

## Donations to Flagstaff Hill Maritime Village (FSHMV)

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We are always interested in objects and stories. If you would like to donate an object, photograph and documents please read the following guidelines and fill out as much information as you are able – thank you!

**Items for donations cannot be left with Flagstaff Hill, and we are unable to keep hold of objects while donations are being assessed. This form with photos needs to be mailed or emailed to the Flagstaff Hill (details as below) or handed to the staff.**

### Donors Contact Details:

Name: Rosalie McColl

Address: 16 Meakin Street, East Geelong, Vic 3219

Contact Number: (BH)

Mobile Number: 0431 592 427

Email: rosalie.mccoll@gmail.com

### Physical Description of Object:

Name or Type of object: 1 tin trunk

Description – please include materials:

Weight: Dimensions  
Weight - 5Kgs  
Width - 48cm

Height - 27cm  
Depth - 30cm.

Manufacturer Name: B B Brand.

Manufacturer location U.K.

Manufacturer Date 1800s

Condition of item: Good.

What condition would you describe the object to be in?

Poor

Fair

Good

Very Good

Excellent

### Additional Comments:

The trunk is in particularly good condition given the background story - see below + accompanying pages.

### Historical information of Object:

In as much detail as possible, please give any information you may have on the history of the object, including previous owners, uses, where it has come from and any other information you have on the story surrounding the object. (Attach information if needed)

On October 6th, 1855 newly weds David + Alice Ellis set sail for Australia on the Schomberg clipper ship, bound for Melbourne, Australia. The ship was grounded on a sand spit near Peterborough. All passengers + crew were safely rescued. The trunk accompanied the

### What stories surround the object or people connected to it?

couple with their belongings. All luggage was later retrieved by another steamer despatched from Melbourne. Other related items from this family voyage are already housed at Flagstaff Hill Museum. Please see accompanying sheets.

My mother (Nell Crick, nee Ellis) was the adopted daughter of David + Grace Ellis (Noorat) who were the offspring of David + Alice Ellis.

### Photographs:

If you are supplying photographs of the object please ensure you place a ruler or pen in the photograph to indicate the size of the item. Please supply photographs of the object from different angles.

### Donation Criteria:

Flagstaff Hill can only consider accepting items of good governance that relate to its Key Collection Areas:

**Maritime Village and Wharf,  
Shipwreck Relic Galleries,  
Lighthouse Complex,  
Wooden Boat Fleet,  
Garrison Artillery Battery.**

As per the Collection Policy, Flagstaff Hill only accepts items that date c.1840-1940, and to the highest standards of professional ethics.

**Your Expression of Interest will be considered by our Acquisition Committee and this does not mean or imply that the item has been accepted as part of the permanent collection.**

**Note\*:** It may take several months before a decision is made. Donation assessments are evaluated on a case by case basis. **There is no guarantee that Flagstaff Hill will be able to accept items that are offered for donation.** After the item/s has been accepted/rejected by the Acquisition Committee, a letter will be provided to the Donor outlining the assessment process in accordance with the Collections Council of Australia's (CCA,) standard criteria for assessing significance.

I, Rosalie Mc Coll.....(donors name) am the sole owner or have the rights to act on behalf of the sole owner of the above object. I have read and understand the conditions of having the above object assessed by the Flagstaff Hill Acquisition team.

Signed Rosalie Mc Coll.....Date 9.07.2024.....

Contact details:

Merri Street, Warrnambool  
Victoria, Australia, 3280  
Telephone: (03) 5559 4600  
Email: flagstaffhill@warrnambool.vic.gov.au

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**Administration details:**

Date received:

15.7.2024

Photographs attached:

Yes/No

How many? 6 pages.

Information attached:

Yes/No

How many pages? 4 pages.

Copy of this document given/sent to donor: Yes/No

Significance Assessment Form completed: Yes/No

Date on decision on acquisition: .....

Decision letter sent to the Donor: Yes/No

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From the collection of  
**Flagstaff Hill Maritime Museum and Village**

**8811**

Items featured online

## Accessory - Basket, c. 1855



Basket on bench, from above at an angle  Media reuse 

## Reuse this media

Can you reuse this media without permission?  Yes

## Conditions of use

### Public domain

This media item is listed as being within the public domain. As such, this item may be used for any purpose.

## Attribution

Please acknowledge the item's source, creator and title (where known)

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Have a question? Contact [Flagstaff Hill Maritime Museum and Village](#)

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## Historical information

This small cane basket belonged to David and Alice Ellis, a young couple married in Dublin in 1855. It has been handed down in the Ellis family until it was donated, together with other personal effects, in 2004 by David and Alice's granddaughter, daughter of David Ellis Junior.

On 6th October 1855 newlyweds David and Alice Ellis set sail for Australia in the brand new Schomberg, considered the most perfect clipper ship. She was built as an emigrant ship in Aberdeen and set sail from Liverpool on her maiden voyage, bound for Melbourne, Australia. She was loaded with 430 passengers plus cargo that included iron rails and equipment intended for building the Geelong Railway and a bridge over the Yarra from Melbourne to Hawthorn.

On 27th December 1855, only one day from her Melbourne destination, the Schomberg was grounded on a sandspit on the Victorian coast near Peterborough. The passengers and crew were all safely rescued by a passing small steamer, the SS Queen, which traded between Melbourne and Warrnambool, and taken to Melbourne. The passengers had been told, when leaving the sinking Schomberg, that all they could take with them was a small basket or handbag. A newspaper article later mentioned that one of the things Alice made space for in her basket was her Bible. (It is unclear whether Alice took any possessions with her onto the SS Queen, but a note accompanying the donation of the Bible and basket states that the items were "left on deck and salvaged as Schomberg went down".) Another steamer was despatched from Melbourne to retrieve the passengers' luggage from the Schomberg and Alice was reunited with all of her boxes of belongings. Other steamers helped unload the cargo until the change in weather made it too difficult. Although the Schomberg was wrecked there were no lives lost.

At that time David was 23 years old (born in Wales, 1832) and his new bride Alice was 26 (born in Dublin, 1829). They had been given letters of introduction to people in Tasmania so they travelled there from Melbourne. However the couple only stayed on that island for about a year before they returned to the Western District of

Victoria. David worked for Mr Neil Black as a gardener for a while then, when the land in the area was made available by the Victorian government, David and Alice claimed a selection of land on Noorat Road in the Terang district. They settled there for the remainder of their lives, expanding their property "Allambah" as opportunities arose.

A document accompanying the donation lists the names of six children; William, Grace (c. 1859-1946), Thomas (c. 1866 - 1939), David (c. 1962 - 1953), James and Victor.

David died on 13th April 1911, aged 79, at their property. Alice passed away the following year, November 1912, aged 83. Alice's obituary described her as "a very homely, kindly-natured woman, who was highly esteemed by a large circle of friends; and she was also a firm adherent of the Presbyterian Church".

At the time of Alice's death she left behind three sons and one daughter. Her daughter Grace Ellis was also a very active member of the Terang Presbyterian Church and a member of the PWMU (Presbyterian Women's Missionary Union). She was also involved in the Red Cross and other charities. Grace passed away in 1946, aged 87.

## Significance

David and Alice Ellis were amongst the very earliest pioneers of the Terang district of Western Victoria. Their donated possessions are a sample of the personal effects of emigrants to Australia.

The donated items are a sample of the personal goods carried aboard a significant migrant ship in 1855. They are also significant for their association with the Schomberg.

The Schomberg, which is on the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR S612), has great historical significance as a rare example of a large, fast clipper ship on the England to Australia run, carrying emigrants at the time of the Victorian gold rush. She represents the technical advances made to break sailing records between Europe and Australia.

Flagstaff Hill's collection of artefacts from the Schomberg is significant for its association with the shipwreck,

The collection is primarily significant because of the relationship between the objects, as together they have a high potential to interpret the story of the Schomberg. It is archaeologically significant as the remains of an international passenger ship. It is historically significant for representing aspects of Victoria's shipping history and for its association with the shipwreck and the ship, which was designed to be fastest and most luxurious of its day

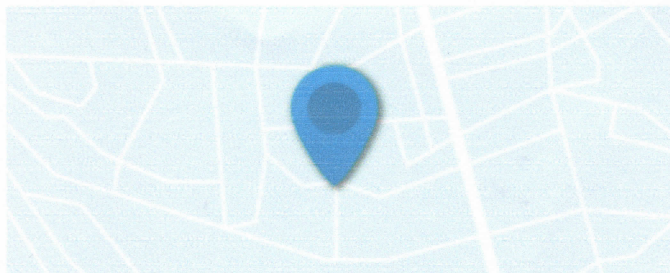
## Physical description

Small rectangular cane basket with timber base, firm carry handle across width. Basket is covered with brown fabric. The inside of the basket and the handle are covered with embossed orange fabric, and a rosette of the same orange fabric is at the base of each end of the handle. Basket was amongst the possessions of David and Alice Ellis, passengers on the Schomberg when wrecked in 1855.

## Subjects

flagstaff hill, warnnambool, shipwrecked coast, flagstaff hill maritime museum, maritime museum, shipwreck coast, flagstaff hill maritime village, great ocean road, schomberg ship, 1855 shipwreck, peterborough shipwreck, ss queen, david ellis, alice ellis, allambah terang, dublin emigrants, terang presbyterian church, western district victoria, cane basket, schomberg basket

### On display



**Identifier** 5132

**Date made** c. 1855

**Production methods** Weave, Sew, Fabricate

**Materials** cane, fabric

**Measurements** Length: 24.77 centimetres, Width: 18.41 centimetres, Height: 15.24 centimetres

### Cite this page

Victorian Collections

<https://victoriancollections.net.au/items/4f72a3ef97f83e030860230f>

Accessed 29 May 2024

This record was last updated 2 months ago

Completeness

If you want to ask a question, or you know something about this item, contact the collector

Flagstaff Hill Maritime Museum and Village: [Website](#) | [Email](#)

See the [Valuations page](#) for information on historical item valuation.

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## Other items from this collection

8811 items



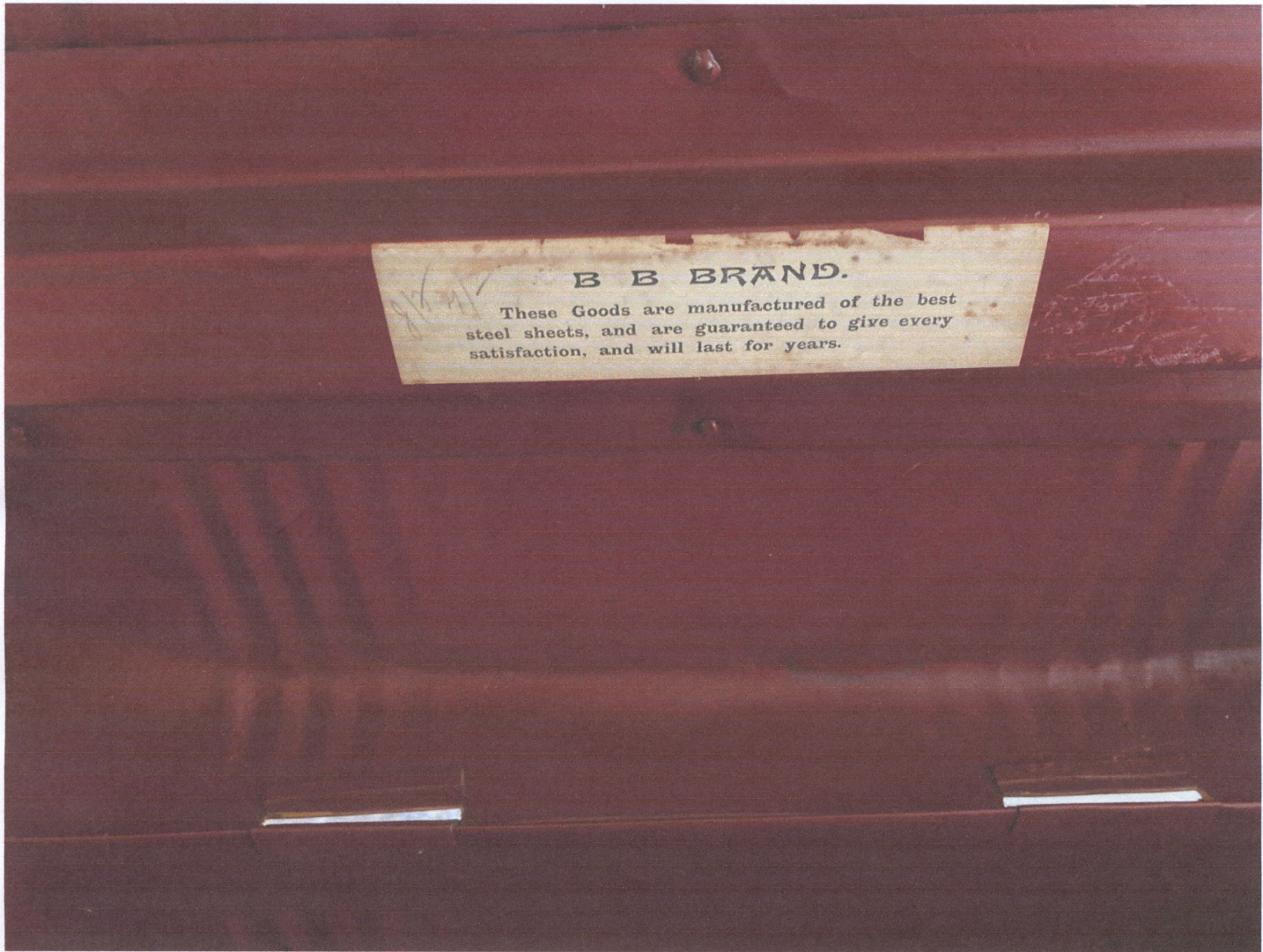












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