

Note.

In March 1868 on the occasion  
of the Duke of Edinburgh's visit  
to Sydney a picnic was given  
to him at ~~Penrith~~ <sup>Blount</sup>, we were  
all at it & just after lunch  
the Prince was walking in  
grounds, when a man named  
"O'Connell" rushed out from the  
crowd & shot at him, my husband  
was walking with two of my  
daughters seeing the Prince fall  
ran to assist him & a second  
shot fired at the Prince entered  
my husband's foot, he did not  
feel it but saw the blood  
trickling out, he was carried  
on board a yacht & landed at  
an wharf the bullet being  
extracted next day. The Queen  
expressed a wish to see the  
bullet it was sent home to  
her & returned to me afterwards.

My father first met his wife (Anne Green) at Egford House in Dorset, the residence of her uncle William Ashman, with whom she lived. He came as a visitor to the house, fell in love with her, proposed, & was accepted, but not with her parents' consent.

A runaway marriage, which would be rather difficult in these days of telephone & telegraph & motor cars; was arranged between them.

My father John Bidee was the eldest son of Thomas Bidee & was living with his parents at "Oldenon" he & my mother arranged to meet at five o'clock in the morning near to her home, where a post-chaise was in readiness, on her way thro' the garden she met the gardener & told him to carry her luggage to the post-chaise, my father gave the order to the post-boy to drive to Wells thinking the gardener would repeat it to the family, but when out of hearing the post-boy was told to drive to Hutton, where my father had arranged for his

eldest sister Mary to be waiting at the parish church, & the lady who was living at Hutton Court at the time came with her to be one of the witnesses to the marriage.

They lived for a time at Barnwell, at a farm called Hill-end. This was probably in ~~the~~ the year 1810.

About two years later they decided to emigrate to Cape Town & take up sheep farming. But after their arrival there changed their plans because when they landed they could hear the lions roaring in the forests round the town. So they went on to Van Riebeeck's Land.

On the 28<sup>th</sup> of Nov. 1821 I was born in Hobart & christened at St. David's Church Jan'y 1822.

My father having a part of land which was called the White Hills (& is now known as Hutton Park) after a few months proceeded thither with my mother, myself & taking also with him a carpenter, Goldsmith, who just built our house a small wooden building

near to the barn, the latter being used on the occasion of the Governor's visit as a dining-room.

I have heard my mother say that I was sent out with the nurse, who took my food with her & made a fire under a wattled tree to warm it, as she had to mind the sheep there being no fences. After a year or two we went to live in Hobart where my father had an appointment under Government as Governor of the Gaol. When I was five years old, my mother proposed to take my sister Mary & myself to England leaving a third girl Sarah with my father, she thought this would be a means of becoming reconciled to her family, from whom she had not heard since she left England.

We sailed in the "Andromeda" with Captain Muddle, there were very few passengers & we took six months on the voyage. One of our fellow passengers was interested in guiding us were being taken home to be educated & advised my mother to place us at a French Convent - where the nuns

could look after us & give us a good education. We had become so accustomed to ship life that they had great difficulty in persuading us to go on shore, we were frightened & clung to the sides when carried down & placed in a little boat.

But were induced at length by mother promising to buy us some "red shoes." We went just to Holcombe House near Bath, where my mother's parents lived.

They of course did not approve of our being sent to a convent as my mother had almost decided, so we were placed in the care of Mrs. Saffery, wife of the Rev Saffery Baptist minister in Salisbury; for seven years. My mother after visiting her various relations returned to Van Diemens Land, accompanied by my father's second brother Edward. Before leaving she was given many presents to take back with her which unfortunately were nearly all lost as the ship was wrecked on the "Iron Pot" in the river Derwent on

Hobart, she only saved a carpet bag with some silver & valuables in it. The news of the wreck was conveyed to my father while at church at St Davids, he immediately went down in a boat to their assistance - Uncle Edward went up to take charge of the "White Hills" (Hutton Park) soon after his arrival.

Our school life at Mrs Saffery's was very happy, we spent our holidays with our grand-parents, in summer with my mother's family & the winter with my father's at Hutton. We used to travel by stage-coach under the charge of the good old coachman, from Salisbury to Warrminster where one of my uncles met us & took us to his home & then in the winter from Salisbury to Bristol in the same way when we met & drove to Hutton by Aunt Nancy & Uncle James.

Our seven years being ended at Mrs Saffery's we went to our Uncle Robert, who was our guardian, at Hint House, where we were to have a

giveness, but letters from Tasmania were received telling us that our father, mother with their four children (2 boys & 2 girls) were coming to England.

After they arrived we went to live at Sutton Court & Mary, Sarah & myself went to school at Bristol, Mrs Thompsons St Michael's Hill, our mother being sent to Long Ashton, Whilst at school my sister Sarah died & was buried at Sutton.

After two years at Sutton, my father bought Egford House near Stone (my mother home kept she married)

On the 20<sup>th</sup> June 1838 we were all taken up to London for the Queen's coronation, we parted up in our carriage, arriving there the night before, travelling all day & taking our provision with us next day we went in our carriage to see the procession & had a good view.

In the evening my father & a friend (Mr. Larchin) hired an omnibus & took us to see the illuminations, we were afraid to take our own carriage the crowd was so great.

When I was about 18 we left Egford & sailed from Bristol for Van Diemen

Land, in the ship "Victoria".  
There were only two other passengers on  
board besides ourselves Mr Thorne &  
Mr Jenkins, they were going to Sydney.  
We arrived in Hobart in the winter of  
1840 & went up to Hutton Park  
to live Uncle Edward going to  
live at Lonely Banks with his  
two sisters & Uncle Isaac. Uncle George  
went to Woods spring.

In two years we spent a very  
happy time at Hutton Park  
riding, hunting & enjoying ourselves  
in the free colonial life. We some-  
times went to stay in Hobart with  
Mr. & Mrs. Butler at Struel.

Our fellow passenger Mr. Thorne wrote  
a letter of proposal to me, which  
I accepted having known him so  
intimately on board ship.

He came down to Tasmania & a  
fortnight after we were married  
on the 21<sup>st</sup> Nov. 1842 at St. David's  
Church by the Rev. Dr. Bedford.

The wedding took place from Struel  
& old Mr. Butler having always  
promised to give me my wedding



breakfast. We spent our honeymoon  
 at New Norfolk & stayed at the Bush  
 Inn & three weeks later sailed for  
 Sydney in a small brig the  
 Caroline, the voyage taking 10 days  
 Arriving in Sydney we took lodgings  
 in Jamieson St & stayed there  
 until we went to a cottage at  
 Rust cutter Bay which was then  
 quite the best, the blacks often  
 came & held their combings on  
 the beach. Annie & Gertrude were  
 born at the cottage

One Sunday evening when Annie was  
 a baby about 5 months old my  
 husband was sitting in the drawing  
 writing, looking up he saw a man  
 at the door masked, he rushed  
 in his bedroom opposite, seized his  
 musket, which always stood loaded,  
 & hearing a disturbance in the  
 room in which I was bathing the  
 baby, came in & found a second  
 man & gone to the kitchen & finding  
 the servants at their tea had  
 ordered them kept him until my  
 room. When he saw my husband

he demanded the gun but he refused to give it up, I cried "Oh give him the gun" when I heard him threaten my husband's life, he did so & the man went out shutting the door after him, we heard a great noise & then all was quiet, looking out we found the man had evidently had a fight & made off, nothing was missing but at the foot of the stairs we found the fella lying crushed with one of the men's hats underneath & some drops of blood on the floor.

Next we moved to Glenworth House Dalmain, for only a small suburb there my two sons George & Theodore were born. After this we bought land at Rose Bay & whilst our house was building went to Ecclestone Double Bay where Rosalie was born. We went to Placentia in 1851 & lived there until '54 Emily, Emily & Ellen were all born there. We then let the house & went

to England with our family 2 boys & six girls in the Steam ship "Simla" Arrived at Southampton we stayed there a few weeks & finally took Sneyd Park at Plym for 14 months whilst the owner was at the Crimea War from there we went to Oakfield House. Plym & there my two youngest sons Walter & Arthur were born.

In 1861 we visited the 2<sup>nd</sup> Exhibition & in '63 again took our departure for Australia in the "Dunbar Dunbar" we were a party of fourteen & had to provide everything for our cabins, ~~As the~~ we went back to Pleasant-  
to live.

On 8<sup>th</sup> Feb 1865 Gertrude was married to Henry Thompson Nash at St. Marks Church & very shortly after they left for England in the Dunbar We left Pleasant again for 12 months & went to live at Haverly In 1871 Annie was married to Arthur Paine at St. Marks Church & in Aug last of the

of the same year Rosalie was  
 married to Francis Watkins of  
 Parawatta at St. Marks Church.  
 In 1848 we left Pleasant- to  
 bought Darcy Hey from Dr.  
 Greenup, my husband intending  
 to introduce the silk worm industry  
 & with this object in view he  
 planted many mulberry trees.  
 We thought it would be an  
 occupation for Theodore, but he  
 died soon after we went there  
 Jan 19<sup>th</sup> 1849.

Eng<sup>r</sup> was living in New Zealand  
 at this time I was married in  
 1881 to Isabelle Muddock  
 Watts was living in Tas.

About this time we thought of  
 taking a trip to England, but  
 we stayed in Tasmania instead  
 of going further & were there about  
 3 months. In 1882 Ellen was  
 married to Thos<sup>r</sup> Young at St  
 Pauls church by Rev. A. W. Pain.  
 In 1884 Mully died & on the  
 19<sup>th</sup> July 1891 my husband died  
 & after his death I went with

12  
my brother Jack & his wife G  
Darcy wed on our return Jack  
was taken ill & died at  
Darcy Key.

I went up to L'nsland again  
with Emily in '94 soon after  
Walter's marriage with Sarah  
Butter granddaughters of my  
old friends Mr. & Mrs. Butter of Stovel  
who gave me my wedding breakfast  
to Miss Smith of Glen. rock who  
was such a kind friend in my  
early married life.

Arthur son after this went to  
L'nsland & in 1898 was married  
to Anna Wright daughter of Sylvia  
Wright of Hobart  
Emily died in 1903.

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