

JUNE
2009

NEWSLETTER

MAJ 00812

ATTENTION, ATTENTION, ATTENTION

The next meeting of the City of Moorabbin Historical Society will be on Sunday 28th June 2009. The Members Meeting is from 1-2pm, and 'Box Cottage' will open, as usual, from 2-4pm. All welcome.

- The excitement continues around our recently re-discovered, Best Fruit Garden 1881-82, silver trophy cup, awarded to Robert Keys, as displayed at our last meeting. Thanks go to our President Jamie Hyams for contacting the "Leader". As a result, Ms Lisa Edgerton, a reporter, has written an article about the trophy, (using information supplied by MHS), and accompanied by photos. Hopefully this publicity will result in extra visitors to the cottage. If you missed seeing the trophy last meeting, it now resides in "pride of place" in a display cabinet, with some accompanying information - so come and have a look.
- As agreed at the May meeting our vinyl banner has now been purchased. It is very light, and hopefully will be no trouble to hang on the cyclone fence. (To date I haven't had the time to try it out) The final cost was \$225.00 for a 2.5 Metre long, by 750cm wide banner. The banner will hang from the cyclone fence at 'Box Cottage' on the society's Open Days, and hopefully attract more visitors.
- A big "*Thank You*" is also due to Dennis, our Treasurer, for his work in the garden. Despite the very cold weather, Dennis has busily dug out the "onion weed", (once more), and replenished the garden, with pretty purple Salvias, and Convolvus.
- Another Reminder: Thanks to those volunteers who have kindly added their names to our Monthly Roster for 'Box Cottage' Open Days, from 2pm to 4pm. I think there are still a couple of vacancies, so, if you can spare the time to assist, and have not already volunteered, your help would be appreciated.

THE TALE OF JASPER HALE ,OF JASPER'S ROAD, IS NOW CONCLUDED!!

Jan Rigby who is an MHS member, a member of the Brighton Cemeterians, as well as a volunteer with the Glen Eira Historical Society, has kindly emailed me with further fascinating research on Jasper Hale, whom Jasper Road is named after, and I'm sure that you will find it as interesting as I did !! Jan's research is sourced from both Gloucester records , and Victorian BDM records.

CITY OF MOORABBIN
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Jan's research tells us that Jasper Hale was Christened on 11th September 1805 at Cirencester, Gloucester, England. His father's name was Richard Hale.

Other Details: On the 14th January 1824 Jasper married Elizabeth Rose, at St Mary De-Lode's, Cirencester, Gloucester, England. (Jasper would have been about 19 years at this time)
We next hear of Jasper Hale in 1830, when at 27 years of age, he was tried at Gloucester,

Jasper's physical description in 1830 was given as:

"Brown hair, brown eyebrows, grey eyes, long face, a mole right side of his mouth, large nose, **very much pitted with the small pox**, mole on the arm below the elbow, small mole left arm, a mole under left breast, two moles on the back of his neck, large mole left shoulder blade, brown complexion, small mole left cheek, **Read and Write. Bricklayer.**"

Charge: Larceny.

Trial:

*"Charges on the oath of Wm Burgess, of Kemble, Wilts. With having on the 8th January last, stolen from a **hovel** a bees droper, the property of S. Wm. Burgess, and also charged on oath of Mary Brummell, wife of H. Brummell feloniously stolen a **washing tub**, the property of the said Henry Brummell."*

Convicted: 2nd June 1830

Sentence: Trinity sessions July 13th 1830. Jasper was sentenced to be Transported for Seven Years to Port Jackson, NSW, Australia. Removed 14th July 1830. Orderly. (From Penitentiary Register.)

Jasper Hale was transported to Port Jackson in 1831, on board the ship convict ship "York" for 7 years. The next news of Jasper is on the 22nd February 1839 when he was given his 'Ticket of Leave'.

Further research by Jan of the Births, Deaths, and Marriages Records, show that Jasper Hale then married Mary Ann Nelson, in 1839 at St Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Sydney NSW. (**Jasper's first wife in England, Elizabeth Rose, seems to have caused no impediment**)
Jasper was about 34 years at the time of his 2nd marriage, and was a newly "freed" man.

Records tell us that Mary Ann had also been convicted, and transported to Port Jackson. She arrived aboard the 'George Hibbert' in either 1833 or 1834. (Records show that two female convicts, both apparently named Mary Ann Nelson, were transported aboard the 'George Hibbert' - one in 1833, (No 12995), the other in 1834, (No 12996). One was aged 18 years, the other apparently 20 years)

Jasper and Mary Ann Hale's Children, per Victorian Births, Deaths, and Marriages Records:

FIRSTLY: (Entered incorrectly as), Hele, James, born Melbourne, 1842, father Jasper,

Mother Mary Ann Nelson. Vic BMD Reg no 36482, & Christened at St Francis RC Church Brighton. Reg no. 522. (There appears to be a second incorrect entry as), Hill, James, born Melbourne 1842, Father Jasper, mother Mary Ann Nelson, Vic BMD, St Francis Reg. no 1088)

Secondly: Hale, Eliza, Born Brighton 1844, father Jasper, mother, Mary Ann Nelson Vic BMD 37277, & Christened at St Francis RC Church, Brighton, Reg. no. 56

Next, as 'Box Cottage' records show Jasper Hale, bought his land on Jasper's Road for 100 Pounds, on 26th August 1844, from Henry Dendy's Special Survey, we must conclude that Jasper had certainly prospered in the five years after being granted his Ticket of Leave !! We also know that Jasper sold his land, on Jasper's Road, for 80 Pounds in September 1846, about two years after the birth of Eliza - his and Mary Ann's second child. Jasper was then about 38 years old.

The tantalizing mystery of what then became of Jasper Hale, was solved only recently. Jasper Hale was found to have been interred in the Goobang Cemetery, Parkes, NSW, on 11th March 1884, - Jasper would have been around 79 years old. His son James is recorded as "a witness" at his burial. At the time of Jasper's death his occupation is listed as 'Stonemason'. What took Jasper to NSW? Perhaps one possible scenario, was, that as he was originally "Transported" to NSW, and also married Mary Ann in Sydney, they may have wanted to return to a familiar place, or to friends.

However, here our sincere thanks must go to Yvonne Hutton, of the Parkes Historical Society, who suggested a second, quite feasible scenario - Jasper may well have joined the *multitudes* afflicted **BY GOLD FEVER !**

Certainly *rumours* abounded of gold being discovered in Victoria, around Clunes, Warrandyte, and Ballarat by the close of the 1840s, around the time Jasper sold his land. In July 1851 the official government announcement was finally made, and "the rush was on." We read in Professor Weston Bates book, "A History of Brighton", Pg 159, of how the "exodus" affected the "Brighton District"

"In 1852 the gold fever was believed to have accounted for practically the whole population of Little Brighton. A church record states that the only man left in Little Brighton was Hurlestone Junior, who was sick." A few lines on, Professor Bates recounts, "Such a desertion by the males was undoubtedly a rare and early phenomenon"

The trail may well have finally led Jasper, as it did many others, up through the Victorian goldfields, and even later to the Parkes area, where in 1861 substantial gold was discovered at Forbes, NSW. Jasper would have been 56 years old at this time. A second major gold rush followed in 1871, at Currajong, North West of Parkes.

Unless more information becomes available, we finish Jasper Hale's story here. We know that many fine, stone, public buildings and homes were built in Parkes during the wealthy gold era. As a stonemason, we can only hope that Jasper Hale prospered, and that after a such a grim beginning, could finally celebrate his life with his family, in Australia.

