became the licensee. Both families lived on Melrose Farm, an estate of about 640 acres which seems to have included the land on which Mayfair would later be built.

After Thomas Piety died of drowning in 1880, Emily became the licensee, but in 1882 she did not renew the license and the Derwent Hotel ceased to exist. It may be that at the age of 58 she had decided to slow down a little, but the decision not to renew the license may also have been a sound business judgment reflecting declining trade, for when her son Thomas James Piety applied for a license to open the Railway Hotel at Lawitta in 1884, his application was rejected on the grounds that there was no need for such an establishment at Lawitta.

Brian McNab

To be continued in the next issue.

YOUR LOCAL CONTACTS ON NNHIC

Community

Representatives:

Justin Derksen
Liz Derksen
Carol Collins
Geoff Mason
Damian Bester
Peggie Stubbersfield
Anne Salt

Secretary:

Brian McNab

Family History Officer:

Ruth Binny

Council Representative

Clr. Julie Triffett

Chairperson:

Tony Nicholson

FAMILY HISTORIES

*The New
Norfolk Historical
Information Centre
has over 800 Family
History Files.
Come in on the last
Saturday of the
month from 2 to 4 pm,
and see if your
Family History is
here.*

*Below is a new part
list of the 'M' files:*

Mackey
Madden
Maddox
Magennis
Magrath
Mahoney
Males
Mann
Mansfield
Manton
Mapley
Markey
Marsh
Marriott
Marshall
Martin
Marvel
Marzetti
Mason
Massie
Matheson
Mathews
Maxfield
Mayall
Mayne
Meadows

One Man's War: Letters Home Letter No 11

TX.... Dvr. D B
E Troop 16 Fd Bty
2/8 Fd. Regt A.I.F.
6 Div Arty
Abroad
27/1/41

Dear Mother,

I received your letter (No 8) a couple of days ago & was pleased to hear you are having a good holiday at Ulverstone, & that Tim is so well.

I still haven't received letters 5 & 7, but expect they will turn up sometime. No parcels arrived yet either.

Yes I think it would be a very good idea if you could get hold of a decent block up near Ulverstone, you always seemed to think the N.W. Coast is the best part of Tasmania, only I wouldn't spend too much on it in improvements yet.

At the camp where we are now there are a lot more Jews than there were at the last camp, some of them are very interesting. They are from every country in Europe. There are Jewesses working on the roads with the men, & one particular case says she can speak seven languages & has been through University in Berlin, she is also carrying stone on the road. But the ones that have been here longer have all got well established businesses & are great money-makers.

I got a letter from Bill F... & Arty B.... by boat mail, written on 25/11/40, Bill said Charlie was still there then, but expect I will see him shortly.

I have not done any driving over here yet, I expect it will be a bit funny at first as the rule here is keep to the right of the road. But we have been having plenty of short route marches, so have seen something of the neighbouring "Wog" villages, all much the same, house built of mud & very dirty.

Have you started drawing the allotment money yet? It might be useful to help towards that block later on.

It might interest you to know that Roy has left us & gone to a workshop as a mechanic, by now I think he is somewhere in Egypt.

We are still having wonderful weather here, a bit fresh early in the morning, but not a cloud in the sky most of the day, & not too hot even in the middle of the day, but I don't know what it will be like in the summer time.

Well must close now.

Much love

D

THE EARLY SETTLERS' WALL: ARTHUR SQUARE

The Early Settlers' Wall was the result of a successful application by Dorothy Robinson and others, to the Federal Government's Regional Community Infrastructure Programme, The site, design and construction all had the approval of the Derwent Valley Council of the day.

Federal Member for Lyons, Dick Adams declared the wall 'open' on Australia Day, 2013. The descendants of early pioneers paid several hundred dollars for the individual family plaques to be attached to the wall. The honouring of pioneer families was to be an ongoing project. The other side of the wall was intended for Australia Day Award plaques.

In February 2021 the wall was demolished and another tribute has been placed on the site.

Ruth Binny
March 2021

WHAT'S IN A NAME LACHLAN RIVER

Named by Governor Lachlan Macquarie on his tour of Van Diemen's Land in 1821. The rivulet, described as a "very pretty rivulet" by Macquarie on his first tour in 1811, was at that time christened by him, the Thames.

On his second trip in June of 1821 he changed the name "in honour of Lachlan; the town (Elizabeth Town) being called after his mother." The name of the rivulet stuck, but the inhabitants soon reverted to calling their township New Norfolk.

Of interest to visitors and locals is that the river is home to the ornithorynchus paradoxus (platypus) described thus "somehow he seemed to sustain the natures of brute, fish and bird" by Walter De Molesworth Jeffery

Ruth Binny

March 2021

A reunion of the
descendants of
SIR ROBERT
OFFICER
is to be conducted
on
5th & 6th March
2022
in
New Norfolk
Tasmania

TRIED & TRUE

Holy Easter Herbs and Plant Oils.

There are seven main herbs and oils symbolic of Easter and in use for thousands of years.

The **Palm Tree** was an essential part of the ancient Israeli economy being used for oil, water, food, and wax from the fruit. The fronds were used for thatching, weaving, laying down on the ground to protect the wealthy from dust. Sugar and a type of flour was gleaned from the trunk and the trees provided shade from the desert sun. Perfume, jewellery and headdresses were made from the flowers, as well as the palm being a source of medicine.

The people believed that the palm was sent from god, and they strew it in front of Jesus to honour their Messiah.

Frankincense is a soothing resin which may have been used on the baby Jesus to calm him. It was burned in temples for its aroma and where its white smoke symbolised the prayers being sent to Heaven. It was also employed as an anointing oil. It was part of the ritual sacrifice of animals and would likely to have been used as part of the sacrifice of Jesus.

Mustard is claimed to be useful in aiding the body to detox harmful substances, cure aches and pains, heal the nerves, repel poison, and helps maintain a healthy heart. Jesus uses the analogy of the mustard seed as a parable to symbolize the growth of faith and of the Gospel and Christianity. The Mustard seed parable has parallels in the Gospel.

Spikenard was an expensive oil originating in Nepal and would have been imported to Israel. In Hebrew, the word 'Nard' means 'Light.' In Greek, it means 'genuine' and 'pure.' This was what Mary anointed the feet of Jesus with.

The chemical makeup of Spikenard is claimed to be a calmative, a mood enhancer and to promote a feeling of well-being.

The Olive Tree is a symbol of everlasting life seen as the 'tree of life' by Jews of old. Jerusalem has Olive trees at least 1800 years old.

On the day of Passover, Jesus went to the garden of Gethsemane to pray for forgiveness of mankind's sins. The translation for Gethsemane is 'Gath' means 'press' and 'shemen' means 'oil'. This reflects the symbolic seeping of blood from Jesus at his crucifixion.

Myrrh was often combined with olive oil and used to anoint kings and priests for their sacred calling as well as its use in burial rites.

Myrrh is highly preservative and is used in embalming to slow the decomposition of the body.

Aloe vera is one of the most ancient medicinal plants used as a healing balm and known for over 6000 years. It was a funeral gift to the Pharaohs as it was called the plant of immortality. Native Americans called it 'the wand of heaven'. It is a powerful symbol of resurrection due to its ability to survive and heal itself.

Aloeswood / Agarwood is a different plant- a highly fragrant and expensive tree found in the Orient and modern India and powerfully symbolic and spiritual. Known as 'the wood of the gods', also from traditional ayurvedic texts and Islamic tradition, it is an incense used for religious ceremonies and during meditation as a psychoactive in order to connect to a higher consciousness.

It is believed that angels are attracted to the scent and smoke of Aloeswood.

These properties would be highly prized and sought after to be included in a burial shroud, in hopes and belief that it would aid the resurrection of the Lord.

Summarised from God as a Gardener, experiencing God through plants.

TAKING CARE OF THE PAST

Bamboo Furniture

Recently I decided to display an old bamboo plant stand recovered from my parents' cellar. The motivation was seeing a similar stand outside an antiques centre. I was concerned about how to clean and care for this item. Small items of bamboo furniture were popular in the early 1900's. I am assuming my stand dates from about the turn of the century. Difficult to tell as no maker's mark.

[Here are some tips for looking after bamboo furniture](#)

Make sure to regularly dust with a dust cloth or soft brush and make sure that dust does not settle in the joins of such furniture.

Dirt may be removed with a rag soaked in water which has had a few drops of mild dishwashing soap added to it.

Wipe all over the furniture.

Rinse the furniture with a clean wet rag.

Allow the furniture to air dry.

When dry apply either furniture oil or linseed oil. Ideally use furniture oil specifically suited for bamboo. This will protect the bamboo by ensuring that it will flex rather than crack.

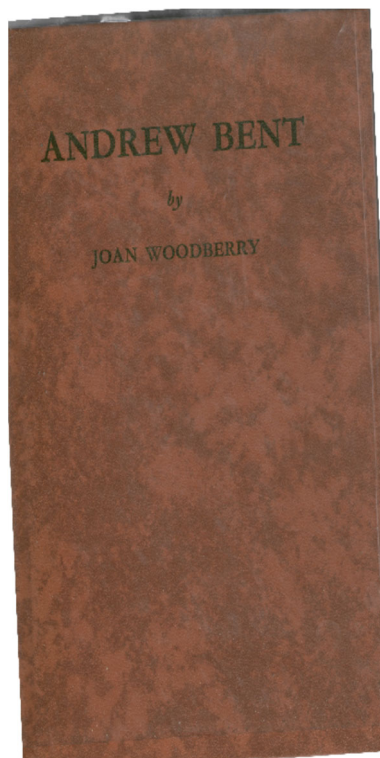
REMEMBER IF IN DOUBT CONSULT A PROFESSIONAL CONSERVATOR
Ruth Binny

BOOK REVIEW

Derwent Echo

ANDREW BENT AND THE FREEDOM OF THE PRESS IN VAN DIEMEN'S LAND

BY JOAN WOODBERRY



This was published in 1972 so by no means recent scholarship, but a very worthwhile read for those interested in the early years of the colony of Van Diemen's Land. The 1972 edition was limited to 750 copies. Its subject Andrew Bent, emancipist and printer of the Hobart Town Gazette was often at odds with Arthur's government over freedom of the press. He set out to throw a "spotlight" on the Arthurian administration 1824-1828. It was pretty much a David and Goliath struggle. This book has very detailed notes and has an extensive bibliography that is well worth a taking a look at.

Ruth Binny
March 2021

FROM THE EDITOR:

Welcome to edition 22 of the Derwent Echo. It certainly has been a bit of a roller coaster ride these last few months. Many of you have taken the opportunity to delve into family history and to take a closer look at local heritage. One of the questions most often posed to me in recent times is When are you going to be open again? We are open for visitors at the NNHIC from 1.30 - 4pm each Thursday provided we adhere to covid safe rules. That means a limit of 5 persons in the Centre at any one time. The hand sanitizer must be used on entry and the covid safe register must be filled in. We ask that you bring your own writing implements.

Already we have had descendants of pioneer families contact us about the possibility of holding family reunions in New Norfolk so roll on the vaccination program.

In the meantime enjoy the Easter break with family and friends.

The Derwent Echo is pleased to accept articles in relation to the history of the Derwent Valley
Something to say or a story to tell! Write to the Editor Derwent Echo, NNHIC, C/- Derwent Valley Council PO BOX 595 NEW NORFOLK.

Ruth Binny
Editor