

**TASMANIAN HISTORICAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATION
TASMANIAN LIFE SERIES**

LECTURE BY

**HER EXCELLENCY PROFESSOR THE HONOURABLE KATE WARNER AC
GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA, HOBART, TUESDAY 8th SEPTEMBER 2020**

Good evening, I begin by to paying my respects to the traditional and original owners of this land, the palawa people. I acknowledge the contemporary Tasmanian Aboriginal community, who have survived invasion and dispossession, and who continue to maintain their identity, culture and Indigenous rights.

The COVID- 19 pandemic brings home to us the destructive force of respiratory illnesses on populations without immunity. One of the reasons we have no living descendants of the mouhineener – the people who occupied the land on this side of the river – is due to the devastating effect of respiratory disease.

Thank you Caroline [introduced HE]. And thank you Tasmanian Historical Research Association for inviting me to address you this evening.

I had planned this evening to talk about the some of the families who have lived at Government House – rather upsetting the expectation that this was to be a lecture about my life. So this will be a compromise with a bit of both.

Something of my own story.

I have often been asked to talk about my career, and more recently particularly how it is that I came to be Governor. Which is a common question from school children – How did you get to be Governor? After explaining the process of appointment: Premier asking me; submitting my name to the Queen and so on, one little boy responded, 'Is Will Hodgman a friend of yours?'. Worse still, on another occasion after explaining [I had spent some time explaining?] the role of Governor, one little Prep boy said, 'But where is the Governor?'. Clearly, a shortish older woman, even older than his granny, without a distinguishing uniform or medals flashing, could not be the governor.

In his autobiography, Lord Rowallan (Governor from 1959-1963) asserts, 'The first thing a Governor requires is a uniform'.¹ And he had a uniform specially made for his Governorship – but as a Knight of the Order of the Thistle, he was entitled to an elaborate uniform of sashes, collars and a plumed hat. Not that this was his everyday dress of course.

To start from the beginning – I was born in Hobart. In the year before my birth, my parents moved here from Sydney. My father, Kenneth Friend, was a Queenslander, born in Gladstone, where his parents had a department store. Dad and his brother Gordon were sent to boarding school in Warwick, where Dad was Dux of the School. He studied medicine at Sydney University and then was engaged in post-graduate study in surgery at the outbreak of World War II. He enlisted and served in the Medical Corp serving in the middle east, Tobruk and the Pacific.

When he returned to Sydney, he changed specialty from surgery to the new field of radiology and was awarded his Diploma of Radiology in 1947. Meantime, at Sydney Hospital he had met my mother, a young radiographer, Pamela Spicer. Mum was born in Adelaide, where her father, Eric, was a banker. During the war he was transferred to Melbourne, where Mum studied to be a radiographer, and then at the end of the war, Eric was transferred to Sydney, and his twenty-year old daughter, and only child, went too.

Ken and Pam married in April 1947 and by the end of the year had settled in Hobart, where Ken set up a radiology practice at 175 Macquarie Street. He also worked at the Royal Hobart Hospital and Calvary Hospital and was the first qualified radiologist in the state.

There was a housing shortage after the war but Ken and Pam found a small flat to rent behind Miss O'Connor's house in Macquarie Street next door to St Joseph's Primary School. This house has since been demolished and the land incorporated into the middle school of St Michael's Collegiate School. By the time my brother Bill was born, they had purchased a house at 332 Davey Street. This attractive two-storey brick house with its distinctive diamond-shaped leadlight windows had been built by the Lewis family with the neighbouring house between the wars. It, 332, was to be the Friend family home for the next twenty or so years. (Abernant House)

¹ Lord Rowallan KT, *Rowallan: The Autobiography of Lord Rowallan*, Paul Harris Publishing, Edinburgh, 1976, 168.

It was a wonderful neighbourhood to grow up in with many other girls and boys my age for company. At age three and a half or four, I attended a kindergarten in Anglesea Street, South Hobart and I have early memories of going home on the trolley bus and a vivid memory of being bitten on the nose by a dog when I poked my face through a hand-hole in a wooden gate when walking up Anglesea Street.

We had two fish ponds in the garden at 332, and they were a magnet for the neighbourhood children, particularly the tadpoles. Some child or other, falling or being pushed into the pond was a common occurrence. I disliked wearing dresses and from an early age would demand 'joddies on' when my mother was dressing me. But parties demanded a party dress, and I can remember skipping around the edge of fish pond in my party dress, slipping and falling in and being in a lot of trouble as a result.

At age four and a half, I started school at Collegiate, where I remained for twelve years. While most of the children in our immediate neighbourhood attended private schools, South Hobart was a very mixed neighbourhood. And children in the 1950s and 1960s were allowed a lot of freedom to roam and play in the streets, in the creek at the bottom of Lynton Avenue, the recreation ground at the bottom of D'Arcy Street (where I learnt a lot of new words) and when a bit older, to wander in the reserve at the Waterworks. I had some hair-raising billy-cart, roller-skating and tree-climbing accidents and was frequently going home with grazes and torn clothes.

I enjoyed school, including almost a year in boarding school in Grade 5, where I made life-long friends. Brother Bill, two years younger, at seven, had a miserable time as a boarder at Hutchins, partly because he was easily the youngest boarder but also because the Hutchins Boarding House was not nearly as well run as the Junior Collegiate Boarding House. We had a very competent resident matron (Mrs Livesey) who slept in a room adjoining our dormitory. She was as much nanny as a matron. On Tuesdays, her one day off, we ran wild. I loved that day but I know some of the girls found it alarming and dreaded Tuesdays. Richard, my younger brother, stayed with my aunt and uncle Peg and Neville Newman, who had also moved to Hobart from Sydney.

As a child, I was a tomboy and a bit of rebel at school. However, my parents expected me to apply myself academically and I grew up knowing they wanted me to go to University and were insistent that I have an education that would enable me to be financially independent. Both of them valued education highly

and my mother resented the fact that she had not been able to spend an extra year at school to matriculate and qualify to attend University. So I was given every opportunity and encouragement to achieve academically. My parents were also reasonably permissive for the day – allowing me plenty of freedom and placing a lot of trust in me.

My father encouraged me to think about physiotherapy as a career. This required Schools Board physics as a prerequisite but as I had chosen German instead of Physics in Year 10 I had to pick up physics at night school in year 11. So I had the different experience of attending night school at Tech for three hours once a week with a very different cohort of students, all of whom had left school.

Sport was an important part of my school life and I played in the tennis and hockey teams, and was in the school teams for swimming and lifesaving. My parents were both keen tennis players, and my mother a rather good player. I joined the Tasmanian Law Tennis Association Club at Creek Road, New Town, now based on the Domain, and played there in the weekends and in the May tournaments.

As a family we also water-skied and snow skied. The water-ski club – the Moorilla Ski Club – consisted of a group of six families, including the Alcorso family (hence Moorilla Ski Club) and we water-skied at Moorilla and Austins Ferry and later at New Norfolk. Snow skiing took us to stay in the very rustic government huts at Mt Field – at a time when there was not even a basis rope tow on the ski field. Sometimes Dad also took us for a bit of a ski on kunanyi, Mt Wellington.

By the time I was in Year 12, I had decided against physiotherapy, and applied instead to study an Arts degree here in Tasmania. I suspect, the decision to stay in Tasmania had something to do with having a Tasmanian boyfriend. However, when it came to enrolling, I enrolled in law, something I have never regretted. My first year, with some five female students, about 15% of the class, was the first year to have enrolled more than one woman. Today, more than 50 percent of law students are female. While daunted at first, I enjoyed almost all subjects in the degree.

The fourth and final year of law was a part-time year with articles. I was articled to Bob Baker, a former Professor of Law, at Piggott, Wood and Baker and at the end of that year I graduated third in my year with Second Class Honours. While not of course as good an achievement as first class honours, an honours degree

proved to be very useful for an academic career. My second year of articles, I served as Chief Justice's Associate to Sir Stanley Burbury, a year I thoroughly enjoyed. He was a wonderful mentor and example of leadership.

After admission to the Bar in early 1971, I married Richard Warner, and we set off for a nine-month overseas working holiday. When we arrived home, Sir Stanley invited me back to the Supreme Court as his Associate, to fill in for his current Associate who was ill. And at the same time I began work as a casual tutor at the University, teaching Commercial Law. The following year I was also asked to tutor in Criminal Law and so began my academic career. Again this proved fortuitous when pregnancy and the birth of my first daughter meant that I was unable to take up an offered position in a law firm. Maternity leave was by no means the norm then, and was unheard of in private legal practice, likewise fractional appointments. Moreover, child care placements were scarce.

The only part-time legal work available was a casual tutoring position at the University of Tasmania. This was when my honours degree mattered and after the birth of my second daughter, it enabled me to enroll in a Master of Laws by research.

The University opened its child care centre at about this time – and my girls went there a couple of days each week. I was a postgraduate student and tutor and then, after I completed my LLM, a lecturer. This was poorly paid – and despite the fact I was lecturing and tutoring in two full-year subjects with a considerable teaching load, I did not earn enough to pay income tax. This would have been impossible if I had not been supported by my partner, Dick. Teaching paid child care, petrol and not much more.

Finally, in 1981, I received an annual full-time contract. I was the most junior and only female member of staff in the Law Faculty. At this time just 16% of academics were female. And a couple of years later, I successfully applied for a tenured position – with superannuation and study leave entitlements at last. In 1996, at the age of 48, I became a full professor, the first female professor in the Law School.

I enjoyed most aspects of academic life: the combination of teaching and research – administration less so; the opportunity to collaborate and interact with scholars from around the world; and involvement in law reform was a highlight, first writing papers for the Law Reform Commission and then the role of Director of the Tasmania Law Reform Institute.

Which brings me to my current role as Governor and the second part of my lecture:

The families who lived at Government House in the nineteenth century.

The biographies of the Governors ensures that their lives are comparatively well-known, but much less is known of their wives and children and their lifestyles; and even less about those who worked for them. Their stories are so often forgotten and unrecorded. The portraits and photographs of past Governors displayed in the house give little away about their wives and less about their children.

In the nineteenth century many of the Governors had large families and so the house experienced the noise and clamour of children and family life including birthday parties, family weddings and even births – at least seven Vice-Regal children were born at Government House and many other children were born in the cottages. In researching and writing about the history of the house and its garden, we are endeavouring to bring it to life by including the lives of those who lived in it.

LADY AUGUSTA SOPHIA YOUNG

The Youngs had arrived in Tasmania with four children: two boys and two girls, the eldest, a boy of six and the youngest, a baby girl, not yet one. The children arrived with whooping cough, which in the 19th century had a high mortality rate for children under two. Fortunately, the Young children recovered and before the family moved into the new Government House in 1858, two more daughters were born. Then, after they had moved into the new Government House, a Hobart newspaper on 5 January 1860 reported that at Government House, Hobart Town, Lady Young gave birth to her fifth daughter, the first child to be born in the new Government House.

Very little is recorded about the Young's seven children during their stay in Tasmania at the impressive new Government House. Miss Young, possibly the eldest Miss Young, aged 10, began accompanying her parents to functions such as regattas, exhibitions and bazaars. The two boys are not mentioned. The fact that when the family returned to England in December 1861 with five

children not seven, indicates that the boys must have remained in England at boarding school when the family had spent time in England on leave earlier.

HARRIET BROWNE

Hobart Archivist Fiona McFarlane has been assiduously transcribing the diaries of Harriet Gore Browne, and they contain valuable social and related information which she has been sharing with us, so we know more about the Brownes than the Youngs.

The Gore Brownes had [or at least?] six children: Maybl (May), Harold (Harry), Willie and Frankie, and two, Godfred (Fred) and Ethel, who were born at Government House (in 1863 and 1864, 15 months apart). On some Sundays they were joined in the school room by other children from the Estate including the three Paxton boys (gardener Robert Paxton had ten children) and John Watt, where they, quote, 'read two miracles, heard collects, sang a hymn', end quote. Harriet's diary paints an idyllic picture of children playing in the garden, at the bathing shed and helping in the vegetable garden.

The eldest child, Maybl, accompanied her parents to the East Coast, where they stayed at Lisdillon with John Mitchell and his family. During the visit, the Mitchell girls took Maybl to the cow house at 6am to try her hand at milking. We know this because Sarah Mitchell kept a scrap book which includes her sister's sketches of the visit [visit?] – the scrap book is housed in the University of Tasmania's Special and Rare Collections. Sarah's description of Sketch 3 is: "Sir Thomas & Lady Gore Brown & party of Miss Gore Brown; Butler & ladies maid drove, & the others rode [and] Aidechamp [sic] Honorary Mr Chister [sic] (who afterwards lost his eye by a champagne cork)."

My first task was to write about the history of the garden and grounds, and I have found some clues in relation to this in Harriet's diary. For example, in an 1865 entry is the first mention of the fernery and rockery which is shown on the later 1881 watercolour plan of the 'Pleasure Garden', or ornamental garden. The diary also reveals the extent to which the estate was a self-sufficient farming enterprise with which Harriet was intimately involved: the vegetables and crops they grew and the farm animals and poultry they raised.

GEORGIANA DU CANE

The Du Canes had three children when they arrived in January 1869 (Copley, John and Edith) and five when they left. Florence was born at Government

House shortly after their arrival and Ella in June 1874 in their last year in Tasmania.² The family arrived with an entourage of seven servants, some apparently with children.³ The Du Cane boys often accompanied their parents on engagements around the state. They travelled to Launceston with their parents where, on each of two visits, they enjoyed watching magicians, Mr Robert Heller and Professor Haselmayer, at the Mechanics Institute. Master Copley and Master John also attended the Regatta in Hobart, poultry exhibitions and agricultural shows and explored visiting ships. Copley accompanied his parents in the Vice-Regal carriage to farewell the historic departure of the red coats from Tasmania in August 1870.⁴

At the [Queen's?] Birthday Ball in 1874, they, quote, 'took an active part in the dancing'.⁵ The children also had a lively social life. Edith and Florence were bridesmaids at the wedding of Frances Stephens and the Earl of Donoughmore at St David's Cathedral, with the boys also in the wedding party.⁶ And there were children's parties at Government House where small girls in ribbons and muslin, were exhorted by their nurse-maids and nannies to emulate the deportment of Miss Edith and Miss Florence.⁷ [This last detail emerged from a story written by Edith Giblin, who was reminiscing about events she had been invited to through the eyes of Lady Franklin's huon pine screen, which today is in the Dining Room.]

When playing in the garden and grounds one day, Copley and John Du Cane were caught up in the drama of a drowning. A splash near the Government House jetty and a shout drew their attention to a man who was struggling in the water and then sank from sight. John ran to the House for help and Copley to the water's edge with another two witnesses. Unfortunately, all they could find of the person was his hat. Copley was called to give evidence at the inquest the next day, no doubt cementing the event in his memory.⁸

Ella and Florence Du Cane, the two girls who were born at Government House, went on to have interesting and independent lives. After their father's death in 1889 they travelled the world unchaperoned. Ella became a well-known artist.

² There are birth notices in the Mercury for Florence (Mercury, 22 May 1869, p 1) and Ella (Mercury, 5 June 1874).

³ *Sydney Morning Herald*, 21 December 1868, p 4.

⁴ 'Departure of the Military', *The Mercury*, 18 August 1870, p 2.

⁵ *The Tasmanian Tribune*, 28 August 1874, p 2.

⁶ *The Mercury*, 20 May 1874, p 2.

⁷ Edith Hall, 'The Screen', Hobart Antique and Historical Exhibition, 1931 (Giblin/Mackinnon family archive). This 1931 exhibition, which featured Lady Franklin's Screen, inspired a piece by Edith (Hall) Giblin describing her recollections of a children's party in the days of the Du Cans.

⁸ 'The Late Drowning Case', *The Mercury*, 26 March 1874, p 2.

Many of her works were acquired by Queen Victoria and remain in the Queen's private[?] collection. She also illustrated a number of books including three with the text written by Florence.⁹ It has been suggested that 'their foreign childhood' may have given them the inspiration and confidence to travel and pursue far-flung careers.¹⁰

FILUMENA (MENA) WELD

The Welds had twelve children and welcomed the move from the Government House in Perth to a larger house, despite the drop in salary.¹¹ Their eldest son, seven-year-old Humphrey, accompanied his father to Tasmania from Western Australia, and Mena Weld, who was expecting their tenth child, followed later with Christina, Cecily, Filumena (Minnie), Edith, Everard, Frederick, Magdalena Maria, Joseph and baby Angela.

Weld's anxiety about his wife and children's welfare was well-founded. The ship they had booked a passage on had been sold and Mena had been forced to engage a much smaller vessel, the *Mary Herbert*. The voyage on the *Mary Herbert* was crowded, wet and terrifying. Filumena's beloved horse died en route and when the incompetent captain and his first mate were intoxicated during a storm, she was forced to take over, counteract the captain's orders and instruct the crew to reef in the sails. Although they arrived safely (apart from the horse), on during the return journey to Fremantle the *Mary Herbert* was wrecked and all on board drowned.¹²

The two youngest Weld children, Raymond and Osmand, were born at Government House Tasmania in 1876 and 1877. The family, a devout Roman Catholic, aristocratic English family included cardinals and bishops, so it is not surprising that two of the boys became priests, one of the girls, Edith, an abbess, and two more nuns. Attending St Joseph's Church on Sundays required a horse-drawn omnibus to transport the family, according to Edith Giblin, whom I mentioned earlier. This and others comments, such as her disapproval of the

⁹ For example, Florence Du Cane and Ella Du Cane, *The Flowers and Gardens of Japan*, A and C Black, London, 1909.

¹⁰ Alison Redfoot, *Victorian Watercolourist Ella Mary Du Cane : A study in resistance and compliance*, MA Thesis California State University at Long Beach, 2011, p 14.

¹¹ TS Louch, 'Weld, Sir Frederick Aloysius', *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/weld-sir-frederick-alloysius-4829>

¹² Alice, Lady Lovatt, *The Life of Sir Frederick Weld, a Pioneer of Empire*, John Murray 1914, p 245.

fact that the Supper Room had been converted into a chapel, are difficult not to interpret as revealing anti-Catholic sentiments.

The Supper Room, incidentally, is today's Executive Council Room on the first floor.

It was likely to be two older girls, Chrissie and Cecilia, who were the 'Misses Weld' who attended public engagements with their parents: school prizegivings, an operetta at the Theatre Royal, organ recitals and concerts, a glass blowing exhibition, laying of the second foundation stone for St Mary's Cathedral and a trip to the Salmon Ponds at Plenty.¹³

Humphrey accompanied his father on a rail trip to Launceston for the Northern Agricultural Show and, with his brother, attended a Rifle Association Match, leaving early after one of participants became a 'bit of nuisance' as a result of spending too much time in the refreshment tent.¹⁴ Two of the girls also travelled to Launceston with their parents and their father took them to the Hobart Town Cup in his 'four horse drag'.¹⁵ No doubt the children were invited to private functions too. Seven-year-old Minnie and six-year-old Edith were among the six bridesmaids for Adeline Cameron at her marriage to their cousin, Captain Arthur Stourton.¹⁶

The eldest of the young Welds, Christina, was a common sight on her cream-coloured pony. Out riding one day with Captain Stourton, her pony shied at a pile of boxes outside the Brunswick Hotel in Liverpool Street and impaled itself on the shaft of a cart sustaining a deep cut to its shoulder. The fifteen-year old Miss Weld quickly dismounted; a vet was called but the pony died shortly after it was taken to the hotel stables.¹⁷ The incident did not seem to put her off riding – sometime later it was reported that Miss Weld rode to Clarence Plains with her father to follow the field through the Tasmanian Coursing Club's first day's hunting.

¹³ For example, *The Mercury*, 24 July 1877, p 2 (operetta); *The Mercury*, 11 February 1878, p 2 (St Mary's), *Cornwall Chronicle*, 10 December 1879, p 2 (Salmon Ponds).

¹⁴ *The Mercury*, 3 December 1879, page 2.

¹⁵ *The Tasmanian Tribune*, 21 February 1876, p 3.

¹⁶ 'Fashionable Marriage' *The Tasmanian*, 9 October 1875, p 11.

¹⁷ *The Examiner* 16 September 1875, p 2 reported she was thrown to the ground but the *Mercury*, 16 September 1875 said she dismounted; see also the *Cornwall Chronicle*, 17 September 1875. P 2; 4 October 1875. P 3' the *Tasmanian Tribune* 4 October 1875, p 3. The reports varied about the speed they were riding, which was 'leisurely' according to the *Mercury*

Learning to ride was the norm for upper class children – for both boys and girls. Governor Weld and Mena Weld were ‘splendid riders’ and the children were sent to Samuel Blackwell’s hotel at Melton Mowbray for six weeks for riding lessons. Blackwell was a well-known horseman and racehorse owner with whom the Welds spent holidays.¹⁸

The eldest two girls, Christina and Cecily, were competent riders even before they left Western Australia for Tasmania. When staying on Rottneest Island with their governess, Miss Cook, they gave her the slip and took off for the day on their ponies, to quote Miss Cook’s diary, ‘returning at twenty to seven covered with dust and panting horses’. When the governess reported this to their parents, Weld merely laughed and said to Mena, ‘if they do this at ten they will elope at twenty’! The governess was affronted and ended her diary entry with, ‘Serve them right if they do [elope]’.

Reading about Mena Weld, I am filled with admiration for her energy and resilience. She seemed to cope calmly and competently with terrifying sea voyages, her children’s illnesses, public duties and entertainments. Her faith was clearly a great support to her. The family may well have been pious, but the children were clearly high spirited and encouraged to be so. While the Welds had, in Government House Tasmania, a beautiful house to live in, they did have financial worries. The Governor’s stipend had been lowered significantly – from £6,500 to £3,500 and was insufficient for all their expenses, forcing Weld to draw on the income from his New Zealand properties and to sell his farm ‘Brackenfield’ while he was in Tasmania.¹⁹

The education of the Vice-Regal children is typical of the era. The Weld children were educated by governesses, but the boys from about the age of ten were sent ‘home’ to attend boarding school – a common practice among colonial administrators and well-off locals (James Backhouse Walker for example, was sent off to boarding school in England at the age of eleven.) In 1877, two years after arriving in Tasmania, ten year-old Humphrey left for England, in the company of a priest, to attend Stonyhurst, the Jesuit College, founded by his great grandfather, and the school his father had attended. [Interestingly Frederick Weld attended Fribourg University in Switzerland – Oxford and

¹⁸ Our Tasmania, ‘Melton Mowbray’, <http://www.ourtasmania.com.au/launceston/melton-mowbray.html> Accessed 24 March 2020.

¹⁹ Noel Vose, *Mena: Daughter of Obedience*, UWA Publishing, 2013, 128,

Cambridge did not accept Roman Catholic students until 1854]. Everard followed his brother to Stonyhurst from Tasmania as did Frederick.]

ANNIE LEFROY

Sir Henry Lefroy, who served as administrator from October 1880 to November 1881, arrived in Tasmania with his second wife Annie (Lady Lefroy) and thirty-year-old Maude, one of his four adult children. Later, they were joined by his nephew, George Lefroy, who served as private secretary. Miss Maude Lefroy played a very active role in her parents' Vice-Regal life, attending many functions with them: concerts and the theatre, charitable institutions and schools, weekly visits to the hospital, (real) tennis and cricket matches, agricultural shows around the island and numerous excursions, such as to Port Arthur, the Huon and Sorell. Miss Lefroy was clearly a competent horsewoman and on the official visit to Sorell she rode with the Aide on horseback while the rest of the party travelled by coach.²⁰

Despite the smaller household –Sir Henry described the House as ‘rather too large’ for their needs and ‘the distance from [his wife] Annie’s room to [his] – fully fifty yards’, the house was nevertheless busy with frequent guests to stay. And when attending engagements, the Vice-Regal party often included the Misses Smith (daughters of the Chief Justice, Sir Francis Smith) and Miss Dobson, daughter of Mr Justice Dobson, no doubt as company for Maude. House guests included the wife and two daughters of the South Australian Governor, Sir William Jervois, (pronounced Jarvis) who stayed for a month in the Autumn of 1881. It was an eventful holiday for Caroline and Alice Jervois. Not only were they almost wrecked in a storm in Bass Strait on the way home but on a hike up Mt Wellington with Maude Lefroy and a party guided by the Chief Justice and his son, they all became lost when darkness descended. Fortunately they were found by the owner of ‘the little inn’ at Fern Tree – their failure to return by dark with no word having caused great concern at Government House.²¹

Government House was a much quieter place during the term of Sir George Strahan who was a widower. Despite the absence of a hostess he apparently entertained more frequently than the Welds,²² and held frequent afternoon

²⁰ ‘Vice Regal Visit to Sorell’, *The Mercury*, 22nd April, 1881, p 2.

²¹ Lady Lefroy, p 292.

²² Telegraph, 22nd February 1882, p 2.

receptions from 3pm until 6pm as well as balls and the Queen's birthday levee. On some occasions, the Chief Justice's wife, Lady Smith, acted as hostess.

TERESA HAMILTON

The Hamiltons had seven children between them.²³ Sir Robert had three sons and one daughter (Anne) to his first wife; and one daughter (Mary) and two sons (Harry and Gavin) to his second wife, Lady Teresa Hamilton, whom he married in 1877. A strong-minded and forceful woman, Teresa Hamilton gave lectures on health and sanitation and, as you all no doubt know, established the Hamilton Literary Society, to encourage the research, writing and presentation of papers. She was also a competent water-colour artist.

It appears that only Anne, Allan, Harry and the two youngest children, Mary and Gavin, came to live in Tasmania. The eldest two sons remained in England,²⁴ although they may have visited. In Hobart, Anne met They're[?] a Beckett Weigall, an ambitious young barrister from Melbourne, who proposed to her on the banks of the Derwent.²⁵ They married in April 1890 with a reception at Government House for some 300 guests²⁶ and Anne went to live in Melbourne with her new husband, who became a Supreme Court Judge. Joan, the third of their four children, was the artist and author Joan Lindsay, best known now as the author of the novel 'Picnic at Hanging Rock'.

Allan seems to have left Tasmania before his father's term ended. Harry, on the other hand, spent more time on the island, taking part in a fishing expedition to the central highlands with his father, shooting, playing cricket, riding at the Hobart Polo Club where he won the Cigar and Umbrella race with his mare 'Matilda' and attending balls. When his parents left, he returned to Charleville, Queensland where he had been a jackaroo.²⁷

²³ Richard Refshaughe, 'Hamilton, Sir Robert George (1836-1895)', *Australian Dictionary of Biography*; Sir Robert had three sons and one daughter (Anne) to his first wife; and two sons and one daughter to his second wife, Lady Teresa Hamilton, whom he married in 1877.

²⁴ Second son, Robert William, was a student at Cambridge in 1887. He became Chief Justice of the East African Protectorate and later a Scottish Liberal Party Politician.

<https://www.ukwhoswho.com/view/10.1093/ww/9780199540891.001.0001/ww-9780199540884-e-226379>

²⁵ Sarah Frith, *Fact and Fiction in Joan Lindsay's Picnic at Hanging Rock*, 1990.

²⁶ The size of the wedding reception attracted criticism and many who were not invited were offended: Margaret Glover (ed), *Letters from Hobart 1888-1892: JB Walker to his sister Mary in London*, Pear Tree Press, Hobart, 2015, 154.

²⁷ *Daily Telegraph*, 1 December 1892, page 2

The school-aged children of governors tended to have governesses and tutors rather than to attend local schools. Mary Hamilton, however, was an exception. She was a pupil at the Ladies College in Hobart (later to become Collegiate School), where she won the Sir Lambert Dobson Prize for good conduct.²⁸ Mary was another keen horsewoman, participating in a hunt at Hutton Park, Melton Mowbray, with brother Gavin on Piquet.²⁹ Hunting, a popular upper class sport in nineteenth century Britain for men and women, was brought by the colonists to Van Diemen's Land and New South Wales along with foxes. It is not at all surprising then that it was popular with Vice-Regal families. Fortunately, foxes did not naturalise in Van Diemen's Land so drag-hunting with a prepared scent for the hounds was a substitute. And the Hamilton family embraced the new game of lawn tennis. The three tennis courts and the charming tennis pavilion at Government House were built during the Hamiltons' term.

ISMAY GORMANSTON

Sir Robert Hamilton was succeeded by Viscount Gormanston who had four children, Jenico, Ismay, Richard and Hubert Preston. Jenico, the eldest son, came to Tasmania two years later than the rest of the family when his boarding school in Bath closed. The Mercury reported that he would continue his education 'in the colony' with his two younger brothers and a tutor.³⁰ It is significant that Ismay, who at this stage was 13-years-old, is not mentioned in the context of the tutor. Perhaps this was left to the governess, Florence Marley, a cousin, who was married at St Mary's Cathedral in June 1894, followed by a reception at Government House.³¹

The children participated in community life. Ismay sang in a concert, and Ismay, Richard and Hubert appeared in a children's tableaux, Ismay as a fairy and 8-year-old Hubert as a sunflower in a fairy scene and Richard as one of the Princes in the Tower in an historical tableau. Their mother directed operations and had painted the scenery.³² The children were not immune from media gossip and attention - ten-year-old Richard was in the news when one morning he got up early unobserved and ran away. The Mercury suggested that he had been caught smoking by his governess and was fearful of his father's reaction. He was

²⁸ *Daily Telegraph*, 2nd January 1892, page 2; *Daily Telegraph*, 25 November 1892, p?.

²⁹ *The Mercury*, 3rd August 1892, p ? If he was the GM Hamilton?

³⁰ *The Mercury*, 14 December 1895, p 2

³¹ *The Mercury* 4 June 1896, p 3.

³² 'Tableaux Vivants at Temperance Hall', *The Mercury*, 29 August 1894, p 2.

eventually found later in the day near the Battery on the Domain, leading journalists to wonder how he had spent the day.³³

Jenico and his brothers also went hunting. Jenico, with his horse 'Colebrook', rode with the Hobart Hunt Club and was sometimes joined by his younger brothers, Richard on 'The Cradle' and Hubert on 'Billy'.³⁴

Lady Gormanston took the boys back to England mid-way through the Governor's term, although their trip was delayed in Adelaide when Jenico was hospitalised with scarlet fever, a disease with a high mortality rate at the time. No doubt greatly worried, Viscount Gormanston travelled to Adelaide to see him and Jenico remained convalescing in Adelaide for some months before following his mother and brothers to England. When Lady Gormanston returned to Government House at the end of the year the boys remained in boarding school. Ismay, aged 14 when her brothers left, stayed in Tasmania for the last three years of her father's term although she did return with her parents for a holiday in Ireland in 1899. She was no doubt kept busy accompanying her parents on engagements, had singing lessons, even sang in public in concerts and probably had a limited circle of suitable friends. On an outing exploring the Alum Cliffs at Browns River with friends, Ismay slipped and fell. She was rescued by being lowered with ropes into a boat without suffering any serious injury.³⁵

Ismay played a prominent part in a patriotic demonstration in August 1900 and her portrait 'in military costume' and waving the Union Jack appeared in the local papers.³⁶ Ismay married Lord Ninian Crichton, whom she met when she was a bridesmaid at his brother's wedding. The press reported that 'fortune smiled on the young couple' as he was from 'one of the richest families in England while Lord Gormanston [was] not blessed with a large rent roll'.³⁷

The story continues into the twentieth century, and I have been fascinated by the lives of these Vice-Regal families in Tasmania and after. The pattern of their education is repeated: boys to boarding school and girls educated by a governess or at a local Tasmanian school with plenty of emphasis on French and music – very handy for singing and playing the piano to entertain guests.

³³ *The Mercury*, 19th September, 1894 p 2; *The Clipper*, 22nd September 1894, p 2.

³⁴ *The Mercury*, 24th August 1896, p 3; 31st May 1897, p 3; 20th July 1897, p 4.

³⁵ *The Mercury*, 6th January 1900, p 2. (date correct but check source)

³⁶ Portrait of the Governor's daughter in *The Tasmanian Mail*, 7 August 1900 according to the Mercury.

³⁷ *The Daily Telegraph* (Sydney) 1st August 1906, p 6.

The Stricklands are a particularly interesting family. Sir Gerald and Lady Edeline (a member of the Sackville family and close relative of Vita Sackville West) had four young daughters when they arrived in Tasmania. Mabel, who did not marry, became a journalist, newspaper proprietor and politician in Malta. Generally, local romantic liaisons for the girls tended to be discouraged – although Keva Allardyce, daughter of Sir William and Lady Elsie Allardyce, married Charles Travers Butler, a Hobart solicitor. The fact that Lady Elsie was an Australian no doubt made the prospect of a Tasmanian son-in law less worrying.

In conclusion, I would like to say that reading the stories of Vice-Regal wives and children has made me very grateful to have been brought up by parents who believed in a girl's education that went beyond music, French and horse-riding and also to have been born at a time when the opportunities for women, even if married, were opening up to the extent that it was possible for me to be made Governor of Tasmania.

Thank you.