



Port Phillip Pioneers Group Inc.

A Member Society of the G.S.V. Inc.

A.C.N.: A0022862G

We look forward to your past



Newsletter No: 215

Vol. 43 No. 3

July – August 2020



The Battle of Vimeiro.

Image Source: Wikipedia.

See page 4

PORT PHILLIP PIONEERS GROUP

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VISIT OUR WEBSITE

www.portphillippioneersgroup.org.au

λ Welcome to the following Members λ

No	Member	Desc. From	Details	Date	Ship or other means
1495	Anne UGAZIO	a) Uriah HODDINOTT & b) Martha HODDINOTT nee CHILD c) Joseph HODDINOTT	Arrived P.P.D.	November 30, 1841	"Mary Nixon"
1496	Michael RUMPF	a) Robert DURHAM & b) Sarah DURHAM nee JUER c) Rose DURHAM	Arrived P.P.D.	October 1849	"Posthumous"
1497	Darralyn CUSACK	a) Andrew BLACK & b) Margaret BLACK nee COUSINS c) Sarah BLACK	Arrived P.P.D.	January 21, 1841	"Sir Charles Forbes"
1498	Joyce SMITH	a) Andrew BLACK & b) Margaret BLACK nee COUSINS c) Sarah BLACK	Arrived P.P.D.	January 21, 1841	"Sir Charles Forbes"
1483 Additional claim	Sally JOHNSON	a) James PARNELL & b) Mary PARNELL nee SALMON c) Ellen PARNELL	Arrived P.P.D. Born P.P.D.	July 10, 1840 November 14 1845	"Sir Charles Forbes"
1499	Sandy SINCLAIR	a) James ALDERTON & b) Elizabeth ALDERTON nee GODFREY c) Thomas FAITHFULL & d) Mary Ann FAITHFULL nee EGGLETON e) Jane FAITHFULL	Arrived in P.P.D. Arrived in P.P.D.	July 21, 1844 February 18, 1844	"Dale Park" "Royal Consort"
1500	Fiona BUNTINE	a) Hugh BUNTINE b) Henry JUCKES & c) Ann JUCKES nee MANNING d) Jessie Jane JUCKES	Arrived in P.P.D. Arrived in P.P.D. Born P.P.D.	March 3, 1840 January 26, 1841 January 1, 1847	"Bright Planet" "Nimrod"
1501	Olivia PEARCE	a) James PEET & b) Mary PEET nee ORFORD c) Sarah Amelia PEET	Resided P.P.D. Born P.P.D.	1848 1848	
1502	Laura PEARCE	a) James PEET & b) Mary PEET nee ORFORD c) Sarah Amelia PEET	Resided P.P.D. Born P.P.D.	1848 1848	

2020

Meeting Dates

September 12
November 14

Newsletter Deadlines

October 12 October - November

All correspondence for newsletter items must be sent to Barb Hawkins,
email barbh27@bigpond.com

P.P.P. Group Report

Hello members and friends.

It was with great anticipation that we moved to the world of Zoom last meeting and elected the following new Committee Members. Paul Cronin, Margaret Fleming, and Dean Wheeler, (who is our new Treasurer).

I must thank all those who continue to serve us on the Committee as they are truly valued by me and the Group in general. The full committee list is on the back page as usual. I must also say thank you to all those other helpers that are returning to do their jobs to keep the library, afternoon teas, greeting the visitors and members on arrival and all the other jobs behind the scenes operating when we are meeting as usual.

Thank you to those 55 members who sent in their postal proxies and to those 18 members who attended the Zoom meeting, also to those who, for some reason could not connect properly and missed out. I am hoping to see you next time. 23 people registered to participate.

While saying that, I found it wonderful to see everyone close up and the experience was a surprisingly enjoyable one for me, and I think for everyone who participated.

We had members - Graham from Western Australia, Bryan from Bairnsdale and Peter from Shanghai who connected. Well done.

I hope you are all safe and well. As we move through the pandemic that continues to infect our population we are aware that many have lost loved ones and the condolences of all the Group members is sent to you if this has happened to a family member.

Looking forward to seeing you at a meeting soon.
Barb Hawkins, Newsletter Editor and President.

Thank you for your Service.

The President, Committee and members would like to thank the departing Committee Members:

Jessie Handoll (10 years)

Committee 2010 - 2020

President 2013 - 2019

Vice Pres. 2019 - 2020

Jessie took on the position of President a bit reluctantly, but was a great success. She kept us all in order and kept the meetings on track. She was always willing to take responsibility and take on the hard jobs. She has been a great asset to the Committee.

Clare Bayne who returned to the committee after a break to serve again.

(19 years)

Committee August 2000 - 2019

Vice Pres. 2001 - 2003

President 2003 - 2005

Examiner of Proofs 2000 - 2003 and 2016 - 2019

Clare was president at a difficult time. Among other things, she presided over changing the qualifying Pioneer ancestor date from 1835 to 1803.

She was Examiner of Proofs before that and did a great job. She then took up this position again later. She was instrumental in simplifying the procedures there, making a considerable difference. Taking huge cabinets to her house from the GSV and whittling the contents down to two small ones. She also rejuvenated the application Form, attended Family History days, collated Newsletters and was always fun to be with.

Susan Grant (21 years) for an amazing job as Treasurer and Membership Secretary April 1999 - 2020. She has been treasurer for 21 years. Amongst other things and apart from the money side, she has managed the membership impeccably and kept the Cumulative Database with every detail of each member's Pioneers etc.

She has been the one who produced the Certificates of Appreciation and Certificates of Membership which are so well done. She has also done the name labels for the meetings and newsletter envelopes, playing a huge part in mailing out the Newsletters both hard copy and via email.

Vale: Laurie Thompson.

PPPG member no. 944

Laurie Thompson passed away in his sleep on the 24 July. Laurie was a valued member of our Group, and attended many meetings. He was part of the team that digitised Lester's Register of Pioneers. Laurie would always put up his hand to help if needed. Chasing his Irish heritage with a passion and using the Family Tree Maker program occupied many an hour along with being a keen VicGum member until his passing. He will be missed by all.

We have also been notified of the passing of:

Mrs Leslie Douglas, Member No. 543, of 37 Swanton Drive, Mudgeeraba QLD 4213. Leslie had been a member since 28 February 1985. RIP.

JOSEPH WILLIAM HOOSON - "BLATHERUM"

One of the most colourful characters in the Port Phillip District was Joseph William Hooson. He arrived in 1836 and was a resident here until his death in 1852. A head injury he received during his military service caused him to babble incessantly which earned him the nick-name in Melbourne of "Blatherum."

Little is known of Hooson's early life. From his given age at the time of his death he would have been born about 1782, but when he enlisted in the 2/9th Regiment of Foot on 15 January 1807 he was described as being a boy. He served in the Peninsular War which began in 1807 when Napoleon invaded Portugal. Spain, which had initially sided with Napoleon, was then invaded and their royal family deposed in favour of Napoleon's brother, who became King Jose the First of Spain. Britain then joined Portugal and Spain in their fight to regain control of the Iberian Peninsular.

A medal that Hooson received in 1849 credited him as having participated in the Battles of Viemera (21 August 1808); Corrunna (16 January 1809); the Siege of Badajoz (16 March 1812 to 6 April 1812); and the Battles of Vittoria (21 June 1813), St. Sebastian (5 May 1813) and Nive (10 December 1813 to 14 December 1813). During his service he rose to the rank of Sergeant.

On 22 January 1828 he married Sophia Obee at St. George's Church of England, Hanover Square, London, England by Banns. All went well for a short time but a Police Report which was published in late January in a number of newspapers including "*The Times*" describes what happened next:

MARY-LE-BONE OFFICE - *Joseph William Hooson, a working engineer, was charged by Sophia Obee, a smart young woman, with bigamy. It was stated in evidence, that the prisoner and the complainant saw each other for the first time on Christmas day. He represented himself to be single - made love to her, and, after a courtship of 28 days, she consented to become his wife, and they were married on the 22nd inst. at St. George's church, Hanover-square. Seven days, including the wedding-day, were passed by them without interruption, at No. 10, Edward-street, Langham-place; but on the 8th a former wife, to whom he was married ten years before, at Winchester, came to their lodging and claimed him as her own. He was immediately given into custody of the bell-ringer of All Souls' Church, and brought to the Office; and yesterday he was remanded until Tuesday, that the marriage certificate produced by his apparently real wife may be verified.*

There does not seem to have been a follow-up article in the newspapers, but the Parish Registers of St. Peter Cheesehill in the Parish of Winchester, Hampshire has a record of the marriage of Joseph Hooson and Mary Leven on 7 December 1818. How Hooson gained his release and how the matter was resolved is not known but it was Sophia Obee who accompanied Hooson to Australia as his wife.

Hooson travelled to Australia on the 203 ton barque "*Guardian*" (Capt. G. Sinclair) with his wife, Sophia, and son, James William Hooson. They arrived at Sydney, New South Wales on 20 January 1833 from London (4 September 1832) via the Cape of Good Hope (3 December 1832). Here Hooson worked as an engineer for John Edye Manning, Esq. He was also one of the promoters of the Australian Steam Conveyance Company which planned to run a steamship between Sydney and Parramatta.

In August 1834 Hooson was awarded a £400 contract to remove the hull of the "*Ann Jamieson*" which had caught fire and blown up at King's Wharf in Sydney and was subsequently causing a hazard to shipping. He was also promised the assistance of forty men from the Government, and all the cables, anchors, chains, boats, pulleys, etc. in the dockyard that he might want. He initially had plans to raise the hull by atmospheric pressure, then considered the use of a powerful magnet of about 200 horse power as there was still a large quantity of her cargo of iron and steel in the hull. Though he succeeded in retrieving part of the cargo he did not succeed in raising the hull and the contract passed to someone else.

*Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sydney, 20th September, 1836.*
HIS Excellency the GOVERNOR has been pleased to approve of the appointment of Joseph William Hooson, free, to be Constable at Port Phillip.
By His Excellency's Command,
ALEXANDER M'LEAY.

In September 1836 he was appointed to be a Constable at the new settlement at Port Phillip under Captain William Lonsdale of the 4th King's Own Regiment. They arrived at Melbourne with two other new constables in late September 1836 on "*H.M.S. Rattlesnake*." His service at Port Phillip appears to have been satisfactory until November 1837 when he accepted a ten shilling bribe from a prisoner named James Murphy to release him from the gaol two days before his one month sentence was completed. On learning of this Captain Lonsdale dismissed Hooson from his position.

At Melbourne's first land sale on 1 June 1837 Hooson bought a block of land (Section 4, Lot 12) for £22. This was located near the south-west corner of Collins and Elizabeth Streets.

In January 1840 Hooson was named as the engineer for the newly formed Steam Mill Company which planned to acquire three acres of land on the south bank of the River Yarra and acquire machinery from the Circular Head Company in Van Diemens Land.

By 1841 Hooson's wife was running a Boarding House in Melbourne. The 1841 census shows there to have been, in addition to Hooson, his wife and son, 6 adult males and 2 adult females residing there. Redmond Barry, the barrister, is said to have stayed there when he first arrived at Melbourne.

In June 1841 Hooson was acting as Bailiff of the Court of Requests in Melbourne. When, in November 1841, he was indicted for trying to collect additional monies than were owed to the Court in order to cover his expenses it was Redmond Barry who defended him.

There were numerous newspaper articles written about him in the 1840s describing events such as court cases, accidents, assaults, etc. He led a very eventful existence.

In 1845 Hooson was appointed Poundkeeper at Taraville in Gippsland and worked there for about a year before being dismissed on 1 April 1846 for being absent from Gippsland. As he had not received any payment for his services, and had even erected a pound there at considerable expense to himself, he commenced legal proceedings in the Court of Quarter Sessions. As his initial appointment had, by some mistake, not been properly proclaimed in the Government Gazette, he lost the case. However, when the Governor of New South Wales, Sir Charles Fitz Roy visited Melbourne in March 1849 he tried once again to obtain payment, as was reported in the "*Argus*" newspaper:

BLATHERUM AND THE GOVERNOR - *On Wednesday evening Mr. J. W. Hooson presented a petition to his Excellency the Governor, praying for compensation for his services in Gipps Land as Poundkeeper during the period of twelve months, for which he has as yet received no remuneration. Sir Charles, who was accompanied by his Honor the Superintendent, promised to attend to the matter. Mr. Hooson informed his Excellency that they had seen each other before, when they encamped together at Quatre Bras, the day before the battle of Waterloo, when Sir Charles was Aid-de-Camp to General Lambert, and held the rank of Brigade Major under Brigadier General Gomm. Mr. Hooson concluded a long story about the Peninsular War, by saying "Blow me, Governor, if we were'nt two handsome fellows then; but we're getting old now. As for this fellow (pointing at Mr. La Trobe) he's a recruit - I don't know him."*

His Excellency seemed amused with Mr. Hooson's eccentricity, but afraid of a repetition of the scene, once more promised to think of the petition, and retired. Mr. Hooson describes the Governor as "a brick," like all true soldiers.

&

BLATHERUM AND THE GOVERNOR - *We understand that His Excellency the Governor before his departure from Melbourne instituted an enquiry into the claim for compensation for his fruitless Gipps Land poundkeeping, which Mr. Joseph William Hooson, in his own eccentric style, preferred to His Excellency at the door of the Royal Hotel, and that finding the claim morally if not legally just, His Excellency has directed the solicited compensation to be given.*

On 19 September 1849 Mrs. Sophia Hooson died at her residence in Little Bourke Street, Melbourne, aged 64 years. After a service at St. Peter's Church of England she was buried in the Old Melbourne Cemetery. The notice of her death in the "*Argus*" claimed her to have been the first Englishwoman who arrived in the settlement of Port Phillip.

On 21 November 1849 Hooson received a silver medal for his services in the Peninsular War under General Moore and the Duke of Wellington. It bore his name on the rim, and on the obverse side there was an alto-relievo of Queen Victoria. On the reverse was shown the personification of Victory crowning the "Iron Duke." To the medal was affixed a clasp bearing the names of the battles in which he had fought.

Joseph William Hooson re-married on 24 September 1851 at St. James Church of England, Melbourne to Ann Miller, a widow.

Hooson died on 4 December 1852 in Melbourne and after a service at St. James' Church of England was buried in the Old Melbourne Cemetery. The Burial Register incorrectly gives his surname as Wilson, states his age to have been 70 years, and that he had been a Sergeant of the 11th/9th Lancers.

**Contributed by Alexander Romanov-Hughes -
PPPG Member No. 52**



Charles Laing and Blairgowrie Court

Is there a link?

By Malcolm Fredman.

from the Brighton Historical Journal with kind permission to reprint in our newsletter.

One of Melbourne's first professional architects, Charles Laing (1809?-1857) left a lasting legacy on this city. He had a prolific output which was sadly cut short by his early death in Brighton on 29th September 1857 aged only 48 years.

Already an established professional architect in Manchester, he sailed on the *Wallace* with his wife, Isabella, and children, a journey of 100 days to arrive in Melbourne on 27th November 1841 at the age of 32. He and his family chose to live in Brighton.

He must have been sadly disillusioned by the poor prospects open to him. Architecture as a profession was almost non-existent in the five year old settlement and Laing found temporary work as a butcher. Soon after he had offices in Little Collins Street and in 1844 the public works committee of the Town Council selected his design for the first Princes Bridge.

He was elected to the post of Melbourne town surveyor in 1845; in that capacity he was mostly employed in the formation of the city streets. The town council objected to him continuing his private practice of designing numerous buildings in and around Melbourne and Geelong. Tiring of their criticisms and preferring his private practice to his public employment, he handed in his resignation in 1850.

A major commission was the hotel and theatre on the south west corner of Queen and Little Bourke Streets, to be on a scale hitherto unknown in the colony, in stone and brick with an auditorium 40ft. wide and 75ft. long, capable of holding 800 persons. As the Queen's Theatre Royal, it was opened on 21st April 1845. It's exterior was plain and 'pseudo-classical' but the interior was much more ornate inviting criticism by some about this.

St. Peters Eastern Hill started in 1846 and the John Knox Church the year later, is considered by many among the finest examples of early Melbourne architecture.

There are surviving plans and specifications of 'three small cottages' at Brighton, designed for Thomas Clark, solicitor. These might be the 'three houses in a line' in St Kilda Street, which were a prominent landmark. Occupying huge and adjacent blocks, the three mansions were reputedly designed by Charles Laing. The southernmost house, Blairgowrie, (once the home

of another noted architect, Anketell Henderson) was number 230 but was later changed to number 306 in 1926.

The occupants included Clement Stephens from 1906 to 1916, followed by Emanuel Percy Ackman (1882-1965) and his wife Minnie Sarah, nee Harris (1882-1957). Ackman sold the house in April 1920 to businessman James Law and the house remained in the Law family's possession until 1959 when it was sold to D. H. MacLean. Blairgowrie Court was created between 1963 and 1966 to service the four new home sites which were subdivided from the Blairgowrie property by it's last owner MacLean and sold by auction on 3rd November 1965. The 'three houses in a line' have gone but the court is still there today on the east side of St. Kilda Street, just south of Bay Street.

Buildings designed by Charles Laing.

- St. James Old Cathedral (1841-1851) Through no fault of his own, Robert Russell was dismissed and Laing was asked to complete the building. He differed under pressure from the building committee headed by Dr Palmer and changed Russell's proposed spire to the octagonal cupola which soon became known as 'Palmer's Pepper Pot'. It was originally on the corner of Collins and William Streets but was moved to King Street in 1913.
- First Princes Bridge 1844-1850. It was then the largest bridge in the colonies. It was demolished 30yrs later.
- Theatre Royal and Hotel, Queens Street, Melbourne, opened 1845.
- St. Peter's Anglican Church, Eastern Hill, 1846-1848: the oldest Anglican Church in Melbourne to survive on it's original site.
- John Knox Church, Swanston Street, Melbourne, 1847-1848, Melbourne's first free Presbyterian Church.
- Union Bank, Geelong, designed 1847.
- Synagogue, Bourke Street, Melbourne, 1847-1848. Melbourne's first.
- John Smith's house, Queen Street, Melbourne, 1848

- *Coryule* mansion, Drysdale, 1848-1850.
 - St.Paul's Anglican Church, Geelong, designed 1849.
 - *Luran House*, Geelong, 1849-1850.
 - St.Andrews Church, Brighton, the second building of beachstone 1850, north of the first church. It was demolished in 1857 and materials used for Charles Webb's new school house.
 - Melbourne Benevolent Asylum, North Melbourne, 1850.
 - Geelong Hospital and Benevolent Society Building, 1850-1858.
 - Original Osborne House, Nicholson Street, Fitzroy, 1850-1851.
 - Scots Presbyterian Manse 1850 and Church 1855, Hume Highway, Campbellfield.
 - Royal Terrace, Bruswick Street, Fitzroy, 1856.
 - Brighton Lodge, 1 Well Street, Brighton, 1856.
- "Glenfern", East St. Kilda, 1857, with his typical Gothic detailing.

Sources:

- 'A History of Brighton' by Weston Bate (MUP, 1983)
- Australian Dictionary of Biography – entry by J.L.O'Brien
- 'The Argus' 17 January 1931: 'Pioneer Architects' by George Walton
- Brighton Historical Society archives
- 'The Griffins in Australia & India' ed. Jeff Turnbull & Peter Navaretti, (The Meigunyah Press of MUP, 1998)
- 'Victorian Churches: their origins, their story and their architecture' ed. Miles Lewis. (National Trust of Australia, Victoria, 1991)
- 1847 Directory: Charles Laing, town surveyor & architect, Flinders Street



AUCTION
Wednesday, 3rd November, 1965
at 3 o'clock
 On the Estate

BLAIRGOWRIE COURT
BRIGHTON

Off St. Kilda Street, between Bay and Cosham Streets

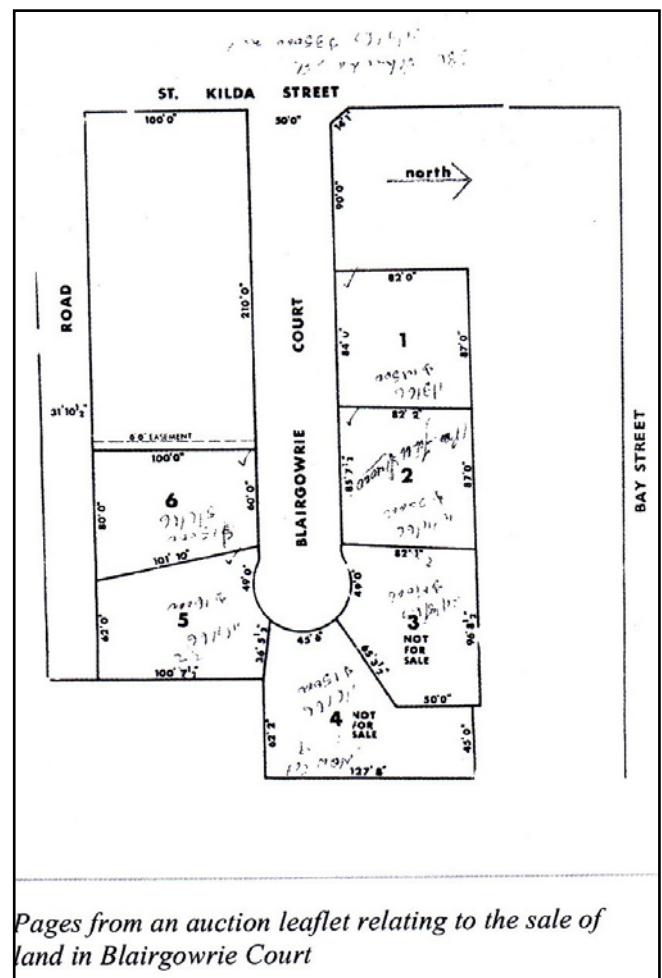
4 Exclusive Home Sites

Subdivided from the Gardens of "Blairgowrie"

TERMS: £3,500 deposit, balance over 2 years at 7% interest

SOLICITORS: Messrs. Henderson & Ball,
 430 Little Collins Street, Melbourne.

AUCTIONEERS
J. R. BUXTON PTY. LTD.
 521 Collins Street, Melbourne - - 62-2367
 331 Glenhurlly Road, Elsternwick - 53-1166



PORT PHILLIP PIONEERS GROUP INC – MEETINGS

Venue:	Online via the ZOOM digital platform. Please register your email with the Secretary at info@portphillippioneersgroup.org.au by 7th September if you would like to participate.
Meeting Starts:	2.00 pm.
Guest Speaker:	2.30 pm.
Next Meeting:	Saturday: 12 September
Speaker:	Speaker: Andrew Dodd Topic: Warrigal Creek Massacre

Upcoming Meetings: Depending on ‘Covid 19’ conditions.

Saturday, 14 November

Speaker: Liz Rushen. Historian & Author

Topic: John Marshall: Shipowner, Lloyd's reformer and emigration agent

Saturday, February - date yet to be confirmed.

50th Birthday celebrations. More details in next newsletter.

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PPPG ENewsletter

If there are any members who would prefer to receive their PPPG Newsletter via email rather than by post, please contact Dean Wheeler at dwheelerpppg@gmail.com.

Unless we hear from you, we will continue to send your newsletter via Australia Post.

**“All articles and information contained in this Newsletter
are accepted in good faith and the Port Phillip Pioneers Group Inc.
takes no responsibility for the content and accuracy contained therein.”**