Next steps

In this issue of Chainletter we outline the changes that have been made to the databases of the University of Tasmania, the Female Convict Research Centre (FCRC) and Founders & Survivors run from the University of Melbourne.

It may be somewhat confusing, but we are now working to ensure the future sustainability of the research we have all done and its accessibility to scholars and the wider community.

We are very sorry to have to report that technical difficulties prevent us from continuing the open project with contributions from the community.

However, volunteers will still be welcome at the FCRC and we hope that in future it will be possible for volunteers to work on male convicts again.

The Tasmanian Heritage and Archive Office does not have the staff and resources to manage data collection and public queries, so it will depend on volunteers working closely with the FCRC and the University of Tasmania.

However, there is much exciting research ahead which Hamish Maxwell-Stewart outlines in an article, and the female convicts are still to be finished.

Anyone who wants to help finish the women—which means researching their lives, filling out part of the spreadsheet (but not the conduct section coding) and entering the new data in the FCRC Filemaker Pro database (no FAS CCC), please contact Colette. We can purchase Victorian and NSW death certificates for the women and the Irish until the end of the year.

And I report on our Grand European Tour.

Janet McCalman
Volunteers’ Corner

The Future for Founders & Survivors

What lies ahead for our work?

Ships Project

The Ships Project reference population has now finished with 102 ships: 60 male and 42 female, bringing the total to 13,142 men and 6,917 women researched. The reference population is now just over 20,000, which is around 30 per cent of the researchable records in the Tasmanian Archives collection of convicts transported from overseas. This excludes local convictions and re-convictions, which are incorporated into the life histories on the database.

A small group is continuing to finish the Irish ships for a separate book project and Colette McAlpine will be working until the end of the year searching for women to complete and enter into the new Founders & Survivors Female Database that Trudy Cowley is introducing in this issue of Chainletter. Volunteers to finish the women are still wanted! Please contact Colette on colette.mcalpine@gmail.com.

Consolidation of Data Sets

At a meeting in Hobart last year it was decided that the various datasets be consolidated and that we will finish with a research data platform in Filemaker Pro hosted by the University of Tasmania through the Menzies Research Institute. The Menzies was a partner in the original Founders & Survivors ARC Grant and also conducts world-class research on population health within Tasmania.

The data collected in the Ships Project will eventually be exported to the Filemaker Pro platforms: an expansion of the existing Female Convict Research Centre (FCRC) database that many volunteers have used, and a matching database for the men.

This research database is intended for scholarly more than genealogical research, although the FCRC remains willing to provide access to family historians if they register with the FCRC. The male database is not currently open to other researchers but Hamish Maxwell-Stewart will in time establish protocols for scholarly access to male data on request. However, they do not have the personnel to manage individual requests for information on a convict, so please don’t ask.

These two Filemaker Datasets will be known as Founders & Survivors (male) and Founders & Survivors (female). Trudy Cowley has written an article for this edition of Chainletter, explaining all this in greater detail.

What of the CCCs and the Ships?

We are still hopeful that the Tasmania Archives and Heritage Office (TAHO) will be able to incorporate our life histories into their index and link to summaries of the convicts’ stories which we can continue to host from the cloud. If it can’t, we will archive it with the National Library of Australia.

Sandra Silcot has programmed our internal index system to summarise for each convict whether they have been traced to a death and where, whether they had children and how many, and whether they had AIF descendants and how many.

On a consolidated record she has succeeded in combining the information collected from the indents, description lists and other convict records that is available on ‘pub search’ site for each convict, with the newfound data on their death and any additional historical material from newspapers and other sources.

Under the privacy legislation of most states, as an institution we cannot publish family trees, and since we have purchased death certificates for research purposes only, we cannot republish causes of death in the public domain. However, we can publish date of death, place of death and details of the death registration so that people can purchase their own death certificates in Victoria or NSW. This does not apply for deaths before 1900 in Tasmania as these are now available via the TAHO website.

Neither do we believe we should provide links to AIF records as it is not our business to publicise people’s convict ancestry without their permission. This also enables us to honour the privacy promises we make on the website to members of the public who contributed data on ancestors. These comprise less than 5 per cent of our life histories: the majority were contributed by volunteers and research staff.

Nonetheless, if we can publish the life stories of the convicts themselves, this will provide a wonderful historical resource for researchers and students of all ages. We may call this database Founders & Survivors (Community).

The Future of Tracing?

Sadly, it will be technically impossible to maintain an open database for researchers to add new convict lives. However, it will still be possible to contribute new findings to the FAS Female via Colette McAlpine and we hope, eventually, to the FAS Male also via volunteers who can check and enhance the data and enter it into the Filemaker formats.

Therefore, as one phase of Founders & Survivors draws to a close in Melbourne, there is much to come, as this issue of Chainletter celebrates.
A hearty thanks to all of you who have expressed an interest in volunteering for the next stage of the Founders & Survivors project: Convicts and Diggers: A Demography of Life Courses, Families and Generations. Our first information session—to be held in Melbourne on Saturday 3 May 2014—is fully subscribed.

There are still places available for our Hobart session to be held at the University of Tasmania on Saturday 17 May 2014, 10am–2pm. If you would like to attend in Hobart, please contact Dr Rebecca Kippen on rkippen@unimelb.edu.au by Friday 9 May 2014, noting any dietary requirements as lunch will be provided.

Coming to a session is not a commitment to the project. It’s a chance to learn about the research being conducted and what the role of the volunteers will be.

Our aim is to link the convicts transported to Tasmania with their Tasmanian-born descendants who served in the First Australian Imperial Force (AIF) in World War One. This will allow us to explore relationships between heredity, early-life experiences, individual and familial characteristics, protracted stress, family formation and upward mobility.

We want volunteers to trace backwards the Tasmanian-born AIF. This will entail identifying ancestors (parents, grandparents, great-grandparents) who lived in Tasmania by using information already gathered in the Ships Project; Tasmanian birth, death and marriage registers; the Tasmanian convict records and other online sources. We would also like basic information (e.g. age, height, weight, marital status) of the enlists to be transcribed from the online service records. Information would be entered into a standardised spreadsheet (similar to that used for the Ships Project). We guess that around half the Tasmanian-born AIF had convict ancestry and are very interested in (a) whether we are right and (b) whether the lives of the convict-descended AIF were different from those who did not have convict ancestry. Did convict ancestry matter, and in what way?

We have a list of around 15,000 Tasmanian-born AIF provided by the National Archives of Australia. As with the Ships Project, we would divide these into manageable groups of 50–150 people, based on World War One Units (or companies in the case of Units in which many Tasmanians served, such as the 12th, 15th, 26th and 40th Battalions).

Unfortunately we have not yet been awarded funding for the follow-up stage to Convicts and Diggers, which is Diggers to Veterans: Risk, Resilience and Recovery. However, if we are successful for 2015, then we will also add information on the life outcomes after war service of both Tasmanian- and Victorian-born AIF.
Founders & Survivors is moving forward in the shape of two recently funded projects. These will bring in more data on the backgrounds of transported prisoners and shed further light on the impact that transportation had on family life and reoffending in nineteenth century Tasmania.

The first grant, the ‘Digital Panopticon of Punishment’ was awarded to researchers at the Universities of Liverpool, Oxford, Sheffield, Sussex and Tasmania by the Arts and Humanities Research Council. This is a huge project worth over AU$3 million. The aim of the research is to explore the long-term health and offending outcomes for Londoners who were transported compared to those who served out a sentence in British hulks and prisons. In particular the researchers will critically examine the Utilitarian philosopher Jeremy Bentham’s contention that penal outcomes for a British penitentiary system were better than those for convicts transported to Britain’s penal colonies.

The grant will also result in the establishment of a link between the Founders & Survivors database and one of the most successful public history websites established to date [http://www.oldbaileyonline.org]. The opportunity to collaborate with the two academics who conceived and built the Old Bailey online is very exciting. Bob Shoemaker (Sheffield) and Tim Hitchcock (Sussex) will bring a wealth of new skills to the Founders & Survivors team. The other UK based academics involved in this study are Barry Godfrey, a leading historical criminologist based at Liverpool and Deb Oxley, an existing member of the Founders & Survivors team. Deb, who works at Oxford, is particularly interested in what prison and convict data can tell us about the health of past populations. Her work is fascinating and you can find out more here [http://www.ehs.org.uk/multimedia/podcasts-of-tawney-lectures.html]. Hamish Maxwell-Stewart at the University of Tasmania will co-ordinate the Australian end of this project.

Barry, Hamish and Kris will also use information about the heights of colonially born prisoners to examine the impact that transportation had on Australian families. Early returns suggest that the heights of Tasmanian children born in the 1830s were on the decline and only recovered after the end of transportation and the discovery of gold in Victoria. The data provides a vivid illustration of why the embryonic Australian trade union movement threw its weight behind the campaigns to abolish the transportation system. We already knew that competition with convict labour reduced free wages. We now have dramatic evidence that it also stunted the growth of children born into working class families.

Interestingly, the researchers can find no evidence that the children of convicts were particularly disadvantaged. Results to date suggest that having convict parents did not make you shorter than children born to assisted migrants. Indeed, there is some evidence that the children of convicts fared slightly better, possibly because the experience of working for Tasmanian employers as assignees and probation pass and ticket-of-leave holders helped them to secure continuing employment after obtaining their freedom. Ironically, former
convicts may have had a local employment advantage over those who arrived free in the colony, an advantage reflected in the superior heights of their children.

Barry, Kris and Hamish are also gathering data from the Victorian Police Gazettes. This will help them to pin point more trans-Bass Strait migrants, both former convicts and those born in Tasmania. It will also provide comparative offending data as well as information on the heights of those born in a colony with a profoundly different social and economic trajectory from Tasmania’s. The team will report on the results of this work at a future date.

As well as these projects there are several other irons in the fire. Founders & Survivors researchers have grants currently under assessment to look at convicts in hulks in Britain and Ireland, convict bank accounts and the experience of those who were transported to Western Australia. In short, there will be plenty to keep a growing international team busy. This ongoing process will result in some changes.

There will be a transfer of data to a new database management system based at the University of Tasmania. This will have a link to an updated and improved convict search portal hosted by the Tasmanian Heritage and Archives Office. We will also be working on linking the Old Bailey online and the Founders & Survivors websites. We will circulate details of these and other developments shortly, but in the meantime the good news is that the project will continue for many years to come.

The crimes that blind.
The FCRC has just celebrated its tenth birthday. Its president, Lucy Frost, looks back on a remarkable decade.

By the middle of the twentieth century, amnesia had settled over the Cascades Female Factory. An institution which had grown over half a century from its opening in 1828 to spread over five high-walled courtyards designed to house a thousand women and children had been divided up, sold and built over. The street over which loomed the grim penal institution was now part of suburbia, dominated by single-storey houses, with a fudge factory where blocks of solitary cells once stood.

During International Women’s Year (1975), one courtyard had come back to public ownership after a campaign by women determined to pay attention to the female convicts whose story had been almost totally erased from public consciousness. Thanks to these pioneering campaigners, the initial site of the Female Factory had been reclaimed from its recent uses as a tennis court and a location for light industries, and was now a memorial to the convict women.

But little was known about those women, about who they were, why they were exiled to Van Diemen’s Land and about what happened to them. With a grant from the Centenary of Federation Fund, the courtyard where the fudge factory stood was purchased by a not-for-profit organisation that began a systematic effort to return as much of the site as possible to public ownership and to have its historical value recognised. As members of the board of the Female Factory Historic Site, Inc, Alison Alexander and Lucy Frost proposed a sub-committee to be called the Female Factory Research Group. This group met for the first time on Tuesday, 10 February 2004 in the parlour of the Matron’s Cottage, and from this small gathering began the organisation which, within a decade, grew to more than 2000 members world wide.

The Group’s original purpose was to encourage research ‘into the lives and experiences of convict women and their children in Van Diemen’s Land; into the Female Factories through which they passed; and into the staff of the Factories who looked after them and the settlers for whom they worked’. Membership would be open to anyone who was interested. Although initially we imagined charging ‘a modest membership fee’, we in fact have never charged any membership fees at all. The organisation from the start has been entirely volunteer based. When we needed money for a project, we applied for grants.

From the beginning, our projects have been ambitious. In our first year, supported by a grant from the Tasmanian Bicentenary Fund, we organised a Female Factory Muster. Some 2000 people visited the Cascades Female Factory on 7 November 2004. It was a big day! Trudy Cowley, our brilliant technology whiz, launched the first version of the Female Convicts database, and the Muster offered an opportunity for the descendants of convict women to record in the database their names and information about their female convict ancestors. The links with family historians continue to be crucial as we add more and more records to tell the stories of what happened once the women were free.

At the Muster we also launched Footsteps and Voices: an Historical Look into the Cascades Female Factory by Lucy Frost, with illustrations and design by Christopher Downes. The project, supported by a grant from the Co-operative Research Centre for Sustainable Tourism, was one of our many cross-over projects between university research and more general public outcomes. Footsteps and Voices was the first visitors’ guide to the
Cascades Factory, and proceeds from its continued sales are a major source of income for today’s Research Centre.

In the early years the Research Group continued to meet monthly at the Matron’s Cottage, bringing our lunches and sharing our research as we listened to papers. Membership grew, the parlour was too small to squeeze everyone in, and thanks to the generosity of Heritage Tasmania we moved our meetings into the elegant boardroom at their Macquarie Street headquarters. The format of presenting papers with plenty of time afterwards for discussion gave us an opportunity to learn from each other and to develop our writing and presentation skills in a demanding and yet supportive forum.

At the same time as we pursued our individual research interests, we also participated in our major collective research project, the creation of the database. In 2006 we applied to the Tasmanian Community Fund for what we called Phase 2 of the Female Family Founders’ Database, describing our long-term aim as ‘to create a unique resource for the Tasmanian community by bringing together in a single accessible database the records gathered from a multiplicity of public and private sources physically held in Tasmania, elsewhere in Australia, and overseas’.

Phase 2 of the project involved acquiring from the Archives Office of Tasmania microfilm copies of records relating to female convicts, so that they could be transcribed systematically by the volunteer members of the Female Factory Research Group. We were asking for money to purchase microfilm, a microfilm reader and data projector, and a computer for the transcribers. Our application was successful, and we set up a research room in the Matron’s Cottage where members could work in teams, one person reading from the microfilm reader and the other transcribing onto the computer. This was not many years ago and yet it seems another world, sitting in that dimly lit cold room, peering at microfilm. Now the records are digitised and the database is on a server. Colette McAlpine trains and organises transcribers from around Australia, and in the comfort of their own homes they can work on schedules to suit themselves. More important, to access the database does not require a trip to the Female Factory. Anyone, anywhere in the world, can join the Female Convicts Research Centre and look at the ever-expanding research it holds.

A big step forward in this process came in 2007 when Hamish Maxwell-Stewart and Janet McCalman applied successfully to the Australian Research Council for the Founders & Survivors project. Some of our members have been directly involved in the project, and all of us have benefitted from its expertise and its inclusion of our database, first on the University of Melbourne server and, from 2014, on the server at the University of Tasmania. Our connections with Founders & Survivors have brought intellectual benefits as well as practical support.

In 2010, the Cascades Female Factory was added to the World Heritage List, and the management of the historic site has moved from the not-for-profit organisation of a few individuals to the professional management afforded by the Port Arthur Historic Site Management Authority. No longer a sub-committee, the Research Group has grown self-confidently into a Research Centre, an independent organisation incorporated in March 2012. Twice a year we showcase our research in all-day seminars structured around themes, and throughout the year, day after day we add research to our website and its showpiece, the Female Convicts in Van Diemen’s Land Database.

In 2010 we established the Convict Women’s Press, and since then have published three books: Convict Lives: Women at Cascades Female Factory (2009), Convict Lives at the Ross Female Factory (2011) and Convict Lives at the Launceston Female Factory (2013). Later this year we will launch the fourth book in this series, about the George Town Female Factory.

We are already working on a book called From the Edges of Empire about women who were born or tried outside the British Isles, and—ever expanding our ambitious reach—this book will be accompanied by an electronic publication, a biographical dictionary with entries for each of the women including those sent to New South Wales!! We’re not at risk of running out of things to do, and we thrive on the new technologies which bring more and more archives into our reach, more and more opportunities to search for the convict women who are no longer invisible.

Emeritus Professor Lucy Frost is the author of the acclaimed Abandoned Women (Allen & Unwin, 2012)
The Female Convicts in Van Diemen’s Land database began ten years ago as an initiative of the Female Convicts Research Centre. It has grown enormously since then.

It was originally conceived as a database to contain essential information for any female convicts sent to Australia who lived in Van Diemen’s Land at any time. As such, it includes convicts initially transported to New South Wales who subsequently moved to Van Diemen’s Land—for example, those removed from Norfolk Island when the first settlement there closed—as well as female convicts transported directly to Van Diemen’s Land.

Another focus of the database was to link convicts to descendants and researchers. There are currently 13,705 convicts in the database, with 2878 having descendants or researchers listed.

Descendants contributed information and this was incorporated into the database. Some of them also contributed photos, and so the database also became a repository for images of convict women. We currently have photos of about 67 of the female convicts in the database.

Several years ago, it was agreed between the Female Convicts Research Centre and the Founders & Survivors Project that the Female Convicts in Van Diemen’s Land database would expand to become the repository of much of the data collected as part of the Founders & Survivors Project. As such, transcripts of records such as the Permissions to Marry, Musters, Description Lists, Indents (provided by Deborah Oxley), 1 in 25 sample of the Conduct Records, deaths under sentence, Hobart Town Gazette notices of freedoms, and Surgeon’s Journal sick list entries have been incorporated into the database.

In conjunction, diligent volunteers have been transcribing the convict records into the database, particularly description lists, indents, conduct records and surgeon’s journals. Some of these record sets are now complete and only need quality assurance. A list of what has been transcribed and by whom is maintained on the Female Convicts Research Centre website by our wonderful volunteers’ coordinator Colette McAlpine—see http://www.femaleconvicts.org.au/index.php/research/transcribing/transcription-register.

Many other records have been added by volunteer transcribers. These include punishment book records from the Cascades Female Factory, trial records (particularly those from Scotland), newspaper articles, petitions, births, marriages, deaths and other family information.

For the last couple of years, the Database has been hosted on the University of Melbourne server and so made available to researchers and transcribers via the Female Convicts Research Centre website. Any one registered at the website could access the Database. There are over 2000 registered users.

On 15 April 2014, the Database was moved from the University of Melbourne server to a server at the University of Tasmania (UTAS). It will be hosted there into the foreseeable future, still as part of the Founders & Survivors Project. Access to the database remains the same for researchers—registered members of the Female Convicts Research Centre can find details on how to access the Database at http://www.femaleconvicts.org.au/index.php/members/access-the-database.

Transcribers and anyone else who needs to be able to add or change information in the database need to be provided with a personal account name and password. If you have not already done so, please contact Trudy at trudy@researchtasmania.com.au to set up an account name and password.

Volunteers are always welcome to help us out with entering convict information in the Database. Colette leads a committed and enthusiastic team from all around the world, so if you wish to help out, please contact Colette at database@femaleconvicts.org.au.

Thank you to all the team at University of Melbourne who have supported the hosting of the Database there for the last few years—particularly to Janet McCalman, Rebecca Kippen, Sandra Silcot, Danielle Pullin and Dylan McCulloch.

Trudy Cowley explains....
In February four members of the Melbourne Founders & Survivors Life Course Study Team (the Ships Project), set off on a five-week tour of European research centres.

The plan was to take our raw findings and discuss them with a range of experts across the fields of digital humanities, data linkage, convict studies, historical demography, Irish history and life course studies.

The team comprised Rebecca Kippen who travelled with us for three weeks, Sandra Silcot our system designer, Len Smith our consultant demographer and data advisor, and Janet McCalman. Here is a quick report of what we did and the links for you to follow our footsteps.

Stop 1 Amsterdam
International Institute of Social History: Workshop on ‘Population Reconstruction’
Here we presented two papers: one technical and one giving an outline of the history of whole project. The workshop drew scholars from all over Europe where the reconstruction of historical populations is well advanced, using the often unique historical data sets created by governments and the Church since the C18th. These are primarily household and parish annual censuses or military records. You can see our papers on the workshop website along with others that might interest you.

It was then via Eurostar to...

Stop 2 London.
In London we presented at the King’s College Department of Digital Humanities, http://www.kcl.ac.uk/index.aspx where Sandra Silcot had attended a workshop on the Text Encoding Initiative in 2008. This is the technology she used to build the FAS pub search database. She and Len had a private meeting with Dr John Bradley from that department as well. On Friday 28 February Janet participated in a round table at the Gerald Aylmer Seminar at the Institute for Historical Research organised by National Archives. Titled ‘The Global Archive’, the various papers and discussions explored the potential of global linkages, such as we have done with the convicts, for many projects that involve British Imperial records. You can see the program at http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/events/gerald-aylmer-seminar-2014.htm

While in London, we travelled first to Cambridge and second to Leicester, to give presentations and receive feedback from fellow historians. In Cambridge we spoke at the History Faculty and were hosted by the Cambridge Group for the History of Population and Social Structure, which is now spread across the twin disciplines of history and geography. http://www.geog.cam.ac.uk/research/centres/campop/

The Cambridge Group pioneered the use of volunteer genealogists to reconstitute the English population before the census from parish records. While they are now dependent entirely on grant funding, they continue to do outstanding work on historical epidemiology and social structures. Professor Simon Szreter, who has long been a supporter of both Rebecca and Janet’s work, was also very interested in our findings on the health of women who had been ‘on the town’. He is the leading scholar in the UK on sexuality and the fertility transition and is currently working on scoping the extent of venereal disease in the nineteenth century as a possible brake upon population growth. You can hear Simon talk about the role of history and about the origins of English welfare on: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AOOXRqymow

In Cambridge with our host Dr Alice Reid

At the top we see members of the team surveying Co Wexford, Ireland, on a rare day off.

Sandra Silcot insists on staying behind the lens and she was the unofficial tour photographer.
At Leicester University our host was Professor Clare Anderson, who is an historian of convicts across the British Empire. Her PhD thesis was on Mauritianis who were transported to Van Diemen’s Land. 
http://www2.le.ac.uk/departments/history/people/canderson

She is the principal investigator of a huge project funded by the European Research Council (2013–2018) on the Carceral Archipelago: transnational circulations in global perspective, 1415–1960. The research team is working on the Caribbean, West Africa, Gibraltar, Russia, Portugal, Latin America, Japan, Australia and the Indian Ocean. Go to the website to find out more: http://www2.le.ac.uk/departments/history/research/grants/CArchipelago/CArchipelago

Stop 3: Dublin
We travelled by train and ferry from London to Dublin, which was slow and very rough at sea. We spent six days in Dublin, catching up on research grant applications and reports, as well as seeing the great historian of famine, Cormac Ó Gráda. See his Black ’47 and Beyond http://press.princeton.edu/titles/6621.html

We presented a paper on the Irish convicts to the School of History and Archives at University College Dublin. http://www.ucd.ie/history/. This was a most rewarding seminar because our hosts were able to contribute so much contextual knowledge about Irish prisons, mental hospitals and the Famine.

One of the most important outcomes of the Ships Project has been the uncovering of a hidden history of the Irish Famine and the contrast among those Irish convicts transported from outside Ireland, transported before the Famine and transported after it had struck. The Irish convicts transported to Van Diemen’s Land were very different from those transported to NSW up to 1840, when Irish transports were re-directed to Van Diemen’s Land. To date only Lloyd Robson in his Convict Settlers of Australia (1965 and 1994), which used Tasmanian records as well as NSW records, had begun to discern the Famine story hidden in Tasmania.

Janet has decided to push on and finish the Irish convicts and prepare a short book for publication in Ireland, backed by a website of the convicts researched. Garry McLoughlin, Jenny Wells, Colette McAlpine, Nola Beagley, Teddie Oates, Margy Inglis, Steve Rhodes and Maureen Mann are almost there with their ships. Only 1 female and 3 male ships left to do!

The Dublin sojourn was very noisy, coinciding with the Six Nations Rugby Series and staying in an Irish music pub, but it was very informative and interesting. We even got a day in the country in Co. Wexford.

Stop 4: Oxford
Another ferry trip, smooth this time, and a long train journey across the English Midlands with many changes, brought us to Oxford for two nights, where our host was Dr Deb Oxley at All Souls College: http://www.allsouls.ox.ac.uk/people.php?personid=47. Hamish has mentioned Deb in his article on future developments for Founders & Survivors, but I do urge you also to look at her Tawney Lecture that he recommends. Her work on BMI and calories available in the economy for pregnant and lactating women during the nineteenth century is alarming.


Deb organised a wonderful seminar, with the key people we needed to consult in Oxford, plus a number of expatriate friends who have been there many years. This seminar was rigorous but very helpful and confirmed much of our thinking about early life influences and the experience of children. So much of what happened to convicts in their time under sentence and in later life had roots in childhood deprivation and abuse.

Stop 5: Edinburgh
In Edinburgh we had dinner with Dr Ian Duffield who taught African history at the University of Edinburgh, but who is also interested in convicts. It was he who inspired Hamish and our James Bradley to become interested in Tasmania convict studies. He co-edited with James the book Representing Convicts: new perspectives on convict forced labour (Leicester 1997).

Dr Ian Duffield, Edinburgh
Janet gave a public lecture at the invitation of the Scottish Centre for Diaspora Studies at the University of Edinburgh: [http://www.shca.ed.ac.uk/centres/scdt/](http://www.shca.ed.ac.uk/centres/scdt/). Three new volunteers came forward, to assist in the imaging of the Scottish indents. A large audience listened carefully to a recital of the moral shortcomings of Scottish convicts in Van Diemen’s Land: who were the tallest, the most literate and skilled of all the convicts, but also the worst in behaviour and health. (Except for Highlanders, of course, who like the rural Irish, had the largest families.)

We had caught up in Amsterdam with Dr Eildh Garrett and the team from the Digitising Scotland project: [http://www.lscs.ac.uk/projects/digitising-scotland/](http://www.lscs.ac.uk/projects/digitising-scotland/). This is an extraordinary project that will digitise all the births, deaths and marriages in Scotland from 1855 (some 18 million individuals) for a massive health and demography dataset. Eildh and Lee Williamson were both helpful in understanding Scottish naming practices such as changes to given names (Jean/Janet/Jessie being interchangeable) and nick names or “T” names where people in the East of Scotland and the Orkneys would be named after their boats or businesses.

**Stop 6: Umeå, Sweden**

Here we spent a week with our friend and colleague, Dr Per Axelsson at the University of Umeå in northern Sweden. It was very cold, there was snow, but there was light as the days were lengthening. Umeå pioneered the reconstitution of populations from the parish censuses collected annually by the pastors when they tested their parishioners on literacy and doctrine. Swedish datasets go back 250 years and these are enabling ground-breaking work on intergenerational effects: [http://www.ddb.umu.se/english/](http://www.ddb.umu.se/english/).

Janet gave a seminar on the convict work, and Len and Sandra participated in a workshop on digital humanities. It was then home, with an overnight stay in Amsterdam to break the journey, while the city was closed down for President Obama.

The Grand Tour achieved its aim of providing us with plentiful critical feedback and helped us clarify our ideas.
FOUNDERS & SURVIVORS

Colette’s Corner

Descriptions of Old Hobart in the 1830s

found by Colette McAlpine, FAS and FCRC in the Mercury, 12 February 1936

OLD HOBART

105 Years Ago

Interesting Early Account
(By Our Travelling Correspondent.)

From Dr. James Ross' "Hobart Town Almanack" of 1830 are extracted the following interesting particulars of Hobart 105 years ago:

"Hobart Town. - The stranger, as he sails up the Derwent, which is perfectly safe for shipping, will observe on each side several cultivated spots of small extent appearing among the trees. Having cast anchor in the harbour, which is called Sullivan's Cove, close to the town, Mulgrave Battery, with the residence of the port officer, at the water's edge, appears to the left, and Mount Nelson in the distance. Bordering also on the water is Cottage Green, the residence of the Rev. R. Knopwood, the first chaplain of the colony, also the villas of Mr. Read and Mr. Moodie, and the burying ground: also on a fine commanding eminence the Military Barracks. Directly in front of the harbour is Government House, with pleasure grounds pleasantly sloping down to the water’s edge.

"The public landing-place is on a small pier, or jetty, on what was formerly called Hunter's Island, but now connected with the mainland by a long stone causeway. Here the principal merchants of the town have erected several spacious and substantial warehouses, among which may be mentioned the very extensive stores of the Leith Australian Company, at present let to Government as an ordnance store. On the right is the town rivulet, and beyond it, on a promontory called Macquarie Point, the engineers' stores, or lumber yard, where the blacksmiths, carpenters, and other mechanics in the employment of Government are always at work. On this point the troops are reviewed on field days, and some of the inhabitants of the town occasionally recreate themselves at the game of cricket and other outdoor amusements.

"A pleasant walk conducts up the bank of the river to the Government garden, which, during last year, has undergone much improvement, and been considerably extended under the superintendence of Mr. Davidson. A hot-house and green-houses are now in progress, and many new plants and useful exotics have been added since, our last publication. Near it is the site of the intended new Government House.

EARLY MACQUARIE STREET.

"The first street the traveller enters after leaving the wharf is Macquarie Street, in which are situated the Government House, the Commissariat Stores, the Courthouse, the gaol, St David's. Church, the gaolhouse, and many of the principal public offices.

"St. David's Church has now been built about 10 years, and about two years ago it underwent a complete re-pair, being neatly covered with stucco, and the grounds round it tastefully laid out, while the interior was wholly re-modelled into single pews. The pulpit is a handsome piece of workmanship, made of the timber called lightwood, a species of wood peculiar to the island. In 1824 a very good and full-toned organ was erected, chiefly at the expense of subscribers, inhabitants of the town. A handsome large clock, with two faces, is now about to be erected,
instead of the one hitherto in use. Service is performed in this church four times on Sundays - in the morning at 9, chiefly for the benefit of such of the prisoner class as are in private service with families in the town, or who hold the indulgence of a ticket-of-leave; at 11, for the inhabitants of the town, when the military in garrison march to Divine service from the Bar-racks, with the band, playing; at 4 in the afternoon, and again at 6 in the evening. The crowded and most respectable congregation of this church, and the exemplary manner in which public worship is conducted, especially at the forenoon service, most agreeably surprise the stranger who, after a voyage of four or five months, lands in this remote and, till within a few years, wholly uncultivated region. The churchwardens contemplate improving the galleries, so as to accommodate a larger number, the Government having lately removed the prisoners in the public works, who used to occupy them, to the barracks, where they have also the privilege of hearing public worship.

"The Presbyterian and the Wesleyan chapels, both in Melville Street, besides the Roman Catholic, are also neat buildings, and do credit to the town, not only as respectable structures, but also, from the regular and orderly manner in which they are attended by their numerous congregations.

FIRST SHOPS.
"In front of Government House, and at right angles to Macquarie Street, is Elizabeth Street. It conducts to the Main Road, which leads to the interior, and in it, and Liverpool Street are some of the first shops in the town. The other streets, branching from these are rapidly vying with them in importance, and contain many respectable buildings. The ground on which the town is built is of unequal surface the rivulet running through the centre. It already extends over seven hills, as many as ancient Rome, and covers upwards of a square mile. There are several flour mills on the banks of the rivulet.

"A romantic walk leads up the left bank to the foot of Mount Wellington, passing the female orphan school, Mr. Hackett's distillery, Dynnyrne (formerly erected as a distillery, but recently rebuilt, as a suburban residence by the present proprietor (Mr. R. L. Murray), Mr. Hodgson's tannery, the new female penitentiary, and the saw-mills of Messrs. MacIntosh and Degraves and Mr. Stokell, near which is the rocky fall, called the Cascade.

"From Elizabeth Street the buildings extend nearly a mile on the Main Road to the interior, the furthermost of which are the villa of Mr. T. Y. Lowes, that of Mrs. McTavish, the handsome architectural structure of Dr. Scott, and the elegant cottage of Mr. Emmett, on this side of which about half a mile out of town, nearly opposite; the Dallas Arms Inn, kept by Mr. Morris, is Mr. Shoobridge's hop-garden, called Providence Valley.
Do you want your convict’s original record transcribed?

The Port Arthur Historic Sites Resource Centre offers a range of services:

Research
We can provide copies of records relating to Tasmanian Convicts held at the Tasmanian Archive and Heritage Office. They can include:
- Conduct/Police record
- Indent (which may provide details of relatives)
- Physical description
- Appropriation list
- Surgeon’s report (of the voyage to the colony)
- Application for permission to marry.

We can check a variety of indexes for further reference to a convict and can conduct a name search to determine whether a person arrived in Tasmania as a convict.

Transcriptions
For those having difficulty deciphering the abbreviations often found on conduct records, indents or description lists, we can assist by producing a typed transcription.

Fees
Minimum Fee – $35 (includes up to 1 hour search/transcription time).
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