

Lindisfarne Historical Society Inc.

Newsletter No. 3/2021

Jul-Aug-Sep 2021

Lindisfarne Football Team 1919



Lindisfarne Historical Society Inc. Committee

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Newsletter/Publishing Sub-Committee: Angela Coutts, Rebecca Johnson, Penny O'Brien
& Reg Watson

Public Officer: Mr Ross Butler

A WORD FROM PRESIDENT PENNY

The year seems to be passing quickly, and so far, we have been fortunate in remaining free of the virus affecting the lives of so many of our family and friends on the big island.

Our monthly meetings have been well attended and we have had excellent speakers. This month our speaker is Suzanne Smythe – "Steamers in Southern Tasmania" - and the November meeting will feature the CWA which is celebrating 80 years in Lindisfarne this month.

The Lindisfarne Historical Society will be taking part in two community activities in the next few weeks, and we invite you to join us.

On Saturday 16th October we will be at the Lindisfarne Activities Centre (9am – 1pm) with information, display and sales, as we join with the Library's Book Sale and the Dog's Homes Trash and Treasure stalls for what is always a most enjoyable event. And on Sunday 31st October we will have a stall at the Clarence City Council's

Collectors Roadshow which is being held on the Richmond Village Green between 10am and 2pm.

Next year we mark the Society's 30th anniversary and we are planning special events to mark this milestone.

We are so pleased that our Treasurer, Noeline, is enjoying our meetings again after a rather lengthy spell in hospital earlier this year. Welcome back Noeline, we missed you.



FRONT PAGE: A photo of the Lindisfarne Football Team which was published in *The Tasmanian Mail*, 16th October 1919, p.20.

With the First World War over, club footy resumed in the state.

Note the rather new looking fence around the recreation ground (?) in the background... Does anyone have further information regarding this photo or the gentlemen pictured?



COLLECTORS ROADSHOW



Richmond Village Green,

Sunday 31st October, 11am to 2pm.

If there's something in your attic (or anywhere at all) that you'd like to know more about, bring it along to the Collectors' Roadshow. Local antiques & collectibles experts Gordon Brown, Warwick Oakman and Ben Walker may be able to tell you the hidden history of your item.... for enquiries call 62179605.

L.H.S. Society Meetings 2021

Friday 29th October @ 7.30pm

Monday 29th November @ 2pm

All meetings to be held at the **Lindisfarne Community Activities Centre, 37a Lincoln St. Lindisfarne**, unless stated otherwise.
All members of the public are welcome to attend.

JOHN BOWEN REMEMBERED

Bowen's Memorial Risdon Cove, was a pilgrimage on a Sunday in September for two Tasmanian historians and authors when Reg Watson and Tony Hope laid a sprig of wattle at the monument. It was presented in memory of the 49 settlers who came to Risdon Cove in September 1803.

Risdon Cove was the first British settlement in Tasmania.

It has become an annual event for the two historians and authors.

"It is important to recall those who came so long ago, now 218 years," said Reg.



Reg (left) and Tony laying the wattle at the memorial

"Risdon Cove would be the most historical site in Tasmania, immensely important to the State and, indeed, to Australia. Lt John Bowen of the Royal Navy was but 23 years of age at the time. The memorial was erected a hundred years after the event and it is a focal point to remind us of the hardships those pioneers had to endure," he said.

The settlement at Risdon Cove was not successful for various reasons and when Col David Collins arrived in February the following year, he removed it and Lt John Bowen left Tasmania, then known as Van Diemen's Land, for good.

"Bowen's lady companion, Martha Hayes Quinn, remained however and lived until the 1870s seeing many changes from the budding, raw settlement," Reg added.

Reg is the author of *John Bowen, the Founder of Tasmania*

NEWS FROM 100 YEARS AGO

The Mercury, Friday 9th September 1921, p.3

Reader David Budd found this article from *The Mercury* and accompanying photographs from *The Tasmanian Mail* and kindly forwarded it to us for inclusion in our Newsletter.

Exactly one hundred years ago Lindisfarne was celebrating the first anniversary of steamer *S.S. Lindisfarne*, which provided a vital service for its residents in the pre-bridge days. David's great-aunt Mrs Long (nee Freeman) belonged to the Ladies Committee who aided the celebration. The Long family once lived at 141 Gordon's Hill Road and had a plumbing business in Harrington Street, Hobart. Sons George and Tas were also long-time successful members of the Lindisfarne Rowing Club.



Some passengers enjoying refreshments



LINDISFARNE FERRY SERVICE FIRST ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

Yesterday marked a red-letter day in the annals of the Lindisfarne Ferry Company, for it was the occasion of the opening of the first anniversary celebrations of the service, and the 'birthday' of the company's steamer, the *Lindisfarne*. A special birthday cake had been pre-pared for the occasion, which was a most elaborate affair, being decorated on the sides by excellent pictures of *Lindisfarne*, and some of the charming views to be secured in the vicinity, and surmounted by a miniature steamer, representing the ferry boat. This was quite a first-class production. Morning and afternoon tea were provided on board by a ladies' committee, who had supplied all the cakes and other viands at their own cost, and as a large number of people travelled on the steamer throughout the day, some for business and others for the enjoyment of visiting the little township and contributing to the success of the celebrations, a very good business was done.

A sale of spring flowers was also conducted on board, with most satisfactory results.

**Committee of
afternoon tea
helpers.**
Back Row: Miss
Caufield, Mrs
Brammall, Mrs
Beddome
(secretary) & Miss
Atkins.
Front Row: Mrs
Harrison, Mrs
Long, Mrs Butler &
Mrs Andrews.



The produce stall on Lindisfarne Jetty

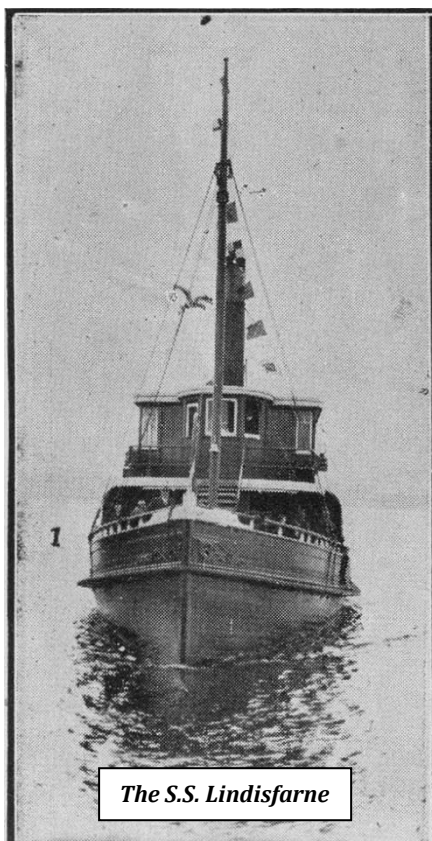
The history of the Lindisfarne Ferry Company for the last year or so is very interesting. Some 18 months ago the residents of the township became dis-satisfied with the ferry service provided at the time, and efforts were made to induce the proprietary of that service to give a better one. A deputation, appointed at a public meeting held at Lindisfarne, waited upon the directors of the company then running the ferry, and, after explaining their proposals, the directors said they were unable to improve upon the service, and if they considered the interests of their shareholders, they would draw out from the Lindisfarne running altogether. They subsequently offered to sell a boat to the Lindisfarne people for the sum of about £5,000, but the offer was not accepted. The steamer the company was running between Lindisfarne and Hobart - the Rosny - was shortly afterwards sold, and the running was taken up by the Silver Crown, which still maintains the service. The Lindisfarne people then decided to procure a steamer of their own, and Captain Rowe was selected to make

the purchase, and the s. s. Williamstown since re-named the Lindisfarne, was secured from Victoria, where she had been running in the Melbourne-Williamstown service. Soon after arrival at Hobart, the vessel was put on the run between Lindisfarne and the city, and has been well patronised during the year.

The spirit of co-operation was enthusiastically taken up and adhered to by the residents, and when it was found that the vessel was running at a loss, they cheerfully consented to an increase in the fares. Furthermore, they sought the assistance of the Clarence Municipal Council to undertake the responsibility for the loss on the service, and in this connection a bill was drafted and passed by Parliament, giving the necessary statutory authority, a clause providing for a rate to be levied on the residents of Lindisfarne for the purpose of keeping the service going. A poll of the

residents was subsequently taken, and the liability for this rate was carried by a very large majority.

The purpose of the anniversary celebrations, which were opened yester-day, and which will be continued until to-morrow, was to form the nucleus of a fund for a big open-air fair, to be held at Lindisfarne in a few weeks' time for the liquidation of the debt on the first year's running of the vessel, which it is understood amounts to £200 or £300.



The S.S. Lindisfarne

PHOTOS: July Meeting – Guests Kate Warner (former Governor of Tasmania & Professor Emerita of UTAS) and David Owen (official secretary at Government House)

“Government House, Tasmania - A Remarkable Story”



Guests Kate Warner & David Owen pictured centre with L.H.S. Committee member Susan Gardener, far left, and L.H.S. President Penny O'Brien, right.



PHOTOS: August Meeting – Guest Sue Cox AM

“Housework: How did Grandma do it all?”



THE MYSTERIOUS DISAPPEARANCE OF **CHARLES FEATHERSTONE**

By
Reg A. Watson



Whatever happened to Charles Edwin Featherstone, respected Eastern Shore Solicitor and Parliamentarian? Charles disappeared, it seems, into thin air. From April 1893 he was nowhere to be found. He had scarpered, and his later whereabouts or his last resting place is completely unknown. It still remains a mystery more than 130 years later.

Charles was born 18th December 1852 to parents John Graeme Featherstone and Elizabeth Blenman. He was a high flyer, building and living at the mansion 'Wirksworth' in Howrah, which can still be seen today. He lived there with his wife Georgina Sarah Propsting whom he married in 1876. They had five children, four daughters Georgina, Constance, Coralie and Doris, and son Charles Robert.

Charles lived lavishly. No expenses were held back in building Wirksworth and he often entertained

friends in the grand house with much feasting and dancing.

His profession was a solicitor and he entered Parliament, the House of Assembly, in 1887 for the Electorate of Sorell. The date of departure from Parliament is listed as March 1893, no reason given.

Charles was very active in supporting local railways, such as the Glenora and Ouse Railway Bill; a bill to authorise the construction of the Zeehan and North Dundas and Mount Read Tramway; petitioned against the proposed route of the Bellerive-Sorell Railway and a private bill regarding the improvement of Lawder Harbour. He also presented several reports/petitions which can be found on the Hobart Parliamentary Library digitised website.

The problem was, Charles had defrauded £750 and there was a warrant out for his apprehension which was never served. A local daily newspaper of the day (*The Mercury*, 23rd April 1893) states that his legal partner Charles Henry Elliston had said that Charles had appropriated from the firm the sum of 86 pounds 9 shillings and sixpence.

Wirksworth House – Howrah

Front View



Side View



Photos: Reg Watson 2021

They don't make them like that anymore. A beautiful mansion home, once a private home to the Featherstone family. 'Wirksworth' was built in 1888 by Charles for his growing family. It consisted of seven upstairs bedrooms, with the home designed to be well ventilated and fitted out with both hot and cold water. The architect Robert Huckson and the many artisans involved, along with their wives, were entertained to a feast and entertainment, including dancing, on the 19th May 1888.

After Charles' disappearance, the home was purchased by Charles Henry Grant who supervised the construction of the Hobart-Launceston railway. After WWII it was

"surrendered to the crown" and used by the Education Department.

'Wirksworth' is now owned by a private company (2021).



Reg
Watson

Reg Watson on Community Radio - 96.1FM

Rich & Colourful Tasmanian History

Reg's show is aired on Community Radio 96.1 FM once a month, on the third Saturday, from 3pm. The programme consists of interesting historical snippets, interviews, book reviews, notices of what is going on around town in art and historic circles and great music. Be sure to tune in!

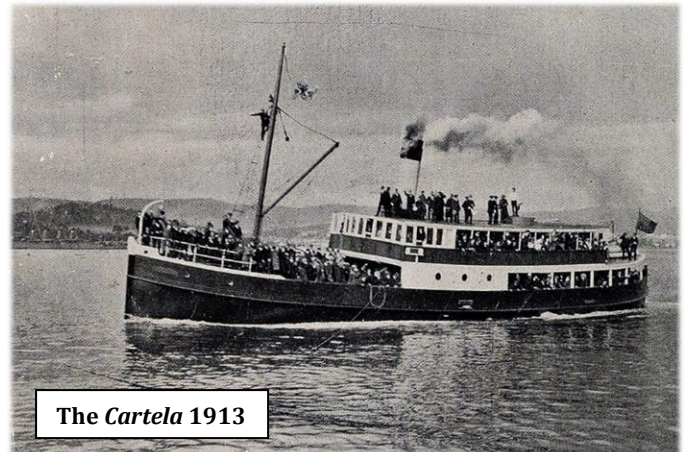
Contact: regawatson@gmail.com.

ALSO: Don't miss Reg's history column in the 'Eastern Shore Star' monthly newspaper.

OCTOBER MEETING

Guest Speaker: Suzanne Smythe

"Steamers in Southern Tasmania"



The Cartela 1913

Suzanne is a former teacher and the author of many books on Tasmanian History – mainly to do with the river, ports and personalities of the waterfront. She will talk about life on the river and the early days of travel on the river.

WHEN: Friday 29th October @ 7.30pm

**WHERE: Lindisfarne Community Activities
Centre, Lincoln St. Lindisfarne**

All welcome – bring a friend

Enquiries: lindisfarne.history@gmail.com

or phone Susan on 0418 289 732.

YOU ARE INVITED TO A BOOK LAUNCH

Reg Watson's

PARRAMATTA-TASMANIA COLONIAL CONNECTIONS

VOLUME II



Old Government House, Parramatta NSW

This is Reg's second in the series, bringing the common heritage of the two early settlements together. Volume II contains such subjects as Judge Advocate and Lt Governor, David Collins, Scientist Charles Darwin, Bushranger Rocky Whelan, The Reverent Benjamin Carvosso, Female Factories Parramatta and Tasmania, Archbishop John Bede Polding and many more...

Book available on the day. Retail \$30. For the launch **\$25**.

DATE: Friday 15th October 2021

TIME: 2pm – 4pm

WHERE: The Sanctuary Café, 550 East Derwent Highway, Geilston Bay

Launched by Tasmanian Historian and Author, **Tony Hope**

MC by **Criag Cracknell**, President Community Radio Hobart FM

Foreword written by previous President of the Hobart Town (1804) First Settlers Association **Gwen Hardstaff** and Parramatta & District Historical Association President, **Jeff Allen**.

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This Newsletter was kindly
printed by the office of
Julie Collins M.P.
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