



ON TRACK

Newsletter of the Mid Gippsland Family History Society Incorporated

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SPAM TRAP: replace [at] with @

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Website: <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~mgfhs>

Meetings:

Meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of each Month, except December, at the Meeting Room, entrance via the rear door of the Moe Library, Kirk Street Moe. Our Library will be open at 7pm with meetings commencing at approximately 7.30pm.

Membership fees 2007/2008: Single \$25; Family \$30 payable in July.

Library Hours:

Our Library is open to the public on *Wednesday Afternoons between 1pm and 4pm*. Volunteers from our group are available to assist with research at this time. The Library is also available to members at all times that the Meeting room has not been booked by other organizations. (Check with the Public Library Staff) The library is available to members on the first Saturday of each month.

Library Fees: Gold Coin donation per visit for non – members.

Research:

There is a minimum research fee of \$10, plus a stamped, self addressed business size envelope, for any enquiries requiring research, with additional charges for large amounts of photocopying and/or postage. Enquires should be clear and concise.

Cemetery Lookups

MGFHS charge a fee for lookups in their cemetery's.

For \$2 per name we will provide you with the register details plus a transcription of the head stone if there is one.

Please send a business size SSAE with your enquiry to:

The Research Officers, P.O. Box 767, Morwell, 3840

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Convict in the Ancestral Closet, by Elizabeth Ann Curtain (nee James)

Basic Information for Beginning Your Family History at MGFHS

Some simple rules and hints to get you started

First; decide how you are going to record your information. Paper or Computer? Most people use a mixture of the two. Buy yourself a good genealogy program or download a free program from the internet. Start off with a large note book or loose leaf folder. One page for each person is a good starting point. Blank 'Pedigree Charts' and 'Family Group Record' sheets are available to Members for photo copying charges. Please ask a committee member to show you where they are kept.

Many of our members use these computer programs. Help is available thru our mentor program.

1. Family Tree Maker www.familytreemaker.com/ available locally from Harvey Norman or Officeworks for around \$100.
2. Personal Ancestral File (PAF) www.familysearch.org/ Free to download from the internet.

When beginning Family History the first rule is to research backwards from your self.

You know yourself best. You know your birth date and facts about yourself better than anyone else.

Then Parents, Grandparents, Gr-Grandparents, 2nd Gr-Grandparents, 3rd, Gr-Grandparents etc. Add your own spouse, children and grandchildren if you have them. Siblings, along with Aunts' & Uncles will follow naturally as you go. You should try and stick to one line when beginning. Long time researchers will tell you that that is very hard, if not impossible, to do.

The basic information needed for every person in any genealogy system is FULL names, BIRTH date & place, DEATH date & place plus MARRIAGE details, i.e. spouse name, date and place of marriage; PARENTS names Burial details are also very useful for furthering your research. Record your SOURCE information.

Your parents' details will be easy to gather as should be your Grandparents. Interview your relatives but remember that while one aunty might tell you her brothers names was Joe another might call the same person Willie!

With the new privacy laws you need to try and get back about 100 years with verbal information. Don't worry if there's no one to ask. You can still trace your lineage but it will be just a little harder.

Tips:

When entering information you should always use MAIDEN names for women.

Many people prefer CAPITAL letters for SURNAMES, i.e. SMITH, James Robert.

List dates as 05 Jul 1951 rather than 5/7/51. Not all countries have the same day, month, & year format.

List places as Town/City, County/State, and Country. Use Chapman Codes where possible i.e. Moe, VIC AUS. This method will save you a lot of time and ink. Check our website for an explanation of these codes.

The information on a Death Certificate is not provided by the deceased, so isn't always accurate.

The Birth Certificate (AUS) of the youngest child in a family should list all the previous siblings with their ages.

When using VIC BDM indexes the date referred to is usually the registration date and not necessarily the event date.

Check the library catalogue to see if we have a publication that might help you in a particular area of your research. *Check* Dawn Cowley's Index of spare BDM certificates. *Check* the 'Genealogical Research Directories' (GRD) There are a number of copies of these in our library, they provides lists of research names from around the world, along with the researchers name & address.

Talk to other MGFHS members to see if anyone is planing a trip to the Public Records Office, (PRO) or the State Library of Victoria (SLV). The Genealogy Society of Victoria (GSV) and the Australian Institute of Genealogy Studies (AIGS) are also treasure troves of information and records.

Need some help? Call into the research room on any Wednesday and ask questions of the friendly volunteers who will be only too pleased to find answers for you.

Email Volunteer Help; [macore\[at\]tadaust.org.au](mailto:macore@tadaust.org.au) ; Your inquiry will be passed to someone who can help you.

GROUP OUTING

**FAMILY DAY
LUNCH AT THE MCNABS**

SATURDAY 28TH MARCH AT 12 NOON

MEAT PROVIDED, BYO SALAD OR DESERT TO SHARE

Email Peter for directions
[p&jmcnab\[at\]net-tech.com.au](mailto:p&jmcnab[at]net-tech.com.au)

GROUP OUTING

'Blessing of the Bonnets'
2009 Melbourne Tribute
Saturday 2nd May, 2pm

At the Church of St. Peter and St. Paul
Located on the corner of Dorcas and Montague Streets

SOUTH MELBOURNE.

Take the train to Flinders Street, then the #1 tram to Dorcas St.

Updated information
<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~mgfhs/convictbonnets.htm>
<http://www.christinahenri.com.au/>

Email Kaye closer to the date for travel times; macore[at]tadaust.org.au

'Fire Ready'

What would you do with your family history files if faced with a fire?

Do you have a fire plan? Are you ready to leave your home with just a minutes notice?

With the recent bushfires around our neighbourhood's it's a good time to plan just how you would handle your Genealogy Records in the case of a fire in your home.

Do you use a computer or paper? Both?

I have a book case full of family history folders, none less important than another. At a moments notice I would have to leave the lot. Then there is the computer, my Family Tree program and surname folders are all on that. I don't have time to unplug the hard drive. I'd have to leave that.

I had a fire plan. Just go, grab my hand bag, that always (hopefully) has my wallet, keys and phone in it, and get out. I am insured and while my house is full of 'stuff', there's nothing that isn't replaceable, EXCEPT for my Family History, 10 years of research.

It's too late when the alarms go off to think what you would do in an emergency.

Do it now.

Back up your computer files and folders, copy the important papers you simply can't bear to loose and take to a friend or relatives for safekeeping, 2 external places would be better.

I copied my Computer files on to a 4 gig USB and I now have that in my purse.

I plan on getting another one to send to my daughter. Now time permits I can add my scanned insurance papers and account details to it as well. Even all my "My Pictures" files fit on that one 4 gig USB.

Whatever you decide your plan is, get to it. There's no time like the present!

Have you given Dawn Cowley copies of your BDM certificates? Do that too.

'Back up, back up, back up'. We hear that all the time. There is no point in backing up your files if you can't get to those backed up files. Have you left those CD ROM's next to your computer?

'It a good plan, to have a plan and never use it, than to need it and not have it!'

IN THE LIBRARY - KAWAREN INDEXES

NSW Pioneers Index, Pioneer Series – 1888 B.D.M.

NSW Pioneers Index, Federation Series 1889 – 1918 B.D.M.

NSW Pioneers Index, Between the Wars 1919 – 1945 D.M.

The NSW KAWAREN (Dos) disks seem to have fallen out of favour with members since the advent of the NSW Registry of Births Deaths and Marriages on line indexes.

<http://www.bdm.nsw.gov.au/familyHistory/historicalIndexes.htm>

Births 1788 to 1907 Deaths 1788 to 1977 Marriages 1788 to 1957

While the web site is very user friendly the old dos disks have fallen back into favour with researchers as they allow for an extended time line. Births to 1918

HOW TO USE the KAWAREN INDEXES

The KAWAREN INDEXES use a DOS program; as such we have to go back to basics.

Forget the mouse and use the key board, mostly the F keys, arrow keys and enter.

This is a basic name search for James Milligan, using the Federation Index.

As this program uses an inserted disk, you may have to wait a second or to between each step. Patience is necessary.

Insert the disk

Click START

Click MY COMPUTER

Double Click on the hard drive icon, usually C:

Look for the folder KARAWEN

Double Click to open. Or right click and choose OPEN

Look for the file NSW FED

Double Click to open.

There are 3 options: 1. BIRTH: 2. DEATH: 3. MARRIAGES:

Use the up or down arrow keys to choose an option

I will use 1. BIRTHS

Press the Enter key. Enter again.

The F3 select window will open. Surname is highlighted. Press Enter to enter a Surname or use the up, or down arrow keys to pick other options. Fill in the Search form. After each option is entered press Enter to return to the F3 Select menu.

Choose Surname. Press Enter. Fill in the form i.e. MILLIGAN Press Enter.

Press the down arrow to choose Given Name(s). Press Enter.

Fill in the Given Name(s) form. i. e. JAMES. Press Enter.

On the body of your screen, 'The page', you will see the headings:

Set	#Found	Page
1	167	
2	26024	

So there are 167 Milligan's and 26024 James's. You need to COMBINE the sets to see just how many James Milligan's there are.

Press the F5 key to show Set options

Use the down arrow to choose Combine Sets.

Press Enter.

Now you have the 'select an operator field form'. You want to combine MILLIGAN and JAMES.

Choose Combine with AND:

Press Enter.

Press 1 then Enter. Press 2 then Enter. Press Enter again.

If you read the screen message it will tell you what to do.

Enter a name for your set. Anything will do. I'll call mine JASMIL

Now on the page, you will see you have added to the headings:

Set	#Found	Page
1	167	
2	26024	
3	4	Combine: JASMIL

You have now found 4 James Milligan's born in NSW between 1889 and 1918.

To view the information on these people use the F5 menu.

Press F5. Use the arrow keys to go to 'Display a Set'. Press Enter.

Enter the number of the set to be used. That's 3. Press Enter.

Choose your option. I'll use 'Display by default order'. Press Enter.

I always use 'Complete record' which shows; Surname: Given names: Index Year: Father: Mother: Registration Place, Year and Number.

Choose Complete Record Press Enter.

Use the right arrow key to scroll thru the found records, the left arrow key to go back.

If you have too many records you might want to add more options from the F3 Select menu.

Press F3 to choose more options.

You may want to export your set?

Press F5

Choose 'Export a Set' by using an arrow key. Press Enter

Enter the number of the set to be used

The information on the 4 James Milligan's is in set 3.

Enter the set number i. e. 3 Press Enter

Export Format

I usually choose the first option but you may want to try them all out!

Comma Delimited. Press Enter

Export by Default order

Again I choose the top option, but you can choose any Press Enter

Complete Record (Why not :~)) Press Enter

Enter a name for your set. I'll use MILJAS Press Enter

You will see your set exporting.

Your set is exported

Press any key to continue, I use Enter.

To find your exported set go to the KARAWEN folder.

Double click on the newly created file MILJAS.

I have Microsoft Excel on my computer, 'comma delimited' exports in this format for me.

Surname:	Given:	Year:	Father:	Mother:	Registration Place,	Year	Number
MILLIGAN	JAMES H	1894	JAMES W	SARAH	COONABARABRAN	1894	10724
MILLIGAN	JAMES H	1898	JAMES W	SARAH	COONABARABRAN	1898	2529
MILLIGAN	JAMES J	1899	JOSEPH	ELLEN	REDFERN	1899	24519
MILLIGAN	JAMES W	1902	JAMES W	ALICE	SINGLETON	1902	16730

Choose another export option if you wish.

You can access the Help menu of each area by clicking F1.

I.E. if you want to know more about Exporting first click F5 to show the Sets menu where Export a Set is displayed then F1 for help in that area. Use the PgUp or PgDn keys to scroll to that section, or the arrow keys.

At the end of your session please copy and remove your files as they will be deleted from the MGFHS computers.

Rate Book Transcriptions - Traralgon

The following surnames were found in the Traralgon Rate Books from 1901-1910
Contact the Research Officers at MGFHS for a lookup, see the front page for details.

Adams	Addis	Alexander	Alliod	Alloid	Anderson
Andrews	Archbold	Argent	Armstrong	Ashman	Austin
Baell	Bailey	Bain	Baird	Balderson	Ball
Banks	Barbor	Barbour	Barker	Baron	Barr
Bartles	Bartlett	Barton	Bath	Batten	Batty
Bawden	Bayley	Bean	Beard	Beardmore	Beare
Beaton	Beck	Becker	Beckett	Bell	Bennett
Berg	Betteson	Bicknell	Bickwell	Bilson	Binns
Bioyd	Bird	Birkley	Birtles	Black	Blackburn
Blair	Blanksby	Bleakley	Bliss	Blyth	Blythe
Boardman	Boasman	Bodman	Bodycomb	Bohlman	Bohlmann
Boland	Bolding	Boles	Bolger	Borby	Bottino
Bottins	Bourke	Bouscarle	Bowden	Bowen	Boyd
Bradbury	Brady	Bray	Breed	Breen	Brereton
Brethon	Brewer	Brinsmead	Brown	Bruce	Bruton
Bryant	Burge	Burgess	Burkes	Burnes	Burnet
Burnett	Burstall	Burton	Butler	Butwell	Calvin
Cameron	Campbell	Canfield	Canny	Carey	Carter
Cassidy	Catterall	Caufield	Causey	Chaffe	Chaffer
Chalman	Chappel	Chappell	Chaundy	Chenall	Cherry
Chester	Child	Chilvers	Chinn	Clark	Clarke
Clarkson	Cleaver	Clement	Cleveland	Clues	Cluskey
Clusky	Coates	Cochrane	Cole	Coleman	Coles
Collie	Collins	Comwool	Cone	Conley	Conn
Connell	Connelly	Cook	Cookson	Cooper	Copeland
Corcoran	Cornell	Coslin	Costin	Couch	Coulson
Coupar	Cowie	Cowley	Coxley	Crabtree	Crang
Cranwell	Crawford	Crawnwell	Crisp	Cross	Croutes
Crow	Crowe	Crown	Cubbin	Cubbins	Culhane
Cumming	Cummins	Curran	Currie	Dalrymple	Daly
Daniells	Daniels	Davidson	Davie	Davis	Dawson
Deans	Denmead	Depple	Depler	Dickenson	Dickerson
Dickinson	Dinmead	Dobbin	Dodd	Donnelly	Doorty
Doran	Douglas	Dove	Dowling	Downie	Draffin
Drane	Drysdale	Duck	Duff	Duffy	Dunbar
Duncan	Duncanson	Dunford	Dusting	Dwyer	Edney
Edwards	Edwick	Eleton	Elliott	Ellis	Elston
Endall	English	Ennis	Ericksen	Erickson	Etheridge
Ethridge	Evans	Ewart	Ewert	Farmer	Faulkner
Feldt	Feore	Fergus	Ferguson	Fermio	Fick
Finn	Firman	Firmin	Fisher	Fislier	Fithie
Flewin	Foster	Fraatz	Francoe	Francois	Frood
Fryatt	Fryer	Fuge	Fullerton	Galbraith	Gales
Gallagher	Galloway	Galtress	Gates	Gavin	George
Gibbon	Gibbs	Gibson	Gilbert	Gillion	Gilmour
Goodman	Gorman	Graham	Gray	Green	Greenwood
Grimme	Grogan	Groves	Grubb	Guest	Gunn
Guntzler	Hagenauer	Hales	Hall	Halliday	Hammet
Handley	Hannah	Harding	Harris	Harvey	Haughton
Hawbrook	Heale	Heaney	Hempel	Henden	Hender
Henderson	Henry	Henson	Hepburn	Hewett	Hewin
Heywood	Hilburn	Hillis	Hinde	Hoare	Hoddinol

Hogan	Hogg	Holcroft	Holden	Holt	Hooley
Hore	Horne	Horue	Hoskings	Hoskins	Howe
Howell	Huffer	Hughenden	Hughes	Hughesdon	Hulme
Hunt	Hunter	Ikin	Iseppi	Jacgung	Jacjung
Jacqung	Jamieson	Jarvie	Jensen	Jeuser	Johnson
Johnston	Jonas	Jones	Jordan	Judd	Keely
Keith	Kelleher	Kellerher	Kelly	Kenyon	Keys
King	Kinna	Kirwan	Kirwin	Klein	Klien
Kyne	Lade	Ladson	Lamb	Lambe	Lambells
Lancaster	Lane	Lang	Langley	Lansdown	Larkin
Lawless	Lawson	Leach	Legrand	Leopold	Leslie
Leurs	Liddiard	Liddy	Lindner	Lindsay	Little
Lockwood	Long	Lord	Loughnan	Love	MacCubbin
MacDonald	Macfarlan	Mackay	Mackey	Maher	Malleson
Manning	Mansfield	Mapleson	Marnell	Marriage	Marsden
Marsh	Martin	Marwell	Mason Mast	Matcott	Mates
Matheson	Mathieson	Matthews	Maxfield	Maxwell	Mayall Mayne
Mayze	McAuley	McBean	McCarthy	McCubbin	McDonald
McEwan	McEwen	McFarlane	McGarland	McGauran	McGowan
McGrath	McGuaran	McHardy	McIndoe	McInnes	McIntosh
McIvor	McLachlan	McLean	McMahon	McNabb	McNair
McPhail	McRae	Meek	Miesen	Miller	Milligan
Missen	Mitchell	Molton	Moore	Moorfield	Morgan
Morgons	Morrison	Motten	Motton	Muckle	Mugavin
Mullane	Munnerly	Murie	Murphy	Murray	Myall
Neilson	Nelson	Neve	Newman	Nicholls	Nichols
Nielson	North	Nugent	Nuttall	Oates	O'Brien
O'Connor	O'Dea	Olive	O'Meara	O'Neil	Onley
O'Shea	Owen	Owens	Pale	Palethorp	Palmer
Parker	Parrot	Pate	Paterson	Patethorp	Paulet
Paulett	Payneter	Paynter	Peale	Pearce	Peart
Peatland	Peiper	Pentland	Perrett	Perrott	Peterson
Pettit	Phillips	Piera	Plant	Pope	Portch
Powell	Pratt	Price	Pryde	Punch	Purcell
Pyke	Quadroy	Raffaele	Rankin	Rathgen	Rathjen
Redman	Redpath	Reeves	Reid	Reynolds	Rice
Rickett	Riggall	Ritches	Ritchie	Roach	Roberts
Robertson	Robins	Robinson	Rogers	Roib	Rooney
Rose	Roth	Rowell	Rushen	Russell	Ryan
Rygall	Sambell	Sanders	Sandford	Sarah	Saunders
Scales	Schier	Scott	Scougall	Seaton	Sergeant
Serjeant	Seuis	Shanahan	Shaw	Shiells	Shiels
Skews	Sligh	Smith	Spowart	Spring	Stammers
Standing	Steinart	Stevens	Stevenson	Stewart	Stott
Streiter	Stuckey	Sutton	Swift	Tanna	Tanner
Temby	Thomas	Thompson	Thomson	Tillobon	Tillotson
Tomlinson	Toner	Tonkin	Tory	Touzel	Trew
Trood	Trueman	Truman	Turnbull	Turner	Tuu
Tymms	Uprichard	Upson	Vance	Wacker	Wade
Wait	Waite	Walker	Walsh	Ward	Waters
Watson	Webb	Wells	Wess	West	Whalley
Whelan	White	Whitelaw	Whitney	Wicks	Widdis
Wigg	Wilkes	Wilkinson	Wilks	Williams	Wilson
Wing	Wishart	Witton	Wolf	Wolfe	Wolfenden
Wolfendon	Womersley	Womersly	Woodward	Woodyatt	Woolf
Wright	Wykes	Yates	Yeates	Yeats	Zorn

Mid Gippsland Family History Society Inc.
Writing Competition 2007

THE TAME AND JAMES FAMILIES - A MYSTERY UNRAVELLED
- A CONVICT IN THE ANCESTRAL CLOSET.

By Elizabeth Ann Curtain (nee James)

My grandfather Commander Frederick Ross James RN RAN OBE was a man with a lot of secrets, but one of the biggest of all was his own family's origins and history. My father, Henry Sandeman James (1936-) and myself knew hardly anything about our particular branch of the James Family's history and connections in Australia, let alone many surnames, besides the Kent's, connected to them.

Bearing all this in mind, back in the year 2004, my father and I decided to embark on a voyage of exploration and discovery. We finally wanted to know who on earth our ancestors were and where they had come from and why and basically who we were – at last.

Many Australians have a reasonable working knowledge of their pioneering ancestors or at least their direct line or own surname. We had none. We were merrily steering our way through life like a ship without a rudder. A tall ship, billowing in full white sail against a clear blue sky but totally directionless and sinking fast. The past and all possible connection to it seemed to be disappearing before our eyes. After all, (as we discovered later) it has quite a grounding or anchoring effect to know just “who you are” in the turbulent seas of life. As an ancient Chinese proverb would say “to neglect to know one's ancestors, is to be being a brook without a stream or a river without a source” My grandfather apparently believed that my father should remain adrift in the vast ocean of family history knowledge and eventually become a caste away. He appeared to treat my father as though he had been an adoptee or an orphan. He seemed to actively seek a complete segregation from the James family, that family was never to be mentioned, let alone contacted or associated with.

So whilst my father knew all about his mothers side of the family in copious detail, his father's was largely one great and marvellous mystery. Grandpa Frederick Ross James 23/7/1903 (St John's Avenue Camberwell, Melb, Vic)-20/7/1975 (Clifton Springs/Drysdale, Vic) was a very odd individual in many respects. Contemporaries who had known him in the Royal Australian Navy referred to him as resembling “an aquatic colonel blimp” stomping his way in an officious fashion around the Officer Training School of HMAS Cerberus otherwise known as Flinders Naval Base. He seemed to be proud of the fact that he had all the answers and all the questions as well, as far as his James ancestry went. And nobody else needed to know. He had joined the RAN in January of 1917 and in typical Navy as the “Silent Service” style he later took all this classified information and secret family knowledge to the grave with him. No further correspondence was to be entered into.

In fact any mention by my father when he was growing up of the James family or his grandfather Charles Frederick James (1868-1935) in particular, brought out a red-faced puffed-up response from Grandpa Fred. My father's mother Claudina (nee Callaway 1906-64) would break in with “he (Fred) once had a huge fight with his father and never spoke to him again”. Fred would then rave on about the marvels of the Reverend Samuel Chambers Kent ad infinitum – his mother's father. Terrific! There endeth the family history lesson on the James's and other associates, each time. Very convenient-but what's this behaviour hiding?

My suspicions were naturally raised that something rather odd was going on here. This “angry penguin” response of Grandpa Fred's looked to me to be perhaps masking some sort of conspiratorial cover-up or subterfuge of some kind. Most people, even if they don't like them, like to discuss their own parents with their own children. This guy was a bit weird, his responses to simple direct family questions, quite extraordinary, well right out of the ball park really. Also, every time that my grandmother Claudina would loudly and roundly announce that “There are no convicts in our family” my father would observe my grandfather firstly quietly cringe and then chime in with his usual dissertation on the wonders of the Reverend Samuel Chambers Kent -as though the guy was his “only” ancestor.

The real break though in the search for our origins for Dad and myself was the handing over of my Grandfather Fred Ross James's papers after his second wife (widow) Irene Pearl (nee Rayham m. 17/3/1967 Registry Office Sydney) death on the 20th of September 2003 in Clifton Springs/Drysdale near Geelong Victoria.

This revealed that his father Charles Frederick James had been born in Port Albert, Victoria. This proved to be a vital piece of information that Dad had either forgotten or his awareness was only partial. His memory had the guy at Brighton, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia (on a farm if you please), then Camperdown or Port Welshpool. At least the last one was getting close. I then had visions of him being a whaler or something along those lines. This was based on the fact that as a thirteen year old my father and his parents had come back from Sydney in 1949 via the coast road through East Gippsland and stopped their car (a new Rover) at a tiny old graveyard. While he, my dad, stayed back at the car, Fred and Claudina had found the grave of what looked to be some sort of relative or ancestor.

(This former "Port Albert" experience of my dad's was a memory long forgotten but later vividly and suddenly recalled.) Wow, we thought, Port Albert, that's just down the road. So one sunny Saturday afternoon in early January 2004 off we went down to Port Albert. I wasn't really into family history at that point - so there really wasn't any plan of attack. This is probably how it is for most first time history researchers. The pair of us - Dad and myself just wandered into the Maritime Museum in Port Albert. Goodness only knows what we were expecting to find. I think I had some sort of vague idea in my mind that these guys might be able to shed light on cemetery records or where people had dwelt in the town. And yes "bingo" from underneath the counter the elderly gentleman pulled out a large spiral bound royal blue covered book written by a local by the name of Gwen O'Callaghan called "From Clonmel to Federation" (c 2001) And "wammo" this was my/our first glimpse of our James and Tame family ancestors. (Dawn Cowley was able to detail these even further about a month or two later when I joined the MGFHS - really rounding them out)

The real ironies for me/us later on were that Gwen's husband John O'Callaghan turned out to be a distant (3rd) cousin of mine on the (Victor) Joseph Clement Deschamp(s) line (he's our mutual ggg grandfather) (my grandmother Claudina's line-spooky hey!) and that many of my husband and my friends had always said that I'd had a weird fascination with Port Albert. We'd take them boating/fishing there every summer. I must say that I did/do have a strange attraction to the place - even though it's what some of my friends have described as an eerie, desolate, "ghost" port. (We stayed at the nearby Ship Inn in Yarram one year (prior to knowing about the ancestors being in the area) they have even more unsavoury comments to make about that experience too. ...I thought that it was all right).

Anyway that day I/we also discovered that my pioneering great grandfather was a William James (that's creepy considering that in my doctors Warragul waiting room there was one of those large wall quotations displaying a quotation from American Philosopher William James that I used to sit directly opposite). I got a strange sort of hunch about it whenever I looked at the name. And William's wife was Emma Tame born London 1836 and they had eight children of which Charles Frederick James was number six. And William had been a customs clerk and Commission Agent for the Gippsland Steam Navigation Company. "Oh, how disappointing" expressed my Dad, "I'd at least hoped that he'd been a sailor or something more exciting". Never mind, can't win 'em all.

I later discovered that he also been a Port Albert/Alberton town councillor (Gippsland Mercury Obituary notice 23/8/1872) and had appeared for Johnston and Hood against William Howden in the Tarraville and Palmerston (suburb of Port Albert) law courts. These folks were all local identities in the area at that time in the ports and shipping industries.

So the children born at Port Albert/Alberton/Palmerston were Emma Eliza James 1858-1943 (Music Teacher, d. Surrey Hills Melbourne aged 85 years), William Joseph Butler James 1860-87 (d. South Melbourne aged 27 years), Alfred Ernest James 1862-1939 (Bank Manager, d. Riversdale Rd Camberwell, Melbourne aged 77 years) (m. Katherine Teresa Coppard 1893), Martha Maud Mary James 1864-1901 (d. Hawthorn aged 26 years) (m. Frederick Dunn 1895), Ada Augusta Alberta James 1867-1894 (d. Hawthorn aged 27 years) (m. William Mc Cleery 1892), Charles Frederick James 1868-1935 (d. 9 Canterbury Rd Toorak, Melbourne, Vic, usual residence Moorooduc, Vic aged 67 years) (m. Charlotte Maidment Kent 15/10/ 1897 St Silas C of E, Albert Park, Melbourne, Vic), Leonard Harold James 1870-1871 aged 13 months (d. Oakfield Farm Alberton/Port Albert-diagonally opposite cemetery) and Grace Oakfield James 1872-1931 aged 58 years (d. Camberwell, Melbourne, Vic) (m. Arthur Edwin Millard 1898). This child was seven weeks old at the time of her fathers' death. The family remained in the Port Albert area until 1873. By 1874 they had relocated to South Melbourne (Nelson and Bridport St), known then as Emerald Hill.

Emma married twice more in 1883 to house decorator Henry Morres (IOW) and contractor Robert John Morgan (Syd. 1840-Bairnsdale 1898) in 1887. (His father, also Robert John Morgan and himself had also been in the Port Albert area in the 1860's with their second and first wives (Jane Lucas and Ellen Stone).

Emma died at 42 Fawkner St, South Yarra, Melbourne, Vic in 1897 aged 60 years. Charles Frederick James turns up as the occupant of this address in 1898. But quickly relocates to Camberwell the following year. He was married on 15/10/1897 at St Silas Church of England in Albert Park. Charlotte Maidment Kent's father, the Reverend Samuel Chambers Kent was the officiating minister. His address at this time is 83 Park St South Yarra, Melbourne, Vic.

The Maritime Museum also had a copy of the Alberton Cemetery records which showed that William was buried there in the Church of England Section in 1872 along with his infant son Leonard Harold James in 1871 aged 13 months. It also showed that he'd named his Alberton/ Port Albert property "Oakfield". It consisted of several acres diagonally opposite the cemetery.

So armed with all this brand new and astonishing information Dad and I proceeded to the cemetery and with not too tough a search came upon the grave of our mutual ancestor William James. What an incredible moment. I'd driven past this guy for the last nearly 20 years and had been blissfully unaware that he was there all along. Amazing.

Unfortunately this is where the search for the James ancestry basically stops for the time being. Apart from William James's death certificate and his children's birth certificates stating that he came from the Isle of Wight in England - no further progress has been made in this area.

Being such a common name even on the Isle of Wight in England. I had a group of about three William James's to choose from. I have one particularly strong suspect-but it will take a lot of (overseas) work to establish whether he is the correct one.

So I then turned my attention to an easier target, his wife Emma. Emma's surname of Tame and history really started to fascinate me. Gwen's notes even had her parents living and dying in Australia. Another generation back. Wow! They had been Joseph Tame and Martha Brown. I discovered from Gwen's book /notes that Emma had married William James on the 5th of May 1857 in Launceston Tasmania. Now I was really starting to become suspicious. Why Tasmania? Why wasn't she married on the mainland like everyone else that I knew about in the family. (The IGI (International Genealogical Index) had picked up the family as Emma Tame baptized St Mary Whitechapel, East London 4/9/1836 and she had a brother who looks to have died in infancy born on the 11/12/1833 and baptized at the same location three years earlier).

Joseph Tame (1804-1870) and Martha Brown (1806-1885) were married on the 18th of February 1833 at St Leonard's, Shoreditch (East End of London) (IGI). So, as I had always suspected, there were cockney's in the family. I'd detected a harsh, slight cockney tone in my grandfather's voice. I felt that another breakthrough in this case of the missing ancestry was just around the corner.

Gwen's notes had actually had the effect of deflecting me (temporarily) from the real search for truth. She had Joseph Tame coming in on the ship "Kent" into Victoria in 1852. So I thought Joseph and perhaps wife Martha and Daughter Emma had all come to Victoria in 1852. Still the Tasmanian death of Joseph aged 66 yrs in 1870 and Emma's marriage to William James in Launceston Tasmania didn't really add up. But I was kind of accepting it. Reluctantly.

That's until one day at the beginning of 2006 when I noticed that the Tasmanian archives office had put up the census info and convicts on-line. I spotted a Joseph Tame on the Launceston Census for 1848, four years earlier than Gwen's notes had him being in Australia/Tasmania. He was the only Joseph Tame Vic/Tasmania at that time. Then I looked at the recently posted convict lists. Again I spotted a Joseph Tame (the only one) coming in on the ship "Sarah" in March of 1837. I applied to the Tasmanian Archives Office for all the information pertaining to this Joseph Tame.

His Certificate of Freedom dated 11th of November 1846 contained the following information. He had been convicted of being in receipt of twelve dozen stolen bottles (doesn't say what of) at London's Central Criminal Court (Old Bailey) on the 28th of September 1836. He was sentenced to Van Dieman's Land (Tasmania, Australia) for seven years. He was 32 years old. He had a wife Martha and two children. Bingo-it's him. He was consigned to a floating prison hulk off Spithead (Portsmouth) until the ship that he was on set sail for Tasmania on the 22nd of December (my brother's birthday and my grandfather Hickey's death date) 1836. He arrived at Hobart on the 28th of March 1837. He was put in a work gang under the control of Lieutenant James Steele firstly at New Town Bay (now Newtown, Hobart), then later Green Ponds (now Kempton) and then Richmond.

He behaved himself and didn't get into trouble for the rest of 1837. But by 1838 on a few weekly basis he was getting himself into all sorts of trouble including being put into solitary confinement for ten day stretches, being convicted of insolence and gross insolence and disobedience towards his master. He received 50 lashes on at least one occasion. Stealing a bag of onions and going absent without leave. So his seven year sentence actually became ten because of all this misbehaviour.

The information (photocopies of the original records) also gave a full physical description. He as 5 foot 6 inches with brown hair, a long face, medium nose, fair complexion, grey eyes and broad mouth. He had been born in Dorchester, Oxfordshire (one of the original places where the Tame family was historically located in England - the name Tame (pronounced Tem) came from the Thames River. He was 32 years old. He had been a gardener by occupation.

After his release in 1846 Joseph had become a successful gardener/seedsman, growing plants for the Launceston Botanical gardens. He lived at No. 40 Cimetere St Launceston Tasmania. (First house in a line of three double story brick terrace houses-fully restored and lived in today). He died on the 18th of January 1870 aged 66 years of a softening of the brain (stroke) and was buried in the Cypress St Cemetery. This is now Broadlands private park, in Cypress St, Launceston today. Wife Martha then moved from Tasmania to Victoria in 1883. She died at No. 2 Royal Terrace Merton St, South Melbourne, Victoria in 1885 aged 79 years.

So there you have it. A verifiable convict in the family. Back then you'd have to have been very tough just to survive the long sea journey to Australia, let alone what came afterwards. I have a new appreciation for family history after delving into this unfortunate ancestor. I have a greater understanding of what made my grandfather Fred James so determined to succeed that he ended up with an OBE in June of 1957 from her majesty Queen Elizabeth II. He had something to prove.

THE TAME AND JAMES FAMILIES - A MYSTERY UNRAVELLED- A CONVICT IN THE ANCESTRAL CLOSET by Elizabeth Ann Curtain (nee James)

Archives Office of Tasmania - Convict research - <http://www.archives.tas.gov.au/>
Follow the links: Home > Names indexes > Tasmanian convicts > Search >

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