

Hobart 2020-200 Anniversary Programme



Greetings to all our W & M Wilson Family Members

This is by way of an update report to let you know about recent developments in our planning for the 2020/200 year Hobart Anniversary Celebrations. And there have been several quite exciting developments. In particular concerning the provenance of the violin which our forebear William Hartley Wilson brought to Australia in 1820, and also in regard to a wonderful proposal and invitation we have received from the Chairman of Council, and Museum Curator of Scots Church in Hobart – the Museum today is the original Scots Church of 1824 built by William.

William's Violin (or, fiddle if you so prefer)

This information is of very recent discovery which brings exciting new interest on the matter of William's violin. He brought it with him on the Skelton voyage in 1820. His great-grandson, David Hartley Wilson played the fiddle throughout his life and it has since been handed down to David's daughter Jane Stevens Wilson who also plays it.



We recently discovered from a written diary record about the Skelton voyage by a fellow passenger (Thomas Scott Diary – Mitchell Library, Sydney) that William several times entertained the passengers with his music during the voyage as they danced and sang to their enjoyment.

Scott mentions William's fiddle prowess on several occasions including the Crossing the Line ceremony with King Neptune aboard: and also William's generosity in sharing a nip or two of gin he had aboard.

In the process of polishing the fiddle some months back our Tassie cousin Jane Wilson looked down into the violin's inners and thought she saw some writing which on closer inspection with a torch displayed the name of the violin's maker, William Sandy of Alyth, Scotland. Jane's research subsequently via a Fife based specialist on violin provenance, now informs us that Sandy was a highly noted maker of violins and other musical instruments of the mid to late 18th century. Only one other Sandy violin is recorded as being held in Australia and apparently few are known around the world. We can only wonder did William purchase this violin, or, was it his father or mother.

Sandy was a most unusual man, indeed his story is a quite amazing one because of his most unusual personal circumstances. But we will delve no further on this now as Sandy's and the violin will be feature stories to be told by Jane at our welcoming gathering at Narryna Museum, as will the playing there of William's violin by a Tassie artist who is accomplished in Scottish folk jigs and tunes. We also plan the playing of a beautiful Scottish Lament when we visit the Hestercombe gravesite.

Jane has had a luthier (had anyone heard of a luthier before?) restoration specialist give the violin a comprehensive restoration to bring it right up to first class condition ready for our Narryna and Hestercombe occasions.

How incredibly fortunate we are as a family clan, to be able to assemble and sail on Tall Ships into Hobart harbour exactly 200 years to the day and time of day after William & Margaret sailed in on the Skelton, with his beloved violin under his arm, and to experience musical notes precisely as did he, and his family, and no doubt his many friends. They live on through all of us.

The Scots Church Invitation

We have received an invitation from the Scots Church Council for a very special ceremony to take place on the fourth day of our Hobart Programme. It will involve a special commemorative service at the parish's morning service which will pay tribute to William & Margaret for their part in establishment of the parish and the first church building in 1824.



It is to be followed by a St. Andrew's Day memorial ceremony in the grounds of the Church property which will include a Trooping of the Colours, with period dressed military escort, and accompanied by a six member piper band dressed in full ceremonial regalia.

Following the ceremony we are invited to join parishioners for morning tea in the spacious church Hall, at which time a closing comment will be made by our Planning Committee leader (Shirley Davies OAM), and to express our appreciation to Scots Church and wish all well as they go their way.

What an absolutely marvellous and fitting closing occasion this will be for our four day Anniversary Programme in Hobart, and what an honour the parish so extends to us all.

The Scottish Connection – Monikie Kirk (St Andrew's, Monikie)

However, there is even more in the offing with which the Scots Church Hobart Council is assisting us, and which if successful, will add even greater meaning and import to the occasion. We are in communication with the Monikie Kirk (also St Andrew's) Council in Monikie, Scotland seeking by loan or donation to secure a set of pewter chalices, shown here, which date to 1789.



These items were placed in the Newbigging Church which was built by William's stonemason father, John Wilson, in 1789. John had participated with this Church's parishioners in its secession from the Church of Scotland as a separate parish during the mid 1780s. These items would have been used by members of our Wilson family in services at Newbigging.

We should know within a few weeks if this initiative will be successful with Monikie Kirk's support.

Meantime as a reminder, on the following pages we have laid out a summary of the 2020/200 Hobart Programme as it now looks - where we'll go, and the events we'll enjoy over the four days.

Accommodation Alert

We are advised that accommodation bookings in Hobart during our November 2020 four days are likely to become very tight as the year progresses – due to the normal seasonal demand with tourists, but also an expected influx of celebrating groups such as our own.

We are aware that another Skelton descendant family will also be celebrating the 200th anniversary at the same time and this family claims they will have over a thousand attending, including Headlams from abroad.

We have explored the possibility of early Group reserving of a 50 room allotment at a central Hobart Hotel (RACV Tasmania) as an accommodation security precaution, against which those attending our celebrations may make reservations and pay deposits/full tariffs for bookings and with full refund cancellation options up to a date close to our Programme commencement date. The RACV Apartment Hotel may become the hub for our Programme of Hobart events.

The 50 room reservation we anticipate making, if not advance booked and paid by attendees, will be progressively reduced by the hotel at intervals of 90, 60 and 30 days prior to our November Programme start date (25th). Further information will be made available during the next few weeks.

Your Steering Committee will be obliged to submit a sizeable reservation holding deposit for which your funding support will be required – a further email will be issued in the a few days elaborating on the now emerging financial obligations for all events where initial Deposits are required.

The Hobart 200 years Anniversary Programme – November 26th to 29th, 2020

Narryna Museum - Our programme commences Thursday 26th at 3pm at Narryna Museum shown here where we may inspect all of the historic materials on display in the several rooms, and most especially including personal items of William & Margaret – her wedding bonnet and gloves, his wedding shirt embroidered with his initials, William’s fiddle, two New Testament books which William presented ‘to his betrothed’ at Carnoustie, Scotland in 1820 and signed by him, and Margaret’s cosmetics box.



Richmond Village – Friday morning 27th, spend time exploring the historic village including William’s Bridge, St John’s and St Luke’s churches, the 1825 gaol, the model Hobart village and other places. We will have a group photograph at the Bridge, and then have a light mixed platters lunch at the Richmond Arms hotel. Our coaches will return us to Elizabeth Pier in Hobart for 2.30pm boarding of our Tall Ships for a ‘voyage’ of re-enactment on Derwent Estuary, and a short ‘arrival’ ceremony on return to the pier. At 4.45pm on to the Royal Yacht Club for a Group dinner and Awards night.



The Tall Ships – the brig Lady Nelson, a replica of the original ship, and the brigantine Windeward Bound, crewed by highly experienced captains and crew – **and all the kids will get to steer them.**



The 'voyage' will comprise about one and a quarter hours of sailing, the balance moving in and out of the pier, and a short ¼ hour 'arrival/welcome' ceremony. Period costumery is encouraged.

Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania – dinner in this spacious and scenic facility (just 20 minutes by coach from the pier) will comprise a two course roasts and dessert menu, and a kids menu. This will be an evening of Family fellowship, and for some special Awards to be made to the young members of Family present for their sailing prowess and their on tour artistic/competitive talent, and a few to some special adult members too. Coaches will be on hand for returns to our Hobart hub.

Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania



Saturday Morning at Salamanca – known as being one of the best open markets in Australia, we have from early (it opens at 6am! – and it'll be daylight saving time) till 10.30am to explore the market at Salamanca Place with its endless stalls and cafes featuring everything one might imagine.



Hestercombe - At 10.30 Saturday we board our coaches right alongside Salamanca at Brooke Street Pier, and head off out of Hobart, firstly to William & Margaret and son Frederick Langloh and Jane's resting place, Hestercombe, to view the gravesite and for a brief remembrance ceremony where we will enjoy a beautiful Scottish Lament, played for us on William's fiddle at the graveside.

Derwent Estate Vineyard – after William's passing in 1856, Margaret and the Frederick Langloh family lived and farmed here (it was known as Mount Nassau Estate) between 1865 and 1913. A beautiful property beside the Derwent River, today produces some excellent wines which those who wish may spend some time savouring prior to enjoying a relaxed luncheon on the lawns right outside the Mt Nassau residence where the family lived. Margaret passed on here in 1875.



Mount Nassau at Granton - Margaret passed away here in 1875
It was a farming home for Frederick Langloh/Jane Stevens and family
Our 2020 visit will allow viewing inside the home



Gretna – 'Clarendon on the Derwent'

Following our Derwent Estate luncheon we'll drive on for about 30 minutes to view the childhood home of Eliza Wilson. Eliza was from an unrelated Wilson family, her parents William Borrodaille Wilson, and Grace nee Terry. Eliza and William Sorell Wilson from our Wilson family were married in 1856 at O'Brien's Bridge (Glenorchy today). Clarendon is a magnificent dairy property – see it here.

Clarendon on the Derwent, Gretna
Family home of Eliza Wilson, wife of William Sorell Wilson



The old 'Clarendon' home still exists today sitting panoramically above the Derwent River; it is the larger two story component of the buildings shown in the image. Externally it is largely unchanged from its original 1821 appearance. Unfortunately William Borrodaille lost the property during the mid-1820s as a result of a series of severe drought years, and, according to legendary stories in that family he perhaps dabbled a little too heavily in bloodstock breeding and racing. At the time he was heavily in debt to one James Walker who foreclosed and took over the property. He died in Maldon Victoria, having gone to the goldfields in an unsuccessful attempt to recover financially.

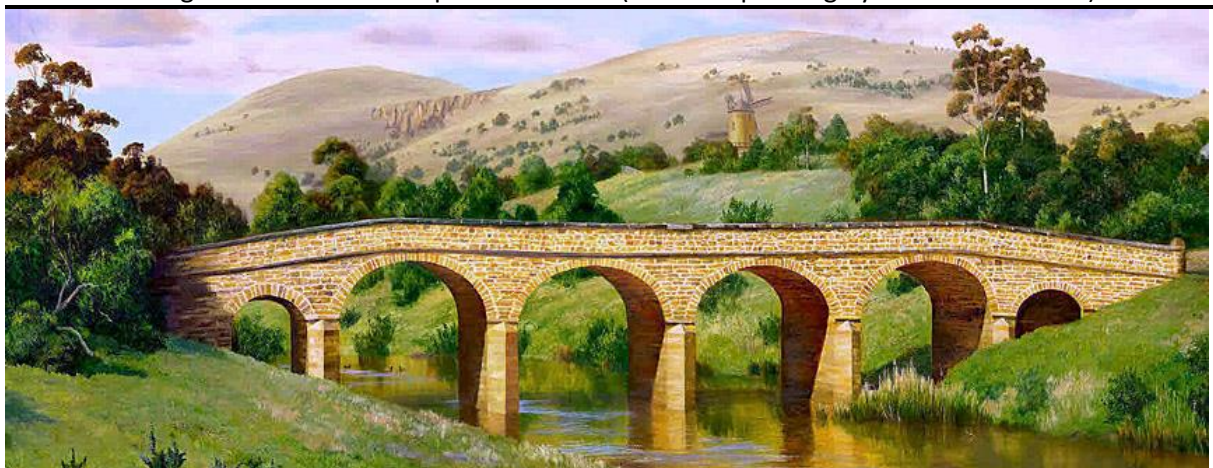
The Langloh Family

Time permitting we may also drive on to Langloh Park which is a little further on along the highway past the town of Hamilton. Frederick and Mary (nee Parker) Langloh were fellow passengers on the Skelton from Leith Scotland and it is obvious the two couples became very close friends during the five month voyage. Not only did William and Margaret christen their second born son Frederick Langloh, but the Langloh name carried down the Wilson family in subsequent generations.

Frederick and Mary Langloh were granted over 2000 acres indicating they had considerable capital the amount of capital used by the authorities to determine the grant size. The location of their grant is today known as Langloh Park.

The Scots Church Invitation Sunday 29th am - (covered in the opening pages)

Richmond Bridge – as it was on completion in 1825 (from the painting by Mrs Joan Humble)



Bonnie William's Origins – Newbigging Village, Angus, Scotland; Drumsturdie/Laws Hill Farm mid/rear

