



Shoobridge Building
Circle Street
New Norfolk Tas

Postal Address:
PO Box 595
New Norfolk
TAS, 7140

Please email us at:
nnhic@derwentvalley.tas.gov.au

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)

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



Derwent Echo

Our Disappearing Heritage:

The Mount Nassau Lime Kilns, Granton, Tasmania.

Locally referred to as Rathbone's lime kilns, two beautiful convict-built kilns are located riverside at Limekiln Point, twelve kilometres east of New Norfolk on the Lyell Highway (no signage). The kilns are found after a short walk down to the former main road.

Currently listed on the Tasmanian Heritage Register and subject to the provisions of the Historic Cultural Heritage Act, 1995, it is reassuring to know that this historical site is valued. Over the years the site has been used by fishermen and others, including a homeless couple and their dog, two summers back, who like many before and after rested there.

Limestone is natural and abundant, with lime the manufactured product from limestone. From this area limestone was quarried and crushed then taken by wooden railway down to the kilns to be burnt for the production of quicklime. Quicklime was loaded onto boats and shipped to Hobart; remains of the old jetty are still visible. Quicklime is a versatile product with many uses. Lime wash was used to paint many buildings in the area including Willow Court.

The relationship humans, including our indigenous Tasmanians, have found with different types of stone has been evident over several thousand years. During Tasmania's early colonial settlement, limestone was a valued resource, it provided work and income for early settlers and convicts.

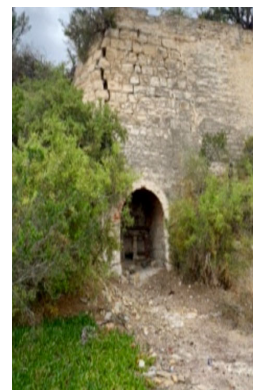
The story of the Mount Nassau lime kilns began soon after 1827 when Anthony Geiss placed an advertisement in the local press (16th June 1827) that he was going to reside on his farm Mt. Nassau. The property changed hands about 1930 to Frank Rathbone. The business name changed after his son joined him to *Rathbone & Son*. This fine property still remains in the family. Locals told of men covered in white dust waving, while crossing the road to climb the hill home, after a day of working the kilns. These kilns, now listed on Crown Title, no longer cook up stone for lime, they sit quietly waiting for change.

Today the land grant given to Geiss in the 1820's has moved from limestone to the successful growing of grapes for wine. Derwent Estate Wines is sold onsite from one of the two original lime-washed homes by the owner; a contemporary example of economic and social change. Back at the first of the two lime kilns it is obvious a massive crack has developed near the top; this injury in no way detracts from the beauty of these kilns in their historic setting and deserves to be preserved.

Reflecting on a narrative of centuries rich with human occupation and stone, I am aware here underfoot is the old road that linked Hobart to the Derwent Valley. On either side of the road food sources introduced from the home country still grow; cherry plum, apple, blackberry, hawthorn, rowan berry, thistle and more. Totally entranced, I invite you to listen as Derwent River water gently slaps the remains of the original jetty sounding a repetitive rhythm, *wai-ting for en-tre-pren-eurs!*

References

Hughes, T. D. (1957). *Limestones in Tasmania: Geological Survey Mineral Resources*, No.10.



YOUR LOCAL CONTACTS ON NNHC

Community Representatives:

Violet Lipscombe
Carol Collins
Geoff Mason
Tony Nicholson
Damian Bester
Judy Morgan
Peggie Stubbersfield

Secretary:

Brian McNab

Family History Officer:

Ruth Binny

Chairperson:

Clr. Julie Triffett

FAMILY HISTORIES

*The New
Norfolk Historical
Information Centre has
over 700 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 list of the 'I'*

LAHL	LOCK-
LAING	WOOD
LAMBE	LOGAN
LAMBERT	LON-
LAMING	ERGAN
LANE	LONG
LANG	LOONEY
LANGDON	LORD
LAPHAM	L'OSTE,
LAREDO	(Charles.F)
LARKIN	LOVELL
LASCELLES	LOWE
LASKEY	LOWES
LATHAM	LUCAS
LAWLER	LUDBEY (j.)
LAWRENCE	LUSH
LAWTON	LYNCH
LEARY	
LEATHERS	
LEE	
LE FEVRE	
LEONARD	
LEVERTON	
LEWIS	
LIBERTY	
LIGHTFOOT	
LIMBRICK	
LLOYD	
LOCK	

One Man's War: Letters Home Letter No 4

TX1697 Drv. D xxxx
E Troop 16 Fd Bty
2/8 Fd Reg A.I.F.
6th Div. Arty
Abroad

21/11/40

Dear Mother,

Just a line as it may be the last chance I'll get to send a letter for a while.

So far we have had a wonderful voyage, it's been very calm considering the reputation this part of the ocean has got. We berthed last night & had a few hours leave at the port. It's a poor sort of harbour, but it seems to do a lot of shipping.

As we are still in port we hope to get leave this afternoon (P.S. Excuse the pencil, but there is a bit of a rush on the letter writing.) & evening, if we have time we hope to see the city, which is not a great distance from the port.

Everybody aboard seems to be well, the few that were sea sick have all recovered.

As you probably know we are on a navy, all medium sized ships. Our ship is about 5 years old. The ship that went from Hobart to Melbourne about 3 years ago is also in the convoy. We haven't any idea when or where we are going. I haven't received any letters from you yet, but I might get one today.

Well I don't think there is much more to say, except that I am very well & hope you are the same.

Love Dxxxx

Letter No 5

At Sea
10/12/40
Tuesday

Dear Mother,

We reached Colombo after about a week at sea. While I was there I sent you a cablegram, hope you got it alright. Also sent Txx a small parcel.

We are all very keen to get a few hours on shore after a week at sea, but our leave was all too short, by the time we had a meal, & a walk through the native quarters & went to the post office, our time was almost up as I had to come back early. But what I did see I think will stick in my memory a long time.

I didn't realize that even native lived under such dirty conditions. It was just one horrible smell the whole time we were in the native quarters & when we stopped to look at an open air butchers shop a native rushed out & started to sell us a dirty old goats head.

Anyway after making our way through what seemed thousands of natives all trying to cadge something we got back to the more civilized part of the city, where we went for a ride in a rickshaw.

We left Colombo on Saturday dinnertime & since then have had a very calm trip also the weather is getting a little cooler. We expect to be in our next & last port within a week.

Teddy Heyward's promotion to L/Bdr came through today.

The day before we reached Colombo we had a "crossing the line" ceremony, which consisted of shaving & ducking all the officers & sergeants.

I enclose a postcard of Ceylon for xx..

Love Dxxxx

P.S. Hope you are both well & having a good holiday.

What's In A Name

DEAN STREET: NEW NORFOLK

Named after Ellis Dean, a long serving warden of New Norfolk and Member of the Legislative Council for Derwent 1901-08. He was the son of William Dean of Belmont. He was educated at the Hutchins School and later in life was known as a man of decided convictions and a fluent speaker.

He was first elected to the New Norfolk council in 1889. He was twice Warden of New Norfolk 1896-1902 and secondly from 1904-1920. During his time as warden, New Norfolk made rapid progress. It was during his wardenship that electric street lighting came to New Norfolk. It was connected and distributed via the Asylum generator.

Ellis Dean also served as coroner and from 1889 he was a district Justice of the Peace. He was the government nominee on the New Norfolk Licensing Bench. In 1902 and again in 1911 he was Chairman of the Coronation committees for Edward VII and George V.

He died on 8th November 1920 leaving a wife and five daughters.

Ruth Binny
September 2019

'TIS THE SNEEZING SEASON

The vagaries of spring are upon us, so along with changeable weather patterns there is the inevitable wave of hayfever. This got me wondering how our forefathers coped with this seasonal pest.

It was apparently first described in England in 1819 when it was seen as a rare non-fatal disorder that afflicted the refined classes.

In 1873 Charles Blackley undertook a series of experiments on himself to see if he could determine what triggered this seasonal malady. Blackley eventually came to the conclusion that it was something about pollen itself that poisoned the body. At this time hayfever was considered to be an hereditary disorder and thus to some folk a sign of good breeding.

The treatments to alleviate the condition were not always pleasant or beneficial. One researcher in the late 19th century suggested cigarette smoking might provide relief to the sufferer. In extreme cases the inside of the nose could be cauterized with silver nitrate. Some folk swore by the use of a cocaine nasal spray, whilst a more pleasant and safer option was to go to the coast or mountains to escape from the pollen of the countryside.

TRIED & TRUE

Borage (*Borago officinalis*)

Borage, originating in the Mediterranean, is a hardy annual with bright blue star-shaped flowers in Spring and Summer, which are well-loved by bees. Pink or white varieties are available. It is also known as starflower, bee bush, bee bread, and bugloss, is a medicinal herb with edible leaves and flowers

Borage has oval, hairy pale green leaves, is high in calcium, potassium and mineral salts, has a cucumber scent and flavour and the flowers and leaves are used in salads, soups, cocktails and teas and the flowers are suitable for crystallising.

It is the highest known plant source of an Omega 6 fatty acid, as a companion plant increases resistance to pests and disease, adds trace minerals to the soils where it is planted and contains B vitamins, beta-carotene, fibre and choline

Borage self-sows freely but is easily thinned out as the roots are shallow.

Borage was used to embellish stirrup-cups of wine given to knights leaving for the Crusades. 'Ego Borago gaudia semper ago = I, Borage bring always courage.' (1)

The flowers were favourite needlework subjects both for their beauty and their association with bravery. The Roman scholar Pliny the Elder believed it to be an antidepressant.

Borage was seen to 'make men merry and glad,' the leaves eaten to help cleanse the blood and syrups were made to treat jaundice.

'Let whoever's eyes are cloudy break borage into pieces, smear this on a piece of red silk cloth, and put this on his or her eyes at night. Do this often; the cloudiness of the eye will flee. It is not harmful if some of the ointment touches the inside of the eyes. If the piece of silk be green or white, let the person put borage juice on it and then smear it on felt. Place this around the entire neck, over the back of the head and right up to the ears, but not over the ears. Do this often and the ringing of the ears will stop.' (2)

Borage was used as a mild medicine. It was said to calm the heart, purge melancholy and calm lunatics. The leaves eaten raw were said to 'engender good blood', or to encourage health (3).

Ref.

Herbs and Spices, Rosemary and John Hemphill Pub: Paul Hamlyn 1974 Sydney.
Better Homes and Gardens Pub: Murdoch Books 1992 Sydney

(1) Gerard, P

(2) Von Bingen,

(3) Grieve

<https://permaculturenews.org>

<https://www.gardeningknowhow.com>

<https://www.herbcottage.com.au/borage.html>

TAKING CARE OF THE PAST

BONE OBJECTS

Most households these days probably do not have many bone objects unless a family member is a hunter. A close examination of grandma's household objects may reveal bone handled knives and perhaps a napkin ring.

Many of the following tips also apply to horn and ivory.

Some ways in which bone objects may be damaged are:

- Sudden changes in temperature and humidity.
- Placing bone objects in bright areas such as direct sunlight or near spotlights.
- Bumping and chipping bone objects when moving them. Use a cushioning material
- Do not ever soak a bone object

Caring and Storing bone objects

- Wrap bone objects in unbuffered acid free tissue paper. NEVER EVER USE COLOURED TISSUE available from discount stores. The dye quickly transfers with the slightest hint of moisture. Nothing like a bright blue stain on a pine table!
- When storing bone objects use a lined drawer or archival box with a chemically stable cushioning material such as polyethylene or polypropylene sheeting (Ethafoam or Microfoam)
- If objects are in good condition normal surface dirt may be removed by dusting with a soft brush to dislodge dust and debris, directing it toward gauze covered vacuum cleaner nozzle. It is possible to buy special attachment heads to make this job easier.
- The Canadian Conservation Institute has more information on care and storage of bone objects.
- REMEMBER IF IN DOUBT CONSULT A PROFESSIONAL CONSERVATOR

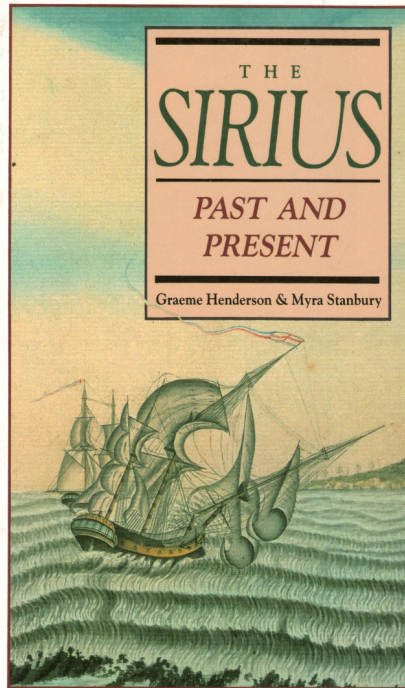
Ruth Binny

BOOK REVIEW

BOOK REVIEW

The Sirius: Past and Present

By Graeme Henderson and
Myra Stanbury



This publication was funded by the Australian Bicentennial Authority as part of its National Heritage Program to celebrate Australia's Bicentenary in 1988. Since then there have been a number of other publications dealing with the same subject matter. Never the less this book remains one of the best references on the *Sirius*.

It traces the short career of perhaps the best known of the First Fleet ships. It contains lots of detail in regard to the specifications of the *Sirius*. There is a good chapter on the archaeology of the wreck. Of interest to the family historian is the observation by one witness made in a letter to the editor of the *Gentleman's Magazine* "that the convicts now have comfortable beds" on the ship. I'm sure those who found themselves journeying to the Antipodes aboard the *Sirius* had an entirely different opinion.

It is worthy of note that 2020 will be the 230th anniversary of the sinking of the *Sirius* and a great program of events is planned on Norfolk Island.

A good time to re-read Henderson and Stanbury's fine contribution to maritime history Ruth Binny

FROM THE EDITOR

So Much Heritage in Our Valley

We are coming up to Seniors Week and it is time to remember that our Seniors are an important part of our heritage. They are the keepers of times gone by. Last night a young man with an interest in history remarked that his grandad used to say "G'day cobber" when he chanced upon an acquaintance. I realised the last time I heard this was when I attended an AN-ZAC DAY parade some 20 years ago with my own father. Language and its nuances are part of our heritage and we should save them from disappearing.

The Derwent Valley has so much heritage we have an obligation to preserve for future generations. Let's all do our bit. In our 19th edition of the Derwent Echo we feature an article (by NNHIC committee member Violet Lipscombe) on the Lime Kilns at Granton. These are not visible unless you pull off the road and take the trouble to make your way to the foreshore. So much of our heritage is not front and centre as it were but never the less it is worthy of preservation.

Please continue to support your New Norfolk Historical Information Centre by collecting your copy of the Derwent Echo, sharing your family history and volunteering your time.

Ruth Binny Editor
Something to say! Write to the Editor Derwent Echo, NNHIC, C/- Derwent Valley Council