

THE STORY OF THOMAS & ANN STONE

The King's Orphan School for Boys: 1831-1836

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Introduction

In 1969 the descendants of Thomas and Ann Stone celebrated the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of their arrival in Hobart Town, Van Diemen's Land on the 11th October 1819. To mark the occasion a plaque was unveiled in St John's Church, New Town which alluded to their contribution to the education of children in the early colony and in particular their service as Master and Mistress of the Male Orphan School in New Town from 1831 to 1836.

As one of those descendants, who has also been involved in schools, I have been interested in seeking to fill out the details of Thomas and Ann's time as teachers, especially their six years in New Town. I have been disappointed to find how little this contribution is regarded by recent writers and at the same time concerned that some descriptions of the history of the Orphan Schools fail to differentiate between the various periods in the life of the schools.

Of particular concern is the way the problems described by Dr Edward Swarbeck Hall in the 1850s are by implication ascribed to the period before the schools were taken over by the Convict Department in 1845 as a government cost-saving measure.¹

The Education of Orphans

The question of making provision for the education of orphans as well as the children of poor families and of those who lived in remote areas had been considered by Lieutenant Governor Sorell² but it was not until the arrival of Lieutenant Governor George Arthur and Archdeacon T. H. Scott's inquiry into the state of schools in V.D.L. that some definite action was taken, supported by the Home Government.³

In 1826 the Lieutenant Governor received information from chaplains and other officials around the colony about the number of children who might be admitted to an orphan school. They listed over 120 children, often including quite specific details. "The children were also located throughout the Colony, not just in the major population centres. The youngest child listed was only seven weeks old. Children over 12 years were listed, particularly in Hobart, and many were girls thought in danger as three of them are noted as living in brothels."⁴

When Archdeacon Scott provided figures for the Lieutenant Governor in 1828 he asserted that there were 235 children, including orphans, who were in distress or living with bad characters.⁵ Early in 1828 sites had been found for the schools. The Boys' School was to be accommodated in a disused distillery on the edge of the New Town Rivulet in New Town and the Girls' School in the property known as "Bellevue" in Davey Street, Hobart Town. As a result the following notice appeared in the Hobart Town Courier on Saturday 29 March 1828, (page 3):

¹ For example: Rebecca Kippen, 'A most shocking tissue of barbarous cruelty': scandal and death in the Queen's Orphan Schools, "Chainletter", Newsletter of the "Founders and Survivors" project, No 5, pp5f; and Joyce Purtcher, Suffer Little Children, <http://www.orphanschool.org.au/suffer.php>

² McKinlay, chapter 6

³ McKinlay, pp60-65

⁴ McKinlay, p7

⁵ McKinlay, p74

“GOVERNMENT NOTICE. No. 69. Colonial Secretary's Office; March 27, 1828.

“THE ESTABLISHMENTS for the KING'S SCHOOLS at Hobart-town; having been reported to The Lieutenant Governor, to be ready for the reception of Male and Female Children, applications for admission will now be received.

“Children will be admitted into the King's Schools, according to the following classification:

1. Those who are entirely destitute.
2. Those who have one Parent living.
3. Those who have both Parents living, but whose Parents are totally incompetent to afford them means of Education.
4. Children whose Parents may be enabled to contribute the moderate sum which will be required for the care, maintenance, clothing and education of children in the King's Schools, viz; £12 per annum.

“Application for the admission of the first three classes, must be made after the annexed form; and for the admission of the 4th class, by letter addressed to the Colonial Secretary, as the future disposal of such children will be left to the discretion of their Parents.

“By Command of His Excellency,

J. BURNETT.”

The application was to be accompanied by the child's Baptism Certificate as well as a Recommendation signed by the Clergyman and Police magistrate of the District.

The Management Committee

In April the management of the King's Orphan Schools was provided for by the appointment by the Lieutenant Governor of a Committee consisting of the Venerable Archdeacon Scott, Major Kirkwood, Joseph Hone, Esq., Affleck Moodie, Esq. and the Reverend William Bedford.⁶ At the first meeting of the Committee, guided by a minute from the Lieutenant Governor, the members adopted regulations for the schools detailing the rations allowed for members of staff and pupils which would be obtained from the Government Commissariat or Ordinance Store. The Masters of the Schools, their families and other members of staff received rations of meat, flour, tea, sugar, salt and soap but the school children also received a ration of oatmeal and vegetables.

They were also directed to send details of any necessary repairs to the Colonial Secretary who would give directions to the Engineers.

The Committee was to meet every week in order to consider applications for admission to the schools and to inspect the accounts, as well as visit the Schools to make sure that the regulations were being observed.

The Committee decided that the Reverend William Bedford would visit each school twice a week with any other available members and that the Committee would meet for business every Saturday morning at St David's Church.

The First Master

The first Master and Matron of the Male Orphan School were Mr Robert Wilkins Giblin and his wife Jessy who had arrived from England with their eight children in January 1827. He had conducted a successful

⁶ McKinlay, chapter 9

school in England but in the depression following the end of the Napoleonic Wars it had become unviable. After their arrival he opened a school at Kangaroo Point near the ferry.⁷

As Master, Robert Giblin was paid £100 a year and his wife £50 as Matron. They were assisted by a Beadle, Washerman, Gardener, Cook, Master's servant and two Nurses and some of these positions are likely to have been filled by assigned convicts.

At the time of his appointment the Committee of Management had not formalised the duties of the Master of the Male Orphan School but this omission was made good in 1830.

"1. The Master of the Male Orphan School is responsible that the supplies furnished for the use of the School are appropriated in strict conformity with the Government regulations and that those persons only are permitted to receive provisions or other articles belonging to the public who have been placed upon the Establishment by the Authority of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor.

"2. A nominal list of all persons supplied with rations during the week to be prepared and delivered to the Reverend Mr Norman⁸ every Wednesday evening that the same may be laid before the Committee on the following day.

"3. A nominal list of all the children in the School and the dates of their admission together with a statement of the reductions that have taken place from time to time in their numbers by dismissal or otherwise to be furnished to Mr Norman on the 25th of the present month.

"4. None of the children to be permitted to quit the School except for the purpose of attending Church, without the previous sanction of one of the Committee.

"5. A weekly report to be made to Mr Norman of every punishment inflicted in the School, particularising the offence in each case and containing a brief reference to the general character of the offender."⁹

There seem to have been problems with the execution of rule number 3. An inspection of the Registers of the Schools gives the names and details of 47 boys up to the end of 1829 and 16 girls for the same period. On the other hand a report in the Colonial Times published on Friday 15 January 1830 contains the following information: "There are now 77 scholars in the Male Orphan School at New-town, and 64 in the Female one at Hobart Town, besides about 50 whose admission has been sanctioned, but who cannot yet be received for want of accommodation."

The Male School Register lists 29 boys up to the end of February 1829 which matches fairly well with Mr Giblin's requisition of 30 slates in the same month and 25 straw hats in March together with 30 tin pannikins and dishes as well as 30 iron spoons.¹⁰

Robert Giblin was by all accounts an able and experienced teacher although he was a strict disciplinarian. However in 1830 the Committee became concerned about the state of the school and the progress of the pupils. "The Colonial Secretary, on behalf of the Lieut. Governor, told the Committee that all did not appear to be well. The last time he had visited the Male School he noted that the progress of the boys was extremely slow and that they showed a lack of energy and drowsiness."¹¹

Finally at the beginning of 1831 when a boy died soon after being hit repeatedly by the Master and other information came to light about the mistreatment of a number of the boys Mr Giblin was forced to resign.¹²

⁷ McKinlay, chapter 10

⁸ The Rev'd James Norman, Master of the Female Orphan School was appointed to the Committee in October 1829.

⁹ S.W.D. 24 p256, quoted in McKinlay pp93f

¹⁰ McKinlay pp114f

¹¹ C.S.O.1/490/10836 p. 9 quoted in McKinlay page 121

Thomas Stone's Appointment

This necessitated the immediate appointment of a new Master and the Committee asked Thomas Stone to fill the position — the Committee Minutes tell the story.¹³

“...placed Mr. Stone, the Master of the National School in the temporary charge of the Establishment. The keys of the Store were delivered over to Mr. Stone in the presence of the Committee — the Servants and children were directed to obey him as their Master for the present and it was notified to Mr. Giblin that his Rations would be stopped from the following day, Wednesday 19th January (1831).

“In selecting Mr. Stone for this duty, the Committee acted upon the recommendation of the Rev'd Mr. Bedford who depended a good deal upon that person's honesty and ability which he had shown in the management of the National School — but he was informed at the time that his appointment was merely temporary and that his confirmation would not be recommended to the favorable consideration of His Excellency unless his conduct gave full assurance to the Committee that the Rev'd Mr. Bedford's good opinion of him was not ill-founded.”

Through the Colonial Secretary, Lieut.-Governor Arthur informed the Committee that in his opinion, a Person not proper for the position had been placed in the (National) School at Hobart Town following the departure of Mr. Stone, and that Mr. Stone did not appear to be qualified to perform the multifarious and responsible duties which must devolve on the Master of the Orphan School. He called for a further report.

In reply, the Committee submitted respectfully “for the Lieutenant- Governor’s consideration that, having proposed among themselves to allow Mr. Stone one month from the date of his predecessor and family quitting the Establishment, for showing to the satisfaction of the Committee his fitness or unfitness to be continued in the situation of Master of the School”, they requested a postponement for the date for submission of the report.

A Memo in the Minutes of the Committee of 13th May, 1831, reads:—“The Committee assembled at the Male Orphan School at 9 o'clock in the morning for the purpose of making a final enquiry into the qualifications of Mr. Stone for the situation of Master.”

This enquiry had been in response to a letter from Thomas who had become tired of the delay in confirming his appointment (ref. Minutes 5th May, 1831): “Read a letter from Mr. Stone requesting earnestly that the Committee will decide upon his claims to be confirmed in his present situation and make their recommendation accordingly.”

So we see that from 18th January, 1831, Thomas was in temporary charge of the Male Orphan School in the Old Distillery at New Town. The Stones took over the apartments designed for the accommodation of Master and Matron on 4th March, 1831.

On 17th May, 1831, the Committee wrote a letter to the Colonial secretary in this connection. The Minute Book reads:

“The Committee having reflected on what they have observed when formally visiting the Male Orphan School (together and separately and casually and otherwise) as connected with their last visit on Monday, beg to report that they find the Boys have advanced in their learning since Mr. Stone has acted as Master, notwithstanding the many difficulties he has laboured under for want of a Beadle, and domestic comforts and accommodation.

“The Boys went through numerous exercises — Spelling, Reading, Writing and Arithmetic, evincing Mr. Stone's ability to teach, and the Boys’ aptitude to learn the

¹² McKinlay, chapter 14

¹³ The minutes are quoted in *Effloresco* pp48ff and are taken from “Minute Book 24-4-1828 to 23-10-1833”

System used by the National Schools. The Committee also find Mr. Stone every way disposed to attend to hints, suggestions, and advice — they are also satisfied that Mr. Stone is of unimpeachable moral reputation — to this extent therefore, they can and do, with pleasure recommend Mr Stone — if however in reference to the Lieutenant Governor's note on the Minutes of 10th March last, His Excellency should decide that a Person of general superior attainments is requisite as Master, he should be immediately sought for by advertisements, for the Committee do not at present know of one so qualified.

“Sanction is solicited for the Committee seeking by advertisement for a married man as Beadle, whose Wife could assist the Matron in domestic and other concerns, at a Salary of £60 per annum for the two, as suggested in the Minute of 9th ultimo.”

Minutes of 2nd June, 1831, show the following letter was received from the Colonial Secretary:

“Colonial Secretary's Office 27th May, 1851.

“Gentlemen,

“Having submitted to the Lieutenant Governor your Report of the 19th Instant, I am directed to acquaint you that as His Excellency is concerned that any further delay would be extremely prejudicial, he has, on your recommendation, approved of the appointment of Mr. and Mrs. Stone as Master and Matron of the Male Orphan School.

“I have the Honor to be, Gentlemen, Your very obedient humble Servant,
J. J. Burnett”

Previous Experience

Thomas and Ann Stone had arrived in Hobart Town in October 1819 when still in their early twenties and expecting their first child. They both came from Bristol, England where Thomas' father was a pawnbroker and Ann's father was a silk hat manufacturer. I have not been able to find any details of the educational background of either of them, but apparently it was sufficient to give Thomas the confidence to open a school for boys before the end of the year.

The following advertisement appeared in the *Hobart Town Gazette, and Southern Reporter* on Saturday, November 27, 1819:

“Thomas Stone respectfully informs the Inhabitants of Hobart Town, that on Monday the 6th December he intends opening a SCHOOL for the Education of Young Gentlemen, at his cottage on Hospital Hill.—The Terms moderate; and he hopes by unremitting Attention to Pupils entrusted to his Care to merit Countenance and Support.”

At a time when there were very few schools in Tasmania it would appear that Thomas Stone's new venture met with some success. At the beginning of 1820 he again invited custom.

“Thomas Stone returns his most sincere Thanks to the Inhabitants of Hobart Town, for the very liberal Support he has received since the opening of his ACADEMY for the Education of Young Gentlemen; and encouraged by the Confidence they have placed in him, he begs Leave to inform them, that for the Accommodation of Families residing in the Country, it is his Intention to take Six Young Gentlemen as Boarders; and, by every Attention being paid both to their Instruction and Comfort, he hopes to merit a Continuance of that Patronage they have bestowed upon him.

* Terms may be known by applying at his Academy, in Bridge-street.”¹⁴

In September 1822 Thomas Stone again advertised the opening of his school, acknowledging the “liberal

¹⁴ *Hobart Town Gazette, and Southern Reporter* Saturday, February 26, 1820

Encouragement he met with during the last three years.” He gives details of a quite extensive curriculum: “Writing, Arithmetic, English Grammar, History, Geography, and Elocution, together with Dancing and the Rudiments of Drawing and Latin.”

Some time during 1824 Thomas closed his school and he and Ann took up the positions of Master and Mistress of the National School at Macquarie Point. Their salaries were £20 and £15 respectively. A residence was provided and there was enough ground for Thomas to think about establishing a vegetable garden. They were also able to purchase rations of meat and flour at the Government price.

Ann would have had to fit in her teaching duties with managing the house and a growing family which now included Emma (b. 10 Feb 1820), Ann (b. 8 Dec 1822) and Thomas (b. 25 July 1824).

At the end of 1826 an editorial in the “Colonial Times” which discussed problems in the contemporary public school system, including a shortage of teachers and the unwillingness of parents to send their children to school made one significant exception.

“The Hobart Town School, however, under the management of MR. STONE, presents a gratifying picture, and reflects much credit on Mr. and Mrs. Stone, and also on the REV. MR. BEDFORD, under whose immediate eye it is conducted; it contains about 100 children, and proves that there are plenty of children in the Colony, if they were but sent.”¹⁵

In spite of this appreciation of his work, towards the end of 1826, following the birth of their fourth child Joseph (b. 9 Oct 1826), Thomas was concerned about the family’s financial position and planning to return to England he wrote to W. H. Hamilton, the Colonial Secretary offering his resignation:

“Sir, The Emoluments arising from my situation as Schoolmaster being wholly inadequate to the support of my family, I shall be greatly obliged by His Excellency’s allowing me to resign my situation at the end of the ensuing January, as it is my intention to proceed to England about that period, by the *Hugh Crawford*.”

It would seem that the quality of Thomas and Ann’s work was appreciated by the Lieutenant-Governor because on the 27 Dec 1826 he directed that Thomas should be notified “that I have approved of Fifty Pounds to himself and Twenty-five Pounds to his wife, with such other emoluments or advantages as they now possess, to be their future rate of Salary from 1st October last.” However he added that this rate was not intended to be applicable to all Schoolmasters.

This was enough incentive for Thomas to cancel his plan to leave the colony but they would still be moving house as the National School was about to be moved to a new site in Liverpool Street.

The National School moved to 18 Liverpool Street in 1827 where Ann and Thomas would live and work until the end of 1830. During this time their family continued to grow with the birth of James (b. 26 September 1828, d. October 1828) and Edward (b. 19 February 1830).

In a School Return dated 13 January 1827, in Ann’s own handwriting, she is described as School Mistress of the National Central Female School, Hobart Town. There were 42 female students, aged from 3 to 14 years and a summary is given of their current educational achievements. Her two daughters featured in the return:

Emma, aged 7, was educated to “Collects¹⁶ from 1 to 10 by 3 stages. Reading Book No. 2, part 1st. Monosyllabic Writing. Needlework.”

Ann, aged 3, was educated to “Collects from 1 to 5 by 3 stages. Spelling Book No. 1, pages 3 and 4. Alphabetical Writing.”¹⁷

¹⁵ *Colonial Times* Friday, December 8, 1826

¹⁶ The Collects are liturgical prayers for each Sunday of the year and other Holy Days, in this case taken from the “Book of Common Prayer” of the Church of England.

¹⁷ *Effloresco* p44

Dr Bell's System of Education

From the description of the achievements of the pupils at the National School it is likely that they were following Dr Andrew Bell's System of education, which was certainly the case in all sixteen government schools in 1832.

Believing that students learned best from their fellow students, the more proficient were appointed as monitors or student teachers to help those who had reached a lesser standard as well as to keep records and perform other duties.

The lessons were also divided into small sections, each of which had to be mastered before moving on to the next. For example when learning to write they would start by tracing the letters i, l, t, o, one by one, pronouncing each one at the same time. When this was perfect they then learned the vowels in a similar way before putting together vowels and consonants in two letter syllables la, le, li, lo, lu, and so on.

Because the letters or syllables were pronounced while being written and longer words were divided into their syllables the pupils were learning to read and write at the same time.

Extensive use was made of material from the Book of Common Prayer and the Bible so that the students were learning moral and spiritual values while learning to read and write.

Arithmetic was taught in a similar way.

The following report in "The Hobart Town Courier" in April 1828 is again an appreciation of Thomas and Ann's professional competence as teachers.

"NATIONAL SCHOOL..—We have great pleasure in stating that on Monday the National School, in Liverpool street was visited by the Venerable the Archdeacon, when the children were publicly examined by the Archdeacon and the Reverend Mr Bedford. Three medals of different sizes were offered as prizes to the boys and girls, who were examined in the 3rd, and 12th Chapters of Genesis, the 40th and 53rd of Isaiah, the 3rd of Malachi, the 3rd of St. Mathew, 22nd of St. Luke, the 19th and 20th of St. John, all of which were repeated, as also the Chief truths of the Christian religion, Osterwald's Abridgement of the Bible, the Church Catechism, and the Rubric of Church of England, in all of which the candidates for the medals shared very considerable progress and knowledge. The conditions for being candidates for the medals were regular attendance at Church and School.

"The following rewards were given, viz.-The two large, silver medals to Joseph Edwards and Olive Drabble; also a large Bible and Prayer Book. The second silver medal to James Edwards, also a smaller Bible and Prayer Book. The two smallest medals to George Drabble and Susan Robinson, also a small Bible and Prayer Book.

"It was gratifying to observe that the children preferred taking Bibles and Prayer Books, to the money which was offered with the medals. During the whole course of the examination the intellectual improvement which they evinced, and the orderly conduct which they preserved, redounded very greatly to the credit of the master and mistress of the Institution, (Mr. and Mrs. Stone,) and the excellent discipline they maintained, to whose exertions the progress of the scholars is chiefly to be attributed.

"After enjoying themselves with a cold dinner, and tea, and cakes, with which they were entertained, the school broke up about five o'clock. It is the first public exhibition of the kind which has taken place in Hobart town, and we rejoice to learn that it is intended in future to be annual and more public."¹⁸

It would seem that the Committee had good reason to assume that Thomas Stone was the right person to fill the position of Master of the Boys' Orphan School which had suddenly become vacant in January 1831.

¹⁸ *The Hobart Town Courier*: Saturday, April 12 1828. page 3

Management of the Male Orphan School

According to the official Register of Boys at the Orphan School there were sixty boys in residence at the beginning of 1831 but this number should be higher because the names of some of the boys referred to in the Committee Minutes do not appear in the Register. When admitted the ages of these boys ranged from 2½ to 12 years and in the majority of cases at least one parent is named and eight are described as orphans. One boy is described as “an aborigine”. The total had risen from twenty-one at the end of 1828, to forty-seven a year later. The numbers would continue to rise, reaching sixty-four by the end of 1831 and seventy-seven by the end of September 1832.

This number must have already utilised all the available accommodation when the Committee was asked to find places for eight boys from the Cascades Female Factory because of crowding there. Committee Minutes for the 4th October 1832 record that ‘The Committee in consequence of the great number and crowded state of the children in the Female Factory beg leave to recommend to His Excellency that eight of the Eldest Boys at present in that Establishment be selected and transferred to the male orphan school’.¹⁹ No doubt they were able to make this recommendation because “Mr Stone reported that he could make arrangements for accommodation for 8 more boys if they could sleep in hammocks on stands in the School room (to be removed in the mornings before lessons.” This request must have been agreed to for on the 22nd October 1832 seven new boys were admitted and another three in November.

Being responsible for such a large group of young boys as well as his own young family would have been quite a challenge for Thomas Stone and his wife Ann. The Committee Minutes mention two responses to this responsibility. “Mr Stone reported that it would conduce to the comfort and health of the boys and cause a great saving of expense if a shoemaker were placed on the establishment.” (23rd June 1831) “Mr Stone applied for rations and clothing for one servant, and permission to keep one servant at his own expense in consequence of his young family.” (14th July 1831)²⁰

It was also becoming a challenge to the members of the Committee to keep up with their responsibilities as Archdeacon Scott had returned to Sydney before resigning his position and returning to England in 1829 and Major Tobias Kirkwood’s regiment had also left in 1829. This meant that there were only three members left: The Rev’d William Bedford, the Senior chaplain, Affleck Moodie, the Assistant Commissary General and Joseph Hone, the Master of the Supreme Court. Their weekly meeting in St David’s Vestry every Saturday morning and the need to prepare minutes so that Lieutenant Governor Arthur could make the final decision on their recommendations must have been a significant commitment in addition to their other duties.

Two appointments were made to ease the burden. In October 1829 the Rev’d James Norman was appointed as a member. In December 1828 he had been appointed Chaplain of New Town (although there was as yet no church building in the area) and Master of the Female Orphan School, with his wife Judith as Matron. Unfortunately Mrs Norman died in September 1829 but her husband continued as Master and a Mrs Clerke was appointed as Matron.

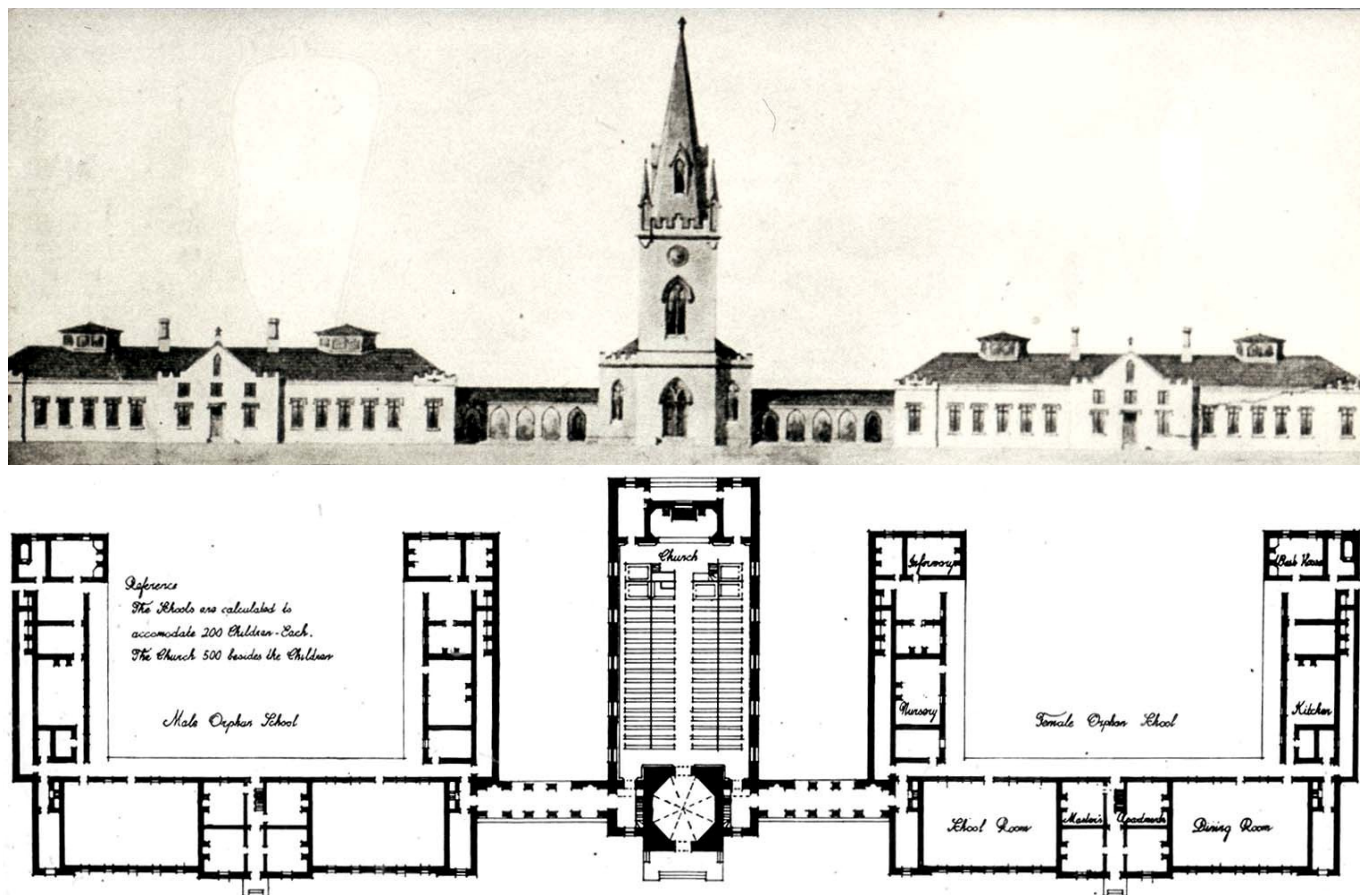
Perhaps even more significantly, in June 1830 George Thomas W. B. Boyes, the Auditor of Civil Accounts, was appointed to a new position as the Committee’s Secretary with a salary of £100 per annum. Boyes was a very capable official as well as a talented artist and musician but is remembered for his diaries which contain scathing comments on contemporary society.

¹⁹ Minutes for 4 Oct 1832, Minutebook, Committee of Management, King’s Orphan Schools, CSO 24/1/1, quoted in Frost p90)

²⁰ Quoted in *Effloresco* p50

Plan for New Buildings

The growth of the Orphan Schools also meant that the need to provide new buildings for them was becoming more and more urgent. The plans for these were drawn up by the Colonial Civil Engineer and Architect, John Lee Archer in 1829²¹ and building was to commence in 1830 as is evident from a reference in the Colonial Times on Friday 15 January 1830. "Two admirably planned buildings, to accommodate 150 each, are now about to be commenced for each School, on opposite sides of the road on the Government Land on this side of the New-town Rivulet."



The 1830 design for the Orphan Schools and associated Church building. The church design would later be radically altered.

The 1830 plan for the complex shows the mirror image school plans on either side of the church and joined to it by matching colonnades. The main section of each school included a school-room and dining room on either side of the Master's apartments. The kitchens, infirmaries, bath houses and other facilities were in wings beyond the main building, parallel to the church. There are a number of differences from the completed complex.

The original design included a chapel for the use of scholars but the local residents saw an opportunity to procure a church building for their use and made representations to the Lieutenant Governor. The result is set out in two notices in the Colonial Times for Friday 9 July 1830.

"Church at New Town, Hobart Town, June 14, 1830.

"It being the intention of the Government to commence forthwith two Establishments at New-town, on a large scale, for Male and Female Orphans, as also for the Children of poor distressed Parents; and several of the Inhabitants having expressed an anxious desire that a Church should be connected with these Establishments, and also their wish to contribute to its erection, in conjunction with the Government, by pecuniary Donations and Cartage, the under-mentioned Gentlemen have undertaken, at the request of His

²¹ Brown p26

Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, to act as a Committee for the purpose of collecting and receiving all Subscriptions, and paying the Amount into the Office of the Collector of Internal Revenue, for the above purpose, namely:

“The Members of the Orphan School Committee, and Messrs. Jocelyn Thomas, Roseway; John Bell, New-town; John Beamont, New-town; James Scott, Hobart Town; G. F. Read, Hobart Town; George Gatehouse, New-town; Henry James Emmett, New-town; John Dunn, Hobart Town.

“It is proposed, that Donations exceeding £5 each, shall be paid by Instalments, at the expiration of six, twelve, and eighteen Months.”

The other notice was placed by the Chairman of the new Committee, Joseph Hone, who was also a member of the Committee of Management, and set out the minutes of the first meeting of the Committee which lost no time in enlisting subscribers. By September they were able to publish a list of 124 subscribers with the amounts promised ranging from £50 from “A Friend” to “A Mite” of one shilling. Lieutenant Governor Arthur and Mrs Arthur were recorded as both subscribing twenty-five guineas.

The plans were altered to include a church which would serve the community as well as the schools while construction of the two school buildings continued. The church would include an impressive tower and with seating in north and south galleries as well as in the nave which would be able to accommodate 500 worshippers as well as the 200 children from each school.

By 1832 it appeared that it would be possible to move the children into the new premises before the end of the year. In March 1832 the Committee appointed Miss De Little as superintendent of the new Female Orphan School and requested that the premises be made available immediately for fifty girls.²²

The “Princess Royal” Women Emigrants

Unfortunately for the Committee and the girls they would have to wait another year before they could occupy their new home. The new school was needed to house a group of 200 female settlers who arrived in Hobart Town in August 1832 and needed to be accommodated until arrangements were finalized for them to enter into service or find other employment.

Their arrival in the *Princess Royal* was the result of a scheme of the British Government to assist in the passage of suitable young women to Van Diemen’s Land and N.S.W. to redress the imbalance between the sexes in the two young colonies. However the eagerly anticipated arrival of such an attractive group of immigrants did not start well as is explained in a despatch from Lieutenant Governor Arthur to the Right Honourable Viscount Goderich, Colonial Secretary at the time.

“On the 24th ultimo it was telegraphed that the *Princess Royal*, with the female Emigrants, in the midst of thick and hazy weather, had taken the wrong passage, and run into Frederick Henry Bay, about 10 leagues to the North-east of the Derwent. Throughout that night, and following day, there was one continued violent gale, during which the *Princess Royal* dragged her anchors, and at length, to avoid inevitable destruction, it was necessary to run her on shore. This information reached me on the evening of the 25th; immediate orders were given to send off the colonial vessels, with some trusty constables, who were married men; and contemplating that there would be much confusion, I deemed it expedient to proceed myself, accompanied by the chief police magistrate. Every effort to get the vessel off having proved ineffectual, it became necessary to adopt the most unpleasant and troublesome task of removing the women into small vessels, for the purpose of conveying them to Hobart Town: this was accomplished with less inconvenience than could have been anticipated, and the whole of the women were safely brought up and lodged in the Female Orphan School, which had been previously prepared for their reception.

²² McKinlay p 136

“I have the honour to apprise you of the formation of a Ladies’ Committee, consisting of 42 members, arranged in seven Sub-committees. These ladies have manifested the most zealous activity in making every previous arrangement for domiciliating the female Emigrants, and in consequence of their benevolent exertions, in the course of nine days 72 women have been provided for as milliners and dress-makers, or placed in the most respectable service.”²³

The original intent of the English Commissioners for Emigration was to send out a number of respectable females between the ages of sixteen and thirty from country areas who would be suitable for domestic service with a farming family or some other honest work in the colony. The government would pay half the cost of passage and the emigrant the other half.²⁴ In fact the emigrants were mostly chosen from girls from London who were in the Refuge for the Destitute, the Chelsea School of Reform or various workhouses. They were provided with free passage and although they were accompanied by a Surgeon, Matron and Chaplain the conditions of the voyage to their new home were not ideal. Then to cap it all they ran aground just before reaching their destination.²⁵

An early report in the Hobart Town Courier expressed the hope that there would be a good result from the arrival of the *Princess Royal* and its passengers.

“We trust these women will appreciate the advantage they possess over every other free settler that has yet come to the colony, in thus having an immediate asylum afforded them, and a committee of respectable and intelligent ladies appointed by the Governor himself to advise and assist them in obtaining situations. They will if they are prudent and friends to themselves, have an opportunity of doing well and of avoiding the numerous rocks and shoals on which new settlers are so frequently wrecked.

“And on the other hand, we should advise such of our readers as are inclined to employ them, to recollect they are free emigrants and entitled to be treated with every respect that their conduct will merit, while at the same time, for the sake of both parties, a proper agreement as in England should be entered into for a certain period of service, as a year, half-year or quarter, most certainly not less than a month, so that in the case of a separation the employer should not be left suddenly unawares without a servant, nor the servant sent abroad without a provision.”²⁶

In spite of this hope that there would be a measured response to the arrival of the newcomers the fact that two hundred females were arriving stirred up a lot of enthusiasm. As they were being transferred ashore on the *Tamar* and the *Charlotte* we are told that:

“Numerous boats were soon alongside the steamer, and considering all things, the young gentlemen in them, behaved themselves very pretty, but then Mr. Grant turned a deaf ear to all their numerous applications, to be permitted to go on board. At seven the fair cargo was landed at New Town, and immediately took possession of one of the wings of the Orphan School, which had been temporarily fitted up for their reception.

“Early on the Friday, Mrs Pedder and several of the Lady Committee, were in attendance, and the utmost order and regularity prevailed during the day. Some few of the damsels it is true, absented themselves, but then consider the temptations offered. Could it be expected that the young ladies would remain pent up longer than they could help; hosts of people went out in the course of Friday afternoon, to get a sight of the damsels, and we understand that on Saturday and Sunday, there was quite a fair at New Town; however,

²³Extract of a Despatch from Lieutenant-Governor Arthur to the Right Hon. Viscount Goderich, dated Van Diemen’s Land, 8th Sept. 1832: “Accounts and Papers”, Vol. XXVI, 1833

²⁴The Hobart Town Magazine, Volume 1, p 283

²⁵ibid p284

²⁶The Hobart Town Courier, Friday 31 August 1832, p 2

yesterday the ladies returned the visit, and Hobart Town was literally “all on a move” with the fair sex. Many we are glad to find have obtained situations and we are very certain, that they have only to behave themselves in a becoming manner, and a comfortable station in future life will be guaranteed them.”²⁷

The Orphan Schools Committee were worried about this situation and on the 10th October recorded in the minutes:

“As to the Female Establishment, we regret to find it much disorganised, in comfort, at least, by reasons of the perhaps unavoidable introduction of the newly arrived Female Emigrants. It is impossible for us to enter upon the Subject in detail. We would only advert to the fact of the women being wholly free and not restrained or capable of being restrained, even if the means of doing so were within our power, —last Sunday, sailors and others were outside the Building, and some of the Women unavoidably in communication with them, to the bad example of all others thereabout, the discredit of the Establishment, and the consequent dissatisfaction of our Prisoner Servants — it is noted that these Women will be speedily removed and that the Government will be able to accommodate such as may hereafter arrive in some other suitable Building. In all other respects things are going on well.”²⁸

Back at the old Distillery

The committee minutes for 1833 show that Thomas Stone was concerned about the boys’ clothing and the possibility of some instruction in trade skills. In January he recommended that a tailor be appointed to the establishment to take care of the repair of the boys’ clothes which were in a very ragged condition. In February he was able to report that a tailor and a shoemaker had been sent to the school, but he must at that stage have not seen the tailor at work. Like many of the school’s servants he was an assigned convict but he had been refused assignment by Mr Lightfoot and did not have the proper use of his hands. The minutes for the 7th March commented that “he did not appear to be the type of person who could fill the committee’s intention that the tailor should instruct the boys in his trade” and on the 28th March “the appointment of a Free Settler as tailor was approved if one could be found”.

Another major concern of the Committee was the boys’ Sunday morning walk from New Town to St David’s Church in Hobart for Divine Service. St John’s Church had not yet been built, it was not until the 6th January 1834 that Lieutenant Governor Arthur laid the foundation stone, but apparently arrangements were made for services to be held in the Female Orphan School in April 1833.

“The Committee finding it is now practicable to commence Divine Service at the Female Orphan School, arranged for giving notice thereof to the Inhabitants of New Town and its vicinity and for the first service being held on Sunday next at 3 o’clock and to continue thenceforth at the same hour on each succeeding Sunday.”²⁹

This arrangement was approved by the Lieutenant Governor.

“Read a letter from the Colonial Secretary dated 4th instant, conveying His Excellency’s approval for the arrangement made for the performance of Divine Worship at the Female Orphan School, New Town, as reported in the last Minutes.”³⁰

²⁷Colonial Times, Tuesday 4 September 1832, pp 2f

²⁸*Effloresco* pp 51f – The date given there is 10 October 1833 but it probably should be 1832.

²⁹Minutes 18 April 1833

³⁰Minutes 16 May 1833

Since there were now about 120 boys in the Male Orphan School, as reported to the Committee by Thomas Stone on the 4th July, the Committee proposed that they should attend the services being held closer to the School.

“As Divine Service is now regularly performed at the New Orphan School every Sabbath morning, the Committee consider it highly desirable and proper that the Boys should attend there as there is sufficient accommodation for them instead of St. David's Church, by which change the Committee consider the Boys would escape the profane and improper language that they must too often hear in walking to and from Hobart Town on the Lord's Day.

“The Committee therefore strongly recommend the same for His Excellency's approval and that directions may be given to the Civil Engineer to erect seats for the Boys and Girls accordingly.”³¹

The Committee was not entirely unanimous in this decision as at the next meeting on the 19th September The Rev'd William Bedford raised an objection.

“With reference to the recommendation of the Committee in their last Minutes relative to the Boys at the Orphan School attending Divine Service, The Rev'd Mr. Bedford requests that it might be inserted in the Minutes of this day that the Archdeacon had mentioned to him that he (the Archdeacon) wished the Boys should attend at St. David's Church until the Church at New Town was ready for them. The Committee notwithstanding see no reason whatever to alter their opinion on the Subject.”

Then at the meeting after that:

“The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed... with the exception that Mr. Bedford wished it to be understood that he concurred with the opinion of the Archdeacon as stated by him.”³²

Moving day at Last

It would appear that the female immigrants had left the Orphanage by December 1832³³ as the Ladies Committee had had some success in finding places for many of them. The Committee reported a month after the arrival of the women that out of two hundred, one hundred and forty had been engaged in service or enabled to provide for themselves respectably. Twenty-six had withdrawn themselves from the protection of the Government and were engaged in disreputable services or leading a vicious coarse life. Thirteen had been altogether expelled for highly improper conduct and there were some who were still disengaged.³⁴

However although the girls moved into the new building in December 1832³⁵ they apparently occupied the boys' wing and it was not until September 1833 that plans could be made for the resettlement of the boys in their new quarters. At their meeting on the 12 September 1833 it was agreed that “the Committee also beg leave to recommend to his Excellency that immediately on the girls removing from the present building to the other Wing that the First Engineer be directed to prepare immediately the Dormitories for the Boys and that Iron bedsteads be substituted for Hammocks if procurable; if not Wooden ones and that the number of Mattresses required may be immediately procured. It appears that about forty can be spared from the Girls' School.”³⁶

³¹ Minutes 12 September 1833

³² These and the previous extracts from the Committee Minutes are taken from *Effloresco* pp 51f

³³ Rushden & McIntyre p 62

³⁴ *Idem*

³⁵ McKay p 3

³⁶ *Effloresco* p 52

On the 10 October 1833 they received a memorandum from the Colonial Secretary dated 3rd instant conveying the directions of His Excellency The Lieutenant Governor for the immediate removal of the Girls into the new Building appropriated for them. The Colonial Secretary also authorised the attendance of Boys at Divine Worship in the School at New Town, instead of St David's Church.

It was also reported that on Friday 4 October 1833 "The Female Establishment was entirely removed into the New Building appropriated for it."³⁷ This apparently then allowed the Boys to move into their new quarters before the end of the month.

An Unfortunate Brush With the Law

In 1828 Thomas Stone applied for ten acres of land which fronted on to Elphinstone Road in the present day suburb of Mount Stuart. It was close to the main road and about half way between Hobart and New Town. In his application he stated that he wished to transfer "upwards of 1000 Fruit Trees of different kinds" which he had collected while at the National School in Hobart. Apparently he was able to have the property surveyed and fenced in 1829 so that he could start using it as a farm but the grant was not actually approved until 26 September 1836.

After he had moved to New Town it would appear that on some occasions when Thomas sent a convict employee of the School to Hobart Town for stores he would get him to drop off a load of wood or manure at Elphinstone Road on his way.

This seemingly convenient arrangement unfortunately turned out to be a serious criminal offence as can be seen in the Committee minutes of the 10 October 1833 and must have been a serious distraction at the time they were moving into the new School buildings.

"The Secretary laid before the Committee a letter from the Chief Police Magistrate dated 1st inst. (i.e. 1/10/1833) with three 'informations laid against Mr. Stone, —Master of the Male Orphan School for misappropriating Government Labour;' referred to the Committee by order of H. E. The Lieutenant Governor which was replied to by the Committee in their Report affixed to the said letter, viz:

"We were aware of this case before the matter was thus referred and upon expressing to Mr. Stone our opinion as to the irregularity and impropriety of the Act, we at once perceived that he was altogether unconscious that he had committed an error, and was obviously greatly distressed at being for the first time during many years residence in the Colony, charged with improper conduct of any description. We expressed our disapprobation and desired it might not occur again; — he is we discover fined, and thus far the law is satisfied — believing him not to have wilfully offended, we retain our opinion that it is unnecessary to do more than reiterate the warning already given to him, and we will immediately attend."

Thomas was convicted and fined £10, which to a family man was a very heavy blow. In an endeavour to have the fine remitted, he presented a petition to the Lieutenant Governor which is preserved in the Letters to the Colonial Secretary.³⁸

To His Excellency Colonel George Arthur
Lieutenant Governor of Van Diemen's Land &c &c &c.

The Memorial of Thomas Stone Sheweth,

That Your Memorialist was on the thirteenth day of September last convicted of an offence under the Harboring Act for culpably and negligently suffering a Convict to be and remain in his premises and fined Ten pounds.

³⁷Idem

³⁸Ref. C.S.O.- 1/678/15002, *Effloresco* p54

That Your Memorialist in extenuation of his offence most humbly submits to Your Excellency's favorable consideration and superior judgment that his case which was that of occasionally employing the Driver of an empty Cart in his Road to Hobart Town for stores (to convey a load of Dung or Wood to your petitioners farm which is in the vicinity of New Town — and but a very little way off the High Road) differs most materially from that of an Offender employing. harboring, concealing or even culpably receiving a convict illegally at large or not on his premises and most humbly submits that the Institution under Your Memorialists care was in no way prejudiced or injured by any neglect of duty of that Convict or any other circumstances connected with the Case.

That Your Memorialist is very sorry for having committed any violation of the Law and most humbly prays Your Excellency to favorably consider the foregoing circumstances, his large family and the heavy amount of the fine and that you will be pleased to remit the moiety of it accruing to the Crown.

And Your Memorialist as in duty bound will ever pray.

5 Sep 1833

The following comments have been written in the margins of the document.

“We think that convictions in such cases under the Act are straining it in a manner it never was contemplated. J.B.” (John Burnett, the Colonial Secretary)

“There is a very positive Govt. order extending to all classes of persons in the service of the Govt. prohibiting their using any Horse, Cart, Convict etc. for their private advantage. This Mr Stone has violated unless it can be shown that he has derived some authority from the Committee to whom I beg to refer this Memorial.

16th October 33 G.A.” (George Arthur)

“Since writing the above, I perceive the Committee has already considered this subject. I have therefore only here to add that I am of opinion Mr.Stone’s conduct was most improper, and that I cannot think of affording him any relief. “

G.A. 16th October, 33.”³⁹

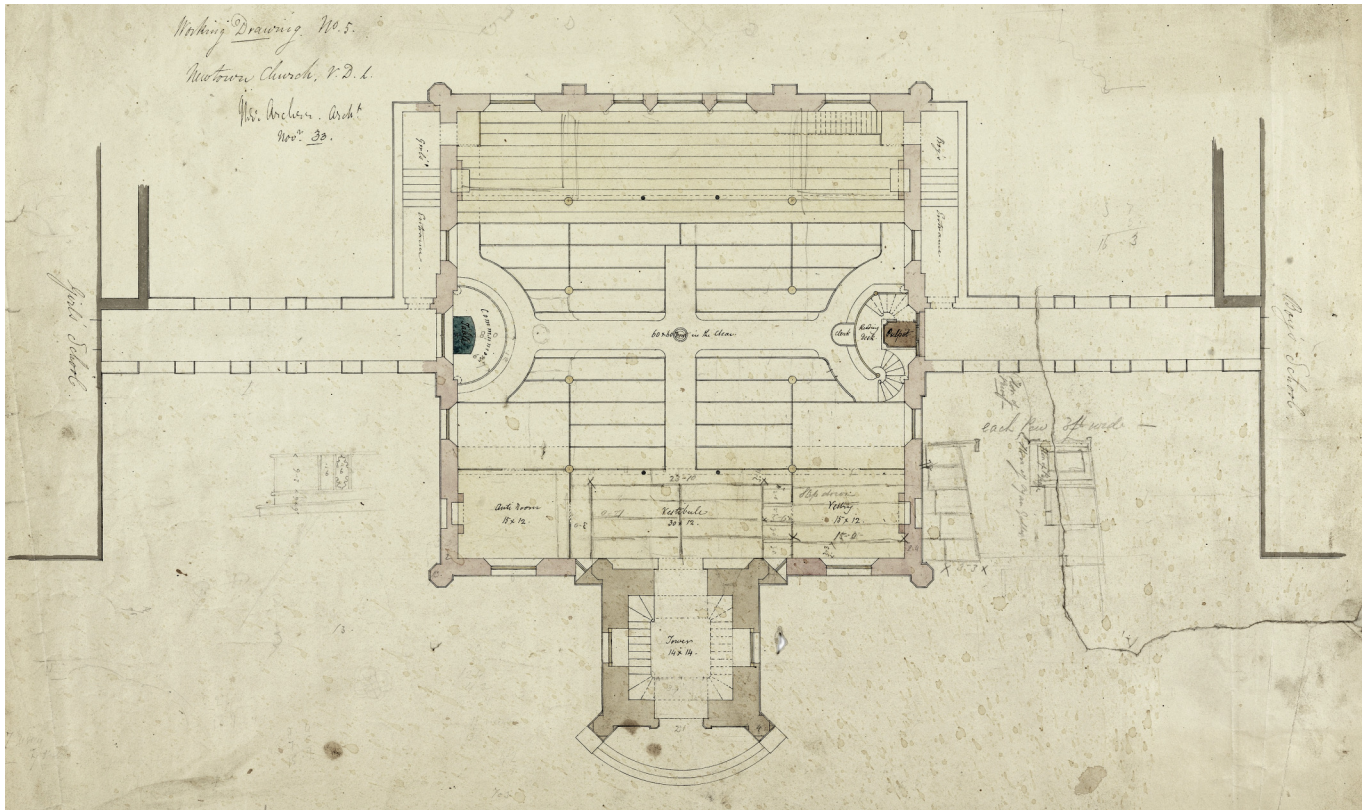
Laying the First Stone of the New Church

By January 1834 the plans for the new church were ready and work was about to commence on the building. To mark the occasion a large crowd gathered at the site on Monday 6th January for the laying of the first stone.

“At 3 o'clock an immense multitude was assembled on the spot, a detachment of the 21st Fusileers and the band having previously marched from town, and soon after his Excellency having arrived, the procession was formed and, the band playing the masons' march, advanced to the North East corner of the building.

“On reaching the stone, Mr. Archer, the architect, presented a plan of the building, and with his Excellency's approval proceeded, to fix the lower part of the stone in its proper situation, the upper part of which being raised, the Rev. Mr. Norman, pronounced in a solemn manner the following short prayer: "May the Great Architect of the universe, deign to visit us in this our present convention, and may we be enabled to raise on the foundation stone we are now about to lay, such a superstructure as may tend to promote his honour and glory"

³⁹These documents are all quoted in *Effloresco* pp 53-55



Part of Working Drawing No 5. used by the builders of the church.

The South Gallery is at the top of the picture with the girls' staircase on the left and the boys' on the right each opening off a colonnade which joined the church with their respective schools.

The communion table is on the left facing East and the triple-decker pulpit is at the right to the West.

The font is right in the centre where the aisles cross.

The seating in the galleries was modified in 1843 and the ground floor seating was later re-orientated to face East.

"Mr. Hone, whose exertions with Mr. Archer in promoting the work and the arrangements have been most indefatigable, then directed the whole of the children of the institution, who were neatly dressed in their appropriate costume, in singing an anthem, which was succeeded by solemn music while the upper part of the stone was gradually lowered, and Mr. Gregory the treasurer deposited an assortment of British gold, silver, and copper coins in the cavity which had been previously made in the lower part." The architect then covered it up with a silvered plate, on which was engraved a Latin inscription, giving the details of the occasion.

"His Excellency then descended to the foundation, and assisted by the architect, proceeded to lay the stone in the usual manner, applying the square, plumb rule, level and maul, and having finished the work, he invoked a blessing upon it, which he did in a very appropriate and emphatic, though short address, every word of which was distinctly heard by the numerous assembly present, which according to the estimate that our editorial eye is accustomed to form upon such occasions, consisted of between three and four thousand persons.

"He prayed that we might be enabled to carry on and finish the work which was then so happily begun, alluding in a general manner to the great advantages it was calculated to confer upon the present and future generations in a colony so peculiarly circumstanced as this is.

"At the conclusion three cheers were given with loud acclamation, to shew that the feelings of all present, responded in unison with those which His Excellency had so well expressed.

"The children then sang another anthem, upon which the Rev. Mr. Bedford came forward and read from a manuscript which he held in his hand, a very excellent and instructive address, in which he shewed that the praiseworthy undertaking was in strict accordance

with the injunctions and example afforded us in the holy scriptures. The Rural Dean then concluded the ceremony with a short but impressive prayer suited to the occasion and the usual blessing, when the meeting separated.”

The report also included a brief description of the building and a comment about the appropriate style of ministry which would be required:

“The church, though large and elegant in its design, will it is expected, be ready for divine service in little more than 12 months. Its form is exactly square, being 61 feet each way, and will embrace even a larger area than St. David's church (NB this was the original St David's, not the later Cathedral.) the latter building being 77 feet by 45, containing an area of 3465 square feet, while the orphan school one will include 3600.

“The children educated at the institution, who were present at the ceremony, and are already numerous, will of course by that time be considerably increased in numbers. We need not say that the clergyman, whoever he may be, will have a peculiarly arduous duty to perform. For he will err if he do not suit his discourses to the tender years of his principal hearers.”

The writer concluded with a note about what these days would be called “transparency” in the management of the Orphan Schools which was provoked by seeing a notice “posted on the school room doors, to the effect that no admittance will be given without an order from one of the committee”. He went on:

“His Honour the Chief Justice we believe is chairman of that committee, and we are sure his intelligent mind and known good sense will see the propriety of instantly removing such a seal of concealment, which can only be productive of mischief, and we are equally certain that every good teacher would rejoice to throw open the doors of his seminary to the free admission of all—an admission which would afford the greatest possible stimulus to both scholar & teacher, and satisfaction to the public. Few and far between as our moments of recreation are, we should employ them with no greater relish in any possible manner than by either passively listening to, or occasionally lending a helping hand in the exercises of the school.”⁴⁰

Life in the New School 1833-1836

Apart from the children singing at the ceremony for the laying of the foundation of the new church there is very little information about the life of the orphanage as they moved into the new buildings. As well as those who moved from the old distillery there were eighty-seven new admissions to the boys' school between November 1833 and the end of 1834. These boys were aged between two and fourteen years with fifty-seven of them aged six and under. Although some were the sons of convict mothers others were true orphans or had free parents who for some reason could not look after them but to whose care they would eventually be discharged.

In September 1834 five aboriginal boys were admitted to the school and another four in 1835 who joined the three who were already students there. Their presence there was the subject of an editorial in the Hobart Town Courier of Friday 20 February 1835 which is noteworthy for its time, although I don't think those who had been resettled on Flinders Island would have agreed with the concluding remarks.

“Ten little children of the Aborigines, now domesticated at Flinders' island, were last week brought up and placed with the four others already in the Orphan school, to be educated. It is of course a most desirable thing that these poor children should be properly instructed, for they have the intellectual faculty as strong as a European, and at first sight we were ready to applaud the committee for adopting apparently so benevolent a measure. It is delightful to a man of feeling to see these 14 little black children intermixed and taught in classes with the other little orphans in that noble institution; and were they all orphans

⁴⁰*The Hobart Town Courier*, Friday 10 January 1834

and without another friend or relation to care for them, our satisfaction would be unmixed.

“But this is not the case, most of them have parents or near relations dearly attached to them at the Establishment, by whom their separation is looked upon as the direst affliction that could befall them—a removal almost as painful as that of death itself would be. We are too ready to suppose, that because those poor people are of a different colour, they have not the same warmth of sentiment—the same tenderness of heart as ourselves—when the very opposite is the fact. The passions of the breast are even keener than ours, and we know that the parents and relations of these children daily and hourly lament their removal so much, that susceptible as they are, it is not unlikely to accelerate their death.

“It is for this reason, that looking calmly at the matter we disapprove of the measure, and should rejoice to see the committee restore them to their homes. There is already a properly qualified schoolmaster on the island, or catechist to undertake that duty, and if it was desirable to teach them in conjunction with white children, it would have been easy to send some of the orphans from this place to stand in the classes with them.

“These people are or ought to be as free as ourselves, and we maintain that we have no right whatever to take away their children without first consulting them—without the leave and consent of their natural parents and guardians first asked and obtained.

“This was the great and laudable principle on which the government all along went, in the mediations of Mr. Robinson with all the tribes which brought about the present happy arrangement unprecedented in the annals of man, and it is not one of its least gratifying features, thus to see the remnants of various little states, formerly in open hostility with each other now living in social community (in all but the loss of their children) happy and contented.”

Changes In Administration

No doubt the staff and students were pleased to be in their new buildings at last but the School Committee found it difficult to maintain the kind of oversight which was expected by the Lieutenant Governor. “...early in 1834 the Committee was again expressing concern about the difficulty of governing the school adequately under the present arrangements. All internal matters had to be referred to them at their weekly meetings and in cases of indiscipline among the servants, six days could elapse before it was checked.

“Neither Mr. Stone, the Master of the Male School, nor Mr. Garrard, the Master of the Female School were thought sufficiently responsible to be given greater authority and the Committee suggested the appointment of a clergyman to superintend the whole establishment and bring about an improvement in the ‘moral and religious instruction’ of the children. Arthur approved of the idea and considered too that more direct control might also bring about a reduction in the steadily rising costs of the schools.

“The post of Superintendent was offered to the Rev. T. B. Naylor early in 1835. He was also to carry out parochial duties in the New Town Church of England parish, but it was stressed that these duties were subordinate to the demands of his post at the Orphan Schools.

“The Committee was not to be disbanded. At Naylor’s request they were to retain responsibility for the annual estimates and the general expenditure of the Schools, leaving daily spending to the Superintendent within the budget set down. They were to appoint and dismiss the more senior staff, approve admissions and discharges of children and arrange for the apprenticing of older children.

“The Superintendent was to report to them periodically on the state of the establishment and they were to each visit the schools quarterly to inspect progress. Naylor was to be responsible for the daily control of the schools, for religious instruction, for the children’s moral conduct, education, clothing and food and was to ‘attend to their general comfort’. He was to improve the educational standards of the school and increase trade training.”⁴¹

⁴¹Brown pp30f



From an original painting in Saint John's Church, New Town

It might have been thought that the Rev. Thomas Beagley Naylor was hardly qualified for his new responsibilities. Born in Weymouth on the 2 September 1805, he was nearly ten years younger than Thomas Stone and had just arrived in the colony. After studying at Magdalen Hall, Oxford⁴² he graduated B.A., was made a Deacon in 1831 and ordained priest in 1832 by the Bishop of Bath and Wells. His only previous appointment was as the Stipendary Curate of Stoke sub Hamdon in South Somerset.

As Robert William Murray wrote in "*The Tasmanian and Austral-Asiatic Review*," in 16 June 1837, "Perhaps never was public astonishment greater than was occasioned by the appointment, almost immediately after his arrival in this Colony of a very young man, a Mr. Naylor, to the chief administration of this most important establishment." After remarking on the generous salaries which he and his wife would receive, £300 p.a. for Mr Naylor and £100 for Mrs Naylor, Murray described him as "*le beau clerc*" where a clergyman of "a solemn, staid, respect inspiring deportment and even appearance" would have been more appropriate in a place which

was in effect a "large gaol".

Thomas Naylor did have some considered views on education which he set out in "A Treatise on Education" which he presented to Lieutenant-Governor Arthur in 1836 when a Committee which had been set up to report on Education throughout the colony also made its report.⁴³

"The weakness and failure of contemporary schooling could be traced (he said) to the following evils:

- (1) The general neglect of a *judicious* inculcation of moral and religious principles, without which the mere power to read and write was a fatal gift;
- (2) The absence of any accurate observation of individual character;
- (3) The children being left, in the beginning of their school life, too long without instruction; and
- (4) When taught, learning not by progressive comprehension, but, as monkeys do, by imitation;
- (5) Sufficient pains were not being taken to ascertain, by examination, the progress made; or to smooth the really great difficulties in the way of children by pictorial illustration of the lessons.
- (6) Few efforts were being made (except, perhaps, in Infant Schools) to render useful instruction interesting.
- (7) Religious Instruction was being made a thing apart, instead of being interwoven with all other learning.
- (8) The teaching of subjects—Spelling, Arithmetic, &c. by "classes in regular rotation" was causing "mental indolence, and destroying independent action".
- (9) There was no combination of active and industrious habits with book-learning.

"The prime cause of all these troubles was attributable (Naylor claimed) to an improper selection of School-Masters and Mistresses, many of whom took up teaching as a 'dernier ressort' . . . Societies turned out teachers in three months . . . The result was that the teachers

⁴² Not part of Magdalen College but a separate institution, known as Hertford College since 1874.

⁴³ Levy p219

were ignorant of any System; or bungled through one, imperfectly understood, and still more imperfectly practised, listlessness being inscribed on one half of their schools, and mimicry on the other.”⁴⁴

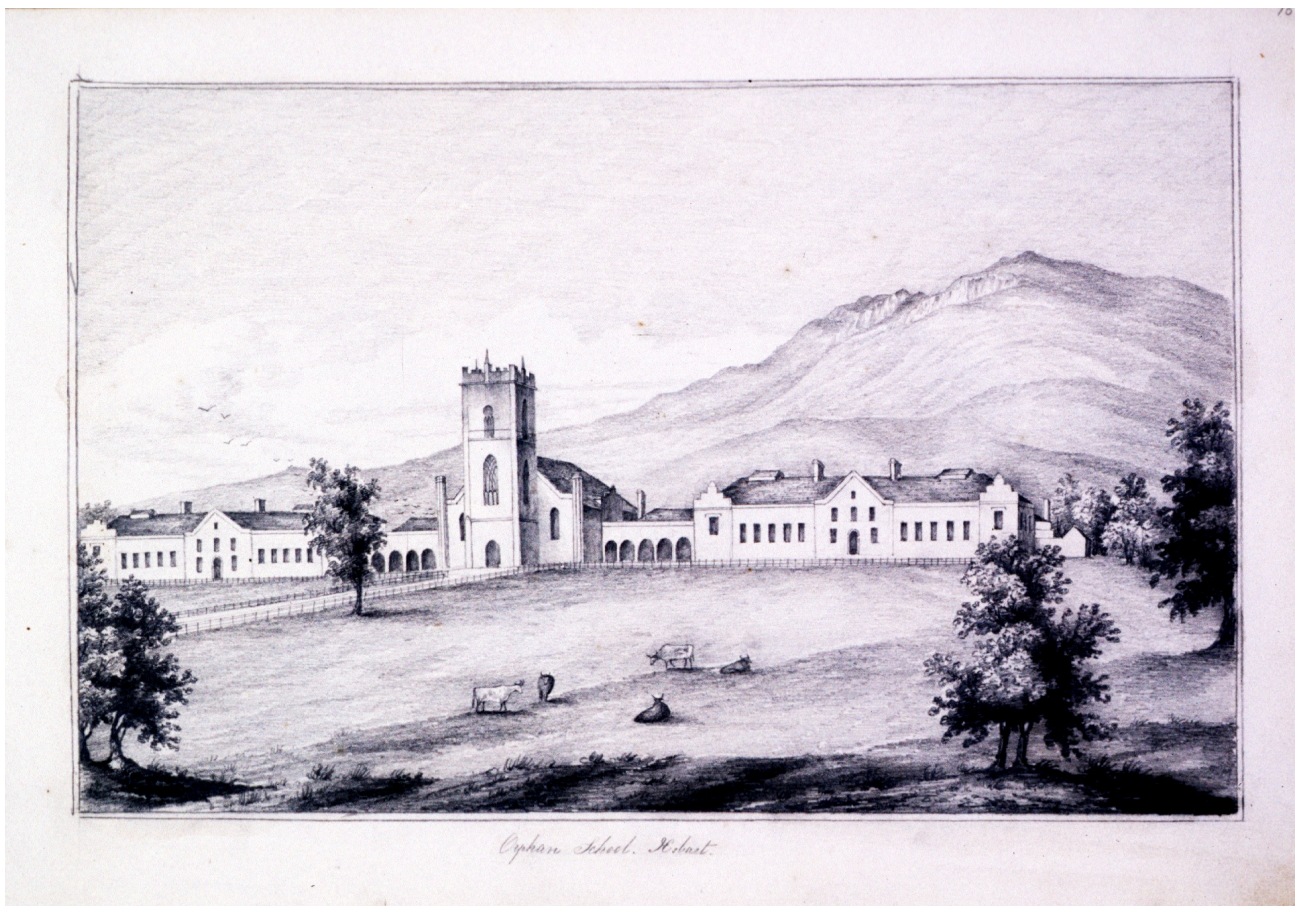
The Rev. T. B. Naylor took up his appointment as Superintendent of the Orphan Schools in February 1835 and “was asked to report on the performance of Mr Gazard in relation to the Female Establishment, where his wife was matron, and on Mr Stone at the male establishment. The Colonial Secretary, John Montagu, noted that Gazard appeared superfluous, and also that Stone was overpaid and not a good teacher.”⁴⁵

Whatever the truth of those accusations it must have been difficult for those who had had the oversight of the two schools for some time previously and had been involved in the relocation to the new buildings, to now find that they were now subject to a much younger and comparatively inexperienced superintendent. As we shall see, Thomas Stone was to set out some of the difficulties which he encountered.

Joan Brown commented, “In spite of this general measure of agreement about the appointment and about the future roles of Committee and Superintendent, the new system was not successful. Within a few months clashes between Mr. Naylor and the Committee were frequent... He seems to have lacked the tact and diplomacy to handle either the Committee or his subordinates successfully. The dispute was still raging when Arthur was recalled.”⁴⁶

St John's Church, New Town

The first service was held in St John's on Sunday 20 December 1835 and it must have been quite exciting for the girls and boys to walk along the colonnade from their school and up the staircase which lead directly to their side of the South Gallery. There was separate seating for the Master and his family.



The boys' school was to the right of the church and the girls' to the left. Mount Wellington is behind the buildings.

⁴⁴Levy pp220f

⁴⁵McKinlay pp140f

⁴⁶Brown p31

Irreconcilable Differences

Thomas Stone found it very difficult to work with Mr Naylor and in 1836 things came to a head. Naylor decided to get rid of the Master and to this end organised an inspection by his Excellency the Lieutenant Governor and the Committee which proved very unfavourable to Thomas. As a result the Committee was instructed to inform Thomas Stone that he would no longer be employed as Master of the Boys' Orphan School.

The Chairman of Orphan School Committee, Chief Justice J. L. Pedder on the 28th May, 1836, sent the following reply to the Colonial Secretary:

"Sir,

"The Committee of Management for the King's Orphan Schools have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a letter addressed to them by the Lieutenant Governor on the 18th ultimo, relative to a recent investigation into the state of that Establishment, and to request you will do them the favor to acquaint His Excellency, in reference to that portion of the communication which adverts to the representation of the Chaplain, as to Mr. Stone's incapability of conducting the Male Branch of the Institution, and which also suggests that immediate effect should be given to Mr. Naylor's representation, that the Committee have accordingly notified to Mr. Stone that himself and his wife will be relieved from their present duties on the 30th proximo, but, as the Committee were not able, even had they acted immediately on receipt of the letter in question, to give these persons an entire quarter's notice, and in consideration of the length of time Mr. and Mrs. Stone's Services have been employed at the Orphan School, as well as the zeal and assiduity with which, it is admitted, the former has devoted himself to the interests of the Institution, the Committee beg leave respectfully to recommend to His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor that a gratuity of one half year's Salary may be authorised for Mr. and Mrs. Stone on their vacating their respective appointments.

"The Committee feel the more sanguine in making this request from their sense of Mr. Stone's uniform good conduct during the period he has been under their supervision.

"I have the honor to be Sir Your Obedient Servant,

"J. L. Pedder Chairman "

On the 15th June 1836 Thomas Stone responded to the letter from the Committee of Management.

"Gentm,

"In acknowledging the receipt of your letter of the 28th ulto. relative to my removal, I beg leave to express my thanks for the kind feeling you have evinced towards me in the general tenor of the communication.

"I cannot however refrain from noticing the grounds upon which His Excellency has been pleased to recommend my immediate dismissal. The charge of incompetency by the Superintendent, —in which His Excellency judging from the state of the School at the late Examination, concurs.

"I most respectfully but firmly deny that the result of that investigation can with justice be attributed to my incapability. I am fully aware that the nervous diffidence, with which I am occasionally affected, acted on that occasion powerfully to my prejudice, and warranted in some degree the opinion which has been formed, but it was entirely unconnected with the real state of the School, of which I altogether disclaim the management since the appointment of Mr. Naylor, under whose direct superintendence and sole management, every thing connected with the Establishment has been conducted; and on reference to the regulation it will be found, 'That the Master is to conduct the

School under the direction of the Superdt,' and I am quite unaware of any specific charge of either neglect or opposition. His appointment reduced me to a mere servant; I was not only divested of the control over the School, but also over every other department of the Institution, and that by his especial orders; and to convey this position of servitude more forcibly to the Master, it is required that even for a short absence, the sanction of the Superdt must first be obtained. I should conceive that my having originally organized the School on the Madras system, and conducted it for four years without any prescribed regulations to general satisfaction, would have been a sufficient negative to the charge of incapability, without detailing remarks on subsequent events.

"Having endeavoured to show my irresponsibility [i.e. that he was not responsible for the observed state of affairs], I beg leave in confirmation to submit my differences of opinion, and causes to which I attribute the unfavourable state of the School: viz.,

"1st. The withdrawing from School duties the greater portion of Senior Boys; by which means the principal agency for instruction is entirely removed.

"2nd. The laxity of discipline sanctioned by the Superdt in the view he entertains for the cultivation of their moral affections; which has a direct tendency to produce great insubordination without affecting the desired purpose.

"3rd. The great deficiency of necessary books; which has impeded the progress of the Boys for a length of time.

"4th. Encroachments on the professed system of Education; intended as amendments by the Superdt'

"These positions I have frequently intimated as in duty bound to the Supdt, as tending very considerably to prejudicial effects.

"With these impediments I beg leave Gentm to suggest a question to your impartial sense. Whether a favorable result could have been anticipated?

"Gentm, I must respectfully submit that I have devoted the last sixteen years of my life to the instruction of youth, twelve yrs. of which have been in the service of H. M. Governmt.; (seven in the National and five in the Male Orphan Schools) and am therefore from the confined nature of my evocation, during so long a period, at this late stage of my life almost wholly unfit to engage in any other pursuit; and with a family of eight children (six of whom are under twelve years of age) must consequently meet the wishes of the Govmt under the most serious disadvantages.

"The sum which His Excellency, aided by your kind recommendation, has been pleased to award can only be considered as equivalent to a quarter's notice, and in no way a compensation for the loss of a situation on which my sole dependence has so long been placed; and in which however unavailing my efforts, it is acknowledged I have applied myself with unwearied zeal and assiduity.

"I therefore hope and trust, Gentm, that through your powerful interception, His excellency may be induced to take into further consideration my long services, and the embarrassment this sudden measure has occasioned in my circumstances; and as I propose to turn my attention to agricultural pursuits, as the most simple I can follow, that His Excellency will be graciously pleased to aid my endeavours in the maintenance of my numerous family, by conferring on me a grant of Land, which will be the most acceptable remuneration he can bestow.

"Gentm I have the honor to subscribe myself

"Your obedt Servt, Thos Stone."

The members of the Committee, on the 22nd July 1836, then sent Thomas' letter on to the Colonial Secretary with this recommendation:

"Sir,

"In transmitting a letter received from Mr. Stone the late Master of the Male Orphan School, we beg leave to recommend for His Excellency's most favorable consideration, the request it contains.

"When making an official communication to Mr. Stone that the Government would not have occasion for the services of Mrs. Stone and himself after the 30th Ultimo, he was apprised of our recommendation that Six Months additional Salary should be paid to them on their retirement, the ground of that recommendation being simply this, that as Officers of the Institution they were entitled to good notice, and that they ought to receive at least the additional pay before adverted to.

"Mr. Stone's letter however places before us a particularly strong claim, namely

—his having been employed very many years by the Government.

—The faithful services of himself and his Wife are well known to several members of the Committee, and their incapacity to settle speedily in any other way of life is very obvious.

— And on these grounds we think his solicitation worthy of the kindest regard; the mode of meeting his views must as of course rest with the Government.

"We cannot close without entreating attention to the whole of the transmitted letter, as explanatory of the embarrassed appearance of Mr. Stone, and the want of advancement on the part of the Boys at the time the Institution was visited by His Excellency and the Committee.

"We have the honor to be Sir, Your Most obedient Servants

J. L. Pedder, A. Moodie, Joseph. Hone, Wm Bedford, W. Boyes, P. Palmer."

There is a memo from the Lieutenant Governor attached to this letter dated the 12 August 1836. "I wish to know what land, if any, has been granted to Mr Stone?"⁴⁷ There is nothing to indicate that the Stones were offered a grant of land or any additional compensation at this time.

Conditions in the Orphan School

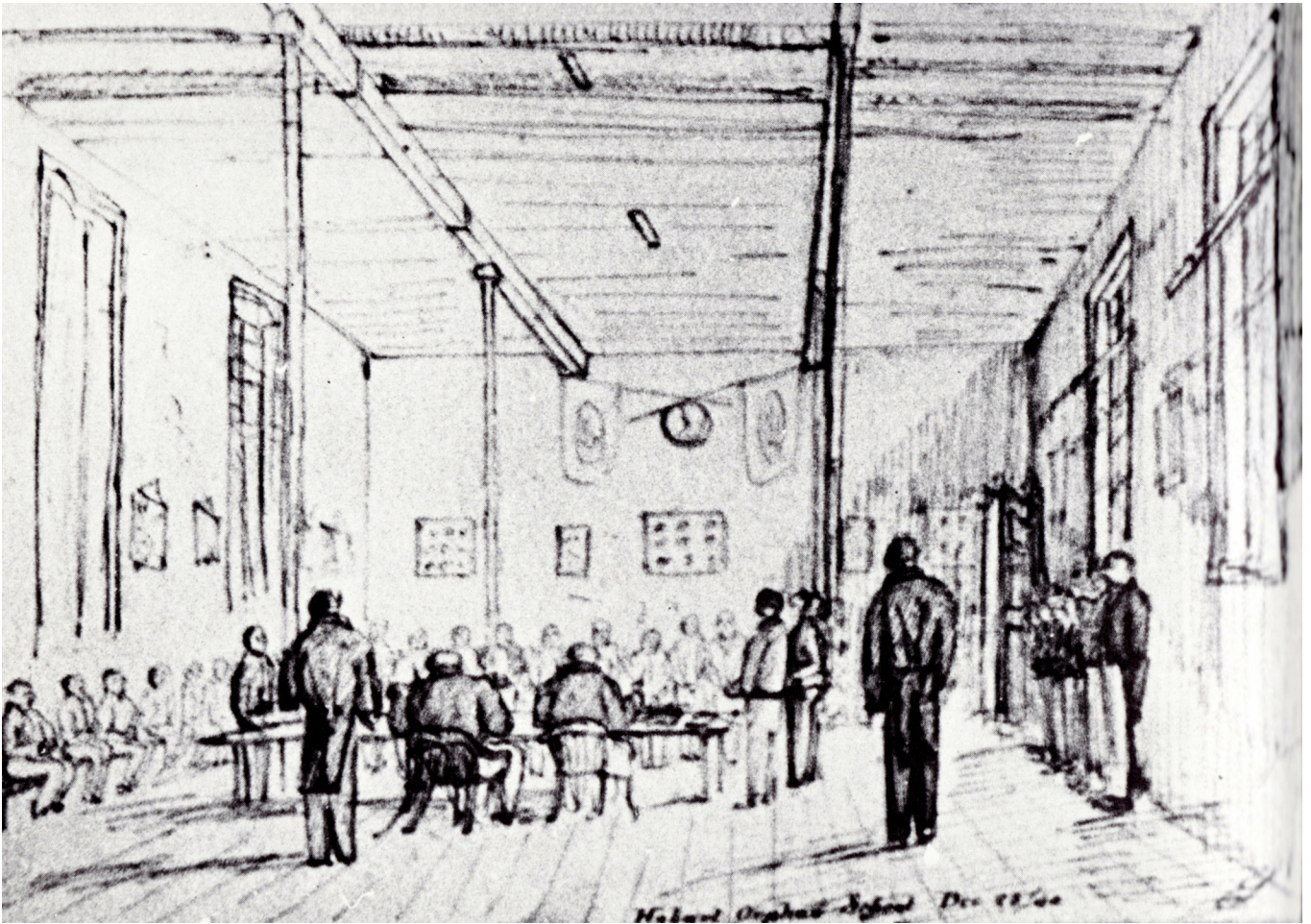
I haven't been able to discover a contemporary description of the new school but three years later this account appeared in the *Colonial Times* on Tuesday 23 April 1839

The Orphan School.

"Having long had in contemplation a visit of inspection to this Establishment; we availed ourselves of the only leisure day, last week afforded, and early on Friday morning, proceeded thither, accompanied by an intelligent companion. The morning was fine, bracing, and beautiful; and the School-house and Church; as we rode up to them, presented a very engaging object in the splendid landscape. We were received with the most courteous attention and politeness, and, had not been in the building many minutes, before we were joined by the Head Master and Chaplain, the Rev. Mr. Naylor, who evinced every inclination, and facility, for giving us all possible information.

"Every one knows how pleasing an appearance the exterior of the building exhibits: we wish we could say as much of the interior: but this we cannot do, as the majority of the

⁴⁷These letters are quoted in *Effloresco* pp58-61



This pen sketch by Captain Owen Stanley, who accompanied Sir John Franklin as he inspected the orphan boys on the 23 December 1840, must give us a good idea of how the school-room was set up. It is used as the frontispiece in Joan Brown's "Poverty is not a Crime".

apartments, allotted to the use of the children, are cold, comfortless, and ill arranged, upon a most mistaken system of parsimonious economy. The washing places, or lavatories (to use a word more euphonous for the polite and learned ears of our court contemporary) are highly objectionable; they consist of cell-like rooms, paved with flags, with a stone trough in the centre, open at both ends, and consequently, extremely cold and comfortless.

"Indeed, the prevalence of stone pavement, throughout the lower apartments of the building, is, in our humble opinion, highly detrimental to the health of the inmates; in one room, we saw five little fellows blue and shivering with cold; there was; it is true, a fire place in the room, but no fire. In short, there seems to be no attempt at comfort for the boys, whose general appearance bespeaks abjectness and squalor.

"We have seen many assemblages of children in our time, both at home and abroad, but never did we see two hundred human beings that exhibited so squalid an appearance, as did the majority of the Queen's Orphans. Some half-dozen or so—and amongst these a black native boy—appeared intelligent and sprightly; but, the majority, as we have already observed; displayed a very different appearance. The regulations are good, and the system of tuition, tolerable; but the teachers are too few, and too ill-paid for their labor.

"Due attention is paid to religious instruction; but we would suggest, that, instead of the morning devotion now used, and selected from the liturgy, a short series of appropriate prayers, after the plan of Christ's Hospital, in London, should be read. Perhaps the Archdeacon, who, we learn, is at the head of the Schools, will direct his attention to this subject. By the bye, has the Archdeacon lately visited the Orphan Schools?

“The play-ground is too much exposed, and unsheltered, except on two sides by a sort of half-shed, which affords no cover for the children; there should be ample and extensively cloisters all round the ground, where the boys might exercise themselves in cold, or wet weather. The place is kept very clean, but too much labor is expended upon it, which might be remedied, if a better supply of water were provided; there should be a fountain in the centre of each playground, so that, in case of fire, or otherwise, there might be a full and adequate supply. There is a mistaken economy about the place, which fetters the officers of the Establishment in many essential points.

“The salaries, also, are too small for the amount of duty, which ought to be performed, that of Mr Mackay, the purveyor and storekeeper, especially; the correct and admirable manner in which the accounts of the Establishment are kept demand the highest commendation. Mr Mackay, we should observe, was formerly, and for many years, Quarter-Master-Serjeant in the 21st Regiment, and received from the officers, on the departure of the regiment for India, a very flattering testimonial of esteem and approbation; he is an invaluable servant of the Establishment.

“The food is wholesome, and well-assorted, but we object altogether to the tea for breakfast; milk, or good oatmeal porridge, would be infinitely preferable; and tend to improve the looks of the children.

“It is, however, our intention to pay another visit to this very interesting Institution; when we shall enter more minutely into its details: in the meantime, we earnestly recommend the Government to abandon the too rigid economy, at present used at the Orphan Schools, and to pay rather more attention to the comfort of the poor helpless, friendless beings, thereby supported.”

Perhaps it was fortunate for Thomas Stone that he was no longer associated with the King’s Orphan Schools.

The Rev. Thomas Beagley Naylor resigned in July 1839 and was succeeded by the Rev. Thomas J. Ewing, the first priest ordained in Tasmania. Thomas Naylor was chaplain at Norfolk Island from 1845-1848 and then ministered at Carcoar, N.S.W. and St Andrew’s Cathedral, Sydney.

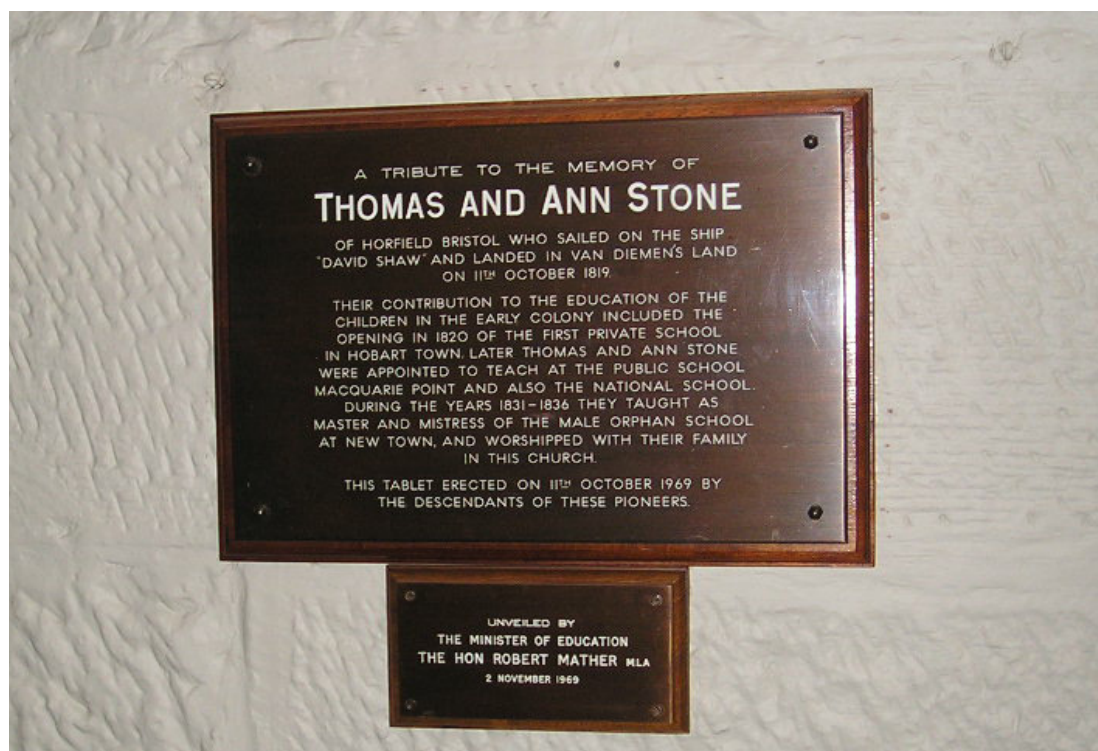
Conclusion

The founding of the King's Orphan Schools by Lieutenant Governor George Arthur is a prime example of his concern for the welfare of the children of the Colony of Van Diemen's Land which was followed by his careful oversight of its management through the agency of a management committee consisting of leading members of the establishment of the time. His foundation was not just concerned with the children of convict women but sought to care for any disadvantaged child, rich or poor alike.

Thomas and Ann Stone were asked to take over the oversight of the Boys' Orphan School at a time of crisis in its management and their appointment was confirmed by the Lieutenant Governor, at the urging of the Committee, after they had given evidence of their suitability for the position of Master and Mistress. In the years which followed there is no indication of anything but satisfaction with their care and education of over one hundred boys aged from two to fourteen, whether in the temporary premises of the former distillery or in the purpose built complex at New Town.

At the time of the appointment of the Rev'd T. B. Naylor as Superintendent of the Orphan Schools in 1835, there was some criticism of Thomas expressed by the Colonial Secretary but I do not have access to the grounds on which that was based. Whatever they may have been, the final problem was a clash between the experienced practitioner of an old established educational method and the youthful enthusiasm of a new practitioner hoping to embrace a more recent philosophy of education.

The two did not easily come together and when mixed with pressure to find new economies in the management of the school and the Superintendent's problems with relating to the staff and the Committee it was probably inevitable that Thomas and Ann would have to leave. It is noteworthy that even in these circumstances they had retained the goodwill of the members of the Management Committee who made representations to the Lieutenant Governor on their behalf.



The commemorative plaque in St John's Church, New Town, Tasmania which honours Thomas and Ann Stone.

Picture from the Gravesites of Tasmania website, <http://www.gravesoftas.com.au/>

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