

ANNE CONNOR nee PEAKE (1811-1894)

Descendants of Richard PEAKE (legacy file compiled by Andrew Guy Peake)

Ann PEAKE was born on 29 Dec 1811 in Heckmondwike, Yorkshire, England, was baptised on 6 Feb 1812 in Heckmondwike Old Chapel. She was the daughter of Edward Peake and Elizabeth Collah.

Florence Marie Connor's birthday calendar

Anne Connor Dec 29th.

Pallot's Marriage Index for England 1780-1837 (Ancestry.com)

Name: **Anne Peake**
Spouse: Thos Jas Connor
Marriage Date: 1836
Parish: [St James] Westminster, Middlesex

England and Wales BMD Index (Ancestry.com)

Name:	Edward Peake Connor [<i>son of Thomas James and Ann Peake</i>]
Date of Registration:	Jan-Feb-Mar 1838 [22 Feb 1838]
Registration district:	Wandsworth
Inferred County:	London
Page:	438
Volume:	4

England and Wales Birth Index (Ancestry.com)

Name:	Thomas James Connor [<i>son of Thomas James and Ann Peake</i>]
Date of Registration:	Jan-Feb-Mar 1840 [Mar 1840]
Registration district:	Camberwell
Inferred County:	London
Page:	45
Volume:	4

1841 England Census 6 Jun 1841

Name:	Ann Connor
Age:	29
Estimated Birth Year:	abt 1812
Gender:	Female

Where born:																					
Civil parish:	St Marylebone																				
Hundred:	Ossulstone (Holborn Division)																				
County/Island:	Middlesex																				
Country:	England																				
Street Address:	Dorset Square																				
Occupation:																					
Household Members:	<table> <tr> <th>Name</th><th>Age</th></tr> <tr> <td>Sarah Connor</td><td>50</td></tr> <tr> <td>Thomas Connor</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr> <td>Ann Connor</td><td>29</td></tr> <tr> <td>Richard Connor</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr> <td>Henry Connor</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr> <td>Sarah Connor</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr> <td>Edward Connor</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr> <td>Thomas Connor</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr> <td>Emma Grice</td><td>14</td></tr> </table>	Name	Age	Sarah Connor	50	Thomas Connor	28	Ann Connor	29	Richard Connor	15	Henry Connor	15	Sarah Connor	11	Edward Connor	3	Thomas Connor	1	Emma Grice	14
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Thomas Connor	1																				
Emma Grice	14																				

Tasmania Australia, Passenger Arrivals 1829-1957 (Ancestry.com)

Name:	Mrs Connor
Arrival Port:	Hobart
Arrival Date:	10 Oct 1841
Departure Port:	London
Departure Date:	10 Jun 1841
Ship:	<i>William Wise</i>

Colonial Times 12 Oct 1841

Oct. 10.-Arrived the brig William Wise, Harwood master, from London 10th June, with a general cargo. Passengers- Mr. and Mrs. Hall and six children, Mr. and Mrs. Chambers and five children, Mr. and Mrs. Rainey and four children, Mr. and Mrs. Lowe and two children, **Mr. and Mrs. Connor and two children**, and Mr. and Mrs. Bonwick, for this place, and Messrs. Ogilvie and Nichol, for New Zealand.

[NB the Connor family was in London on census night 6 Jun 1841]

CSO 50/16 (1841) – CSO 50/18 (1843)

Mr. Connor, Schoolmaster, Launceston, Schools Dept. **10 Oct 1841**

Mrs. Connor, Schoolmistress, Launceston, Schools Dept. 10 Oct 1841

Colonial Times 2 Nov 1841 – The Gazette

The under-mentioned persons having, upon the application of the Lieutenant-Governor, been selected and sent out to this Colony by the Secretary of State, as thoroughly qualified Teachers for the service of the Board of Education, have been appointed to conduct the Schools at the following places :—

Mr. and Mrs. Bonwick, Liverpool-street, Hobart.

Mr. and Mrs. Connor, Launceston.

Mr. and Mrs. Low, Richmond.

Mr. Chambers, Campbell Town.

Mr. Rainy, Oatlands.

Mr. Hall, New Norfolk.

The Courier 12 Nov 1841

BOARD OF EDUCATION OFFICE.

Hobart, 28th October, 1841.

The under-mentioned persons, having, upon the application of the Lieutenant-Governor, been selected and sent out to this colony by the Secretary of State, as thoroughly qualified teachers for the service of the Board or Education, have been appointed to conduct the schools at the following places:

Mr. and Mrs. Bonwick, Liverpool-street, Hobart.

Mr. and Mrs. Connor, Launceston. Mr. and Mrs. Low, Richmond.

Mr. and Mrs. Low, Richmond.

Mr. Chambers, Campbell Town.

Mr. Rainy, Oatlands.

Mr. Hall, New Norfolk.

By Order of the Board of Education, CHAS. BRADBURY, Secretary.

Australia Birth Index 1788-1921 (Ancestry.com)

Name: Male Connor [*George William*]
Birth Date: **6 Oct 1842**
Father's Name: Thomas James Connor
Mother's Name: Ann Peake
Birth Place: Tasmania
Registration Year: 1842
Registration Place: Launceston, Tasmania
Registration number: 1210

Colonial Times 15 Aug 1843

The school question is likely to be the cause of strong discussion ; and the press will no doubt be made the means of venting forth the various opinions of different thinkers. As far as Mr. Loch's book is concerned, we think its publication will have a good effect. No doubt on many occasions he has been deceived by his informants ; but in many of his positions he is unanswerable. We

mentioned an instance last week, wherein Mr. Garrard, the New Norfolk clergyman, had led Mr. Loch astray, and had sought to destroy the prospects of an unoffending neighbour. However, we shall presently refer to Mr. Garrard. At present it is our business to shew the opinion entertained respecting the national school education. We copy the following from the report of the Committee of the British and Foreign School Society :

" In reviewing the operations of another year, —a year distinguished above all its predecessors, by stirring and active effort in favour of Elementary Education, your Committee find cause both for satisfaction and encouragement. The simple fact, that schools for the poor are multiplying, that the education given in them is every year extending and improving,—that prejudices, once all but universal, against imparting anything like an enlarged education to the children of the poor, are gradually disappearing,—that individuals once foremost in denouncing education as an evil, should now be numbered among those who are most actively engaged in promoting it,—that the strife, instead of being as once, for or against instruction altogether, should now be for priority in imparting it,—for distinction in improving it,—for influence in guiding and governing it ; that changes such as these should have been effected, and effected so suddenly and rapidly, must ever be a source of no ordinary satisfaction both to your Committee and to all the friends of enlightened education. To have had any share, however humble, in bringing about results like these, may well repay many years of trouble and of toil.

"A Report on the state of Parochial Education in the Diocese of Worcester, lately presented to the Lord Bishop of the Diocese, by the Rev. Edward Field, affords gratifying evidence of the improvement adverted to. In that Report, after urging the introduction into schools for the poor, of grammar, geography, and drawing, as calculated to refine the understandings, and extend the range of observation and thought of the working classes, and after proposing to unite with these the study of the physical properties, the produce and capabilities of our own and foreign soils, Mr. Field at once meets the anticipated difficulty.

' It cannot be denied,' he says, ' that a prejudice exists in the higher quarters against the introduction of grammar as an essential or common part of parochial education. I will not presume to condemn it, a prejudice though it be ; but I apprehend it will be found that the feelings which dictate and support it (right and honourable feelings in many respects) have resisted all along the instruction of the poorer classes, and will continue to resist any extension of that instruction. It is very curious to observe how ancient and deep-rooted that prejudice has been, and how in former times it opposed itself to the very use of books and knowledge of every kind. We have most interesting evidence that snob feelings are hereditary in Warwickshire. The poet did but put into the mouth of Jack Cade, objections which he had heard nearer home ; he intended silly and silently to decry. 'Thou hast most traitorously corrupted the youth of the realm in erecting a grammar school; and whereas, before, our fore-fathers had no other books but the score and the tally, thou hast caused printing to be used. It will be proved to thy face, that thou hast men about thee that talk usually of a noun and a verb and such abominable words as no Christian ear can endure to hear.' Who will deny that such language is natural and appropriate in the low traitors' mouth? Would any promoter of religion and order choose to echo his sentiments? The fact really is, that the absence of such knowledge affords an easy and sure opening to the attacks of demagogues and scoffers, though of course, Satan finds means of turning knowledge of any kind as well as ignorance of all kinds, into a curse.'

" Changes like these, in the public opinion of large, wealthy, and influential classes, afford most gratifying evidence that, alike amid storm and sunshine, some of your principles at least, have

been silently but surely forcing their way,—that you have neither laboured in vain, nor spent your strength for nought.'

"Heartily, however, as your Committee rejoice in these changes, they cannot forget that a wide interval still separates your efforts from those of the most enlightened and excellent men who adopt the exclusive principle. They regret that children who attend daily schools for elementary education cannot always be compelled, (whatever may be the wishes or convictions of their parents,) to attend the parish church with those who instruct them. You rejoice in free, full, unfettered liberty of conscience. They wish, and avow the wish, that every child in the land, as the price of its education, should be brought up in Church of England principles, and submit implicitly to its authority. You, without alienating any from the Established Church, or interfering in any way with its discipline, desire that ALL, like Timothy of old; should know the Scriptures, ' which are able to make them wise unto salvation, through faith which is in Christ Jesus.' They insist, that every parochial minister ought to have exclusive control over the education of the children in his parish. You, on the other hand, consider such a claim to be incompatible with the first principles of religious liberty. You would not place such a power in the hands of any man or set of men. You would not lay it at the feet of any government, civil or ecclesiastical. You claim for the parent, and the parent alone, as the natural and responsible guardian of the child,—responsible to God and to society, for its principles and conduct, the right of deciding as to the nature of the religious instruction it should receive."

Such, then, is the opinion entertained of the now national system of education. As to the attack made by Mr. Garrard upon Mr. Hall, the New Norfolk master, we may just observe that we find in the same work the following :-

" It was stated in your last Report that six qualified masters and mistresses, thoroughly acquainted with the discipline and organization of British schools, had, in consequence of application from the local government, been recommended to the Secretary of State for the colonies to take charge of training and others schools in Hobart Town or Launceston. Letters announcing their safe arrival, and subsequent appointments, have been received. Mr. and Mrs. Bonwick are to take charge of the training school at Hobart Town ; Mr. and Mrs. Connor are to be settled at Launceston ; Mr. and Mrs. Hall, at New Norfolk ; Mr. and Mrs. Chambers, at Campbell Town ; Mr. and Mrs. Rainy, at Oatlands ; and Mr. and Mrs. Low, at Richmond. At Hobart Town new buildings are in course of erection. The other schools were in previous operation, but it is hoped they will now be conducted in a much more efficient manner than formerly."

It would appear, from what we can learn, that the clergy have indiscriminately attacked the new schoolmasters and the old ones. That some of the old schools are conducted by unqualified persons, may be probable; but we may reasonably anticipate that a committee of such an association as the one referred to, would not recommend to the Secretary of State unqualified individuals; and as regards Mr. Hall, we are informed that for many years he had a most extensive establishment on the principle of the National Education Association, and therefore well qualified for his situation at New Norfolk.

We look upon the attack made by the Rev. Mr. Garrard as most uncalled for; and when we see such mischievous intentions, on the part of bigots of any description, we shall not fail to expose the conduct of the accuser. If we compare Mr. Garrard and Mr. Hall, how superior do we find the one to the other? Mr. Hall is at all times actively employed at his duties, by which he probably obtains some £150 per annum. Mr. Garrard has nothing whatever to do, save attending twice on a Sunday at church, for which he obtains £300 per annum. His sermons are read from a book, the

leaves of which age has made yellow. Therefore, for his trifling services one day in a week, he is paid twice as much as Mr. Hall obtains for working hard six, leaving out of the question the seventh, on which day Mr. Hall, we learn, generally performs similar duty as Mr. Garrard does, but without any payment whatever. This salary, however, of this member of the Church Cormorant, is not all ; for Mr. Garrard is chaplain to the Colonial Hospital, for which he receives £50 per annum. His duties are to attend when- ever he pleases ; and therefore, although no angel himself, he makes angels' visits. And then, in addition thereto, he has a glebe of 400 acres, and fifty pounds a-year to fence in the glebe, which glebe, be it known unto all men, more especially the Bishop (for it is something like a pious fraud), Mr. Garrard has leased to a layman for seventy pounds a-year ; and as to the fifty pounds, annually received for the last ten or twelve years, be it known also, that not one penny of it has been laid out in fencing. But we have not done yet with this member of the Church Cormorant; for there is another glebe of twelve acres in the very centre of New Norfolk, and that is leased to another tenant at £40 per annum. Surely Mr. Garrard ought to be satisfied with his £510, besides surplice fees ; surely he did not aim at, did not covet the £150 Mr. Hall receives—if by-the-bye he does receive so much. Mr. Garrard may think what he pleases of his conduct, but the public are disgusted. Here is a man, where he came from no one knows, nor what interest he has in England, reaping a handsome income of £510, and the use of a palace, and all for doing nothing, and yet not satisfied ; while Mr. Hall, on the contrary, appointed by the Secretary of State, as an efficient and educated man, is slaving his life out for a paltry pittance.

Is this fair ?

Would it not be more prudent to apportion the glebe to the Educational Committee? The clergy can take care of themselves, and do take care of themselves. The clergy require ignorance in the multitude ; education brings equality, and when the beggar, with a Bible in his hand, can tell the priest he can read and comprehend it without his assistance, then will the clerical occupation be, like Othello's -gone.

CSO 50/19 (1844) – CSO 50/22 (1847) [*Colonial Secretary's Office?*]

Mr. Connor, Schoolmaster, Liverpool Street, Hobart Town, no date

Mrs. Connor, Schoolmistress, Liverpool Street, Hobart Town, no date

Launceston Examiner 20 Mar 1844

AUDIT OFFICE. March 13, 1844. Warrants for contingent expenses sent to the Colonial Treasury for payment between the 1st of the current month and this date: E. C. M'Carthy, medical attendance Mr. and Mr. q. Emmett, Mr. Wilkinson, Mr. Cheeter, Mr. Chambers, Mr. M'Ardell, Mr. Standage, Mr. Darler, Mr. Fyfe, Mr. Raven; Mr. Bonwick, Miss Weston. Mr. Nicholson, Miss Raven, **Mr. and Mrs. Connor**; Mr. Jacob, Mr. Paterson, Mr. Hall Mr. Hagan, Mr. & Mrs. Rainy, Mr. Anstice, Mr. Lowe, Mr. & Miss Peacock, Mr. & Mrs.-Pitt, Mrs. Cole, Mr. Lune, allowance for **extra children attending day schools**

Launceston Examiner 5 Jun 1844

DIED. On Saturday, June 1, 1844, of apoplexy, **Edward Peake, son of Mr. Connor**, of the public school, Liverpool-street, Hobart Town, aged six years and three months.

Australia Birth Index 1788-1922 (Ancestry.com)

April 2012; Search of National Library Trove database for references to 'Connor' or 'Conner' in Tas., NSW and Vic newspapers between 1840 and 1954 by A. Connor

Name: Sarah Frances Connor
Birth Date: 8 Aug 1844
Father's Name: Thomas James Connor
Mother's Name: Anne Peake
Birth Place: Tasmania
Registration Year: 1844
Registration Place: Hobart, Tasmania
Registration number: 480

Launceston Examiner 10 Aug 1844

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION. Board of Education Office, 15th July, 1844.
THE board of education respectfully submit to his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor the following report upon the public day schools. It is the agreeable duty of the board to inform his Excellency that the schools are still in a prosperous condition; that the number of children attending them has considerably increased since last year; and that demands for the establishment of additional schools continue to be received. The system of instruction hitherto pursued is still, with the best results, scrupulously adhered to. In every school the holy scriptures are daily read by the pupils, and a wide dissemination of the contents of the sacred volume is thus being effected. The schools are sought by the members of every religious communion; and, although thus variously composed, there are, amongst the whole number of 1493 children, but eleven -nine of whom are catholics, and two of the jewish persuasion -who do not participate, equally with the others, in the general scriptural instruction afforded. The exceptions referred to are in accordance with a regulation of the board, which provides that " the children of Roman catholics are not to be required to join the bible class should their parents object; nor are the children of jews to be compelled to read either the New Testament or extracts there from." The manual referred to in the last report of the board, entitled "The Faith and Duty of a Christian," is daily used in every school. A very large number of the children have committed a considerable portion of it to memory, and can reply intelligently to enquiries respecting it. All, of suitable ages, are also taught the Ten Commandments, and the Lord's Prayer; the latter, together with a short collect, being invariably repeated upon the commencement of the daily business of the school. At every place where a Sunday school is held, nearly all the pupils attend for the purpose of receiving special religious instruction : these schools are chiefly connected with dissenting congregations, at whose places of worship, and at others where they exist, the children also numerously attend. In the secular branches of instruction, the system of the British and Foreign School Society is, as nearly as practicable, observed; the class books, scripture lessons, &c. from that institution being used in every school. The board have also introduced with advantage the second class book of the Irish national schools; the children in many cases having grown familiar with those previously in use. The advanced class book, No. 4, of the above society, and the large school maps formerly alluded to, the board hope to receive from London early in the ensuing year. The progress of the children is generally very satisfactory. A large proportion of them -many not more than eight or nine years old -are able to read and write well, and to perform any arithmetical operation which could be expected of children of their ages. In several of the schools the practice still extensively prevails of leading the pupils into much more extended subjects; and in these the elder children are familiar with the chief facts connected with history, geography, the higher processes of arithmetic (in some cases embracing algebra and mathematics), together with grammar, linear drawing, and natural history. The circumstances of each school are described in the detailed report from the secretary to the board, which is herewith forwarded for the further information of his Excellency. The number of schools at present is 23, distributed at the places mentioned in the

appendix. The total number of children attending them is 1493, -composed of 838 boys and 655 girls, -being an increase since October, 1843, the date of the board's last report, of 109 children: the school at Cam bridge being now omitted, its re-establishment not having taken place. In consequence of the resignation of the late master and mistress of the school in Liverpool-street, Hobart Town, Mr. and Mrs. Connor have been promoted from Launceston to the charge of it; and in their management fully bear out the favourable impressions created by their former zealous exertions. The numbers attending have increased, and would, no doubt, be much greater but for the extreme unfitness and dilapidated state of the premises in which the school is obliged to be held. At Launceston, Mr. & Mrs. Waller, who have been appointed as successors to the former teachers, have succeeded in greatly increasing the number of scholars, as shewn in appendix A.; and the school promises, with its now efficient apparatus and conveniences, to be of the greatest value to the inhabitants. The school at Cambridge, described in the last report of the board as temporarily closed, has not been re-organised. There were no suitable premises in which it could be held ; -and, latterly, the board could not have incurred the cost consequent upon its re-opening, it appearing that the funds at their disposal were wholly engrossed by existing expenses. The board have still to regret the absence of the advantage of local inspection at most of the schools. The resident clergymen of the church of England, with few exceptions, decline to afford their co-operation; and, as the private inhabitants do not generally take any practical interest in the subject of education, many of the schools are not so often visited as could be desired. There are, however, several frequently visited by clergymen and other persons, and in all, these cases their observations are favourable as to the efficiency of the schools. The applications for additional schools at Little Hampton, Deloraine, Waterloo Point, Ross, and Lower Pittwater are still before the board unaccommodated to; together with those for the re-establishment of the schools at Evandale, Brown's River, and Cam bridge. From George Town, Avoca, and Brighton applications for assistance have also been received, making in all eleven, new schools solicited of the board, at which not less than 850 children are ready to attend. In reviewing in detail the various circumstances of the department, the board have had, in addition to the foregoing important claims upon them for new schools, one of a more immediate and pressing nature also under consideration. They allude to the absolute necessity of providing new premises for the large and important school in Liverpool-street, Hobart Town. Those at present used are unfit for the purposes of the school, and so old and ruinous that the director of public works considers it undesirable to recommend any attempt at placing them in suitable repair. The board have hitherto been unable to extend their operations, either with reference to the formation of the new schools requested, or by providing suitable premises for the school in Hobart Town alluded to, from the fact previously mentioned of the funds set aside for this branch of the public service being absorbed by the pre sent cost of existing schools. Naturally anxious as the board are to remedy these serious disadvantages, and to render as widely useful as possible the limited means at their disposal, they have been led to a careful revision of their expenditure, with a view to curtailment wherever circumstances may admit of its being effected with advantage; and in the new arrangements which the board have been led to determine upon, and are about to submit in detail for his Excellency's approval, it is contemplated to make such alterations, by withdrawing the support of the government from such schools as may not be adequately attended, and diminishing the cost of others as will enable the board, in the first place, to recommend the erection of premises sufficient to accommodate 600 children upon the site of the present school house in Liverpool-street,

the property of the government,- such premises to be rendered suitable in every respect for the observance of the system and discipline of the British and Foreign schools; and, secondly, to promote the establishment of additional country schools in places in which the inhabitants appear to possess the requisite claims for assistance. As a principle, the board are of opinion that it will be desirable henceforward to contribute aid towards schools, placed under their supervision and

arrangements, instead of, as heretofore, almost exclusively maintaining them. The liberality hitherto evinced has, it is feared, in addition to narrowing the usefulness of the grant placed at the disposal of the board, had an undesirable effect upon the parents; 'creating a dependence upon the government, and a consequent want of exertion on their parts with reference to the education of their children. The small pecuniary amount contributed by them, compared with that furnished from the public funds, is shown in the appendix (table A.): the charge upon the latter for each child, in several of the schools, being far too high. A list of the present schools, and the number of children attending them respectively, are shown in table A. of the appendix; the total increase of children since the establishment of the present system of public instruction being upwards of 700. The cost of each school is also shown in the appendix, -the total amount being £3,704; and the entire expense of the department, as represented in the same table, is at present £4,004. The board continue to afford pecuniary aid to the Sunday schools of the different religious denominations whenever required : during the past, year the sum of £102 was so contributed. The total expenditure of the department during the year 1843, as shown in appendix 3, amounted to £42069 19s. 9d. The board trusts that the preceding statements will prove satisfactory to his Excellency; and that he will, from the consideration of them, receive, an assurance that the board have endeavoured to give the utmost amount of efficiency in their power to the important department committed to their care. They also confidently trust that they may, in the contemplated alterations, succeed in distributing more extensively than they have yet been enabled to do the blessings of the scriptural and practically useful education which these schools are so well calculated to bestow. They continue to be deeply sensible of the importance of endeavouring to make the children acquainted with the holy scriptures ; and fully believe that in seeking by this means the diffusion of christian knowledge, they are, in the words of a prelate of the church of England (quoted in one of the reports of the society whose system the board endeavours to. carry out), " promoting a deeper and more scriptural unity than the unity of ecclesiastical organisation, or of ecclesiastical details, -the unity of christian principles, -the unity of the spirit." By order of the board,

CHARLES BRADBURY, Secretary.

The Courier 22 Feb 1845

PUBLIC DAY SCHOOL, LIVERPOOL-STREET, HOBART. A public examination of the boys and girls of this School, one of those under the Board of Education, took place on Friday last. One hundred and eighty children were present, with an attendance of upwards of sixty visitors, including J. E. Bicheno, Esq., the Colonial Secretary, Joseph Hone, Esq., Dr. Turnbull, W. Sorell, Esq., the Rev. Messrs. Lillie, Bell, Jarrett, Nisbett, Manton, and Stephens, several ladies, &c. The examination commenced with the junior classes, of about 60 children, who replied to the questions put to them in a most intelligent manner ; the visitors then passed into the large room where 115 children of both sexes were present; these went through a series of readings and examination upon Scriptural and miscellaneous subjects, the former as to familiarity with the contents of the sacred volume, the latter embracing general information, correct style of reading, mental arithmetic, geography, singing, &c. The manner in which the children acquitted themselves elicited the approbation of all present; their acquaintance with Scripture was especially satisfactory, and met with the warmest commendation. In mental arithmetic, the brief processes to which they are accustomed by the system of instruction pursued, enabled them to solve questions with such rapidity as to leave many who were present, in what one gentleman termed " a sea of difficulties" to those who desired to put questions to them upon such subjects. The singing of the children was also most creditable ; they have been taught to sing with harmony and expression many interesting pieces of music adapted for children, the words having in every

case a moral or religious tendency. The inspection of writing and drawing books, and the needlework of the girls, closed the examination, which lasted nearly four hours. Upon the conclusion, Joseph Hone, Esq., addressed those assembled, expressing his agreeable surprise and great gratification at what he had witnessed ; he scarcely knew till that day anything of the School, and little expected the pleasure which had been in store for him when entering the establishment ; he spoke warmly of the good which such an institution must disseminate, encouraged the children to persevere in their duties, and concluded by proposing that those present should agree to accord to the master of the School, Mr. Connor, their expressions of satisfaction at the evident success which had attended his labours. J. E. Bicheno, Esq., cordially joined in the approbation which had been expressed with reference to the result of the examination they had just witnessed. He was, however, sure that the best reward the teachers could receive, was in the consciousness they must feel in the good they were doing to those children who had the advantage of partaking of their instruction. He had had some experience of similar institutions in Great Britain, and yet was enabled to say that this might bear the test of comparison, and that it was highly satisfactory to him to witness the success which had attended it. The Rev. Mr. Nisbett also spoke as to the satisfactory nature of the examination; he especially referred to the intimate acquaintance with the sacred Scriptures, which the children evinced. Dr. Turnbull expressed himself as highly gratified with all he had witnessed; encouraged both teachers and children to persevere, and complimented the mistress, Mrs. Connor, upon the success which had attended her exertions; she prepared the junior classes for the higher stage, a most trying and responsible duty, and took charge of the usual branches of the girls' education; in each of these duties the good result of her zeal and attention had that day been evinced. Several prizes were then distributed amongst the children, and the meeting separated. Forty of the children were invited by Mr. Bicheno, in the name of the Picture Gallery Committee, to visit the next morning, with their teachers, the exhibition of paintings at the Custom House.

Launceston Examiner 22 Mar 1845

Day Schools.-On Tuesday evening, a very interesting examination of the children belonging to the day school in Liverpool street, took place in their school-room, in the presence of a very respectable audience composed principally of ladies. Among the gentlemen present we noticed the Secretary of the Education Board, Dr. Turnbull, the Rev. P. Campbell, F. Haller, Esq. T. Hopkins, Esq., and many other gentlemen interested in scriptural education. The improvement of the children in their various studies gave very great satisfaction. Some of the gentlemen present put several questions to them, which were all very readily answered; that portion of the scripture which related to the birth of Moses was selected for them, and the manner in which the questions were answered shewed that they evidently had been accustomed to learn more than the mere letter and word ; they not only answered the scriptural questions, but the historical part was explained by them in a very pleasing manner. They were also examined in geography, and the quickness with which the places pointed out upon the map were told, would not have disgraced many a higher school. Several very well executed maps and copy books, the work of the boys, and some very pretty fancy work of the girls, gave much satisfaction. The principal feature however of the evening was evidently the singing, which was certainly very excellent ; most of the pieces were arranged by Mr. Barnett, the assistant master, who deserves great credit for the very able manner in which they were executed. The examination was concluded soon after 9 o'clock, and every one present seemed delighted with their evening's amusement. We must not forget to notice the anxious attention of Mr. and Mrs. Connor, the master and mistress, to the comfort of their visitors, and at the same time remark that the very orderly and attentive behaviour of the children reflects great credit on them.

Australia Birth Index 1788-1922 (Ancestry.com)

Name: Cornelia Ann Connor
Birth Date: **22 Jul 1846**
Father's Name: Thomas James Connor
Mother's Name: **Ann Peake**
Birth Place: Tasmania
Registration Year: 1846
Registration Place: Hobart, Tasmania
Registration number: 1871

Australia Birth Index 1788-1922 (Ancestry.com)

Name: M Connor [Edward Charles]
Birth Date: **31 Jul 1848**
Father's Name: Thomas James Connor
Mother's Name: **Anne Peake**
Birth Place: Tasmania
Registration Year: 1848
Registration Place: Hobart, Tasmania
Registration number: 940

Colonial Times 4 Sep 1849

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. THURSDAY, AUGUST 30.

Present- The Lieutenant-Governor and all the members.

His Excellency laid upon the table the report respecting Schools, which had been asked for by Mr. Gregson on a former day.

Mr. Gregson said -In pursuance of the notice I gave on Monday last, I now rise to submit the resolution to the Council :

"That it is the deliberate opinion of this Council, that the existing school arrangements are not calculated to meet the condition and wants of the community ; and that no system of public education which contemplates giving instruction in particular or sectarian religious doctrines, can be generally beneficial or acceptable. That it is also the deliberate opinion of this Council that no individual who now is, or who ever has been, a trans- ported offender, should hold the important and sacred office of public schoolmaster or schoolmistress; and that the system which has suffered that office to be held in many instances by individuals of that class, cannot be too strongly deprecated and condemned."

The subject of education has for a very long period engaged public attention, and it is now one of the principal topics of the day in the great world. There is scarcely a state in Europe indifferent to the subject, and I know no more gratifying or instructive occupation than perusing the various and enlightened reports upon elementary or early moral education which are constantly issuing from

the press. I am aware, sir, that the subject has occupied much of your time, and I feel in addressing you I am addressing one deeply impressed with the vast importance of giving instruction to the children of the poor; and I hope and trust that the members of this Council will bear with me while I bring the matter under your consideration. I approach the matter with a christian spirit, and I ask the members of this Council to hear me with patience, and without prejudice, for whatever diversity of opinion may be entertained as to the mode of imparting instruction, there can be but one opinion as to the question generally. This colony affords abundance of evidence, and points out clearly the sad consequences of neglect of early moral culture. The great mass of our prison population are totally destitute of education -ignorant beyond belief, and to this deplorable ignorance may fairly be attributed their unhappy condition in life. With this conviction upon my mind, and what other conviction can a man arrive at, who reflects at all, I urge upon you, sir, and the members of this Council, and upon the Government, to support the resolution now before the Council, in order that a system of education may be introduced, calculated to meet the wants and wishes of the people. The present system is radically bad, and ought to be abandoned. The penny a-day scheme may be characterised, in vulgar language, as-"penny wise, and pound foolish." But before I proceed further, I must endeavour to set myself right upon a point involving considerable delicacy, and open to misconstruction. I allude, sir, to the resolution condemnatory of convicts being entrusted with the education of youth, and I go so far as to say that no man who now is, or ever was, a transported offender, should be permitted to exercise a calling of such vast moral responsibility as that of a teacher. This may appear harsh and open to objection on grounds of christian charity ; but I feel assured that I shall be able to convince the Council that I am influenced by a proper moral regard, for the well-being of society. I adopt the following sentiments (from a passage in the Edinburgh Review) as my own;

" As for the conduct of those extra-moralists who come to settle in a land of crime, and refuse to associate with a convict legally pardoned, however light his original offence, however perfect his subsequent conduct -we have no toleration for such folly and foppery. Under the term convict are comprehended crimes of the most different degrees and species of guilt, and from which those who have committed them may, by subsequent morality, emancipate themselves with different degrees of difficulty, and with more or less of success. There is hardly any reason why a foolish hot-brained young blockhead, who chose to favor the mutineers at the Nore when he was sixteen years of age, may not make a very loyal subject, and a very respectable and respected magistrate. Therefore, to say that a man must be placed in no situation of trust or elevation as a magistrate, merely because he is a convict, is to govern mankind with a dictionary to surrender sense and usefulness to sound."

In all this I concur most cordially, and have ever applauded the conduct of Governor Macquarie in using his influence to restore men to society who were more the victims of bad laws than bad morals. I think he acted wisely and justly in bestowing a colonial chaplaincy on a gentleman who was transported by the sentence of a court martial in Ireland during the rebellion ; and I go so far as to say, that I see no objection to such men filling the highest offices, but there is one office I would not allow them to fill, and that is the office of schoolmaster; and I do not despair of convincing this Council and the colony that the exception I make should be a rule. Let the office of Colonial Secretary be filled by a talented convict whose original offence involved no serious moral turpitude, and I should remain silent. But I shall raise my voice against such a class of persons being charged with one of " the most important of human duties" -that of giving instruction to the young. It is said that men are governed by words. The remark may certainly apply to children, and here it is that I think prisoners are ineligible as teachers, for remember, my objection is to prisoners teaching children. It is to early moral education that I direct these observations, and their force and effect must, I think, be felt. Children ought to be taught to look

up to their master as their friend, benefactor, and common parent. There ought to be no ground for speculation as to his character or his conduct. His probity ought to be above suspicion. " Our master is, or was, a convict,"-can such a remark fail to awaken curiosity in the mind of a child! Can such curiosity be satisfied? I answer no. It leads to a thousand idle speculations, all tending to blunt the moral perceptions and give an unfavourable bias, and weaken that affectionate regard which the child ought to entertain towards his master. Such a toleration of the criminal leads children to estimate lightly crime and its consequences. The fact of a man having been a prisoner is, in my opinion, an insuperable objection to his being a schoolmaster. I have not made these observations without pain, and I should have been glad if I could have discharged my duty without their introduction. I shall now return to the system of instruction which has obtained in this colony under the Government, and at the hazard of being tedious, I must bring under your notice three separate plans which have been in operation. I place the utmost reliance upon the data on which I base my statement. My deductions are matter for your consideration, and the consideration of the Council.

There are three periods at which the school system may be viewed, as exhibiting three different plans in operation

1st. The period when the only schools supported by the Government were those under the Board of Education and conducted upon the principles of the British and Foreign School Society. The conductors receiving fixed salaries.

2nd. The period when Denominational Schools were brought into operation by the Government grant of a 1d. per day, and when such schools existed concurrently with schools under the Board of Education. And,

3rd. When fixed salaries were abolished and no aid granted by the Government, except upon the system of giving a 1d. per day for each child.

The year 1846 may be taken as giving the first period. In that year there were 22 schools under the Board of Education, with conductors receiving fixed salaries. These 22 schools gave instruction to 1510 children, and cost the Government, inclusive of the expense of supervision, £3296 7s. 9d., or about £2 3s. for each child.

The year 1848 will be the second period. In that year there were 33 Church of England Schools, with 1476 children, and costing the colony £1326. Twenty Board of Educational Schools with 1161 children, and costing the colony £2806 ; and three Roman Catholic Schools -346 children, costing £286 13s. 9d..To the total cost of the three descriptions of schools, must be added £500 for supervision, &c. ; and it will then be found there were in that year 2983 children receiving instruction in the public schools at a cost of £5112, or about £1 17s. for each child.

The third period will be found in June, 1849. There were then fifty Church of England Schools, with 2024 children receiving instruction, and receiving an amount of £1253 15s. per annum; nine schools on the system of the British and Foreign School Society, with 487 children receiving instruction and costing the Government £479 7s. 6d., and thirteen Roman Catholic Schools, with 204 children and receiving £204, adding £600 for supervision to the amount given to the schools we shall have a total of £3653 as the whole amount of expenditure.

In 1846 -No convicts were employed as teachers, as by a rule of the Board of Education convicts were not considered eligible for such employment, two only of the 22 teachers having been convicts, and who had been employed in such capacity before the Board was appointed.

In 1847 -Three Passholders -three Ticket-of Leave holders, and five persons who had been convicts were employed as teachers; and in July 1849 -Three Passholders, six Ticket-of-Leave holders, and seven who had been convicts.

In 1848 -The minimum salary was £100 for a master and mistress, with a school-house, or an allowance for rent with such fees as might be obtained from the parents -yielding together an income varying from £160 to £200.

1849 -The average income from all sources rarely exceeds £80. The total number of children receiving instruction is said to be nearly double what it was in 1846. But the returns may, and probably are falsified. The temptation under the present, or penny-a-day scheme is fraught with danger, and cannot be viewed without apprehension, and distrust. The system does not admit of effectual supervision. I cast no reproach upon the masters when I say that every stroke of the pen brings a penny,

I, now sir, ask permission to read one or two passages from Governor Sir John Franklin's Minute, read in this Council in 1839.

"Having recently had the pleasure of also perusing the Minute of the Governor of New South Wales on the subject of Schools, it seems to me to be a favourable indication that at the Cape, in New South Wales, and in this Colony, there has been a remarkable coincidence of opinion as to the principle upon which the Schools should be conducted. There is a variety in the plan -in the proposed administration -but the self-same spirit pervades them all. It will no doubt be gratifying to you also to remark that our plan includes, at the least in intention, what in the following passage has been considered so essential by the distinguished philosopher whose letter I have already referred to: - 'I would only remark in general that, so long as Christian principles are broadly laid down as the basis of all proceedings, every thing calculated to perpetuate religious or civil distinctions between members of the same community, or to foster a spirit of domination on the part of any religious sect, ought to be most studiously and pointedly avoided.' "

"The principle difficulty with which we shall have to contend is that of obtaining persons of adequate attainments to take charge of the schools. Indeed, I have no doubt that it will be found necessary very much to augment the advantages connected with the appointment of Schoolmasters in this Colony ; and, following the spirit of a suggestion made by Sir John Herschel, I should very much wish to see a definite rank in the community specially assigned to such Schoolmasters as after two years' service may be found by the Committee to be men of zeal, adequate attainments, and high character, and that their position should be understood to be as nearly as possible with the Clergy, but junior to them. Whatever mark of consideration it may be practicable for influential men in the community, and, most especially, the Government, to show to a class of persons charged with one of the most important of human duties, will be amply repaid in commanding the services of a better class of teachers ' "

It is impossible to read the Minute without admiration of its author. It will be seen by a report of the British and Foreign School Society, that Sir John Franklin carried out his expressed intention, and I may be allowed to read a passage from the Report:

"It was stated in our last Report that six qualified masters and mistresses, thoroughly acquainted with the discipline and organization of British schools, had, in consequence of application from the local government, been recommended to the Secretary of State for the Colonies to take charge of training and other schools in Hobart Town or Launceston. Letters announcing their safe arrival, and subsequent appointments, have been received. Mr. and Mrs. Bonwick are to take charge of the training school at Hobart Town ; **Mr. and Mrs. Connor** are to be settled at Launceston ; Mr. and Mrs. Hall, at New Norfolk Mr. and Mrs. Chambers, at Campbell Town ; Mr. and Mrs. Rainy, at Oatlands ; and Mr. and Mrs. Low, at Richmond. At Hobart Town new buildings are in course of erection, but it is hoped they will now be conducted in a much more efficient manner than formerly."

Now, sir, I ask what has become of these gentlemen and ladies ? I answer that the system introduced by your Excellency has ruined their expectations and the colony has lost the services of a valuable class of teachers. I requested that the Colonial Secretary would lay on the table the correspondence between the Local Government and those gentlemen, subsequent to the introduction of the penny-a-day scheme. (The Colonial Secretary held up a bundle of papers, but their bulk appeared to defeat their perusal -for Mr. Gregson said, I cannot go into them now.)

The hon. member resumed -Sir, I have been in communication with two of the schoolmasters, and they justly, I conceive, complain of the treatment they have received; and I, sir, assert that they have been most scandalously treated. There has been a complete breach of faith on the part of the Government. They have been kidnapped to this colony and left, if not destitute -in circumstances of difficulty. Their appointments implied permanency. I have been told by the gentlemen to whom I refer, that they never would have left their native land, where they held respectable situations of good emolument, had they not relied upon the faith of the Government. Have they not been deceived, and have they, I ask, not just cause to complain. They have been literally starved out of their situations, and degraded by being put upon a level with convicts. On leaving England they were told in the words of Sir John Franklin that they should rank next to the clergy only "junior to them." What has the Government done to maintain their position?" Why. to reduce them to a level with passholders. Sir, I have no language to express my abhorrence of such conduct : no words to stigmatise such breach of faith, and when the question of compensation has to be considered, one of the gentlemen, **Mr. Connor**, is told he can have no claim until he tries the penny-a-day scheme. He tries it for six months, and finds his emoluments cut down upwards of one-half-reduced to a stipend on which he could not support life, much less maintain a respectable appearance. I therefore repeat, sir the masters who came from England were starved out of their situations, and the colony deprived of the services of men well qualified " to discharge the most important of human duties." I have seen their testimonials -they could not be higher. I have had the pleasure of personal intercourse with them; and without pretending to have a standard by which to measure their abilities, I may, without presumption, add my testimony to their moral worth, and my belief that their intellectual attainments were far above the requirements of their pupils; and my principal object in bringing this question of education under the notice of this Council, and submitting the resolutions which are now under consideration has been, if possible, to induce the Government to return to the original contract with these gentlemen, and by substituting fixed salaries, as formerly, secure the services of a valuable class of teachers ; and to enable your Excellency to carry out so desirable a measure, I, for one, would submit to any amount, and any description of taxation. Looking to the rejected estimates now before me, I may appear to stultify myself; but I offer as an excuse the present wretched condition of the destitute children which crowd our streets, and when I remember that they are perishing while I and others are contending for imperial contribution, I abandon for the present my position, out of mercy to them, still however holding to the principle that the British Government is bound to contribute towards defraying the expenses of education, seeing that a vast majority of

our rising generation are the offspring of convicts. I would, as matters now are, submit to any arbitrary measure on the part of the Government to secure funds for such a holy object. Roads and Bridges sink into absolute nothingness, when compared with such an object; and I do not fear a difference of opinion upon this question. I believe that this Council and the whole colony will join in the sentiment, and unite cordially in bringing about so desirable a consummation. In no country in the world is early moral culture so necessary -so much required. Viewing the children as the frame-work of our society, is it possible to contemplate their present condition and future prospects without a feeling of horror? Their parents are, in too many instances, abandoned and dissolute to a degree rarely to be found in other countries ; from them it cannot be expected they will received any moral training -the State alone can be looked to in such an emergency - and it is a moral obligation which the State owes to the people of this colony to provide for the education of children so peculiarly and painfully circumstanced. There are hundreds of children in this colony who lisp in blasphemy, who never hear the name of God, but in violation of the decalogue -nor the name of Christ, but in a curse -and to what must they not inevitably come if they are utterly neglected by the Government? Why, to inevitable ruin. Look on board the Anson, and there you will find old women of sixty being taught their A B. C. Is it not an inconceivable mockery of education? The same amount of teaching when they were six would, in all human probability, have saved the State the expense of their conviction and transportation. With facts such as these before our eyes -staring us in the face -ought we to neglect the golden opportunity which yet presents itself of giving early moral lessons to the thousands of interesting and beautiful children who form the mass of our population, and whose habits might now be formed to virtue, by being removed for so many hours daily from the contaminations which surround them -from the obscenity, indecency, and blasphemy which are inseparable from their wretched condition, and placed under the care of a well chosen master and mistress. By such an arrangement parent and child would both benefit. Washing the child and sending it to school would be the first step towards moral training. On its return from school it would be kindly received, and the child's instruction would re-act upon the parent. The absence of the child during the day would afford time for the mother to labour, and enable her to contribute towards the child's maintenance at school. In every way good would result. But how is all this to be effected? I say by a general system of education, and a liberal vote of this Council. It is in vain, however, to attempt to carry out any system so long as religious differences exist, and I am forcibly reminded of an admirable illustration in a work, the mention of which may possibly excite laughter, but it is not intended that it should do so. In one of Punch's pencillings, there is a representation of two bishops of different creeds struggling for the possession of a child. The Devil is looking on with a Satanic grin, and in the background an angel is weeping. The moral is too fearfully told to require description. It flashes through our eyes, upon our moral perceptions, and leaves a painful reflection. Hon. members may laugh, but it is a true picture, in sad reality. During the struggle for possession, the child perishes. The conviction is gaining ground every day in England that religion must be made a separate branch of education ; that teaching in the schools must be purely secular; and I must confess I have come round to that way of thinking. It is now my conviction that religion could be better taught out of the schools than in, seeing that it is impossible to harmonise the different religious bodies. One class of religionists say the Bible shall not be introduced; another that there shall be no catechetical teaching; and so on until complete disunion is created. Now, could not this be avoided, and differences healed, by setting one or two days of the week apart for religious instruction, which, together with Sunday schools, would afford ample means of imparting and inculcating religious doctrines by the different denominations. Religion, I maintain, must be the basis, but how, when, and where to impart it, is the question. To give mere Secular Education without teaching the divine precepts, would be bringing up children to be devils: better, far better, no Education at all.

The unhappy differences which exist amongst the different denominations of religious instructors defeat every effort to place intellectual teaching upon a broad Catholic basis ; it there- fore appears to me, the only resource left, is to restrict the teaching in schools to mere secular arts ; and I have, in accordance with my own settled conviction, placed before the Council a resolution to that effect. There yet remains another and a painful subject to place before you, sir; -one revolting to every moral feeling. I bring it to the light, confident that it only requires but to be seen, to ensure its condemnation and destruction. In my remarks I have confined myself to elementary or primary Education, and the class of persons who ought to be employed in carrying it out -holding as I do, that everything depends upon the careful selection of school- masters and schoolmistresses. I cannot suppose, sir, that you are acquainted with the facts I am about to relate ; for I am aware, sir, how anxiously you watch over the instruction of the poor orphans. I believe, sir, a day scarcely passes that you do not visit that Asylum, and teach the children by your kindness, that you care for their happiness. It would be well for the children of the colony if the whole range of the schools came within your sphere of action ; but unhappily, it is not so ; and let us, look to the sad results arising from criminal neglect in other quarters. Mistaken economy has led to the appointment of convicts as schoolmasters and school- mistresses. The penny-a-day system could afford no better teachers. It was cheap -a word of all others, the most deceptive. The first trial I believe, commenced near Launceston. The emoluments were not equal to support the teacher, and he stole, and sold, or pawned the books of the institution. The teacher was taken away from his scholars, and tried and convicted. His defence was his necessitous circumstances. One would have imagined that such a case would have put a stop to the further employment of convicts : if not to the system. But both were continued ; and, now let me go to Jerusalem. The teacher there was a prisoner. He had been convicted at home of an offence against an infant and trans- ported-first, I think, to Bermuda ; and from thence here. His character was known. He had under his charge at Jerusalem, girls. I cannot proceed further: The relation is too shocking, unspeakably monstrous. He was detected, tried summarily, and sentenced to nine months in irons. I am told upon authority which I cannot doubt that he expressed to the clergyman at Richmond happiness that he had been detected, for other- wise his life must have been forfeited. I have not done, I must go on with the revolting relation. At Buckland a convict was employed. He committed a theft, was detected, and punished. Such a system as this may not inaptly be designated the Fagan School of Education. At Bothwell the school was deserted, owing to the characters of the teachers. I could proceed, but I shall confine myself to one more case. The scene is laid in Hobart Town itself. At Battery Point, under the eye and under the auspices of a clergy- man, whose name I mention in order that the reverend gentleman may have an opportunity of contradicting the statement I make, if it should be capable of contradiction The Rev. Mr. Brownrigg is the gentleman I allude to. Two persons kept a school at Battery Point, a schoolmaster (a convict) and a schoolmistress. They were not married, but cohabited together. The female had been in the service of one of the gentlemen who came out here under the auspices of the British and Foreign School Society. The prisoner schoolmaster had a servant, a cook. The master was tried for some offence, and sentenced to the treadmill, and I am informed the cook stepped into his office of moral instructor, and the schoolmistress, I am told, transferred her affections to the cook, and that they kept school together. If these are facts, and I believe them, to be such, can anything be more dreadful -more revolting to decency -more destructive to morals. I observe by a late paper an account of the proceedings of the British and Foreign School Society - a society casting all other societies in the shade. It is under the special patronage of the Queen, and I perceive the Bishop of Norwich among the vice-presidents. What, I ask, will be said when they read the proceedings of this Council -when they learn the fate of the able and excellent men they sent here, and discover by whom they have been displaced? What will be thought of the system of moral training in Van Diemen's Land? I feel I have received great indulgence, and shall not further trespass upon the time of the Council, although I have very far from exhausted the subject, which I could have wished had fallen into abler hands, but I yield to none in a sincere and

anxious desire to see promoted the moral welfare of the children of this colony; and I trust the resolutions will receive the calm, deliberate, and dispassionate consideration of hon. members, as I deem them calculated to remove a great evil, and effect a great good.

[The above is an abridged report of Mr. Gregson's speech. He quoted largely from Mr. Locke and Miss Edgeworth on the importance of early education, and read extracts from Commissioner Biggs' report, condemning the employment of prisoners as schoolmasters, but we have given enough to rouse public attention to a question of vital importance]

On the conclusion of Mr. Gregson's remarks, the Chief Justice recommended that the original motion should be divided into two parts, as although he might agree with one part, he might, "not with the other. The motion as agreed to by Mr. Gregson, was then put as follows :

" It is the deliberate opinion of this Council that no individual who now is, or who over has been, a transported offender should hold the important and sacred office of schoolmaster or school mistress ; and that the system which has suffered that office to be held in many instances by individuals of that class cannot be too strongly deprecated and condemned."

His Excellency said that Mr. Gregson's speech was very discursive, but he thanked the hon. member for the tone and temper in which it had been given. His Excellency was of the same opinion as Mr. Gregson regarding the inexpediency of employing convicts as schoolmasters, but very emphatically said, the Government had no funds to carry out a more beneficial system, than the one now in operation. The parents' ought to come forward and contribute towards the education of their children; it was too much to throw the whole burden on the Government. He hoped to be able eventually to set aside a large sum for education, and likewise for destitute people in their old age, but at present it was utterly impossible. His Excellency said he had no doubt there were about 10,000 children in Van Diemen's Land, and only one-half received the benefit of education. People here will not send their children to schools, even if a school was at their own doors. In certain parts of Europe parents were bound to send their children to school, but this plan could not be adopted here. His Excellency admitted that the question was one of the most important that could be brought before Government ; but unless parents in Van Diemen's Land can be compelled to send their children to school, or to contribute an annual sum to Government, the subject was a hopeless one. Even if Government gave a large grant for the purpose of education, the number of children deriving the benefit would not be much increased. When the Representative Assembly met, his Excellency promised that he would bring this all-important subject under their notice. He quite agreed with Mr. Gregson as to the impropriety of employing convicts; but again said,

" we have no funds."

Captain Fenton said that in the counter Estimates, it was proposed to have 60 schools in the colony, and masters at a salary of £60 a-year from Government, which, with fees, would amount to about £105 a-year; but the masters were to have no taint of convictism. This plan had been recommended by six members of Council, but was rejected by Earl Grey and Sir W. Denison.

Mr. Sharland cordially assented with the hon. mover of the resolution, that no convict should be a schoolmaster ; and Mr. Sharland remarked in strong terms that no attainments, however high, on the part of a convict, ought ever to entitle him to fill such an office as that of schoolmaster.

Mr. Allison likewise agreed with Mr. Sharland but thought it hard the convict should be debarred from all hopes of returning into good society.

The Attorney-General agreed with the hon. member, Mr. Gregson, that no convict ought to be a schoolmaster, but the system ought to be condemned was one of necessity and not of choice. The Attorney-General recommended a modification of the resolution, to the effect that the Council might express regret at convicts being allowed to be schoolmasters, but not deprecation of the system.

Mr. Gregson refused to retract one word or to modify the motion as put. He said the Attorney General's suggestion was a mawkish one, which, he could not submit to. '

The Colonial Secretary declined to give his vote, but on being told by Mr. Gregson that he must say either "aye" or "no." and a whisper taking place between his Excellency -Mr., Bicheno said. "I must "aye" to the present motion." A division took place, when there appeared .

Ayes. 12 Noes. 2

The Chief Police Magistrate and Colonial Auditor voted against the motion.

Mr. Gregson then moved and Mr. Dunn' seconded, that the funds in the Estimates under this head should be employed for secular education only.

His Excellency said, that although he had no difficulty in arriving at a conclusion respecting the first motion already disposed of, he must give a decided negative to the present one. His Excellency in a solemn and earnest manner said, that religion must form the basis of all systems of education, or else most dangerous consequences would ensue.

The Chief Justice said that the present motion was an attempt to substitute a new plan of education to the one at present in operation; and he opposed it on the grounds, that he was not inclined to a change for the present. It might be, that by and bye, if this new plan of education was adopted another hon. member might come to the Council with another scheme in his pocket, and there would be no end to the matter. The Council changed too fast. The British and Foreign system introduced by Sir J. Franklin had not had a fair trial.

The Attorney-General opposed the motion, and said that religion ought to be at the bottom of every system of education.

Mr. Gregson said the Attorney General had entirely misunderstood his meaning; so far from excluding religion, he had proposed that one or two days in the week might be devoted to religious instruction. So far from wishing to debar a convict from holding office under Government, he (Mr. Gregson) was not opposed to one holding the office of Attorney-General, provided he was not the instructor of youth.

The Colonial Secretary opposed the motion, as the plan proposed would not suit the colony of Van Diemen's Land. If all the inhabitants were unanimous on the subject, the matter might assume a very different aspect. The Colonial Secretary admitted that he had received intelligence from home which led him to think that education, without reference to religious tenets, would by and bye be 'preferred. He (the Colonial Secretary) was however afraid that such a system would not answer the purposes intended, if applied in Van Diemen's Land.

Of **Mrs. Connor** we deem it unnecessary to say many words. From the first day that we found shelter under your roof, we have received at her hands the kindness of a mother, and should any of us whose education is incomplete, again have to leave our homes, we shall ever lament the separation.

In conclusion, we cannot but feel grateful when we consider your conduct towards us ; we have never had to complain of injustice, but on the contrary have always found you the advocate of fair and impartial measures.

You may rest assured that it's our cordial wish that every success may attend you, and hoping you may arrive at your destined haven in safety, we have the honor to remain, dear sir, your affectionate pupils.

[Here follow the signatures.]

To THOMAS J. CONNOR, Esq.,

English Master.

High School, 14th Dec. 1853.

MY DEAR BOYS, - It is with no ordinary pleasure that I accept the accompanying token of your respect.

The very strong expressions you have used in reference to the treatment you have received from **Mrs. Connor** and myself, are most grateful to us both; and prove, that, however discouraging other circumstances may have been, as far as you are concerned, we have not laboured in vain.

I thank you most heartily for the confidence you have expressed in my sense of justice, and for your earnest wishes for my success.

In conclusion, I have now to bear testimony to your excellent conduct in my house, and to express our united desire, that you may be guided safely through the difficult path of life, and that we may all have a happy meeting where parting scenes are never witnessed. I am, my dear boys, faithfully and affectionately yours,

THOMAS J. CONNOR.

Australia Birth Index 1788-1922 (Ancestry.com)

Name: Narcissa West Conner
Birth Date: **19 Sep 1854**
Father's Name: Thomas James Conner
Mother's Name: **Anne Peake**
Birth Place: Tasmania
Registration Year: 1854
Registration Place: Launceston, Tasmania
Registration number: 729

SMH 22 Dec 1854

REDFERN CONGREGATIONAL SCHOOL.

The Committee of the above school beg to announce that as the present master and mistress retire at the end of this year, they have been enabled to make arrangements which will place the school in a higher state of efficiency than it has hitherto attained.

They have engaged a master and mistress, who were originally trained in the Borough-road Model School, London, who have been occupied for several years in conducting the Model School at Hobart Town, and who now hold the very highest testimonials of efficiency from Parents, Examiners, and the Government Inspector of Schools.

The object of the Committee being to confer the blessing of a sound and useful education on as large a number of children as possible, the scale of fees with which the school originally commenced will be strictly adhered to.

H. RICHARDSON, Secretary.

Redfern, December 19th, 1854._

The Courier 3 Jan 1855

DEPARTURES- DECEMBER 30.

Eliza Frances, barque," 290, Suter, Sydney. Passengers - Mr., Mrs. Connor and family.

Empire (Sydney) 4 Feb 1856

CLEARANCES.

February 2.-Royal Shepherd, steamer, 130 tons. Captain Saunders, for Launceston. Passengers- Mrs. Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Connor,

Launceston Examiner 5 Feb 1856

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE ENTERED INWARDS

February 5.--I.S.N. Co.'s steamer Royal Shepherd. 184 tons, W. H. Saunders. master, from Sydney; George Fisher. agent. Passengers Mr. John Atkinson, Mrs. Johnson, Mr. Gough, Mrs. Connor, and 6 children. [*Thomas James jr, George William, Cornelia Ann, Sarah Frances, Edward Charles, Florence Marie, Narcissa West makes 7 children!*]

Launceston Examiner 2 Aug 1859

[T.J. Connor mentioned as an inwards passenger from Melbourne on 1 Aug]

According to his obituary in the Gippsland Standard of 3 June 1880, **T.J. Connor and his family** arrived in Melbourne on 1 October 1859, the day Flying Buck won the Champions' Race.

1 Jan 1860 Teacher Record Book (PROV)

Anne Connor (Teacher No 579) born 29 Dec 1811 appointed Sewing Mistress at Carlton School No. 158

South Australian Weekly Chronicle 21 Jan 1860

Wednesday, January 18— Omeo, steamer, 1,000 tons, John McLean, master, for Melbourne
Passengers -..... **Ann Connor**, [*visited her brother Robert Peake ?*]

1 Jan 1861 Teacher Record Book (PROV)

Anne Connor (Teacher No 579) appointed Assistant Teacher at Carlton School No. 158

1 Apr 1862 Teacher Record Book (PROV)

Anne Connor (Teacher No 579) appointed S.M., Assistant Teacher at Carlton (Grattan Street) School No. 175

1 Aug 1863 Teacher Record Book (PROV)

Anne Connor (Teacher No 579) appointed Work Mistress at Immigrant Home School No. 317

Melbourne Age of Saturday 31 Mar 1866, reprinted in Cornwall Chronicle Wed 4 Apr 1866

FRIGHTFUL IMMORALITY AT THE INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS.

We had hoped that our last inquiry into the discipline and management of the Industrial Schools, particularly at Sunbury, would have resulted in some considerable improvement. A board of inspection was appointed to keep the subordinate officials in check, and reports were promised to Parliament of their periodical investigations. The board reported that things were bad, but not so bad as painted, and that somebody was to blame, but they could not exactly say who. Mr. Duncan has since replaced Mr. Harcourt, and yet the board still exists, and we presume still reports upon the condition at the Industrial Schools. Since Mr. Duncan's appointment two events have transpired, which have led to the suspension of the superintendent of the Sunbury school and the superintendent of the Prince's Bridge school. The former, Mr. Weekes, was suspended, owing to a disinclination to pay proper deference to Mr. Duncan's authority; but the offence charged against **Mr. Connor** is of a more serious character. He occupied, until very recently, the **position of school master, and his wife that of matron**, at the Prince's Bridge establishment. The position of schoolmaster was a nominal one, Mr. Harcourt reposing such confidence in him as to entrust him with the duties of superintendent; and, on Mr. Harcourt's resignation, he was formally nominated to the office. His appointment has been the precursor of some charges being made against him. It is alleged that he has carnally abused several girls in the institution, and that to others he has conducted himself in a very disgusting manner. The charges were so specifically made, and reiterated so persistently, that Mr. Duncan was communicated with and an inquiry instituted. The

evidence taken accuses Mr. Connor with being in the habit of visiting the girls' wards at night, whilst they were in bed, and putting his hands beneath the bedclothes, and indecently exposing his person. This practice is said to have been continued for a long time. The mother of one of the girls was present during the examination, and suggested the propriety of sending for a doctor to ascertain whether her daughter had been violated, but this was not considered necessary. The statements of several girls and the evidence of witnesses in corroboration were taken by Mr. Duncan, and Mr. Connor has been suspended until further inquiry has been made. In our report of the Sunbury Industrial Schools we drew attention to rumors of such conduct as is now charged against Mr. Connor, when we alluded to the existence of a skeleton in the closet of the Melbourne situation, which would require nil the wits of the commission to discover. Some of the boys at the Sunbury school stated that it was no uncommon thing for Mr. Connor to kiss and hug the girls at Prince's Bridge, and a report to that effect was circulated by Mr. Harcourt's son, but subsequently denied by him. At a later period, and since our inquiry, a complaint was made to Mr. Harcourt by one of the wards men that Mr. Connor had kissed some girls in the dining room in the presence, of a number of boys and girls, and had been guilty of similar impropriety in one of the girls' wards. An inquiry was initiated, and the offence proved, and Mr. Connor punished by a reprimand, but the troublesome ward man at a convenient opportunity was got rid of. There is sufficient evidence that the superintendent's conduct has been characterised by an openness that speaks volumes for the degradation of the institution. We cannot disgrace our columns with a tithe of the evidence which has been produced, which not only implicates Mr. Connor, but conveys very serious imputations against the wards women who have been cognisant of his conduct. The authority he possessed and the favour in which he stood with Mr. Harcourt is assigned as a reason why these disgusting practices were not sooner made known, and with some show of reason when it is known that Mr. Connor had virtually the power of dismissal, and in one notable instance exercised it, because a complaint had been preferred against him. Sufficient time has not elapsed since the discovery was made for the Government to take action. Mr. Duncan's report will, no doubt, be submitted pro forma, but we understand Mr. McCulloch has been privately made aware of its nature. Mr. Connor, though suspended, resides with his wife and family on the premises; and, for aught we know to the contrary, has still access to the wards. One of his daughters occupies the position of schoolmistress, and a son in some other capacity in the institution. On visiting it, yesterday evening, we ascertained that there had been a disturbance in one of the girls' ward, arising out of the charge preferred against Mr. Connor. To our surprise we found that no steps had been taken to place the girls who had preferred the complaint against him in a position where they were not likely to be subjected to improper influence, but, on the contrary, the disturbance in the ward referred to had arisen from the contempt manifested by the girls generally to those who had given the information which led to Mr. Connor's suspension. It was viewed by the majority of the girls as a heinous offence, and nothing short of the arrest of some of them and the threat of sending them for the night to the cells could curb the insubordination. It would have been preferable had the girls been placed in a position where there was little likelihood of their being tampered with. Perhaps a sufficient precaution has been taken in collecting evidence, but it is evident that the feeling in the establishment is adverse to the action taken by the girls, and may probably defeat the ends of justice. It would be well for the institution were the rumors of another heinous offence inquired into. It is openly stated that a crime of a most horrible character is frequent, and that boys have been sent to the hospital for treatment in consequence. We are aware that the medical staff deny this, and we consider their purpose to some extent praiseworthy. But an unpleasant feeling pervades the community, and there are at least good grounds for a rigid investigation, and for some preventive measures being adopted.

Gippsland Times 5 Apr 1866

THE INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS. (From the Age.) In our last issue we noticed the fact that serious complaints had been made respecting the resident master of the Industrial School, Prince's Bridge, and that, it had been found necessary to suspend him pending further proceedings. We have now the following additional particulars. A board of inquiry has not yet been appointed into the charges which have led to Mr. Connor's suspension. Mr. Connor, however, was present when the preliminary inquiry was instituted, and he was suffered to examine the witnesses, whose evidence was taken down in writing ; so that he will have ample time to prepare his defence, which, if not satisfactory, must lead to a criminal charge being preferred, against him. A request has been preferred to suspend judgment, pending the result of the board of inquiry. We cannot see what more favour should be shown to Mr. Connor than to other offenders against society. It is in the province of any one to take the investigation out of the hands of the Government, and cause Mr. Connor to answer the charge before the police court; and it was the intention of the mother of one of the girls to prefer a criminal charge, but she was deterred from doing so by a promise that substantial justice would be rendered by the inquiry. The propriety of some steps being taken to temporarily remove the matron until the result of the investigation is known was apparent in her conduct on Saturday evening, when another disturbance took place, and, the officer was compelled to interfere to protect one of the girls against probable ill- treatment. Mrs. Connor defied the authority of the officer in charge, and a scene of recrimination followed, in which Mrs. Connor said many unpleasant things of everybody in the establishment. The continuance of her authority, during the suspension of her husband, is a mistake, and might be remedied in the interests of justice by removing her temporarily to Geelong or Sunbury, or giving her leave of absence for a few days. Intimation was conveyed to Mr. Duncan on Saturday that one of the wards-women had been sent, after dark, on Friday evening, by Mrs. Connor, and without the cognisance of the acting superintendent, to make inquiries of a person who had formerly acted as wardsman in the institution, with a view to ascertain the nature of the evidence he could give against Mr. Connor. An impression prevailed that he was in a position to bring very serious charges against him; but, on ascertaining that his evidence did not prove a capital offence, it was observed that Mrs. Connor would feel greatly relieved, for she was "in a dreadful way." The wardswoman, when appealed to, acknowledged that she had left the institution at Mrs. Connor's request, which was a breach of discipline, to visit her friends for an hour or so, when she accidentally met the wardsman referred to, and had some conversation with him, not about Mr. Connor, but of himself, as she had been informed her name had been improperly dragged into the inquiry. If it is desired to ascertain the extent to which those proceedings have been carried, it will be necessary to institute a rigid examination, and, if possible, include in it persons who have left the establishment, but who are well informed on past events, The facilities afforded, up to the present time, for girls to leave their bedrooms through the windows, have been strongly commented on for months past, and Mr. Connor is aware of one very narrow escape he ran of exposure in the company of girls who were out of their wards as late as mid night. There is a board of inspection attached to the institution, but their examinations have been of a very superficial character, or they would have been cognisant of what was transpiring. The public have very little faith in Government boards, and those which have hitherto been appointed in connection with these schools have evidently been very remiss in the discharge of their duties. There is still another board to be instituted to inquire into the charges preferred against Mr. Weekes, which are of a comparatively trifling character, but the result is very likely to be more beneficial to the industrial schools than any which has hitherto taken place., since it is proposed that it shall search into the causes of the failure of these institutions of and their present deplorable condition.

Gippsland Times 10 Apr 1866

The board appointed to investigate the charges preferred against Mr. Connor, of the Prince's-bridge industrial institution, will consist of Messrs. Hackett, Sturt, Templeton, and Claud Farie. Writing upon this subject, the Age of Friday says that unless the board is empowered to examine witnesses on oath, no satisfactory result will follow from such an investigation, if conducted privately. Much evidence can be procured from persons not within the jurisdiction of the board, but the propriety of bringing it forward can only be ascertained by a public investigation. Mrs. Connor has obtained leave of absence from the duties of matron, pending the Investigation into the conduct of her husband, and the vacancies in the office of schoolmaster and matron have been filled by temporary appointment.

Launceston Examiner 7 May 1866

Mrs. Connor, the Matron of the Prince's Bridge Female Industrial Schools, has been suspended on account of her insubordination to the orders of Mr. McFarlane, the acting Superintendent.

The Argus 24 May 1866

The report of the board appointed to investigate the conduct of Mr. Connor, the superintendent of the Prince's-bridge Industrial Schools, was presented to the Legislative Assembly on Tuesday evening. The board, which consisted of Mr. Claud Farle, Mr. W. Templeton, and Mr. F. Call, by their report entirely exonerate Mr. Connor from all the more serious of the charges brought against him, and found no reliable evidence to sustain even the minor charges preferred. The board, however, declare that objectionable and improper practices occurred in the institution; that Mr. Connor, unaccompanied by any female attendant, used to go round and inspect the female dormitories while the inmates were preparing for or were actually in bed. The report bears witness to the efficient discharge of their duties by other officers; and recommends that more suitable accommodation for the inmates should be immediately provided, and peremptory instructions issued to ensure the separation of the sexes, both as regards officers and inmates.

[According to his obituary in the Gippsland Standard 3 Jun 1880 Thomas and Ann Connor took up residence at Jack River in the Alberton District on 29 May 1867]

1 Aug 1867 Teacher Record Book (PROV)

Anne Connor (Teacher No 579) appointed Work Mistress at Alberton School No. 1

Public Records Office Vic. Wills and Probate Records 1841-1925. File No 20/962

Last Will and Testament of Thomas James Connor dated 30 Aug 1869. Thomas left his money and chattels to Anne Connor, his executrix, including his interest in a Life Assurance policy, and half the profits or half the sale proceeds of "Jack Rivulet Run". The remaining half went to George William Connor, his son. Witnesses Edgar Slade and Alfred George Branford.

The Argus 23 Jul 1870

MARRIAGES.

CONNOR-NEWTON.-On the 13th inst, at St. Luke's Church, Alberton, South Gipps Land, by the Rev. W. Clarke Hose, George William, second son of **Thomas J. Connor**, Esq., to Eliza, eldest daughter of E. T. Newton, Esq. , all of Alberton. No cards.

31 Mar to 31 Aug 1872 Teacher Record Book (PROV)

Anne Connor (Teacher No 579) payments ceased due to reduction in allotments

1 Sep 1872 Teacher Record Book (PROV)

Anne Connor (Teacher No 579) re-appointed Work Mistress at Alberton School No. 1

The Argus 19 Jun 1873

MARRIAGES: **DENHAM—CONNOR.**—On the 22nd ult., at St. Luke's Church, Alberton, by the Rev. W. Clarke Hose, Henry Archer, only son of the late James Amos Denham, Esq., Launceston, Tasmania, to Cornelia Anne, second daughter of **Thomas James Connor**, Esq., Alberton, South Gippsland.

The Argus 11 Sep 1873

DEATHS: **CONNOR.**—On the 7th inst., at Seabank, Port Albert, **George William**, second surviving son of **Thomas J. Connor**, Esq., of Alberton.

The Argus 30 Sep 1873

MARRIAGES: **CONNOR** —JOYCE. —On the 26th inst., by the Rev. W. Hopkins, at the residence of the bride's uncle, Norwood Station, Maryborough, Edward Charles, second surviving son of **Thomas J. Connor**, Esq., Seabank, Port Albert, to Elizabeth Marion, second daughter of George Joyce, Esq., Clear View, Majorca.

The Argus 16 Apr 1877

MARRIAGES

FERRES-CONNOR. -On the 4th inst, at Seabank, Alberton, Gipps Land, John Davey, second, son of John Ferres, Government printer, Melbourne, to Florence Marie, third daughter of **Thos. J. Connor**, Seabank.

20 Jan 1879 Teacher Record Book (PROV)

Anne Connor (Teacher No 579) appointed Work Mistress at Yarram Yarram School 693

1 Apr 1880 Teacher Record Book (PROV)

Anne Connor (Teacher No 579) appointed Work Mistress at Port Albert School 490

Register of Deaths in the District of Alberton in the Colony of Victoria 1880, No 3178

On 30th May 1880 at Seabank near Alberton, South Gippsland, Thomas James Connor, teacher, aged 67y 3wks 1d [*ie b. 27 Feb 1813*], of sanguineous apoplexy, which he suffered from for 7 days. Son of Thomas James Connor, upholsterer, and Sarah Jenkins. Informant RAH Connor, son of the deceased, Alberton. Buried 1st June 1880 at Alberton, Church of England, Rev HA Betts. Born in London, lived 17 years in Tasmania, 1 year in Sydney and 21 years in Victoria. Married at St James Piccadilly at age 24 to Anne Peake, and had children Edward Peake (deceased), Thomas James (40), George William (deceased), Sarah Frances (35), Cornelia Anne (33), Edward Charles (31), Robert Arthur Henry (29) Florence Marie (27), Narcissa West (25).

Gippsland Standard 3 Jun 1880

The heavy downpour of rain between Thursday night and Saturday morning was not without its effect in swelling the numerous rivers and creeks in South Gippsland, but we have not heard of any serious damage accruing therefrom. On Saturday Merriman's Creek, which crosses the Sale road, was very much swollen but the driver of Cobb and Co's coach (Mr. H. Gardiner) managed to effect a crossing in safety. Not so, however, when he came to Monkey Creek, where (at 9:30a.m.) the water was far above the ordinary flood level, and to attempt to cross with the coach was simply out of the question. The only passenger was Mr. Thomas Connor, and he mounted one of the coach horses and essayed to follow Gardiner, who had charge of the mails on another horse. But when the driver was well nigh over and Mr. Connor about mid-stream, with his horse striking out well for the shore, the latter happened to jerk the rein, and thereby checked the animal, and both horse and rider rolled over into the deep water. But after being carried down a short distance by the force of the current Mr. Connor got to terra firma and nothing beyond a thorough drenching resulted from the mishap. Both parties then made the best of their way to Salter's half way house where their clothes were dried and the necessary rest and refreshment procured, and a fresh start being effected on horseback the mails were delivered to the Port at half past one o'clock on Sunday morning. On Tuesday afternoon, the coach arrived as usual, the creeks having fallen considerably since Sunday.

The Port School was re-opened yesterday by Mr. Turner, who arrived by coach the previous day for the purpose of temporarily filling the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. T. J. Connor. We understand that Mrs. Connor will shortly resume duties as work mistress and assistant teacher in the same school.

The Argus 5 Jun 1880

DEATHS - CONNOR.—On the 30th ult., at his residence, Seabank, Alberton, Gipps Land, Thomas James Connor, aged 67 years.

Launceston Examiner Sat 10 July 1880

THE LATE MR. T. J. CONNOR.

Old residents will remember Mr. Thomas James Connor, at that time in charge of the public school in Cameron-street (now a Trinity school). He then removed to Hobart Town, and was one of the principal masters at the High School. Subsequently he removed with his family to Victoria, where he died on 30th May at the age of sixty-seven. Mr. Connor was a most successful teacher, and was very useful in many public capacities.

The following notice of his death is extracted from the **Gippsland Standard, of 3rd June** :

On Sunday, the 23rd ultimo, while sitting at the dinner table with his family, Mr. **Connor** suddenly became speechless from an attack of paralysis just as he was finishing a short sentence addressed to his son-in-law Mr. Denham. He recovered the use of the tongue immediately afterwards and remarked with surprise that he had been unable to speak. A further attack, however, came on a few moments afterwards, and he became paralysed down the right side of the body, and Dr. Pearless was sent for to attend the sufferer, but he never once rallied sufficiently to inspire hopes of recovery, and on Saturday night last death came to his relief at the moderately ripe age of 67 years. The deceased was a very old colonist, as will be gathered from the following brief outline of his history since his arrival in Tasmania in the year 1841. In that year Sir John Franklin (Governor of Van Diemen's Land, then so called) sent home for a staff of efficient school teachers, and Messrs. **Connor**, Bonwick, Lowe, Hall, Rainey, and Chambers were sent out in response to that call as being first-class teachers. Mr. **Connor** was accompanied by his wife and their two infant sons and, as one of Tasmania's first pioneers under the education system, **Mr. and Mrs. Connor** had charge of the central school of Hobart Town for about fourteen years. After a sojourn of eighteen years in Tasmania, Mr. **Connor** came over to Victoria with his wife and family, and landed in Melbourne on the day when Flying Buck won the first champion race run in the colony [1 Oct 1859], but it is to the history of deceased as a resident of South Gippsland that we desire more particularly to refer in the present **obituary** notice. On the 29th of May, 1867, Mr. **Connor** took up his abode as proprietor of a station on the Jack River, in the Alberton district, but in course of time the land was rushed by selectors and the original holder was compelled to abandon it with the exception of one small section and the selection now held by his son Arthur. It was at that stage of his history that the subject of our remarks resumed his old calling, and as head teachers in the Alberton State School both **Mr. and Mrs. Connor** were well and favourably known for a long series of years, but more recently in charge of the Yarram and Port Albert Schools, as our readers are already aware. The deceased gentleman lived to see his family grow up in honour and respectability around him, and it must be a source of deep gratification to those who mourn his departure as the head of a large family circle that he was spared the pain of a lingering illness, and that from the hour of his attack until the closing scene he appeared to be conscious of the great change that awaited him and well prepared to meet it. Although no word was uttered during his illness, it was noticeable that when questions were asked or remark offered he signified his pleasure and acquiescence by pressure of the hand, and by this means communication was enjoyed until the evening of dissolution. The deceased acted with prudent fore thought many years ago by effecting a policy of insurance upon his life for a moderate amount, and as it is but reasonable to expect that the Government will recognise the long and valued services of both **Mr. and Mrs. Connor** by awarding a sum equivalent to the retiring allowance that would have accrued in the ordinary way in the event of resignation, there should be no ground for doubt as to the provision that will be made for his widow and her unmarried daughters. The funeral took place on Tuesday afternoon in the Alberton General Cemetery, the remains being interred in the grave next to that tenanted by his son, Mr. George **Connor**, who died at Alberton about seven years since. Among those who attended the funeral it is worthy of note that the following members of the family were present :-Mr. **Thomas Connor**, of South Yarra, Mr. Charles **Connor**, of Ballarat, Mr. Arthur **Connor**, of Alberton (sons of deceased), also Mr. J. D. Ferres, Mr. Denham (sons-in-law) and the two sons of the latter.

Public Records Office Vic. Wills and Probate Records 1841-1925. File No 20/962

Estate of Thomas James Connor inherited by Anne

Assets	£	s	d	Distribution	£	s	d
Weatherboard Cottage Port	150	-	-	Mortgage over cottage Port	110	-	-

Albert				Albert			
Selection 33 acres Alberton East	32	12	-	Rents paid on selections	17	14	-
Selection 106 acres Alberton West	145	8	-	George Smith butcher	33	-	-
Life Assurance Policy	500	-	-	Samuel Griffiths draper	5	-	-
Furniture	65	-	-	J&G McKenzie draper	3	-	-
Dray and Harness	10	-	-	J Rayner grocer £10; Shaw produce £14/5/3	24	5	3
Plough and Harrows	7	-	-	L. Goodall wages £6; Rossiter newspaper £3	9	-	-
25 head cattle £25; 3 Horses £20	45	-	-	Funeral expenses	15	-	-
Buggy	15	-	-				
11 pigs £8; wheelbarrow and tools £2	10	-	-				
				Balance	763	0	9
Total	980	-	-		980	-	-

Signed **Anne Connor**, executrix

Public Records Office Vic. Wills and Probate Records 1841-1925. File No 20/962

Probate granted **22 Sep 1880**

1 Oct 1880 Teacher Record Book (PROV)

Anne Connor (Teacher No 579). Order of the Governor in Council for superannuation of Mrs. Connor @ £10.6.0 per annum from 1st Oct 1880.

Rate Books Alberton 1880

Annie Connor, 100 acres West Alberton 10/-; 48 acres Alberton 8/-

1881 Teacher Record Book (PROV)

Order in Council for payment as a gratuity of £122 19s. 3d to **widow of late T.J. Connor** on the principle of Part 6 Section 46 of the Public Service Act.

Rate Books Alberton 1881

Annie Connor, 48 acres, 8 room wooden house

Rate Books Alberton 1883

Annie Connor, 48 acres, 8 room wooden house 15/-

Rate Books Alberton 1884

April 2012; Search of National Library Trove database for references to 'Connor' or 'Conner' in Tas., NSW and Vic newspapers between 1840 and 1954 by A. Connor

Annie Connor, 48 acres, 8 room wooden house 15/-

Rate Books Alberton 1885

Annie Connor, 48 acres, 8 room wooden house 15/-

Rate Books Alberton 1886

Annie Connor, 48 acres, 8 room wooden house 15/-

Rate Books Alberton 1887

Annie Connor, 48 acres, 8 room wooden house 15/-

Rate Books Alberton 1888

Annie Connor, 48 acres, 8 room wooden house 15/-

Gippsland Standard c.7 Jun 1889

DEATH

PEAKE – On 5th instant, at Narracoorte S.A., after an illness of four hours, Robert Peake, the beloved brother of Mrs. Connor of Sea bank, Old Port, aged 73 years.

Public Records Office Vic. Wills and Probate Records 1841-1925. File No 56/505

Last will and testament of Anne Connor was made on 7 Aug 1889. Anne left everything to her unmarried daughters Sarah Frances and Narcissa West Connor, to be divided equally. Executors Sarah Frances, Narcissa West and Robert Arthur Henry Connor. Witnesses Thomas and Arthur Burrows.

Gippsland Standard 17 Nov 1894

DEATH

CONNOR – At Seabank, Port Albert, on the 16th Nov., Annie Connor, relict of the late Thomas J. Connor, aged 84 years.

FUNERAL NOTICE

The Friends of the late Mrs. T.J. CONNOR are respectfully invited to follow the remains to the place of interment at the Alberton Cemetery on SUNDAY (tomorrow), Nov. 18th. The Funeral will move from the residence, Seabank, at 2p.m., the interment in the cemetery to be at half-past two

Wm. McKERROW, Undertaker

Alberton 16th November 1894.

IN MEMORIAM

For the fifth time this month an obituary notice appears in the 'Standard' announcing the death of a resident of this district. And Although three of the number whose death has caused mourners to assemble at the grave's mouth were called hence after passing the allotted span of three score and ten – two having exceeded the four score limit – there is heaviness at the heart and a twitch in the fingers as one sits down to write the name of a fellow friend and traveller for the last time ere the remains are committed "ashes to ashes dust to dust" to their final resting place. Even the young men in our office remember with the kindest of feelings the exemplary conduct, patient forbearance, and diligent discharge of duty in the Port Albert State School by **Mr. and Mrs. T.J. Connor**; and the same observation will apply to the young people of both sexes at Alberton and Yarram. But the pre-deceased schoolmaster bade a long and last farewell to his scholars 14 years ago, and in consequence of his death, Mrs. Connor retired from the service, and has resided with her two daughters at Seabank up to the time of her death which took place yesterday morning under the most peaceful and painless circumstances. In short this venerable and deeply respected Christian of the good old school simply passed from the sleep temporal to the rest eternal under wing of a painless attack of apoplexy just before the breakfast hour; and nothing could be more suggestive of a happy and peaceful life than the departure of this octogenarian, whose remains will find a fitting resting place in the same section of the cemetery as that which closed in upon the coffin of her late husband in the year 1880. The advent of the late Mr. and Mrs. Connor dates back as far as 1841, when they were induced to leave England, where they had served together under the Borough Road School system, and took up their abode in Tasmania. This was at a juncture when the late Sir John Franklin was Governor of the Island, and was manly instrumental in bringing in a sound and progressive system for the benefit of the young people in the then penal colony. but it was emancipated about 10 years afterwards, when life became pleasanter and the future worth living for to the happy couple whose sojourn at Hobart Town (now Hobart) extended to 1866, in which year Mr. and Mrs. Connor and their family came over to Victoria and subsequently settled in South Gippsland. It is suggestive of the old colonist the No. 1 State School (Alberton) was the first to engage **Mr. and Mrs. Connor's** attention. Some years afterwards, Yarram was the seat of operations, but later on still these veteran teachers took charge of the Port Albert school in succession to the late W. Dicker. But thus much of the life of her whose death we have to chronicle will show that she spent a useful and industrious life until she reached the age of seventy. And from that point to the final halt, which closed her earthly career yesterday morning, this warm hearted and genuine type of Englishwoman spent her days and passed her nights in the cosy old home at Seabank in the midst of her family. One by one her sons and daughters have married, and two deaths have occurred at long intervals – namely Mr. Geo. Connor and Mrs. H. Denham (son and daughter). But Miss Fanny and Miss Sissie Connor still remain single, and for them especially, as well as for the entire family of the Connors, the sincerest sympathy will be felt by a very large circle of friends in their present bereavement. The cortege will move from Seabank at two o'clock tomorrow afternoon, en rout to the Alberton cemetery, as notified by Mr. W. McKerrow, who has been trusted with conduct of the funeral.

Gippsland Standard 21 Nov 1894

The funeral of the late **Mrs. T.J. Connor**, whose death we recorded in our issue of Saturday last, was very largely attended on Sunday afternoon when the Rev. H.A. Betts read the burial service of the Church of England in a very impressive manner, in the presence of the sons and other relatives of the deceased, including Messrs Arthur, Charles and Thomas Connor (sons) Mr. H. Denham (son-in-law), Mr. John Ferres (whose son is married to a daughter of the late Mrs. Connor), Mr. George Denham and Master Charles Ferres (grandsons). The cortege was one of the

longest on record, the many wreaths, crosses and other floral tributes that were placed on the coffin bearing testimony to the love and respect that had been en--- for the loved subject of our no--- while living, and which followed her to the grave in the Alberton cemetery. It will be gratifying to the many friends and family to hear that it is not intended to break up the old home at Seabank, arrangements being in contemplation for Miss Fanny Connor and her sister to continue in occupation in company with a lady friend who will in future reside with them.

Gippsland Times 22 Nov 1894

DEATHS. CONNOR.--At Seabank, Port Albert, on the 16th Nov., **Annie Connor**, relict of the late **Thos. Jas. Connor**, aged 84 years.

The Argus 23 Nov 1894

DEATHS. CONNOR.--On the 18th inst., at Seabank, Port Albert, **Anne** relict of the late Thomas J Connor, aged 84 years

Australia Death Index 1787-1985 (Ancestry.com)

Name: **Anne Connor**
Death Place: Alberton, Victoria
Age: 83
Father's Name: Peake Edwd
Mother's Name: Elizabeth
Registration Year: **1894**
Registration Place: Victoria
Registration number: 11639
Estimated Birth Year: abt 1811

Register of Deaths in the District of Alberton Colony of Victoria 1894

Reg. No 11639. **Anne Connor**, widow aged 83 died on 16 Nov 1894 at Seabank, Alberton East, of central apoplexy from which she suffered for 10 hours. Dr Louis Birch visited her on the 16th. She was the daughter of Edward Peake, Vestry Clerk and Elizabeth Peake (maiden name unknown). The death was informed by Robert Arthur Henry Connor (her son). The death was registered on 17 Nov at Alberton and Anne was buried at Alberton Cemetery on 18 Nov 1894 by the Rev H.A. Betts, Church of England minister. Anne was born in Bradford Yorkshire England and lived 17 years in Tasmania, 1 year in NSW and 35 years in Victoria. She was married in London aged 24 years to Thomas James Connor and they had children Edward Peake (dec.) Thomas James (54), George William (dec.), Sarah Frances (50), Cornelia Ann (dec.), Edward Charles (46), Robert Arthur Henry (44), Florence Mary (42), and Narcissa West (40).

Public Records Office Vic. Wills and Probate Records 1841-1925. File No 56/505

Last will and testament of **Anne Connor** was made on **7 Aug 1889**. Anne left everything to her unmarried daughters Sarah Frances and Narcissa West Connor, to be divided equally.

The estate was valued at £844 (including real estate valued at £786)