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Editorial

Relatives who leave the Tasman Peninsula – and Tasmania – still remain attached to “Home”. Their photographs and memorabilia, kept with loving care, will become a unique historical source. The Historical Records Search which is compiling lists of documents held all over Australia should also prove invaluable.

From Rockhampton, Queensland, Noel Greatbatch send an outline of the Greatbatch family, and an 1885 farm diary of the family, then clearing the bush at Wedge Bay, near Nubeena.

Roaring Beach was the first home of the Staceys, whose history is related by Mrs. M. Dransfield (nee Stacey), aged 85. A later generation of Stacey brothers discovered the osmiridium deposits at Adamsfield in the Derwent Valley during the 1830s.

Oral history, using “verbatim” tape-recorded interviews, has become a popular method of recording experiences. Although new, “word of mouth” history is older than the Bible. Maria Kingston’s (nee Stacey) interview with Alec Kingston re-lives the fortune-seekers from the Tasman Peninsula who overcame mountains and mud to extract the precious ore. Excellent photos, from an album kindly loaned by Don Clark of Koonya, taken in the 1930s by Alf Clark, give a unique view of the working lives of the alluvial miners. Mrs. Joan Mundy was one of the few women at Adamsfield and her recollections are documented by Ann McGinniss.

Lottah, Roaring Beach, was home for George and Kate Clarke (with an ‘e’). Son of the Reverend George Clarke, philanthropic Congregational minister, his son was a land-owner and for many years a warden and magistrate on the Tasman Peninsula. His grand-daughter Alison Shoobridge recalls the family’s early days and compliments this with snaps from the family album.

The Reverend R.F. Crocker was the Peninsula’s Congregational Minister early this century, serving the small communities of followers in South Eastern Tasmania. Pat Job describes the dedication of a country minister whose horse was probably the only one who knew the roads better than its rider.

In the late 1940s Keith Spaulding sailed as a teenager with his father Marcus on some of the last voyages of the *Gazelle*. Tony Spaulding kindly loaned the photos. Bush hospitals were a great advance in medical service. Sister Clarice Mildred Mainwaring (Now Mrs. Tommie Clark) recalls her own impressions as a bush nurse during the 1930s.

Thanks again to all the regular Society members – although Allan Briggs' yarns have been missed of late – and to our many readers.

A correction and information page has been included this issue, covering the first two Chronicles.

We would be glad of any articles and photographs for future issues of the Tasman Peninsula Chronicles.

Peter MacFie
Editor

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