

A SOCIAL HISTORY of RICHMOND
1820-1855

Peter MacFie ©

2003 & 2017

RICHMOND BEFORE 1855

Peter MacFie

The village of Richmond was similar yet so very different to today's tourist town. Horses were the main method of transport, pulling waggons, carts or more fashionable gigs. Poorer people walked everywhere or caught a coach to Hobart Town. There were eight inns for travellers. Until 1850, convict road gangs, some with men wearing leg irons, worked in the streets and on roads approaching the village. Flocks of sheep were driven through the village to the sale-yards. Assigned servants assembled on the Muster Ground, now the Municipal Park, to have their names checked, observed carefully by constables and the Police Magistrate, based in the Watch House. Here offending assigned servants, convicts under sentence and occasional free settler were charged before magistrates, and held in the holding cells.

At the Court House nearby, charges were heard by magistrates and 'justice' handed out, by today's standards, harsh and without feeling.

A Town Left Behind.

From being a pioneering district, after 1850 the town gradually became a town left behind by the spread of settlement to the north and the new colonies of Victoria and New Zealand. First the Victorian gold rush attracted settlers away, then in 1874 the town was by-passed by the Mainline Railway to the north and the Sorell Causeway to the south. Richmond became a quaint village, preserved by default. From the start of the first Jury Act in 1855 to the introduction of Municipal Government in 1864, the Richmond district was under the jurisdiction of affluent locals, rather than government appointed magistrates. Sentences were just as harsh, although flogging became a thing of the past. Richmond became the centre of local government for the Coal River Valley, holding council and court hearings, for cases stretching from Dulcot through Richmond to Campania and Colebrook.

Meanwhile, a new generation of settlers had moved into the village - Jacobs, Kellys, Andersons, Nichols, Ross and other families who stayed. Immigrants, including some German families plus military pensioners used the former barracks for temporary accommodation.

While the streets were home during the 1870s to elderly emancipist - former convicts - who lived in cheap rent or in huts in the bush at hamlets like Dulcot, most families tried to overlook their own convict origins.

The Catholic -Protestant divide continued, with the *Bridge Inn* being the Catholic pub and the *Lennox Arms/Commercial* the Protestant/visitors hotel. A deferential relationships between farm-hands and farm owners continued; but behind closed doors, another world existed.

Chapter 1

Village Life

Before 1855, the streets of Richmond were busy with workers and travellers coming and going - to shops, to the inns, to cut timber in the Meehan Range, to shear sheep or to have wheat ground at the village mills.

Getting to Richmond - Boats & Coaches

For the first years of its life, Richmond was reached easily by water, and boats ferried bulky goods to and from Hobart Town. The road to the jetty began at Henry Street which lead into Commercial Road and which once continued down to the jetty on *Lowlands*. In 1829, George Wray operated the 26 ton *Richmond Packet*, to and from Hobart. Other folk were also using Pittwater.

3/4/1839. Thomas Loyal (*Asia 4*) - Const Jones: having 5 sacks in his possession without satisfactory account.

Const William Wallace: Informed by Mr Thorne's that some improper traffic was carried on in his boat - went with Const Johns down to the boat- observed bags hanging over side of the boat- prisoner saw us and placed bags in the bows - prisoner said they were Mr Thorne's - and he got them from a boat that came down the River. Remanded.¹

Although by 1861 the roads to Hobart were improving, Pittwater was still used for moving grain. The owners of the schooner *Defiance* advised the 'Inhabitants of Richmond' that the ship had undergone thorough repairs and was now 'in a splendid condition for carrying grain' on her usual trips between Richmond and Hobart. Rates were offered for wheat, oats and barley. Timber posts and rails were also supplied by Mr Brittain of Richmond.²

Coaches.

Travel to Richmond by coach began by 1830s, when Phillip Mills, who operated the New Norfolk coach, requested an upgrade of the road from Kangaroo Point to Richmond to allow him to operate a similar vehicle. Roderic O'Connor, Inspector of Roads, was scathing, describing the 'very dreadful state' of the track. A new line, however, was being built over Grass Tree Hill by a gang of convicts. This route wended its way over Grass Tree Hill and across the Derwent on the Risdon Ferry. Later, three of Richmond's inns offered coaching services. As the road deteriorated, and steamers came into existence, Kangaroo Point once again became used.

Chain Gangs

During the 1830s, convict road gangs, with some men in chains, worked along the road in and around Richmond. They included convicts working on the Grass Tree Hill Road. Prisoners who broke rules could be punished by being sent to work on these gangs.

¹MM 110/2/1838 ff.

²Hobart Town Advertiser, 12/3/1861, p1.

Henry Scarlett (*Strathfieldsay 14*), blacksmith PW. AWOL from muster last night.

Prisoner: I went out with two of my shipmates as far as Mr Peevor's and coming back I lost my road

Lt Bayley: work done so badly that many of the men can get their irons off. 3months hard labour Grass Tree Hill.³

Prisoners under sentence, were not allowed tobacco, but men working at the road stations or in road gangs were supplied by their mates. However, friends caught in the act could also be charged. James Sanderson (*Surrey 4*, 7 years), a member of the Richmond Street Gang, was charged with being in possession of tobacco given to him by John Bisdell, when 50 yards from his cart. Bisdell (*Barossa 1*, 15 years), an assigned servant of stonemason Thomas Herbert, was charged with giving tobacco to a prisoner under sentence. Sanderson 6 Weeks HL, Bisdell 21 Days HL.⁴

Carters

Assigned servants drove carts and waggon drawn by horse or bullocks which delivered goods and people from Kangaroo Point to Richmond and beyond. Carters had to pass several inns and enjoyed the opportunity, sometimes leaving their teams unattended.

30/3/1839. John Bull (*York 14*) assigned J Eggleton- Insolence.

Eggleton: I ordered prisoner to unload cart at Clarke's Jetty at Kangaroo Point and to proceed back to Richmond - I crossed over to Hobart and on return to the Point I found that the prisoner had unloaded his cart at Mr Clarke's and turned his bullocks into the bush - I got the bullocks and after having loaded one cart I drove it - first that load then the other and then came on to Richmond - he left the Point on Thursday evening - yesterday he returned home without his cart; he told me he had left it about 3 miles from Richmond near Mr Parramore's fence - (*Anglewood Farm*) found cart about 2 miles from Richmond, drawn across the road- said he didn't care if he was taken before (Magistrate) Mr Breton. 6 DSC⁵

On 19/6/1847, Lawrence Cotham of the *Richmond Hotel* charged George White (*Tortoise 7*) with 'driving his dray on the wrong side of the High Road (ie Grass Tree Hill Rad) by which Mr Cotham's gig was upset on Friday night.' Cotham was driving the Richmond Mail between Richmond and Malcolm Huts when he hit the front of two drays being driven by White and William Reis, the owner. Discharged.

In March 1862, Mr Weale was fined three pounds plus costs (in default one month's imprisonment with hard labour in the House of Correction, Richmond), for gross misconduct in allowing his waggon and team of four horses to return from Grass Tree Hill to the *Bridge Inn* without him. The Warden, Coverdale, felt Weale's leaving the team to fend for itself most disgraceful, which endangered the property of their masters and the life and

³MM 110/2 1833 ff.

⁴LC445 3/11/1847.

⁵MM 110/2 1838.

property of the public, and he was determined to put a stop to it. Waggoner Drew was also fined 10 shillings and costs for riding asleep on his waggon at night drawn by three horses.⁶

Sawyers - Quick-Witted (& Thirsty)

Sometimes convict workers got away with semi-legal purchases. Skilled convicts, such as sawyers, were far from submissive, and resented interference, especially from constables or soldiers. One constable dared to try to stop a sawyer carrying away a barrel of beer from town - and on Christmas Day, 1838.

3/1/1839. William Vickers (*Moffat 7/TL*) charged Const Smith.

Const John Smith: On Christmas Day I was on duty in Richmond. About 11 'clock in the forenoon I saw one of the sawyers from Grass Tree Hill going out of the Township with a keg on his back - I went after him and asked what he had got there- he said it was wine and it belonged to a free man and not him- I took hold of the keg and a few men came up to stand over the keg and asked me what I was going to do with it - he had not a permit for its removal - the few men then attempted to force the keg from me- a number of men came up at the time and the prisoner was amongst them.

I called upon the prisoner in the Queen's name to aid and assist me in the execution my duty - he refused and kicked me and knocked me down- & the keg was taken away by the prisoner who ran away with the men who had the keg - there were about 8 men and the prisoner went with them as far as Maj de Gillern's (ie on Grass Tree Hill) where I followed them. 6 months hard labour Half Way Hill Party.⁷

Black-Markets

An illegal economy operated between officials, settlers and convicts, especially where the prisoners had a saleable commodity or skill. Such cases usually implied bribery.

A proven case of stand-over tactics occurred in 1836 when John Martin, Public Works overseer, was charged with having Government men in his employment. Henry Buscombe (a free builder) was strongly implicated. Edward Butterworth and Thomas Williams paid Martin a dollar week 'for being watchman while John Wilkinson, hut keeper, also paid one dollar a week for being 'allowed reaping, threshing and cleaning.' Thomas Richardson brick maker with the Public Works, paid Martin £2 sterling for burning bricks which James Lord, overseer, and Thomas Broad, flagellator had made. Three thousand of the 9,000 bricks burnt were taken as commission by Martin, and sold to 'Mr Henry Buscombe'. Buscombe had paid the brick-burner £2-12-0 and Martin received £2 while the 12 shillings was kept by Richardson.⁸

Assigned servants took advantage of their positions to try and make some deals 'on the quiet.' Any building material was sought after, including shingles. A servant of Lt Benjamin

⁶Hobart Town Advertiser 12/3/1862, p3.

⁷MM 110/2/1838 ff.

⁸MacFie, PH *Dobbers & Cobbers - Informers and Mateship Among Convicts, Officials and Settlers on the Grass Tree Hill Road, Tasmania 1830-1850, THRA, 1988.*

Bayly of the 21st Regiment (in charge of the Grass Tree Hill Road Gang), used his connection - and nearly got away with it.

William Fitzgerald, under colonial sentence, was charged in July 1834, with bringing 3,000 shingles from Grass Tree Hill without leave. Lt Bayley met the culprit driving the Government cart and bullocks, loaded with shingles, 'going up the hill near Major De Gillern's.' Fitzgerald claimed to have received the shingles from James Hunt, and was told to leave them 'at French's Hut.' Fitzgerald supposed Hunt had been given permission as he (Hunt) was Mr Bayly's private servant.' (Sentence: 4 months hard labour Grass Tree Hill Road Party). Hunt (*Commander Harcourt* - Life) was then charged with 'improper conduct in splitting shingles for himself and sending them from Grass Tree Hill to Richmond in a Government Cart.' Pleading guilty, Hunt said in his defence that 'he is sorry and throws himself upon the mercy of the court.' Magistrate Peter Murdoch exercised his mercy and committed Hunt to three months Grass Tree Hill Chain Gang.⁹

In July 1838, an employee at Young's Tannery was approached to sell leather on the black-market at the *Bridge Inn*.

6/7/1838. James Beardman (*Lord William Bentick* 7) charged by Mr Young with Gross Disorderly Conduct

Henry Watts: assigned Young (approached by Beardman at *McPhail's Public House* to act as receiver) - He asked if my master 'behaved well to me as to money, because if he did not, Beardman could put me in the way of money- He asked if I could get anything from my master - willing to take anything - hides, leather - knew his master had a large mawl etc

6 months hard labour, no chains, TL suspended.

Street Brawls.

Free-for-all fights in the streets of Richmond were not rare. In 1847, a brawl erupted between men working for David Lord, owner of *Richmond Park* and *Daisy Bank* farms, and constables stationed at the Richmond Watch House. Free men and former prisoners shared an intense dislike for other ex-prisoners who had become constables. Punishment for the free was significantly less severe.

George Read (free) overseer at Lord's, was charged with assaulting Jabez Brown.

Brown: The prisoner said he 'would be buggered if any two constables in the island would put him in the Watch House,' and struck me in the face and hit me with a stick.' Fined £4.

James Grimshead (*Cressy*, 15 years) was charged with assaulting Const. Roose, saying

'he would not go to the Watch House with any bloody constable.' When Roose arrived other men were on Jabez Brown 'when I went to assist.'

⁹MacFie, Dobbers & Cobbers, *ibid*, p 14.

Robert Steel (*Barossa* 2, 15 years) charged with assaulting Constables Briggs and Clarke.

Briggs: A number of men were struggling with the constables, they kicked me in the stomach and struck me.

Several other of Lord's men were charged with assaulting constables -

William Martin (*Barossa* 2, 10 years) assaulting Const. Davis;

Henry Budd (*Moffatt* 3, 10 years) assaulting Const. Roberts.

Roberts: I was struck on the nose by the prisoner's foot and made to bleed - the prisoner escaped.

All 2 months hard labour each.¹⁰

¹⁰LC 445 28/11/1846.

Chapter 2

Masters and Servants

The Assignment and later Passholder systems gave a high degree of power to the master/employer. However, assigned servants were not powerless, and used non-cooperation, non-production and verbal abuse to discredit and undermine the power of an over-bearing master. Occasionally sabotage was used, the most destructive being the deliberate burning of haystacks and barns, a popular method of revenge amongst bushrangers.

Within the shops and inns, another level of relationship existed between owners and servants. Here, small businesses could be 'taken down' by a servant or an unscrupulous - or desperate - traveller.

The Establishment

Clergymen

As the 'official' church, Church of England clergy were not always respected by assigned labourers. This attitude is explained by the aloof manner of Anglican clergymen and their families. Some could be taken advantage of by their servants. The clergy lived in part of a home now known as *Fernville*.

24/3/1838 James Fitzgerald (*Asia 4 /7 Years*) Assigned to Rev. Aislabie - charged by master with pilfering a quantity of wine.¹¹

The strong distaste held by the Established church for emancipists is found in a letter written in 1850 by Anne Marriott (nee Schaw), wife of Rev. Marriott, an Anglican clergyman. Anne was the daughter of the Richmond Police Magistrate and former soldier, Major Charles Schaw. Writing to her mother-in-law, Anne spoke of the caution and success in finding a servant who had to be:

... a respectable free girl of 18 whom I have taught at the Sunday School for the last 3 or 4 years, consequently I have had opportunities of judging a little of her character....I intend to adopt my sister's plan of never (sic) having a prisoner in a nursery or even one free by servitude. I find it such a comfort having my sister so near to me.... having had 9 children and next month expects her tenth...she finds it so hard to keep a good (governess) any length of time.

As most of the town and district were emancipated convicts, the letter indicates the high degree of prejudice evident among senior public figures and their families, which resulted in a 'caste system' within the community.¹²

¹¹MM 110/2, 24/3/1838. good detail.

¹²MacFie, *At That Time a' Day*, draft text. ' - a Social History of Richmond and the Coal River Valley, draft text, 2000.

Charles Schaw, Magistrate

A soldier who arrived in Van Diemen's Land in 1833, he became Richmond magistrate in 1841, a position he held for 15 years, before renting Rosny at Bellerive in 1851¹³. Schaw's family were disliked for their haughty manners and quarrelsome nature. A former soldier, he was noted for his short temper, vindictiveness and for favouring friends from the bench. A strongly prejudiced magistrate, he used the bench for his own ends. He and fellow magistrate, J.H. Butcher, were both anti-convict and vehemently anti-Catholic.

Margaret Randall (*Tasmanian* 4, 10 years) Assigned to and also Charged by Schaw with Neglect of Work.

Schaw: I Found her working on a piece of cloth for herself - needlework - instead of for the family. 1 months hard labour.

Doctors

FG Brock, MD - the Hard-Hearted Richmond Doctor

Irish born Dr F G Brock, was stationed at Richmond around 1837 He was later appointed (twice) to Port Arthur Penal Station as assistant surgeon, where he was known for strictness and an 'overbearing and irritating personality', coupled with a lack of sympathy for convicts.¹⁴ At Port Arthur, Brock was praised for eradicating 'malingering,' or the pretended illness of convicts.¹⁵

Cases involving Brock's servants at Richmond reveal a similar strict personality. His female servants seem to have especially disliked him.

4/1/1839. Susan Sloane sic (*America* 7) - runs through house, resists arrest- 1 months hard labour SC

Elizabeth Gore was charged with Insolence, then refused to proceed to the service of Dr Brock.¹⁶

A former Pt Puer lad assigned to Brock trafficked in stolen goods, but was shown no sympathy or consideration for his background.

5/11/1838. Joseph Welsh (*Aurora* 7) assigned Dr Brock, Pt Arthur boy (sic). Guilty AWOL and Disorderly Conduct in destroying cloth. 19/11 - stole shoes given to wardsman in the Gaol- 6 months hard labour and returned to Government.

Brock was an over-bearing master, especially to his house servants.

22/12/1838. John Edwards (*Jupiter* 7) assigned Dr Brock. He was waiting at table. Having acted improperly I corrected him and he said, "You must always have something to find fault with".

I desired him to hold his tongue and he replied, 'I'll say a good deal more than that.' In about 20 minutes after I sent for him when I thought he was

¹³Brittania & Trades Advocate, 6/3/1851, p3 c7.

¹⁴Glover, Margaret Civilian Officials of Port Arthur - Their Lives & Lifestyles, Port Arthur Conservation Project, National Parks & Wildlife Service, 1984, p 3.

¹⁵MacFie & Bonet, Convict Health at Port Arthur & Tasman Peninsula, 1830-1877, the Relationship between Diet, Work, Medical Care and Health, Port Arthur Conservation Project, National Parks & Wildlife Service, 1985, p16.

¹⁶MM 110/2 1838 ff.

cool and told him if he as sorry for what he had done and I would forgive him -- he replied in an insolent manner, "I am not sorry for nothing I have said". I then sent for a constable.'

36 lashes.

Small Businesses

Small businesses were vulnerable for different reasons. In a cross-roads village, Richmond hoteliers needed to be awake to tricks of passing travellers. Samuel Burgess (*Star & Garter*), Mary McCullogh¹⁷ (*Union Hotel*) and Daniel Elsey (working at the *Bridge Inn*), were all suspicious of a sovereign passed over their bars by Dominic McBride.

Evidence from Samuel Burgess. McBride called for a pot of beer in payment of which he tendered a counterfeit sovereign. It was one of those coins with 'To Hanover' on one side.

McBride claimed to have received it in change either at Swanston or Spring Bay on the East Coast.

Evidence of Mary McCullogh, wife of licensed victualler.

... defendant came to her house and asked for a bottle of rum for which he tendered counterfeit sovereign.

Daniel Elsey, *Bridge Inn*. Defendant tried to get a 'night's lodgings and something to eat.'

Unable to get work, McBride complained, 'Bugger it, that's the way to try a bloody man.' He then asked Daniel Elsey, a local, to a game of skittles at the *Star & Garter*, paying for a pot of beer with the counterfeit coin. Arrested by Senior Constable Beakley, McBride was convicted in Hobart and sentenced to 12 months hard labour for forgery at HM Gaol Hobart Town.¹⁸

¹⁷Mary was Simon McCullogh's second wife.

¹⁸Hobart Town Advertiser, 5/12/1860 p 2.

Chapter 3

Building Richmond

Government Buildings

Black Markets & Under currents

The classic Georgian buildings which survive were built by convict labour. Private homes were built with either assigned or ticket of leave men. Gangs also built Government structures such as the extant Bridge (1823), Court House (1825) and Gaol (1827) and vanished buildings like the Military Barracks.

St Luke's Anglican Church and Schoolhouse (1834). Designed by John Lee Archer, day to day management was by former convict architect James A Thomson.

Architect, engineer and building contractor, James Alexander Thomson was a native of Haddington, Scotland. Described as 'a wild but clever young man', he was married with a wife and child living in Park Street, Regent's Park. After being charged with his brothers William and Joseph, he was transported for life for 'stealing from a dwelling house'. While William was released, the other 2 men were transported separately. (Joseph was convicted of stealing jewellery valued at £3,000, but drowned after 2 years in VDL.)

James arrived in Hobart Town on the *Medway* on 14/12/1825. He was made clerk to the 'Colonial Architect' (David Lambe) and was living in boarding house when charged with various misdemeanours. In November 1826 he was 'out after hours and ... found in the bedroom of Mrs Roberts.' and returned to work at the Prisoners' Barracks. By 1829 he was again working for the 'Engineer', that is the new Colonial Engineer/Architect, John Lee Archer, when he was charged with 'Going to the Sandy Bay Races without a pass', but was merely admonished.

James continued in this position, and from 1833 he also acted as overseer of the Government plumbers, glaziers and painters. He was located at Richmond in September 1833, supervising the erection of St Luke's Anglican Church and nearby sandstone school house, 1833-1837. John Lee Archer, his supervisor and fellow architect/engineer, procured a small remuneration for him for Thomson. He won approval from Lt Benjamin Bayley, Superintendent at Richmond, for 'being instrumental in checking a fire at the Government Hut on 19th August.'

James received a Conditional Pardon on 1/1/1835 and a Free Pardon on 31/7/1839.¹⁹ He then established a practice in architecture, engineering and surveyor in Liverpool Street, which lasted for most of the rest of his life. In 1841, he was in partnership with James Blackburn, also former convict and architect/engineer. After Blackburn left for Victoria, James operated from the Stone Buildings, Murray Street, as 'Thomson & Cookney.'

Thomson and Blackburn were responsible for several churches in southern Tasmania and several bridges, including the first 'Flying Bridge' across the Derwent River at Bridgewater in 1841, plus repairs to the Richmond Bridge. Thomson's best known building is the Hobart

¹⁹Con 31/42. AOT. (No 656) & (no 468).

Synagogue (1843-5) in Argyle Street, and described as 'the most comprehensive example of the Regency Egyptian style in Australia,' being superior to equivalent buildings in Mainland Australia. Other churches include St Joseph's Hobart and Launceston, and St Andrew's Campbell Town,

James married Eliza Ogilvie, the widow of a wine and spirits merchant with three children in 1832, and had children of their own. On Eliza's death in 1852, he married Catherine, the widow of Hobart builder John Jackson.

Thomson sailed for the UK on a visit in 1860, but died of typhoid fever near Glasgow later that year, aged 55. (Somewhat ironically, his former partner, James Blackburn also died of typhoid in Melbourne, Victoria in 1854, where he was working on a new urban water scheme.)

Thomson is an example of the many former convicts who overcame his lowly status on arrival in Australia, becoming a family man, successful businessman, and community member, having been a Hobart Alderman, member of the Freemasons and the Mechanic's Institute.

St Lukes Church & School were constructed by convict gangs. Court records reveal the methods and men involved in its construction. Two prisoners supported each other in safety matters.

19/3/1834. Abraham Pascoe, Richmond Working Party, charged with neglect of duty, in refusing to carry stones on the hand barrow.

William Hartley, stonemason at work on the School, Richmond. This morning I heard Abraham Pascoe say he could not carry the hand barrow up a run (a plank in the scaffold) - he carried them up on his head. The plank is too narrow to carry the hand barrow. The man behind cannot see the plank- if his foot should slip he is in danger of having his bones broken. I have difficulty myself in carrying the hand barrow on the plank. Case dismissed.²⁰

Pascoe was regarded as an experienced hand in disposing of stolen goods. Two months earlier, in January 1834, George Rhodes had blankets etc stolen from 'his little hut' on the new road, half a mile from Richmond. He was fencing for Mr Buscombe. He accused Henry Sheppard of stealing while he was at work 'on the new bridge, about 60 rods from our hut.' Sheppard told him to speak to Abraham (Toby) Pascoe, as 'he is an older chum than I am. He knows more about the gang.' Rhodes had apparently promised to 'leave tea and sugar and things under the middle arch of the bridge...' Dismissed.²¹

St Luke's Church was also being built at this time. However, the Overseer in charge, and the men in the Richmond Working Party were accused of 'having bad connections in this place and from their having occasionally made considerable sums by working in their own hours, they having become much too independent of their overseer.' The Overseer, Thomas Densley, 'has a very bad character, and so is the leader and promoter of such disturbance,'

²⁰MM110/1, 19/3/1834.

²¹LC440/1, 13/1/1834.

which refers to a 'strike' on the day of the Richmond Races during January 1835; his sentence was 'severe.'²²

JP Morgan tried to use the races to try to control unruly gang members. On New Year's Day 1835, 'it being a general holiday and the first day of the Richmond Races', John Moran PM, mustered the Richmond Working Party, and 'explained my wishes and my orders that they should not go on the course... I believe several were at the races contrary to orders.'

Despite being warned, the men again went to the races and were confined to their huts, but had 'refused to return to their work when ordered by the overseer.' Morgan's solution was to break up the gang to disperse the trouble-makers.²³

A year later, Densley won the approval of the Commandant at Port Arthur Penal Settlement, Charles O'Hara Booth, for overseeing construction of the church at that site.²⁴

The Gaol

22/12/1838. Samuel H Turner (1948 *Bardaster* 7) clerk in the gaol - charged by William Robinson with being drunk & misconduct.

Accused by Robinson with having an affair with his wife - lying on his bed when he returned home; went to Hobart Town with his wife 'Dissension exists between my wife and me owing to chiefly to Turner's going to my house in my absence where he has no right to be.'

2 MHL Richmond Gaol and after removed from Richmond Gaol to Sandy Bay Road Party.

Private Structures

The Brothers Buscombe - the builders of Richmond

The appearance of the village of Richmond today is shaped more by the ventures of two brothers, James Kestall and Henry Buscombe, than any other individuals. Remarkably, they were all constructed within a 12 year period, starting in 1827. The main builder was JKB, and when he died in 1851, he left his widow in trust a steam four mill, the *Lennox Arms* inn, nine cottages, four shops, a large store and a blacksmith's shop.²⁵

JK Buscombe. Emigrated from Cornwall, UK, arriving in Hobart per *Heroine* on 10 Sept 1822, and was a carpenter and builder, aged 22. The next month James was given an allotment in Hobart. He gradually acquired other acreages, and built several dwellings in Hobart. He also had 30 acres near the later Alma Street, Bellerive.

Henry Buscombe. Arrived per *Resource* on 30 October 1830.²⁶ He appears to have had no children.

²²MM110/3, 5/1/1835. see file in p/c folder -(GTH) which refs to a 2 lists of rebels. SEE ALSO LC 440 EXTRACTS - NOTES - see black newspaper/LC folder.

²³ibid, 5/1/1835.

²⁴Brand, Ian Penal Peninsula, nd c 1988, p 28.

²⁵MacFie, PH *Buscombe Brothers*, Adult Education Historical Notes, 2002.

²⁶MB 2/39/1.

Hobart Town 1822-26. Prior to moving to Richmond, JKB had erected 'substantial buildings' in Hobart. These included 'Mr Clark's Cottage and Premises.' James listed his assets as:

'Cash £200, rental of houses (2 on the New Town Road, 1/ Mount Pleasant Cottage and 1/ in Murray Street @ £176 per annum, a small sloop named *Mary* value £50; and other property used by builders with stock in hand worth... £100.'

JKB stated his intention of using his rental as a 'support fro an agricultural undertaking...', one of the few things he did not achieve.²⁷

In October 1826 he rented as licensee the *Three Trunks Inn* on lower Mt Rumney. (Located on the old highway, stables from the former inn survive.)

Family of JK Buscombe. On 11 July 1827 JKB married Elisabeth Barnett (b 1797), at old St David's Church, Hobart, having a least 5 children. They were James Henry Kestall (b1828), Henry Lennox (b 1833), William (died at birth 1833), Benjamin Cleburne (b1834), & Elizabeth Ann (b 1835). JKB's parents appeared to have lived with his family, as his father, John (b 1764) Buscombe died at Prospect on 5 Dec 1847, aged 83 years. James died a relatively young man, aged 51 in 1851. His mother Martha, (b 1769) out-lived her son, dying at the home of her daughter, Mrs Robert Doolin, Richmond, died on 2 Feb 1857, aged 88. James' wife Elisabeth died three yeas later, on 13 Nov 1860, aged 63.²⁸

The Richmond Entrepreneur

JK Buscombe may have been attracted to Richmond as two of his fellow passengers on the *Heroine* were already there. They were James Turnbull, overseer at the new Richmond Bridge, and John Walker, builder of the nearby water mill on the Coal River - which eventually threatened the bridge's survival.²⁹

Before building '*Prospect Villa*', JKB was living 'at the foot of the (new) Richmond Bridge' in 1828 when it was threatened with inundation by flooding. Overseer Turnbull had a small cottage here close to the Bridge, and JKB may have been sharing the premises while starting his other projects. He purchased land along the river from Turnbull on which he built the stone tower windmill in 1831.

Major Building Ventures of JK Buscombe

1827 *Lennox Arms*. (destroyed by fire 1886)

1827-31. The Richmond Tower Windmill & Cottage. (Tower demolished 1908,) Miller's Cottage extant)

c 1831. Granary & General Store (extant, cnr Bridge & Henry Streets.)

JK & Henry Buscombe also built a range of brick cottages in various locations in the township.

²⁷CSO1/358/8211.

²⁸Correspondence File, AOT. A year before his death, JKB (or perhaps his son?) is recorded as a passenger on the *Elizabeth Starbuck* for California. Irish Exile, 2/2/1850.

²⁹Walker later became a major Hobart miller.

Lennox Arms. Opened in 1827, the inn was located on the site of the *Commercial* (now *Richmond Arms*.) From the two storeyed sandstone inn, with its profitable tap-room, Buscombe built his fortune. The inn housed accommodation facilities, a large upstairs meeting room plus upstairs verandah. The original detached stables are extant, surviving the 1886 fire.

The inn also advertised a wide selection of 'GOODS' for sale, ranging from wine and whisky, ales and porter, to 'fine tea in small packages', 'Lisbon and Isle of France sugar', 'tobacco by the basket', plus foodstuffs ('oatmeal, sago, pepper, and spices') to essentials ('gunpowder, flints and earthen ware of all description), plus clothing which ranged from European suits, calico, threads, to 'ladies fine scarves' and a 'case of superior gentlemen's hats (in) royal brown, drab and black.'

Other Business Interests. While the *Lennox Arms* licensee, JKB was also auctioneer, building assessor, Richmond post-master (for 20 years) and conducted funerals.³⁰ To the rear of the inn was a 'cattle-yard' where auctions were held, initially on a regular basis, obviously good for business. On the New Years Day Races in 1831, permission was given to JKB to sell malt liquor cider, ginger beer and spruce beer in an open booth on the Richmond Race Ground at the ensuing races at Richmond.³¹

Community Activity. He was in a number of committees, including treasurer of the Richmond Agricultural Society which held annual ploughing matches.

JK Buscombe, Mill Owner. In addition to the Tower mill, JKB had a financial stake in a little known post-mill located near St John's Church, Richmond. From these he supplied flour to the Commissariat Store for convict road gangs. In 1834 he was accused of sending flour 'cut' with maize to the Grass Tree Hill Road Party, resulting in a severe outbreak of diahorrea among the 80 strong gang.³²

Henry Buscombe. James building programme was apparently assisted in their construction by his brother Henry, who was also a builder and with separate buildings also owned in his own right. Henry was something of an operator, and used the black-market to secure cheap, convict-made bricks.

Henry was involved in building the first section of St John's Catholic Church, Richmond in 1837.³³ He is believed to have also built *Oak Lodge*, Bridge Street in 1831, as he owned the land on which it was erected. This home was later purchased by Capt James Booth, RN, a naval officer and brother of Charles O'Hara Booth, the Commandant at Port Arthur.³⁴

Buscombe's Assigned Servants.

Their names are not easily available. Those found may have worked at either at the inn, or *Prospect*.

³⁰Hobart Town Courier 17/12/1831 p1.

³¹MM 110/1/4

³²MacFie, PH 'Dobbers & Cobbers -ibid.

³³MacFie, PH 'Silent Impact - the Irish Inheritance of Richmond and the Coal River Valley', 1996, in Irish-Australia History Conference Proceedings.

³⁴Jones, Elisabeth, Richmond - A Crossing Place, 1977, p 50.

A groom assigned to JKB absconded in 1831:

1326 Thomas Bennett, 5 feet 4 ins light brown hair & eyes, aged 20, a carrier and groom, tried at Bristol in October 1829, transported per *Manlius* for 14 years. absconded from JK Buscombe 12 Feb 1831. Reward £2.³⁵

Two female assigned servants of JKB were Elizabeth Pugh (*St Vincent*) in 1850, and Frances Costello (per *Tory*) in 1851.

Prospect Villa/House.

In August 1831, when applying for another allotment in the village, JK Buscombe stated:

... I am possessed of two allotments of land in the township of Richmond on one of which I have erected a two story (sic) brick house and outbuildings etc to the value of a £1,000... and have nearly completed a tower windmill the .. cost of which is £1,500....

The home also contained a coach house, stables and large garden.

While court and other records give an insight into the Buscombe's life as publicans in Richmond, as yet, little is known of the day-to-day life at *Prospect* during the their ownership.

Elderly residents of the district however, recall its ownership by the Nichols family. During the ownership of PJ Nichols, the house was surrounded by a large orchard, mainly apples, with a sorting shed adjacent.

Later Owner/Occupants

Victorian Era

- **1858.** Following the death of his mother, her son, James Henry Kestall Buscombe lived at *Prospect*. At that stage the house was set on 40 acres and valued at £110. He also ran the large store in Richmond.
- **1860s Major Wilkinson.** Following the death of Mrs Elizabeth Buscombe in 1860, the properties built by JKB were advertised for sale in March 1864. They included *Prospect*, ' a substantial 2 storey brick dwelling with coach house, stables, large garden and every convenience,' now let to Major Wilkinson.
- c1864. Col Andrew Crawford.
- JW Nichols (pur) 1865 - 1880. Lessee -
- 1880-1900 - PJ Nichols mortgagee/lessee

20th Century

- 1922 Oscar Tonks
- 1924 George Herbert Wilson - had married Miss Brock from *Belmont* opposite.
- 1939 Calvin Morrisby
- 1956 Sylvester Cook

³⁵Hobart Town Courier 19/2/1831, p2.

- 1967 John Peter Palfreyman
- 1973 Peter & ?? Utting + Ernest Trigg & ?? as restaurant
- 1980 Syndicate, including Graeme Phillips and Jon and Marjan Geurson. (converted barn to units etc) chef Tom Samek, now artist.
- 1990 + . Shauna & Michael Buscombe, a descendant of the original owner.

Chapter 4

The Inns of Richmond

Rest, Recreation & Religion

As a crossing place for travellers, the history of the inns is also a history of Richmond. Inns and hotels were the centre of the village life - for men, and for women not considered 'respectable,' and for passing travellers. In its prime, Richmond boasted at least 8 inns and hostelrys of varying sizes and quality. The high number of hotels is explained by the Catholic/Irish community in the district, & the position of Richmond at the 'Cross Roads' leading to the East Coast via Orford, the Midlands via Jerusalem (now Colebrook), plus the Tasman Peninsula via Sorell.

First Inns

These were situated on Commercial Road and included the *Packet Inn* which had the advantage of being 'on the public road leading to the wharf (on Pittwater) where the produce from the Coal River and Jerusalem etc is shipped.'³⁶ The *Richmond Hotel*, also in Commercial Road, had a number of licensees including Lawrence Cotham in 1838.

Once the Richmond Bridge was constructed, entrance to Richmond changed, and inns were established on this route. The *Bridge Inn* followed the *Richmond Wine Vaults*, then JK Buscombe's *Lennox Inn* and the *Union Hotel* across the Bridge, while the *Prince of Wales Hotel* was located on the road to Colebrook. On the Hobart side, the *Star and Garter* was operating by the 1840's. The poorly located *Sawyer's Arms* in Gunning Street was only active for three years in the 1840's.

Once a year, all publicans appeared at the Court House for Licensing Day.

Licensing Day 1860

At the Annual Licensing Day, publicans applied to Magistrates at the Court House to have their licenses renewed. In the 1860s the day was one of activity:

Mr McCulloch sic [*Union Hotel*] was the first on the ground, no wonder! He has been a publican since the year 1826 and during all that time was never before their worships except on the present occasions... (his license) was granted in a twinkling, as was Mr Murphy's who immediately followed.
[*Bridge Inn*]

Then there was a pause... for Mr Burgess' appearance.[*Star & Garter*] then came Messrs Featherstone, [*Lennox Arms*] Guy,[*Richmond Hotel*] Cavey [*Half-Way House*, Lower Jerusalem] and Charles Lamb (of Jerusalem), Joseph Foster being the last of the applicants.... Patrick Dolan of the *Lion Inn*, Jerusalem was granted a licence.³⁷

³⁶Jones, Elisabeth Richmond a Crossing Place, 1975, p 15.

³⁷Hobart Town Advertiser, 4/12/1860 p 2, in MacFie, At That Time a' Day, drat text, 2002.

Inns, Publicans & Religion

A strong connection existed between Richmond's inns and the religious denomination of the licensee and the majority of those who attended. Because of religious prejudices, the inns were either Catholic or Non-Catholic. The majority of Richmond's inns were operated by Catholics, a trade which avoided discrimination and allowed the inns to act as self-funded social centres.

The Catholics Inns.

A strong Catholic - and mainly Irish - community existed within the Richmond district. St Johns Church (1837) - the first rural Catholic church in Tasmania - and its early school (1842) which still functions today, are indicators of these roots. The strength of this Irish inheritance is recalled in the name 'Irish Town,' once given to the tiny 'suburb' located below St John's Catholic Church.

The Irish community began with the arrival from Ireland of 157 male convicts aboard the *Minerva* in 1818. They formed the nucleus of the Irish/catholic community, with several of these families intermarrying.³⁸ By 1825, the strength of the Irish community was such that Father Connolly urged his replacement be someone who 'knew the Irish language' or Gaelic.³⁹

A corresponding Catholic/ Irish link existed within the majority of Richmond's hotels. In a list of pew holders at St John's Catholic Church in 1842, five members are town publicans - or 'licensed victuallers' as they were known. They were:

Simon McCulloch - *Union Hotel*

Lawrence Cotham - *Richmond Hotel*

Daniel Murphy - *Bridge Inn*

Francis Atkinson - *Sawyer's Arms*

John McGowan - *Prince of Wales*

In addition, another pew holder was John Byrne, proprietor at the *Horse Shoe Inn*, Hollow Tree (later Cambridge).

The *Union Hotel* c1826

The oldest Richmond inn was Simon McCulloch's *Union Hotel*, located over the Bridge in 'Irish Town.' (Today the former inn is known as *Stratford House*.) Its first owner was Simon McCulloch who was the longest running licensed victualler, operating from 1826 to 1863.⁴⁰

McCulloch (formerly McCulloch) was a convict who received a pardon for the apprehension of a murderer. At the time he was a shrewd shepherd, working sheep at St Paul's River in northern Van Diemen's Land on land belonging to Simeon Lord.⁴¹ How McCulloch came to be proprietor of such a well-made building is uncertain. He appear to have been relatively

³⁸MacFie, *Silent Impact, The Irish Inheritance in the Coal River Valley*, 1995. .

³⁹op cit p4.

⁴⁰Now a private residence.

⁴¹McKay, (ed.) *The Land Commissioners Journal*, 1826, p68.

affluent; the two-storeyed brick house is finished in NSW cedar. Simon's wife at this time was Joanna (or Anna) Cunningham, and they were married on 20/7/1829.⁴² The couple produced several children a number of whom died in infancy. Aged 48, Simon McCulloch re-married Mary O'Keefe aged 22 on 22/1/1847.⁴³

At the time of the 1842 census there were 7 people in the *Union Hotel*. Simon and his wife were living with their four children, two - a boy and a girl - aged between 2 & 7, another between 7 & 14, while a fourth was aged 14-21. Others in the household were two single females and one male in private assignment. There was one male and one female domestic servant. One adult was a Protestant and the remainder Catholic.

Some Offending Assigned Servants from the *Union Hotel*

Not all punishments were severe.

10/12/1833 Magistrate GW Gunning

Jane Campbell assigned Simon McCulloch - Drunk & Disorderly - Guilty. Being first offence, discharged having pledged herself she would never be guilty of the like offence again.⁴⁴

9/8/1838. John Ward (no ship?) charged by McCulloch with refusing to milk the cow.... conduct good - 3DSC

Some of the crimes seem trivial to us now.

16/2/1839. James Watson (913 *Georgiana* life) gross misconduct.

William Mahon: I reside at Mr McCulloch's at the Coal River On 20th prisoner at McCulloch's Public House with some other persons - saw him leave & pick up a shirt that had been hanging outside to dry - he put the shirt under his jacket and went away - called out to him but did not stop.

John Ward: The shirt belongs to fellow servant Samuel Evans & I had washed it & put it put to dry- last 3 weeks Mr Mahon asked me if I had a shirt hanging on the rail to dry-- I overtook prisoner - said he had thrown down the shirt-went back and found it in some wattles. 10 DSC ⁴⁵

Prisoners who pretended to be free were treated harshly

18/3/1839. William Woodland assigned to W Kearney -charged by Const Reid with AWOL & Drunk. Guilty.

Reid: saw Woodland at McCulloch's Public House - he was drunk and representing himself to be free. 3 months hard labour ⁴⁶

Victorian Era: By 1873 the hotel was a private residence and had remained so ever since. In 1877 Patrick Keady (pronounced 'Kady') lived there. He was a road contractor, remembered by Alf King as 'a pretty rough man; very tough when workin' for him.'⁴⁷

42RGD No 36/1307. AOT. Witnesses were Francis Heary and Sarah McShane.

43RGD 37/1394.

44MM110/2 10/12/1833 RW Gunning VM 1838.

45MM110/2.

46MM110/2.

47Alf King in MacFie Papers, 1978.

20th Century: Sam Smith, a carrier, lived there around 1902.⁴⁸ Three of his sons were killed in WWI.⁴⁹ During the 1950s the Cosgrove family lived there; outbuildings including stables were destroyed in the 1967 bushfires. In the 1970s the new owner, Ray Sherry a non-local, broadcaster and Labor MHR, re-named the home Stratford House. In the late 1990s the building was restored by Margaret and Graydon Johnson.

Richmond Hotel c1838.

The property transferred from Phillip Mills to John Cassidy and finally to Laurence Cotham in 1838 who held it until 1845.⁵⁰ Cotham was married to Sarah Cassidy, the daughter of John Cassidy, a Catholic and large land owner based at *Woodburn Farm*. In addition, publican Lawrence Cotham was the brother of Father Cotham, the local Catholic priest.⁵¹ In 1840 Lawrence Cotham, publican, and Hugh Cassidy, land holder, were on the committee of Richmond Catholic Institute.⁵²

Cotham also offered other services. In the 1840's he auctioned machinery, cattle, wethers and horses at the hotel.⁵³ In 1847, Lawrence Cotham operated a 'new carriage' or coaching service, licensed to carry 10 passengers, to Hobart and Return.⁵⁴

Victorian Era: George Guy was owner and publican by 1850. In 1854 the *Richmond Hotel* was advertised for sale as 'A highly respectable and commodious residence in Edward Street, comprising twelve apartments with coach-house and stable detached and extensive allotments.'⁵⁵ Thomas Ryley was the next owner.

20th Century: Early in the 1900s, the inn became the home of the Joseph family for many years. Mrs P. Joseph ran a boarding house there with her brother Harry, where in 1977 'young George Joseph lives', as Alf King recalled.⁵⁶

Today the two storeyed structure is relatively unchanged. An exterior sign advertises 'Ales & Porter', a sign refreshed on the same lettering only recently.⁵⁷ The old tap room still exists with its small serving hatch, while 'L. Cotham' is still painted on the lintel above the tap-room doorway.⁵⁸ To the rear of the former hotel is the original red brick coach-house.

Some Offending Assigned Servants from the *Richmond Inn*

Cotham's inn was a retreat for convicts who had gone AWOL from neighbouring farms.

16/2/1838 Albert T Skipworth (*Elphinstone* life) and William Cardell,
assigned de Gillern. Drunk & Disorderly.

48*ibid*.

49MacFie, Richmond's WWI Soldiers, draft text, 2000.

50Lennox, Geoff Richmond Gaol, Hobart, 1997. p 18.

51CA 8/11, Catholic Archives, St Johns Church, University of Tasmania.

52Jones, Richmond, p45

53*ibid*, p16.

54Lower Courts 218, 4/10/47. AOT. Cotham also had a bush run toward Grass Tree Hill.

55Hobart Town Advertiser 6/8/1854p3

56historic notes, Peter MacFie. 'After Young George' Joseph died, the house was purchased by Jean Christian, who sold to Lizzie and Stephen Burke in 1999.

57 By the authors aunt, Jean Christian.

58pers recoll. 1999.

Not Guilty. Found at Cotham's Public House without pass- on business at Richmond for their master.

Skipworth 48 hrs solitary cell; Cardell discharged - not to be recorded.⁵⁹

17/9/1838. Jonathan Moreton (1049 *Surrey* 3/7) a TL constable - Gross Misconduct -

Const Goodman- he was in Cotham's Tap Room - taken to Mr Breton - ordered to gaol- he threw me down & ran away. 3DSC

One entry reveals Cotham kept tame rabbits - perhaps for the table.

31/10/1838. Michael Conway (John Barry) assigned Lawrence Cotham

Drunkenness and Disorderly Conduct

Cotham: sent prisoner into garden to cut stuff for rabbits- fallen down in the garden drunk. Extremely insolent-sent for constables. etc 12 months hard labour .

Sometimes Cotham's female servants escaped to other Public Houses.

1/4/1847. Ann Stewart (*Equestrian* 3) Servant to Cotham. AWOL at Murphy's Public House. ie the *Bridge Inn*.

The Bridge Inn c1834

Built by George Wise as the *Richmond Wine Vaults* in 1833.⁶⁰ The new *Bridge Inn* replaced his earlier inn, which is the first single storeyed section attached to the larger two storeyed addition. In 1834 the *Bridge Inn* was 'to let' and comprised:

... a dwelling house, containing 11 comfortable rooms and two good cellars, a four and eight stall stable, an enclosed yard with a well of the purest water and a good garden.

The advertisement boasted the inn's favourable location:

As this Inn joins the Court House (where large public assemblies are occurring almost weekly, with other daily attendances) and is on the corner allotment where meets the road from Hobart town, Jerusalem, Oyster Bay etc. ...⁶¹

The new 2 storeyed *Bridge Inn* had 'eleven comfortable rooms, two good cellars & four & eight stall stables' with a well of 'purest water.'⁶²

In 1836 the *Bridge Inn* was under proprietor John McPhail until 1841.

Daniel Murphy, Publican 1841-64. A former soldier in the 21st Regiment, Daniel Murphy married Bridget Bennett in 1839, becoming publican at the *Bridge Inn* from 1841 until 1864. One of the Irish-Catholic publicans, he was a supporter of St John's Church. Whether he met his famous brother in law, the rebel and Young Irelander, Thomas Francis O'Meagher, is uncertain. (see over)

⁵⁹do TP 326, 16/2/1838.

⁶⁰Jones, Richmond, A Crossing Place, p 15.

⁶¹Hobart Town Courier, 9/5/1834 p1.

⁶²Lennox, p 19.

Two weeks before his own marriage, Daniel Murphy was seeking assistance with changed employment, and turned to his former officer in the 21st Regt, Lt Charles O'Hara Booth, who was then commandant at Port Arthur. Daniel was then working at the Launceston Female Factory, but felt uncomfortable, 'never before having been exclusively employed as a clerk, that duty being very complex.' He sought Booth's assistance in being appointed a constable and in a brief letter, Booth recommended Murphy for 'any situation of trust.' Daniel does not appear to have occupied such a position, as by October 1839 he was publican at the *Hamilton Inn* before moving to Richmond two years later.⁶³

A Brewer Wanted. Most pubs of that time brewed their own beer; in 1856, Daniel Murphy advertised for a 'good brewer & maltster.'⁶⁴ When Murphy retired in 1864 he advertised the premises for sale, & listed the malt house, brewery, saleyards weigh-bridge & stabling plus coach house. The 'Establishment was the principle business of the township for the last 23 years.'

Some Offences at the *Bridge Inn*

2/6/1838. William Gale (*Phoenix 1* life). Charged by David Neil with pilfering a pack of cards value 2/6 the property of Mr McPhail.

John McPhail: I have lost a pack of cards.... I believe I saw them last on Thursday night- I am positive cards now produced are my property... I was informed they were on the mantelpiece just before I saw the prisoner in the house yesterday evening but not in the parlour. Neil took the cards out of the pocket of the prisoner.

David Neil: I reside at Mr McPhail's. Prisoner came into bar early yesterday afternoon with Tracers & had something to drink -- prisoner immediately went in to the parlour to light his pipe - soon afterwards left the house- returned with District Constable Goodman.

Victorian Era. During the 1870s, Robert Lewis was proprietor but by 1890 Frederick and Bertha Price were licensees of the *Bridge Inn*.⁶⁵ They were followed by Herbert Burns who ran the hotel - and associated blacksmith's shop - for many years.⁶⁶ (see over)

20th Century. In the 1950s 'cabarets were held by the proprietor Dudley Rooke, well-known footballer and later umpire. In the 1960s an ugly 'modern' front was added. After de-registration the former hotel became a vintage car museum.

In 1985 a local syndicate headed by the Geurons returned the *Bridge Inn* to its original facade, and the property now housed a series of shops and boutiques.

Sawyers Arms c1843

Emancipist Francis Atkinson who was transported on the *Chapman* built the short-lived inn, located in Gunning Street, in 1843, probably named after his trade of 'sawyer.' This is listed

⁶³Hobart Town Gazette 11/10/1839.

⁶⁴Tasmanian Daily News, 8/8/1856 p1, AOT.

⁶⁵Post Office Directory 1890.

⁶⁶Post Office Directory 1902.

when, aged 30 he married Margaret Cruse, free, aged 17, house servant, in October 1840.⁶⁷ Francis also rented a pew in St John's at this time.⁶⁸

Atkinson's new venture was not a success. In June 1847 the 'recently erected and commodious *Sawyers Arms* licensed inn' was auctioned. The premises which 'offered every convenience for a respectable and lucrative trade' were in 'excellent order' having only been recently finished' and were 'built of the best materials.' The site offered 'every necessary convenience for a Country Inn.'

Household items belonging to Francis Atkinson the owner/builder were also auctioned, and included:

- Chairs, tables, bedsteads, bedding
- Chests of drawers, wash-hand stands
- Dressing glasses, carpets, fenders and irons
- Pictures, chimney ornaments
- Blinds and curtains, kitchen & cooking utensils
- Glass, crockery, bar and tap-room furniture
- Pictures and paintings
- Also
- Kegs, taps, casks, tubs, buckets, ... etc⁶⁹

After becoming bankrupt Atkinson sold the two storeyed brick inn with adjacent stables to become hotelier briefly at the *Richmond Hotel*, Henry Street.

By about 1860 the house was a residence for George Burn when operating the Steam Flour Mill near to the Bridge. Later in the century the stables were still used for coach horses, where its pit-sawn rafters and manger racks are still in good order.⁷⁰

20th Century. Renamed *Hawthorn Lodge*, George Chivers lived there before 1914. Later owners included the Grices. From the 1970s it was owned by Dr and Joan Sherry; currently owned by Michael and Ann Barrett.

Prince of Wales Inn

A small cottage at the rear indicates the original inn. The two storeyed brick section now visible at the front was added c 1861 by John and James McGowan who then ran the *Prince of Wales*.⁷¹ They were sons of a family who had arrived on *Minerva* in 1818 with other Irish convicts. John McGowan married Mary Cunningham, daughter of Francis Cunningham, a fellow transportee.⁷²

⁶⁷McCulloch later married a second time. Con 52/1 p 4.

⁶⁸CA 8/2 Catholic Records, St John's Richmond, University of Tasmania Archives.

⁶⁹Hobart Town Gazette 26/6/1847.

⁷⁰Jones, Elisabeth, National Trust Tour notes, p 6.

⁷¹Jones, notes, p 5.

⁷²MacFie, *Silent Impact*, op cit.

The McGowans attracted a sporting fraternity, sponsoring pigeon shooting competitions and foot-races (see over) During the 1860s the McGowans erected a tent-booth for the Richmond Races held in May.⁷³

Some Offences of Assigned Servants

24/8/1846. Fenton Tinry (*Orator* 3, 7 years) Drunkenness on the Township of Sunday. 10DHL.⁷⁴

James Winter (*Duke of Northumberland* 3, 10 years) Drunkenness on Sunday. 10 DHL.

George Shaw (*Tortoise*, 10 years), out after hours with counterfeit five franc pieces in his possession. 6 months hard labour.

Victorian Era. In 1885, a newspaper reported that J Griffiths, an emigrant family was in the old *Prince Of Wales* hotel.

The landlord Mr Budd, a musician repairer of musical instruments, gave us some beautiful selections on the harp and violin in his superbly finished parlour. Formerly he was bandmaster in the Royal Navy.⁷⁵

20th Century. 1902 Martha Yule, a mid-wife and nurse ran the old inn as a 'boarding house.'⁷⁶ The inn was then owned by the Cooleys. The house was later inherited by Mrs Currie (nee Cooley) until its recent conversion (c1990) into a boarding house.

Non Catholic Inns

Hostelries operated by non-Catholics were in a minority, but included the 'up-market' and most popular venue for visitors, the *Lennox Arms*;

Lennox Arms - JK Buscombe 1827-1886 (destroyed by fire)

Commercial Hotel (rebuilt on site) - John Featherstone 1888

Star & Garter - Samuel Burgess c1840

Lennox Arms. 1827-1886

Built by Richmond's first major developer James Kestall Buscombe, he was also responsible for erecting The Granary & Post Office (Bridge St), Tower Windmill & Cottage (1831⁷⁷ & 1837); and his home, *Prospect House* on the approaches to the village. His brother Henry was a builder, and is known to have built *Oak Lodge* and St Johns Church, and probably erected the first *Lennox Arms*.

The two storeyed inn was noted for its good fare - and high prices - as Quaker missionaries Backhouse & Walker found out in 1832. The upstairs assembly room was use for meetings,

⁷³MacFie, 'At That Time a' Day' - a Social History of Richmond and the Coal River Valley, draft text, 2000.

⁷⁴LC445 24/8/1846.

⁷⁵Tasmanian Mail, 7/2/1885.

⁷⁶Post Office Directory, 1902.

⁷⁷Derelict, and demolished 1908 and stone used in the Town Hall.

including the Richmond Agricultural Society.⁷⁸ Election results were announced from its verandah to the (often drunken) followers below.

Some Bridge Inn Offences

15/8/1838. Thomas Jones, assigned JK Buscombe-

Buscombe: Prisoner was sent to Grass Tree Hill with bullock cart containing Government slops - found half an hour later quite drunk. 10DSC.⁷⁹

Convicts were in trouble if they participated in normal life (and got caught). Gambling was specifically prohibited, as well as getting drunk.

6/6/1839. William Hurley (*Emperor Alexander* 7 TL) - Gambling-

Constable Cahill 'saw prisoner last night between 7-8 o'clock I went into Buscombe's tap room which is kept by a man named Stuart- I saw the prisoner sitting at a table drinking, near were some other men who were gambling.' Admonished.

Later publicans included Charles Lamb, Richard Ockerby and William Featherstone.

28/5/1847. John Travers and Charles Bradshaw (both free). Charged with 'fighting in Ockerby's Tap Room. However, Travers attacked the constable who tried to arrest Bradshaw. Fined 10 shillings and five shillings.

Commercial Hotel/Richmond Arms

Burnt down 1886 and rebuilt two years later. By 1890, Alfred Burrell was publican, and the owner was the Cascade Brewery.⁸⁰

20th Century. A range of publicans have operated the hotel. With growing tourism since 1970, the hotel was renamed the *Richmond Arms*.

Star & Garter Inn c 1832

The first sandstone single storey section with its large multi-paned windows and carved entrance was completed; later two rooms added on the eastern side.

The first dwelling house and stables was erected for William Wise in February 1832. (This was probably the small original cottage discovered built within later additions in recent years.) In 1842 the inn was leased to storekeeper William Cato, (recently dismissed as overseer at the Hobart Female factory), who acquired it from William Wise. Thomas Burgess was licensee in 1842, & remained so for several years.⁸¹

Records indicate the Burgesses were keen cricketers, and teams retreated to Star & Garter in the 1860s after competing near the township.

⁷⁸Jones, Richmond, p 15.

⁷⁹MM110/2, 15/8/1838.

⁸⁰1902 Assessment Rolls.

⁸¹Jones, Richmond, p 17.

Coach Service, 1862. In May 1862, George Holding advertised that his conveyance left Richmond Mondays Wednesdays and Saturdays from Mr Burgess's, and a return service left Mr Oliver's, *George & the Dragon Inn*, Hobart Town at 3.30pm - fares 2 shillings & 6 pence.⁸²

Private Home. In 1902 William Lane lived at the old inn. William was always in trouble with the local Trooper as his cows kept getting out on the road. His three sons were engineers on the *SS Kangaroo*.⁸³ Another son, Ted Green, became green-keeper at the Royal Hobart Golf Club, Rosny from the late 1940s.⁸⁴

The property is now a series of shops and a private residence.

Short Term Inns.

The Retreat. (*Mayfield*) A short-lived hotel was in this double storeyed sandstone building, now known as *Mayfield*. In 1845 an inn called *The Retreat* operated there; in 1861 Thomas Ryley also ran this building as a public house.⁸⁵ In 1902 road contractor Patrick Ryan lived there, his horses housed in the adjacent stables.⁸⁶

Fernville. Located in Henry Street opposite the *Richmond Hotel*. The dates it was used as an hotel is unknown, but a sign for 'Wine and Spirits' was visible over the end door when occupied by the Misses Searle in the 1930s.⁸⁷

⁸²Hobart Town Advertiser 3/5/1864, p4.

⁸³Alf King in MacFie Papers, 1978.

⁸⁴MacFie, P. *Stock Thieves & Golfers; a History of Rosny Farm & Kangaroo Bay*, Clarence Council, 2000.

⁸⁵Jones, notes, 1975. p 4.

⁸⁶Alf King in MacFie Papers, 1978.

⁸⁷Jones, Richmond, p 18.

Chapter 5

Richmond and Revolutionary Ireland, 1850

O'Meagher & Smith O'Brien, the 'Young Ireland' Leaders

As an extension of its Irish heritage, the village of Richmond has an unrecognised but strong historical connection with a major episode in the history of Ireland. This arose in the 1850s when the presence among the community of two of the leaders of the Young Ireland Movement, William Smith O'Brien and Thomas Francis O'Meagher created a strong interest.

With five other leaders of the Movement, O'Brien and O'Meagher were transported to Van Diemen's Land in 1848 for leading opposition to treatment by the English governments of their Irish kinfolk. At the time Ireland's small farmers and peasants were suffering extreme hardship and distress due to the potato famine which caused the death of many thousands.⁸⁸

Once in Van Diemen's Land, the leaders, who were well-educated and mainly middle to upper-class Irishmen, caused a head-ache for the new Lt Gov. Denison, as they were generally admired for defending their fellow citizens. Once in Van Diemen's Land, all the Young Ireland leaders - except for Smith O'Brien - accepted Tickets of Leave, which allowed them a supervised freedom.

The Irish Rebel and the Richmond Publican

While the connection of Thomas Francis Meagher with Richmond is remembered through his son's grave, largely forgotten is Meagher's connection with the *Bridge Inn*, operated by his brother-in law, the *Bridge Inn* publican, Daniel Murphy.

With his ticket of leave, Meagher was restricted to living in the Ross district. Here he met Catherine Bennett, a governess at Dr Hall's, and sister-in-law to Daniel Murphy. Meagher fell in love with his 'Tasmanian lass', much against the advice of his fellow revolutionaries. On 22 February 1851, Thomas Francis Meagher married Catherine Bennett at Ross in the home of Dr Hall, the ceremony conducted by Bishop Willson. At the wedding was a 'mysterious guest', another Young Irelander about to escape, Terence McManus.⁸⁹

Catherine Bennett was the daughter of Bryan Bennett who was transported as a convict on the *Minerva*, as had many of the Irish in the Richmond district. By the time she was married, Catherine's older sister Bridget was living at Richmond where her husband, Daniel Murphy was proprietor of the *Bridge Inn*, one of Richmond's busiest hotels. Bridget had married Murphy 'late sergeant of the 21st Regiment' at Hobart's Catholic Chapel on 14 January 1839, the ceremony performed by Father J.J. Therry.⁹⁰

As mentioned, he was publican at the *Bridge Inn* from 1841 until 1864. In December 1851 a son was born to Daniel and Bridget Murphy nee 'Binnitt' at Richmond and christened Thomas Francis Murphy after his famous uncle. At the boy's baptism at St Johns Church on

⁸⁸see MacFie, *Silent Impact, The Irish Inheritance in the Coal River Valley*, 1995. in Irish-Australia History Conference Proceedings.

⁸⁹Touhill, *ibid*, p 111.

⁹⁰RGD 37/1294, 1839. Witnesses were Augustus Kramer and Philip O'Meara.

11 January 1852 his sponsors were Catherine O'Meagher - the wife of Thomas Francis Meagher and the sister-in-law of the publican - and Rev Charles Wood.⁹¹ The priest was once heir-apparent to Bishop Willson, and was regarded by him as a humble, hard-working and dedicated clergyman.⁹²

The child's birth, however, was not registered until a year later, possibly to keep the connection with Meagher from the civil authorities. By then the rebel had escaped from Van Diemen's Land.⁹³

When Meagher escaped to America in early January 1852, he left his wife Catherine behind in an advanced state of pregnancy. She moved to Richmond to stay with her sister. The child was born in February and christened Henry Emmett Fitzgerald Meagher, named after another famous Irish radical leader.

However, in June their 5 month old son died of influenza. Catherine was distraught, as was William Smith O'Brien, by now living at New Norfolk, from where he wrote a consoling poem to her. The infant was buried at St John's Cemetery, Richmond. One can imagine the sad service attended by the mother, plus her sister and brother-in-law.

Catherine sailed later in the year for Ireland. On board she was cared for by the priest who performed her wedding service, Bishop Willson. In Ireland she was cared for by her husband's family at Waterford, but she died suddenly in May 1854 aged only 22.⁹⁴

On arriving in the USA, Meagher became a celebrity. He became a commander in the Northern Army during the American Civil War. He was made Acting Governor of Montana but drowned in mysterious circumstances in the Mississippi River in 1867. An equestrian statue of Meagher is in a central location in Helena, the capital of Montana.

Emmett Meagher - a Child's Grave Today. A hundred years later the infant's grave, threatened by river bank erosion, was moved to its present location near the church entrance, and given a new headstone. Rededicated by Monsignor Cullen in 1948, it lies next to the entrance to St John's Church.

Richmond & William Smith O'Brien.

Although mostly associated with the cottages at Port Arthur and Maria Island where he was a prisoner, by 1854 William Smith O'Brien was living at *Nugent Farm* outside Richmond. In April that year O'Brien had moved from New Norfolk to Richmond, accepting the offer by Robert Espie, local farmer, of two rooms in a cottage on his property, *Nugent Farm*. The presence of 'his dear friend Father Dunne', the Catholic priest and Irish nationalist was an incentive to move to the area.⁹⁵ *Nugent* was described as;

... a farm of 1170 acres with 150 cultivated, plus a 6-roomed commodious cottage with detached kitchen, stables and barn.⁹⁶

⁹¹Born 23 Dec 1851, Baptism 11 Jan 1852; CA 8/1 Catholic Archives, Uni Tas.

⁹²Southerwood, WT The Convict's Friend - Bishop RW Willson, 1989.

⁹³RGD 33/584, 1852.

⁹⁴Touhill, Blanche William Smith O'Brien and His Irish Revolutionary Companions in Penal Exile, University of Mississippi, 1981, p 195.

⁹⁵Touhill, p 197.

⁹⁶*Hobart Town Advertiser* 27 Apr 1860 p3

Richmond Rallies to Support O'Brien. While at *Nugent Farm* in May 1854, O'Brien heard of pardons for himself, and the remaining leaders of the Young Ireland Movement, Martin and O'Doherty. A further indication of the strong Irish affiliation in the district, and the general respect roused by O'Brien, is shown by the publication of a published address, signed by 50 locals, to O'Brien when leaving Tasmania. The petition which included Protestants and Catholics, lists names from other settlements with Irish sympathisers. However, Richmond district supporters are the most numerous.

A number of 1818 *Minerva* Irish transportees signed the O'Brien petition, including James and John McGowan, Simon McCullagh, Michael McGuire, Michael Hatton, and Bernard Fox. Tradesmen (Protestant and Catholic) from the Richmond district also signed. Others included the three clergy – Gellibrand (C of E), Dunne (RC), and D'Emden (Independent). All the village's seven publicans – Catholic and Protestant – signed, plus estate owners David Ogilvy, Villeneuve Smith, Robert Espie, Hugh Cassidy, Bassett Dickson, George Burn, plus Dr Coverdale JP, shop-keepers Thomas Gaby, JH Nichols, and W Watkins, builder WS Wilkins and stone-mason Thomas Herbert.⁹⁷

Nugent Farm Today. In private hands, the old *Nugent* homestead with its Gothic windows, lies a sadly neglected ruin, two kilometres north of Richmond. The roofed dwelling is in view of St John's Church but now stands derelict, without heritage status, used merely as storage, its doors open to the weather.

⁹⁷*Hobart Mercury* 12 Jul 1854

Chapter 6

Good for Business

Inns & Associated Activities

Publicans often operated businesses which offered a service related to their role as caterers for travellers. They also offered a range of activities from sporting to additional commercial ones such as sale-days and annual events including fairs, races and agricultural shows and even elections.

Sale-yards & Auctions

Each of the larger hotels had sale-yards nearby. These made for guaranteed and ready customers. Hobart auctioneers held regular sales. Guesdon and Co stock sales at the yards of Murphy's *Bridge Inn* were on a fortnightly basis in 1861. These were later transferred to Featherstone's *Lennox Arms*, while Brent and Westbrook took over at Murphys, followed by Kemps.⁹⁸

Coaches

After the Grass Tree Hill Road was completed in 1840, the town's major inns trialled a coach services to Hobart Town at different periods, a service which continued until after WWII. In 1842 J. Shadwicke's 'Conveyance to Richmond' - in fact a 'VAN' - left the *Prince Albert*, Collins Street Hobart Town on Mondays Wednesdays and Fridays, returning from the *Lennox Arms*, Richmond on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

By crossing the Derwent on the Risdon Ferry, the Grass Tree Hill Road allowed a ready access to the New Town Races. Mr Guy's coach left for the races under the care of Mr Holding driving six horses. This was an infrequent event as 'the sight attracted attention. Besides the coach (which only goes on occasions like these, there not being sufficient traffic), the cab left earlier loaded with passengers and mail.'⁹⁹ When George Guy sold his hotel in 1854, his coach service was also advertised for sale;

Three new four-horse coaches and harness complete; new post chaise and harness complete. Can be supplied with horses.¹⁰⁰

Tom Ryly, proprietor on the 1860s also ran a coach and mail contract from Hobart at this time. He inaugurated the passenger and mail service from Richmond to Kangaroo Point via *Craigow* and Cambridge, replacing the old route over Grass Tree Hill and the Risdon punt of Mr Jennings. Richmond was then the distribution centre for mail in the south east.¹⁰¹

Stables & Blacksmiths

In addition to providing stabling for horses, both the *Lennox Arms* and *Bridge Inn* operated blacksmith shops. In the 1970s the late Alf King (born 1984) remembered both hotels around

⁹⁸Hobart Town Advertiser, 25/12/1861, p3.

⁹⁹Hobart Town Advertiser, 5/12/1861, p3.

¹⁰⁰Hobart Town Advertiser, 8/8/1854p3.

¹⁰¹Obituary Mrs M. Ryly, n/d, c. 1936.

1912 having a blacksmith's shop opposite their premises.¹⁰² These locations are now the sites of garages for the modern traveller's 'horse-less carriage,' but continue the function of the days of the horse.

Herbert Burns of the *Bridge Inn* also ran a daily coaching service which operated from Richmond to the Bellerive ferries with Phil Cousins as coach driver. Burns was a blacksmith but could also drive the coach. His usual blacksmiths were Walter Wright and Walter Gard.¹⁰³ After 1926, Richmond converted to motor coaches.

Alfred Burrell of the *Commercial Hotel* c 1905 was both hotelier and a blacksmith. He was a large man over 16 stone and standing 6 ft 2 ins tall, with a 'white mowey.' (i.e. moustache) His wife, two sons and daughters (both of whom were 'deaf & dumb') ran the hotel.¹⁰⁴

Associated Activities Onsite

Amusements & Sporting Events

By attracting locals as well as visitors, sporting and social events added to the publicans' profitability. The traditional period was St Patrick's Day, and from Boxing Day to New Years Day when some publicans erected tents or booths at the races to dispense refreshments. Afterwards, spectators headed for the inns for further socialising.

Shuttle-Grounds & Card Games.

Assigned servants over-stayed leave from farms, sometimes playing cards, or attracted by the shuttle grounds on their premises of at least four inns where the game of skittles (or 'nine pins') was played.

On 21/4/1847, John Birdside (*Barossa 15*) and Edward Hughes (*Duke of Northumberland, 10*) both assigned to Ogilvy of *Inverquarity* were found at the 'shuttle-ground' at Mr Wheatleys (*Richmond Hotel*) on Sunday and charged with being AWOL. 6 Weeks HL each.

A month later, Patrick Leman (*Egyptian*) was charged with fighting in Murphy's (*Bridge Inn*) shuttle ground. 21 Days HL. Later in 1847, Ockerby, Licensed Victualler, (*Lennox Arms*) was charged with allowing prisoners to play at skittles.¹⁰⁵

Pigeon Shooting

Horse racing and live pigeon shooting for prizes were regular features as proprietors attempted to attract customers. In 1861, the *Prince of Wales* had gained a reputation of;

... notoriety for shooting and other matches from the encouragement of the late and the present landlord. (John McGowan), and backed by the sporting men of the district, Richmond had become quite a second Melton Mowbray.

An advertised competition for a horse was shot for by 12 members for one pound entry and three birds each. Mr A. Burn won a well contested match

¹⁰²MacFie, PH Oral History & the Demise of Folk Culture in the Richmond District, P&P Tasmanian Historical Research Assoc., 1982, p25.

¹⁰³Alf King in MacFie Papers, 1978.

¹⁰⁴Alf King in MacFie Papers, 1978.

¹⁰⁵LC445, 27/8/1847.

for the owner, after which the horse was raffled that evening and was eventually won by William Yule, wheelwright.¹⁰⁶

Associated Activities Offsite

Sporting competitions were held on the outskirts of town on land supplied by land owners. Horse racing was often combined with foot-racing, but also football, due to spectators and sportsmen having travelled many miles for the joint occasion. Betting seems to have been common at these events.

Racing

Richmond has a long tradition of horse racing, with local families such as the Kearneys, Lords, Burn and others supporting the Richmond Races, usually held on New Years Day. The races were a great place to meet, enjoy a beer at the booth or large tent, and meet mates or some of the opposite sex. Assigned prisoners would break rules to be there. Wise from the *Bridge Inn* and Buscombe of the *Lennox Arms* were allowed to sell liquor at the Richmond Races in 1833.¹⁰⁷ Race days always resulted in a degree of mostly good-humoured drinking.

On New Years Day 1833, a new-chum became intoxicated:

Richard Sant (free) Drunk and Riotous. Not Guilty.

Chief District Constable John Jewel: On my coming on the course about 1 o'clock yesterday I saw this man drunk on horseback and hallooing and making a great noise to the annoyance of everyone.

About an hour afterwards I was called on by Mr Gunning to take him in charge.... He refused to go and attempted to pull me off my horse and lifted his hand against me ... I cannot say whether his fist was clenched. Mr Gage and Mr Gunning the magistrate was present... he said he'd be damned if he would be taken by any magistrate... when we got him down to handcuff he hallowed murder and a mob collected round him and rescued him.

... when he was out of the mob Mr Gunning told me again to take him and I did so.

Sant: I was not drunk, I was merely huzzaring the Coal River horses and Mr Gunning said I was annoying the people...'

Sant was 'Bound over to Keep the Peace.'¹⁰⁸

The races could be used to try to control unruly building gang members. On New Year's Day 1835, 'it being a general holiday and the first day of the Richmond Races', Police Magistrate John Morgan mustered the Richmond Working Party and 'explained my wishes and my orders that they should not go on the course... I believe several were at the races contrary to orders.'

¹⁰⁶Hobart Town Advertiser, 13/8/1861, p2.

¹⁰⁷Jones, Richmond p 16.

¹⁰⁸MM110/2, 3/1/1834.

Despite being warned, the men again went to the races and were confined to their huts, but had 'refused to return to their work when ordered by the overseer.' Morgan's solution was to break up the gang to disperse the trouble-makers.¹⁰⁹

Another assigned servant who had also been to the races, 'forgot' to care for his master's flock.

7/1/1839. Thomas Ashton (572 *Atlas* life) assigned Butcher.

John Butcher: Prisoner is my father's assigned servants - about 3 pm Thursday I went down to the lower ferry called '*Runnemeade*' (sic). I then saw about 200 sheep in the wheat and oats and drove them out ... I have no doubt they had been bedded there all night- yard ... the sheep were in charge of the prisoner -I did not see the prisoner all Thursday-I had seen him on the two previous days at the races and told him he must go home- he said the sheep were all right - the sheep were destroying about 4 acres of oat and greatly injured the wheat. 12 months hard labour .

Settling Day. Murphy's *Bridge Inn* was also the racing pub, as here the day after the Richmond Races, 'Settling Day' was held when all debts were honoured, prizes awarded and toasts drunk to the health of breeders and winners.¹¹⁰

Racing was also effected by the Victorian Goldrush, but Gregson, Kearney and others continued the tradition. In May 1855, a hack race was won by a horse ridden by 'one little boy(of which there were 3 of 6) named Jamieson (who) rode the winning horse remarkably well and was not a little proud in beating two that were professional jockeys.'¹¹¹

Foot-Racing

The impact of the Victorian Goldrush after 1853 caused a shortage of labour - and sportsmen. New found wealth was gambled when bets on a Footrace between Jemmy Hinds (of the Lower Jerusalem pub - now Campania) who beat George Guy of the *Richmond Hotel*. Jabez Brown who had 'lately returned from the Diggings' also challenged and '.... away they went at railway speed.' The youth Brown claimed the £30 prize. The meet was not well attended because of labourers at harvest. This was followed when Moran challenged George Burns, who, after 'unbooting and spurring', came a dead heat and a second match was proposed. The day finished with a Horse Race between Burns and Marchant.¹¹²

Football

Perhaps due to the Irish influence in both localities, by 1860 football was being played in Richmond against competing side from Jerusalem, the prize being £10 a head. These coincided with a St Patrick's Day festivities which included horse and foot races. On one occasion the match had to be postponed, as the football bladder burst and there was no replacement. In 1861 post football match celebrations moved from Samuel Burgess' (*Star &*

¹⁰⁹ibid, 5/1/1835.

¹¹⁰Mercury 8/5/1865.

¹¹¹Hobart Town Advertiser, 10/5/1855, p4.

¹¹²Hobart Town Advertiser, 8/12/1854 p3.

Garter), to a shooting match at Cavey's (*Lennox Arms*), followed by the settling of prizes at the *Richmond Hotel*.¹¹³

Cricket

From at least 1840, Richmond fielded a cricket club - and still does. The game was a great unifier of a divided society, as Murphys, Guys and Burgesses - Catholic & Protestant, ex-convict & free - played and competed alongside and against one another.

During the 1840s however, cricket on Sundays was illegal. In October 1846 Philip Jacobs, free, Henry Bradshaw, Charles Moran together with William Wilson (*Lord Goderich* 7 TL) were charged by Nichols with 'Playing at Cricket on the township of Richmond on Sunday.' All were fined 10 shillings and 10 shillings costs by Magistrate Schaw.¹¹⁴

In February 1855 the Richmond Cricket Club revived the 'good old English game' after remaining dormant due to the Port Phillip and California gold discoveries. The team competed as Europeans vs Natives - a prelude perhaps to the competitiveness of the Ashes! A large concourse of 'the most respectable people were at the game.' The Natives were beaten by 65 runs.¹¹⁵ The Richmond Cricket Club travelled, playing the Union Club at Domain Ground - located on the former Hobart Railway Station. Richmond was beaten by 8 runs.¹¹⁶

From the mid 1850s, Boxing Day was celebrated with a cricket match between two teams - blue and green - from the Young Richmond Cricket Club, and the losers to pay for lunch. The colours 'were worn around the hat as a distinguishing badge and were of silk. The Union Jack floated in the breeze.' The wickets were pitched by Mr George Guy, Richmond Hotel, one of the oldest players in the colony (who) was also appointed umpire.¹¹⁷

As Richmond became responsible for its own administration, including electing representatives for the Council a reporter observed '... crime has sensibly diminished since the inauguration of Municipal Action here.'¹¹⁸ A noticeable feature was the increased popularity of cricket. 'In Richmond ... not a day passes, but may be seen on the ground so liberally set apart by W. R. Allison Esq, (ie on *Richmond Park*) the game of cricket being carried on by tiny urchins and mature youth. A feeling of friendship latterly appears to have usurped the place of that discord with which once the locality was haunted.'¹¹⁹

The Richmond Cricket Team played a number of games against Sorell and New Town. In 1862 its members were drawn from the town merchant fraternity, and consisted of W. Shelverton (Burn's miller). J. McGowan, (tanner), C and J Murphy (sons of the publican) G. Burns, J Griffith, A. Gregson, J. Graham, and M. Coverdale, son of the warden. Sorell soundly beat R by an innings and 101 runs. A feast at Burgess's *Star and Garter* followed (host Dr Coverdale), moving to Murphy's *Bridge Inn* where 'the Sorell Cup was put up.' A juvenile team was fostered by 4 old supporters of Gregson - Burn and McGowan, who acted

¹¹³Hobart Town Advertiser, 8/1/1861, p3 .

¹¹⁴L C 218, 5/10/1846, AOT.

¹¹⁵Hobart Town Advertiser, 8/2/1855 p3 .

¹¹⁶Hobart Town Advertiser, 8/3/1855p4.

¹¹⁷Hobart Town Advertiser, 8/1/1861, p3.

¹¹⁸Hobart Town Advertiser, 25/1/1862 p4.

¹¹⁹Hobart Town Advertiser, 7/4/1862p3

as umpires, and A. Gaby and G. Guy who captained the two teams. The writer wrote glowingly of the English character that was reflected in Tasmania by the sport, and the patience, self-denial, order, obedience and good-humour which cricket required.¹²⁰

The Richmond Cricket Club played the Traders Cricket Match in December 1862, which the latter won by 4 wickets. The team consisted of 14 from Richmond & Orielton. In a return match, the Traders Cricket Club arrived from Hobart Town by Moore's brake.

The holiday seekers were out in large numbers on the cricket ground and the jolly good feeling and attendance of both cricketers and their lady friends of Richmond was a the true specimen of that noble game of cricket.¹²¹

The cricketers retired to the pavilion erected on the ground, and the health of the Richmond & Orielton clubs were drunk. On the return toast of A. Phillips to the visitors, the cricketers retired to the Burgess Hotel (i.e. *Star and Garter*) where a repast was done justice.¹²² After another match against Sorell (which Richmond lost), the cricketers had:

A feast at Burgess's *Star and Garter* (host Dr Coverdale), (then) moving to Murphy's *Bridge Inn* where ' the Sorell Cup was put up.'¹²³

In later years, one of the district's most famous cricketers was K.E. Burn who played for Tasmania. He captained Tasmania for 20 years (1892-1910), was the first Tasmanian to play in an Australian Test team (1890) and the first Tasmanian to pass 1000 first class runs in a season (1900).¹²⁴

¹²⁰Hobart Town Advertiser, 22/4/1862p2.

¹²¹Hobart Town Advertiser, 19/12/1862p2.

¹²²Hobart Town Advertiser, 19/12/1862p2.

¹²³Hobart Town Advertiser, 22/4/1862p2.

¹²⁴Page, Geoff A History of Tasmanian Cricket,

Chapter 7

The Lennox Arms Assembly Rooms

Meetings, Elections & a Tipperary Brawl 1856

Without a public or church hall in the village, the large Assembly Room and balcony upstairs at the *Lennox Arms* was a popular meeting place. Here the Racing Committee and Agricultural Society met, and political meetings were also held there. In addition, these rooms provided a place where men and women (of 'polite' society) could meet socially. The rooms were also used for entertainment. In April 1855, 'A Grand Vocal and Instrumental Concert by Gardner, Railey and others' was advertised to occur at Featherstone's Assembly Rooms.¹²⁵

At political rallies, speakers used the balcony to address the crowd assembled below in Bridge Street. Such contests were hotly contested, with abuse and slander used to ridicule opponents.

Elections - a 'Tipperary Brawl' at the *Lennox Arms*, Bridge Street, 1856

The Assembly Rooms were used in a period of rowdy electioneering during the 1850s and 1860s. Divisions within the small community came to a head during the hotly contested elections of the 1850's, when a brawl broke out in front of the *Lennox Arms* in Bridge Street.

The conflict arose over a clash between two electoral candidates, fuelled partly by Catholic-Protestant rivalry. The candidates were an old-style Anglican, T. G. Gregson of *Restdown*, and Dissenter/Methodist, Bassett Dickson of *Glen Ayr*. Dinners were held at various Richmond hotels for the candidates to speak to their supporters; Dickson appearing at the *Star and Garter* and *Richmond* hotels, and Gregson at the *Lennox Arms*, where he sang slanderous rhymes about Dickson. At the *Union Hotel*, Gregson tried to woo the Irish vote, having been accused of Anti-Catholicism. Here, Dickson's supporters were mainly the Irishmen, as evidenced by the presence of Hugh Cassidy at other meetings.¹²⁶

Dickson's supporters included property owners such as Race Allison, Esh Lovell, Villineuve Smith, (Chairman), the Ogilvys and Hugh Cassidy, plus shop-keepers like Thomas Gaby, F. Flexmore, J. Cavey, and J. W. Nichols. Walter Wilkins, who proposed a toast to 'the working classes as a working man pleased to respond to it; every working man should support Bassett Dickson as he was a working man... (having) held the plough himself.'¹²⁷ By contrast, Gregson's supporters included the lovers of horses and alcohol - William Kearney, George Burn, publicans Lamb, McGowan and Guy, and autocrats such as Buscombe, Coverdale, Goldie, and W. C. Simmons.¹²⁸

Both candidates spoke to the locals from the balcony of the *Lennox* where a crowd gathered to hear Gregson, who was unpredictable and aggressive and who poured abuse on his opponent. In a racial slur, he ridiculed the dark skin of Dickson supporter, Francis

¹²⁵Hobart Town Advertiser, 20/4/1855 p4.

¹²⁶Tasmanian Daily News, 14/6/1856p2-3.

¹²⁷Mercury 29/8/1856,p2. AOT.

¹²⁸Tasmanian Daily News, 19/5/1856 p2-3.

Villeneuve Smith, lawyer and affluent landowner at Campania. Smith had not stood, Gregson ridiculed, because of his 'dark complexion'. (Smith was descended from a French admiral and a Creole from the West Indies.) With strong racial overtones, 'lady' supporters of Gregson moved off the balcony when Smith spoke in favour of Dickson, but returned when Gregson re-appeared, prompting Gregson to ask, 'was he offensive to their eyes?'

Gregson referring to a heckler in the crowd as 'Jingling' Johnny', a white haired old man who Gregson told to make less noise so he could be heard.¹²⁹ Alf King's story related in 1977 about 'Jinglin Johnny', the ghost of Grass Tree Hill was more than just myth.¹³⁰

On the day of the election, the vote in Richmond was so close that the crowd waited anxiously for a rider to return from Jerusalem (Colebrook) with their final figures. When the poll was declared by a slim margin, it was (114 to 106) in favour of Gregson,

'.... the fighting became general and serious. From the balcony the scenes below presented all the worst features of a Tipperary row. There were knocking down and kicking on the ground, dragging by the hair, brandished bludgeons and broken heads, and not a few ugly cuts and damaging contusions, bleeding noses and broken teeth, and we heard of a broken finger joint.¹³¹

¹²⁹Tasmanian Daily News, 16/9/1856, p2.

¹³⁰Alf King, interviews, 1977-80, MacFie Collection.

¹³¹Tasmanian Daily News, 22/9/1856, p2.

Chapter 8

Trades & Crafts

Traditional crafts and trades are also revealed by the court records, and are often the only known references to trades and tradesmen.

Chair-Making

This brief case of a stolen chair exposes a chair-maker and how his craft was practised.

2/7/1838. John (Little Jack) Nethwood (*131 Medway* life) TL charged by Mr Moran with pilfering a chair value 2 shillings.

Edward Moran: In garden at dusk on Saturday evening -- my wife called out to me that a chair that had been put on the water to soak had been taken away... the prisoner was removing things from his former house and was only one who could be seen pass by.

Joseph & Ann Poole: We saw Nethwood carrying chair over his arm.
Dismissed.

Lime Burning

Lime - usually made by burning shells collected along the Pittwater sea-shore and often from aboriginal middens - was essential as mortar for brick-building and plastering in houses.

14/4/1838. James Johnson (*Mangles 7*) and John Tunnicliff, charged with gross neglect.

Jonas Pearson: employed at Henry Cooper's lime kilns¹³²; prisoner Tunnicliff... the two men disappeared all day) - the kiln was lighted and required attention - it was the prisoner's duty to attend to it.

Cooper: Prisoner causing a great deal of trouble - left without permission - I have repeatedly ordered a woman named Betsy Baker out of the hut when these men stop. I have reason to believe that some connexions exists between Betsy Baker and John Tunnicliff.

John Tunnicliff: 36 lashes; James Johnson 7 DSC¹³³

Lime burning was an unpleasant task.

25/1/1839. Henry Barrington (*Prince Regent 14*) assigned Henry Cooper.

Henry Cooper: On Tuesday evening last I sent prisoner who is employed to the lime kilns to come to my house and chop some wood and bring water - he refused- 6 DSC.¹³⁴

¹³² Henry Cooper's lime kilns were probably situated down at Pittwater, employing several assigned servants.

¹³³MM 110/1 1838 ff.

¹³⁴MM 110/2 1838.

Tanning

Until the 1950s, Richmond always had at least one tannery where animal skins were converted into tanning leather. These, being smelly places, were located away from the village on the eastern side of the river. In the 1830s a tannery was operated by Young and later McGowan.

Tanner Young appears to have antagonised his servants.

25/9/1838. John Peacock (2494 *Neptune* 7) assigned Young: leaves skins in tan pits too long, become black and useless. 48 HRS SC

Perhaps Young went out of his way to think the worst.

25/9/1838. John Peace (*Susan*) assigned Young:

Young: He was seen going to the Goal from the Police Office - constable just behind - prisoner took off cap and waved it several times in the air as if in defiance- distance about 40 yds - saw him quite plain. 25 lashes.

Young also ran a shoe-maker's shop, using assigned servants like James Thomas and William Thompson.

9/11/1838. James Thomas (*Moffat* 7) assigned James Robert Young

Young: went into shoemaker's shop- found his work shamefully done - found him walking along the river side ... drunk ... followed him to the shop ... struck at me 3 times... extremely violently... 14 DSC B & W.

Although Thomas might get drunk, he was not prepared to see his employer be deliberately sabotaged by a fellow shoe-maker.

4/9/1838. William Thompson (823 *Arab*/7 +3 yr extension) Assigned Mr Young, tanner. Wilfully destroying property.

Young : Prisoner employed as a shoemaker- had a variety of complaints for those for whom I employed respecting badness of boots and shoes made for me by them.

... examined leather and made enquiries- several persons complained that before they had worn the boots or shoes many days, they dropped to pieces- the piece of leather now produced was pair of a bottom of a boot lately repaired to my direction and with my leather - ...

From the demand for leather from me the part of persons in Hobart Town, and (they) telling me they could not procure equally good leather ... or leather boots and shoes of very best quality.

Appears oil of vitriol used ... by the prisoner or some other person to destroy my leather - another servant, Henry Watts - informed me that the prisoner wanted to acquire oil of vitriol ... to put into the tan pits which has destroyed all the leather.

2 shirts issued to another servant were destroyed by oil of vitriol.

Prisoner has threatened to settle me - meaning to do me harm - when I would not sign his memorial.

Henry Watts: Prisoner had asked him for oil of vitriol to put into the pits.

James Thomas, shoemaker- assigned servant- heard W Kearney's men complain of their boots and shoes and have no more made by Mr Young.

12months hard labour out of chains.

One of Mrs Young's female servant's had different ideas to her mistress on child rearing and her own work ethic.

11/9/1838. Mary Ann Pitt (143 *Arab* 14) assigned Mr Young. charged by her mistress with Disobedience of Orders and Insolence.

Mrs Young: One of my children was told to call my servants but not the prisoner and that the prisoner said the child had called her - she said she would box his ears - I went to her and told the child was to call the servants and not her and spoke to her concerning the language I heard she had used - she replied she would not get up for anyone sooner than her regular time and that if my boy had called her she would have boxed his ears. and she did not care for being brought before the police. 14 DSC.

Stonemasonry

Due to the occasional nature of their work, the names of the stonemasons, and the particular structures in Richmond for which they were responsible is generally (as yet) not known. James and Henry Buscombe were builders, and Henry particularly was known to have erected several Richmond structures.

Thomas Herbert.

A stonemason who lived there and then and returned to the village in his later years. Herbert, aged 18, was transported to Van Diemen's Land for life in 1827. From Wantage in Berkshire, his trade was given as 'Groom and Gardener.' On board the *Asia* 3 he was described as 'a very sullen fellow.' He was first assigned to John Lord, owner of *Richmond Park*, and may have built the first homestead. Later he was located in the Public Works gang as a stonemason. Herbert worked on a number of large sandstone institutions, including the New Orphan School (the Queen's Orphanage, New Town); later he was transferred to Bothwell and Ross where he worked alongside his namesake, master stonemason Daniel Herbert, on the famous bridge.

For 15 years, Thomas clashed with the authorities, resulting in his being sent to Port Arthur in 1836 until 1839 which coincides with the completion of the Port Arthur church. He became free in 1843.

In January 1844, Thomas Herbert a mason aged 33, married Mary Quin (nee Collette), a widow aged 28 in the Anglican Church at Richmond. Mary, a convict, came from Somerset, and was transported in 1834 for 7 years for 'stealing a gown piece.' (On the ship *New Grove*, the surgeon accused Mary of 'Hankering after sailors.') The Herbert's first child George was born a year earlier, while several other children were born at Richmond.

In 1857 the Herberts moved to South Arm where they worked as tenant farmers for the Gellibrands. As an old man Thomas returned to Richmond for his final years where he was involved with the erection of the new Independent Chapel, suffering a severe fall from the scaffold from which he died at his son's house in 1876. Mary died in 1881 at her daughter's house, Kangaroo Point. Her husband's profession was listed as 'Builder.'

Thomas Herbert and Assigned Servants.

A founding member of the new Congregational Church at Richmond, Herbert's zealous anti-drinking attitudes were recalled by his family. They contrast with the bouts of drunkenness recorded on his conduct record. This did not stop him taking his own servants to court due to various misdemeanours, including drunkenness.

Charles Mitchell (*Susan* 2, 15) Charged twice with alcohol offences; Drunk and out after hours.

Constable Davis 'saw Mitchell coming from Cotham's Public House at half past nine quite drunk'; two months later he was seen in Ockerby's Tap Room. 14 DHL.¹³⁵

William Ashton (*Barossa* 2,10) was also charged by Herbert with being out after dark, while other assigned servants, John Kessey (*Lady Raffles*, 14) and John Scholfield (*Anson*, 15), were also sentenced to 14 DHL for drunkenness.

¹³⁵LC 445 7/12/1846, and 5/2/1847.

Chapter 9

Landowners and Assigned Servants

The owners of large land grants near Richmond relied on assigned labour to make their farms productive. Even after the end of Transportation in 1853, male & female workers were controlled by a one-sided Masters & Servants Act. Landowners used the Richmond Court House as a method of disciplining uncooperative workers. Surviving records give an insight into farming operations and human relations on the farms. Repeated appearance by some employers in the court records (and the notable absence of others) appears to indicate lack of leadership and management skills on particular properties. Overseers were in an invidious position, acting on the master's behalf, yet needing the men's cooperation.

Assigned servants used non-cooperation as a tool of defiance against an unpopular master. Yet others appear to have been habitually aggressive. Masters, such as Parramore of *Anglewood*, who gave their work-force privileges, were rarely in court pressing charges.

Anglewood

A large property on the Richmond Road assigned to Parramore, secretary to Lt Gov Arthur. Parramore appears to have taken a lenient attitude towards his servants.

24/8/1846. Roderick Kennedy and James Kennedy (both *Duke of Richmond* 7 & 14 years) AWOL from their master's residence.

Parramore: I allow servants to walk out on Sundays provided they return at dinner time and at dusk. Dismissed.

Lowlands

Richmond's first trade outlet was by boat across Pittwater to Hobart. The road which led to the jetty on *Lowlands* is still called Commercial Road. *Lowlands* was granted by Lt Gov Sorell to himself, and was purchased by John H Butcher. (The hills dividing the property still bear his name.) The farm fronts onto Pittwater and a jetty on the property serviced small ships carrying freight from the farms near Richmond.

Around Butcher's unfinished house in 1834 Backhouse reported a unique orchard of imported fruit trees. These had been bought to the colony by Butcher;

... packed and stowed in the bottom of the ship's hold; how Ribstone, Pippin, French Crab, Golden Harvey and a few other struts of choice apples survived the voyage, and have stocked the gardens of the colony, in which fruits of this kind are produced in greater abundance and perfection than in England.¹³⁶

Butcher was also appointed a magistrate. He died in 1839, and his sons and daughters continued to manage the farm before leasing the property.

Squire Pinder(*Layton 4*, Life) assigned E Butcher, charged with Insolence.

¹³⁶Backhouse, Narrative, p66.

Butcher: Prisoner had been 6 years at Port Arthur, and said he 'could do nomore,' when E Butcher followed him to the gate, he threatened to stab him with a knife. 6months hard labour .

Richmond Park

Originally granted to his convict father, James Lord, his son David became the developer of *Richmond Park*, located over the Bridge on the eastern side of Richmond village. In 1827 a newspaper reported:

Mr Lord has built a charming seat in Richmond Park and laid out the grounds round it on so judicious a plan that it is not only a beautiful place when on the spot but forms a picturesque view from the town ... Mr Lord is ... laying the foundation of a handsome house on his estate.¹³⁷

Assigned servants who worked for the Lords appeared regularly before the Richmond courts. David Lord took a dim view of rebellious assigned servants, especially if they encouraged others to rebel. David Lidley (*Elisabeth, Life*) was charged by Lord with 'Disobedience of Orders ... being drunk... and using abusive language to his overseer and attempting to excite the rest of the servants to disobedience by his language.' Lidley received severe punishment - 30 days solitary confinement, and then to be 'thrice publicly whipped with 25 lashes each time.' Another prisoner, William Robinson charged with 'insubordination and assaulting and beating the overseer (twice) ' was sentenced to a 12 month extension on his sentence, plus 50 lashes.¹³⁸

Despite the Lords having been descended from 'convict stock,' they appear to have had troubled relations with employees, drunk and sober.

22/12/1838. Thomas Lillycrap (755 *Atlas* life) assigned David Lord- charged by overseer with Disobedience of Orders and Insolence. Not Guilty.

William Wadsworth: Overseer at David Lords: Yesterday morning the prisoner came into the shed where we were shearing sheep and commenced shearing one, he was in liquor and unable to shear the sheep which he cut with the shears - I told him to leave off & go home - he replied 'I'll be damned if I will!' I then told him to give me the shears, he refused and I endeavoured to take them from him- a scuffle took place ... & his face & hands were cut with the shears. Severely Reprimanded.

Glen Ayr (now Strath Ayr)

Located on the Grass Tree Gill Road, the farm was originally granted to Alexander Patterson. In 1822 the farm was acquired by Alexander Patterson, then Major de Gillern, followed by William Shoobridge and finally in 1849, Bassett Dickson.

When advertised for sale in 1848, the farm featured a number of improvements, many instigated by Shoobridge. These included 'men's huts' in two locations including the road frontage at the Malcolm's Huts intersection. Larger buildings included a homestead, dairy,

¹³⁷Hobart Town Courier 22/12/1827, in Jones *ibid*, p 68. This homestead was destroyed by fire in 1967.

¹³⁸MM 110/2, 10/12/1833.

brew-house and other offices, barn, hop-kiln, stores, men's houses etc all brick and stone.'¹³⁹ The farm was bought by Bassett Dickson of the Eastern Marshes near Oatlands, and remained with that family until the farm was subdivided for soldier settlement after World War I.

Major de Gillern. A former Prussian army officer, William de Gillern appears to have been a poor manager of his assigned servants, who continually used disruptive tactics to impede his farming operations.

An insidious effect of the convict system was the use of informers - 'dobbers' in Australian eyes - to control the work-force. With memories still fresh of the French Revolution (1789) and Britain's own Peterloo Massacre (1819), the colonial Government used informants drawn from convict ranks to spy from within.

Often cases involved minor articles. In May 1833, Major de Gillern's bullock-driver, John Gardener (*Jupiter*, Life), was charged with 'possession of a bag.' His accuser was Const Anthony Robinson.

I am a constable stationed at Maj. de Gillern's farm. Last night about 9 o'clock I was laying among some cutting grass close to Maj de Gillern's farm. I saw the prisoner with another man driving some bullocks ; they put the bullocks in the stock-yards and the prisoner turned back toward a brush fence and I saw him plant (ie hide) something... 2 Dozen Lashes.¹⁴⁰

On one occasion, a group of assigned workers attempted to intervene in the arrest of a fellow worker.

9/4/1838. William Bradley (*Bussadorah Merchant*, life) William Saunders (*Asia* 4, life), Thomas Heathcote (*Eden* ,7), William Moore (*Lord Lyndoch*, life), James Rossiter (*Strathfieldsay* 14), Henry Whittall (*Henry Porcher*, life), James Warwick (*Elphinstone*, life,) John Marr (*Lord Lyndoch*, life), Thomas Skipworth (*Elphinstone* 4 /7) - All charged with gross disorderly conduct. All Guilty

Const Scholes; sent down with Overseer Smith to arrest one of de Gillern's servants. I was going to handcuff the man when some of the prisoner said, don't handcuff him, he will go without that. Constable then handcuffed the man (also named Smith) and was bringing him away when all the prisoners followed saying they were as much at fault as the man was - the overseer tried to persuade the prisoner to desist, but they would not return. 36 lashes each.¹⁴¹

Other charges give an insight into farming operations, including the use of bullocks and horses to plough and haul heavy loads:

31/5/1838. William Bradley (1274 *Bussadorah Merchant* ,7 + 2 +3 extensions) A very bad character.

de Gillern: Prisoner employed as my bullock driver. This morning he did not bring in the bullocks - went to his hut about 9 o'clock and found him

¹³⁹Hobart Town Courier, 8/ 12/ 1849, Robinson, p332.

¹⁴⁰MM 110/2, 31/5/1833.

¹⁴¹MM 110/2 1833 ff.

and another man at breakfast. - told prisoner he was late - on returning found prisoner still in his hut - I asked why - said he would not bolt the breakfast for me nor anybody else - 21 DSC 12months hard labour
Removed to other side of the island.

Ploughmen were specialised workmen.

William Saunders(2159 *Asia 4* life) assigned de Gillern Neglect of Duty
de Gillern: Prisoner is my ploughman. This morning observing the horse ploughs going to work I went into the field to ascertain why the prisoner was not out with the bullock plough- then 9 o'clock - I asked the prisoner why the bullocks were not yoked- he said he was too weak from starving that he could not yoke the bullocks - when I spoke to him threw his hat upon the ground and said he would be damned if he would do anymore work - he received his usual rations up to Saturday... yesterday being out of flour, I directed that the men should have a many potatoes as they wished for. 50 lashes.

Some of de Gillern's workers refused to cooperate.

25/9/1838. Thomas Bennett (*Lady Augusta 7*) assigned Gillern: Neglect of Duty

William Smith, Overseer to Gillern: I asked prisoner to clean my master's horse - not his work, damned if he would do it - no control over him etc 50 lashes.

same date: James Barwick (*Elphinstone 14*) prisoner is stock keeper -ordered to take cattle to Grass Tree Hill side of my house --cattle seen near Richmond and impounded by Lord's overseer. 36 lashes.

Another altercation reveals the existence of a saw-pit on the farm, and another aggressive response to an overseer from William Saunders the ploughman.

18/10/1838. William Saunders (2159 *Asia 4* life) insolent and abusive language to Overseer

William Smith, Overseer to Gillern: This morning I had occasion to go to the hut adjoining where the prisoner stops - the prisoner was in his own hut - I asked the carpenter to go down to the saw pit for a piece of wood to repair a roller - I then went to a spot between the hut and the stable and when 30 -40 yds of the last I stopped to look at a man that was lying with his head ... to ... the door... the prisoner asked why I don't go into the hut like a man and not stop hollowing there and called me a bloody bugger & and he would alter my head so that I wouldn't know myself - I asked him what was the matter and ... he clapped his hand to his backside and told me to ask his bloody arse - when I gave him in charge of the constable he challenged to fight me. 21 DSC

De Gillern also had problems with his servants pilfering from other servants.

22/4/1839. Robert Smith (1873 *Arab*) assigned de Gillern - felony

William Smith Overseer - Arthur Crump, gardener, reported his hut in the garden broken into and track found in garden - clothing stolen -

Witnesses: John Cruel, cook to de Gillern.¹⁴²

Like many landowners, de Gillern used shepherds to move stock to sheep runs in the island's interior, and like all shepherds, they preferred the use of a particular dog:

15/1/1839. John Marr (*Lord Lyndoch* life) -as de Gillern

de Gillern: (sent with 2 shepherds to Lake Fingers (sic)) where the prisoner employed as hut keeper - refused to go unless he was allowed to take a certain dog - he had no occasion for one - the shepherds took 5 dogs with them - obliged to send one of my farming men in his place. 36 lashes.¹⁴³

William Shoobridge. Farmed at *Glen Ayr* where he and his son's hop-growing experiments failed; they later moved to the Derwent Valley and success.

Some of Shoobridge's servants were fond of tippling in the inns of Richmond:

14/9/1846. George Wallis (*Barossa* 2, 10 years)

In Ockerby's Public House (ie the *Lennox Arms*) and tippling.

5/10/1846. Isaac Aylett (*London* 3, 15 years) Drunkenness. 10DSC.

The response from two of Shoobridge's men to a Richmond constable reveals the resentment felt towards them:

5/10/1846. James Smith (*Earl Grey* 3, 10 years) Indecent language in the street.

Constable: He told me to go and bugger myself. 6 months hard labour .

Yet other assigned servants feigned sickness:

1/1/1847. Charles Hore (*London* 7 years) and William Harrison (*Shamrock* 7 years) Feigning sickness and Neglect of Duty. 3 months hard labour .

Another was charged with neglect:

Joseph Hughes (*Maria Soames*, 7 years) Destroying *Glen Ayr* Estate fence. 4 months hard labour

Daisy Banks

Domestic life for employer and employee was open to conflict, especially where female assigned servants were in close contact with and responsible to the mistress of the household.

1/4/1847. Catherine McDonald (*Tasmanian* 7 years) Assigned as a milk-maid to Mrs McPhail - whose husband ran the *Bridge Inn*, but possibly at Daisy Banks farm leased by McPhail.

Mrs McPhail: After milking one of the cows she threw down the pannican- she said what I told her was 'damned nonsense'... she made use of the words 'bitch' and bugger' which I believe she intended to apply to me.' 10DHL.

¹⁴²MM 110/2, 1838.

¹⁴³MM 110/1, 1838 ff.

Carrington

Situated a mile north of the village, *Carrington Plains* was once the estate of (successively) Lt Governors Davey, Sorell and Arthur. By the 1830s, *Carrington* was a smaller property, and owned by a teacher and former editor of the *Hobart Town Gazette*, James Ross. He died while living at *Carrington* and is buried in St Luke's Cemetery.

26/12/1838. Mark Woolnough (*Hibernia* 7) charged by Mr Ross with gross misconduct.

James Ross: Prisoner is assigned to Griffiths.

Ross: Last night about 12 o'clock I heard a great noise and I got up... I heard the prisoner swearing and he afterwards caused a great disturbance on the premises and wanted to fight Thomas Knubbs - the prisoner had no reason to be on the premises - I have reason to believe he came after my mother's servant woman who is shortly to be married to Knubbs - on account of the prisoner conduct I was obliged to proceed to Richmond about 2 o'clock in the morning for a constable.

Thomas Knubb: last night about 21 o'clock I was in Mrs Ross's kitchen with the woman servant who was there also- shortly after the woman left to go to bed in a n adjoining room - I went outside & saw the prisoner with a pannican of liquor in his hand and he asked for the woman Ann - the other woman said that Ann was not inside - the prisoner called her a liar and ... called me a twice convicted bloody rogue - he afterwards came to the window of the room I was in and broke one of the panes of glass and threatened to come inside. & Knock my bloody brains out with a stick he had in his hand. 6 months hard labour in chains. Removed out of the district.

Getting evidence was not always easy.

26/2/1839. 1560 Henry Clarke (*Emperor Alex* 14 + 14 yrs extension) assigned Mrs Ross.

Const Reid: Was with 30 others at house of Richard Stynes about 9 o'clock on Saturday night - had a half a pint of rum.

William Hayes - I have seen the prisoner at *Carrington*- I was at Stynes on Saturday night I did not see the prisoner there. 14 DSC¹⁴⁴

On another occasion, Ross became caught up in a violent fight.

15/5/1839. James Keheler (sic) (298 *John* 7 + 3 yrs extension) assigned Mr J Ross-charged by Ross with gross insubordination in assaulting him.

Ross: on Monday night I heard a great noise on the road and I went to see what it was - I then saw prisoner & some other men - I asked what they were doing and the prisoner replied 'What does that concern you?' - he then kept twisting round me and putting his head close to mine & I was obliged to push him away- he was going to strike me but was prevented by a man who was present - the prisoner then wanted to fight the same man but I would not let him - in endeavouring to pull him away from the free man (in

¹⁴⁴MM 110/2, 1838.

order to prevent him from fighting) - I tore the prisoner shirt - he then laid hold of me by the throat & forced me on the ground and struck me a violet blow on the mouth & made my nose and mouth bleed & tore my shirt all to pieces - one of the men then pulled him off - the prisoner was in liquor - I did not strike the prisoner with a fowling piece - I did not strike him at all.

2 Years HL in chains.¹⁴⁵

Laburnum Park

William and Thomas Kearney, the horse racing sons of Irish convict Kate Kearney, made and lost a fortune from their home, *Laburnum Park*. Like *Carrington*, this farm was located north of Richmond on the Coal River. William Kearney was an ebullient and energetic farmer.

One of his servants was sent to Dr FG Brock at Richmond, but did not return as expected. Instead he was seen drinking at Evan's inn (*RisdonInn*) at Dulcot, attracted by a female. Kearney also noticed a goose was stolen from his flock at the same time.

19/4/1838: John Cook (1434 *York*) assigned W Kearney. AWOL and Disorderly Conduct.

Kearney: I sent the prisoner to Dr Brock's at Richmond... on Tuesday morning I went to the overseer and asked what time the prisoner came back... (had not returned) prisoner drinking at Evan's all night - I had previously been round my flock but could not find prisoner who is my shepherd. The prisoner has been going to Evans of late contrary to orders- Remanded.

George Whelow - saw prisoner at Evans' - went away with a woman.

William Arnold: Overseer at Kearneys: A goose was stolen the evening prisoner was away - prisoner suspected ... heard a noise among the geese... but did not see anyone- the prisoner not in his hut- - I am positive he passed the hut several times as I know his walk well.

I know a woman who has lived for some time at Evans and have reason to believe she was with the prisoner. On Tuesday night when I was in the stubble field saw prisoner walking toward a hut I had previously locked, found that it had been opened. On looking in found the woman who had been living at Evans lying on a sort of bedstead. - 2 sheep missing from flock. 6 months hard labour & not to be returned to Richmond District.

¹⁴⁵ibid.

Chapter 10

Love in a Stolen Moment

Personal Relations Among Prisoners

Romantically or sexually - attracted men and women who were assigned prisoners resorted to various means to see each other in private, and were alert to ever-vigilant masters and constables, eager to lay a charge.

Courtship in the Countryside. The roads near Richmond were ideal places for courtship. In March 1834, Thomas Samuel White was charged with 'indecent conduct' on the evidence of Thomas Norris, who claimed he saw;

... 'a man with a woman coming along the road toward Richmond (i.e. Grass Tree Hill road). He was sitting on a tree with his arm round the woman's neck. They rose off the tree and went about 30 yards among the scrub, and they both lay down, and I saw them also rise up'. 2 DSC.¹⁴⁶

On his way back to Richmond, the hard-hearted Dr F.G. Brock noticed assigned servant Mary Sherman riding a horse.

29/10/1838. Mary Sherman (249 *William Bryan* 7) Gross Disorderly Conduct and AWOL.

FG Brock: Returning from Kangaroo Point at half past 4 o'clock & 3 miles from Richmond saw a woman on horseback - the moment I came in view she leaped off the horse and went into clump of wattles - the horse was held by a man named James Thompson (free)...I discovered that the woman had left the wattles & rode after her & found it was the prisoner. I desired her to then follow me - I then followed her on the road to Richmond until I met 3 men to take her in charge - ... she was conveyed to Richmond. 6 M FHC.

Another couple were also arrested on the 'High Road' - the new Grass Tree Hill Road - near Richmond.

11/11/1846. Samuel Howlett (*Anson* 14 years) assigned Mr Parramore (of *Anglewood*), Charged with being in an indecent position with a woman on Sunday evening near the road.

Catherine Wilcox (*George Henderson* 7 TL) Charged with being in an indecent position with Samuel Howlett on the High Road. 'She was locked in the arms of Howlett. I took her in charge.' Both 3 months hard labour.

Disorderly Houses' & Sly Grog Shops.

Richmond appears to have had 'disorderly houses,' perhaps another name for brothel, and where alcohol could be obtained after hours.

¹⁴⁶MacFie, Cobbers & Dobbers *ibid*.

On 10/12./1833, Mary Browning (*Mermaid* 7), the wife of Thomas Chance, was charged with 'very disorderly conduct being found in a house of ill-fame last night between 11 & 12 o'clock.' 6 months hard labour FHC.

Three years later, James Smith complained over the behaviour of his wife at a 'disorderly-house' operated by Jane Law:

12/2/1838. Edward Spencer (1116 *Mary*) - Gross disorderly conduct with being in a disorderly house. Guilty.

Butcher: About 11 o'clock Saturday night ... prisoner in disorderly house occupied by Jane Law - entered house and saw person enter loft - constable brought prisoner out of loft & to gaol

James Smith - I was coming into Richmond & heard a cart on the road - I saw behind the cart my wife and the prisoner walking together with two other women returning from Hobart Town where my wife had gone- I had reason to believe the prisoner has improper intercourse with my wife- followed them to Richmond (where they) entered a house occupied by Jane Law... I watched them about 2 hours- I had complained before about prisoner being with my wife - he has been punished twice before. 12 months hard labour & to be Removed from the District.¹⁴⁷

A month later, another suspect was also charged for being in the same house:

8/3/1838. William Ogden (94 *Bussadorah Merchant* 14) charged with gross disorderly conduct in being in bed in Jane Law's house in the township of Richmond. 12 months hard labour & TL suspended.¹⁴⁸

In April 1847, Mary Ann Coombes (*George Henderson*) TL, and William Henson (*Bussadorah Merchant*, Life) TL, were both charged with 'keeping a disorderly house in Richmond.' In evidence, a constable claimed he was 'card playing and there was drinking going on there - half a gallon of liquor was on the table.' Another female, John Hutchins (*Marion* 2, 10 years) was also present. Mary Ann Hoore (*Westmoreland*), wife of Henson, was charged with 'disturbing the peace and indecent language. (Reprimanded.) Henson was also charged with assaulting Constable Axtell, but only 'Reprimanded.' Hannah Hancock (*Royal Admiral*) TL - wife of Samuel Nicholls (under sentence at Port Arthur) was also charged with 'residing in a disorderly house' and using 'indecent language.'¹⁴⁹

The next month, James Baker (*Norfolk* life) TL assigned to Mr Styne, was also charged with 'Keeping a Disorderly House in Richmond'. A constable claimed he 'resides in a house with a woman and is not married, there is always fighting & drinking there.' 3 months hard labour .

Sometimes reports may refer to prostitution - or just desperation. On 23/10/1846, Patrick Brown (free by servitude) and Mary Lynch were found 'having connexion' in the water closet (toilet) of Murphy's *Bridge Inn*. On 22/9/1847, Harriet Ratcliffe (*Rajah* 7 years) and Thomas Morgan (*Somersetshire* 14 years) were charged with 'having connection in the street at 2 o'clock.' Both 2 months hard labour.

¹⁴⁷MM 110/2/1838 ff.

¹⁴⁸MM 110/2 1833 ff.

¹⁴⁹LC 445, 1/4/1847.

Romance in Richmond.

Couples who were still assigned servants could be prosecuted for being together. Having a companion illegally on your master's premises was very risky.

24/6/1846. William Fleckney (*Duke of Northumberland* 10 years) assigned servant of E Butcher.

Butcher: Having a woman, Mary Nankervitt (*Hindustan* 14 years) in bed with him on his master's premises.' 2M & 1 months hard labour respectively.

If the female was assigned to Dr Coverdale, the risks were higher still.

22/9/1846. William Ashmore (*Maquis of Hastings* 3/10 years) Assigned Samuel Burgess.

Burgess: Prisoner was on the premises of Dr Coverdale on Sunday night for some improper purpose.

Dr Coverdale: Prisoner seen near my gate ... he is constantly on my premises after a female servant of mine. 3 months hard labour.

A year later, Ashmore (now assigned to Thomas Herbert) was charged with being drunk and 'out after dark' and assaulting Const Thorpe.¹⁵⁰

Mary Ann Yates (*Lloyds* 10 years) assigned George Wheatley (proprietor of the *Richmond Hotel*)

Wheatley: Prisoner in an indecent position in the front room of her master's house, lying on a sofa with her clothes up, and a man was lying with her. She was drunk.' 1months hard labour FHC.

Liaisons

Inns could be places for liaisons between the free and assigned prisoners. Caroline Milward? (*Tory*, 10) was assigned to J.K. Buscombe, and charged with being AWOL and Neglect of Duty for which she was given 6 Weeks HL. Two months later she was seen in a compromising situation with her previous master's brother, Henry Buscombe. Now a servant to Thomas Lovell, she was charged with being AWOL, and being in the *Richmond Hotel*:

Mrs Guy (publican's wife): She was in a room of Mr Guy's Public House with a man. Caroline Milward went inside to speak to Mr Buscombe on business. She went through the side parlour, shutting my bedroom door ... I then went into the bedroom and saw Mr Buscombe lying on the bed apparently asleep, the prisoner had her bonnet and shawl off and was sitting on the chair. Case dismissed.¹⁵¹

¹⁵⁰LC 445, 5/2/1847.

¹⁵¹Lower Courts 445 n/d c 1845.

Chapter 11

End of an Era

By 1870, the three remaining Richmond hotels, the *Bridge Inn/Hotel*, the *Lennox Arms* and *Prince of Wales*, were the centre of life for many residents of Richmond and the surrounding districts. With cheap rent, the town was the escape for elderly emancipists. Poverty resulted in elderly people being supplied by farming families such as the Ogilvys from *Inverquarity*.

'Always Fighting' - Frail, Irascible Emancipists

. Court hearing for the 1870s and 1880s indicate most of those charged with drunk and disorderly offences at these hotels were elderly emancipated convicts - both men and women. Many had no family support, and lived on charity or by odd-jobbing.

By 1900, a young Alf King remembered the 'tracker-men' and 'tracker-women' who travelled the bye-roads as itinerants, seeking work, and camping in the open.

Last Hotels

Bridge Inn

When Robert Lewis was publican in the 1870s, several elderly emancipists and staff were charged with a number of offences. Sentenced by local magistrate/landowners, punishments were still severe. Patrick Keady, and Thomas Shaw, both ex-convicts, were regular offenders. Pat had a family and lived at the former *Union Hotel*, while bachelor Tommy Shaw, who was known as 'Tommy the Roundhead' because of his bald head, lived at Dulcot.¹⁵²

- 14/5/1872 Patrick Keady, 44, (*Blenheim 4*, 7 years) labourer, Richmond
Drunk & disorderly, *Bridge Inn*.
- 24 /9/1873. Patrick Keady, disturbing the peace, *Bridge Inn*. (with Thomas Shaw, labourer of Dulcot) 14 days Hard Labour Hobart Town.
- 5/5/1876 Thomas Shaw, as 'Tommy Roundhead', (*Barossa*) aged 55
Cambridge, labourer. d & d in Bridge St, resisting arrest 24 hrs or 3 mth
Hard Labour - allowed 10 days.
- 26/12/1877 2.30 pm Thomas Shaw and Edward Sloane fighting (both of Dulcot) in the *Bridge Hotel*.

Lewis' servants, including his ostler and groom, were also charged.

- 6/10/1874 - Henry Noble (*Sir George Seymour* 7 years) ostler, *Bridge Inn*,
was charged by master Robert Lewis, licensed victualler, of being Drunk &
Disorderly on his premises. Dismissed.

The same day Thomas Johnstone, (*Maida*, 10 years) groom at *Bridge Inn*, Richmond, was charged with larceny as a servant, for stealing a quantity of porter, valued at 3 shillings, the property of his master Robert Lewis, *Bridge Inn*. Sentence 3 months hard labour.

¹⁵²MacFie, 1982.

- 27/3/1874, Thomas Wright (*Anson*) groom, 55 years the hired servant of Robert Lewis, conducting himself in a violent manner towards his master on his premises at Richmond. *Bridge Hotel*. Thomas was reprimanded & discharged. He was later convicted of stealing two £1 bank notes. Sentence 6 months hard labour

- 23/1/1875. Alice Newman (*Daniel Meara*, Cork) free, in service of Richard Lewis, *Bridge Inn*. Drunk & Disorderly in *Bridge Hotel*. 5 shillings or 24 hrs Imprisonment.
- 4/5/1879 James Stubbs, Richmond, ostler Bridge Inn, (*Lady Kennaway*), charged with obscene language.

By 1890, Frederick Price was hotelier at the *Bridge Inn*.

- 16/1/1890 Mary Carroll, hawker, no fixed abode, (*Blackfriars*). Stealing 1 china mug *Bridge Hotel*, property Frederick Price.
- 6/1/1890 George Anderson, free, bootmaker, Richmond, native. Drunk & disorderly, *Bridge Hotel*. -5 shillings or 4 days-paid.

Lennox Arms

By the mid 1870s James Cavey was licensee. Tommy Shaw offended there as well.

- 3/1/1873. Thomas Shaw (*Barossa 2*, 15 years) damaged a glass, the property of James Cavey publican at the *Lennox Arms*.
- 21/7/1874. Thomas Shaw (*Barossa 2*, 15) damaged glass, the property of James Cavey, publican at the *Lennox Arms*.
- 24/5/1881 Catherine Johnstone (*Colombus*), living at Dulcot was charged with disturbing the peace at the *Lennox Arms*. 1 hour solitary.
- 10/4/1882 Ellen Toolan or Campion (*Blackfriars*, FS), described as a tramp. She was charged with being Drunk & Incapable at the *Lennox Arms*.

Prince of Wales

The McGowans were still proprietors of the *Prince of Wales* in the 1870s when various passing travellers offended. Drinkers at McGowans appear to have been travellers rather than brawling locals.

- 27/7/1877 David Dickers, quarryman, Kangaroo Point, (*Sir Robert Peel*, 10 years), aged 52 was charged with being Drunk & Incapable at the *Prince of Wales Inn*.
- 13/7/1880 Thomas Dean age 54, of Campania, (FS *Hyderabad 3*, 7 years) a labourer. He was charged with being Drunk & Disorderly in *Prince of Wales*.
- 14/6/1884 John Oliver, of Taranna, FC, (Free to the Colony) was charged with being Drunk & Incapable in the *Prince of Wales*.

As business declined, the licensee at the Prince of Wales was himself under pressure.

- 11/8/76 John McGowan, age 60, Richmond, Drunk & Disorderly, Bridge Street Fined.

End of an Era

By 1902 the *Prince of Wales* had closed, and only the *Commercial* (formerly the *Lennox Arms*) and the *Bridge Inn* were public houses. Then in the late 1950s the *Bridge Hotel* closed its doors, leaving only the one hotel. The value of these two hotels was £500; the *Railway Hotel* at Campania was by contrast, valued at £800 and the *Colebrook Railway Hotel* at £500.

With the growth of tourism, the last hotel, the *Commercial*, sought a more rustic image and changed its name to the *Richmond Arms* around 1980.