

Convict uniform in yellow and grey

## WHO ARE THEY?

Follow the South Arm Convict Trail and learn more about the men and women who settled the South Arm Peninsula.

Until now, the stories and most of the convict names have largely been forgotten, hidden under the twentieth century development of beach houses and shacks.

They are the convicts assigned to William Gellibrand who received the first land grant of 2220 acres at Arm End with ten convicts.

His grandson George followed and had a list of pass holders from 1848 to 1852.

William was known for the care of his convict servants, providing them with a comfortable hut and clothing that did not distinguish them as prisoners.

Some he helped establish a fresh start, giving them the opportunity to raise families and contribute to founding the community of South Arm.

The oldest visible grave at St. Barnabas Church is of convict **Joseph Wilmore**. Other known convict graves are; **Joseph William Blatherwick** and his wife **Sarah Bennett**, and **Edmund Musk**.



## FAMILIAR NAMES

On receiving their pardon, some left for good and others stayed. Whether here for a short time or a lifetime, they all contributed to moulding the land and the people of the Peninsula we know today.

Many of the names are still recognised as having links to local families - places such as Blatherwick Rise and Musk Road have been named after our convict forebears - and there are generations of families still living here.

## MEET SARAH & EDMUND

*Sarah Lambert*

Convict ship: Cadet

Freckle faced housemaid Sarah Lambert was transported in 1849 for stealing a cape from a workhouse. Aged 21, she already had a previous conviction for theft. In 1850 she married George Broomhead, a fellow convict. The couple settled down at Ralph's Bay, and together had seven children.

*Edmund Musk*

Convict ship: Lotus

Transported for stealing beans and barley, Edmund Musk was assigned to William Gellibrand, and having gained his ticket of leave, leased a farm from the Gellibrands. By 1858 he was farming 120 acres at South Arm, and employing convicts himself. Edmund and his wife Mary had ten children at South Arm.

## THE GELLIBRANDS & THE VAULT

In 1824 **William Gellibrand** (1765-1840) and his son **Joseph Tice Gellibrand** (1786-1837) arrived in Van Diemen's Land aboard the *Hibernia*.



William built a home on Arm End and later, his own tomb. A regular visitor, Miss Jane Mortimer, wrote that he went to dig the vault every morning, just below the house at the top of the dunes overlooking Mary Ann Bay.

William Gellibrand and his descendants were active in Tasmanian social and Government circles. Joseph Tice Gellibrand became Tasmania's first Attorney General and three of Joseph's sons became politicians. Two of them are also buried in the vault, **Walter Angus Bethune** (1832-1909) and **Thomas Lloyd** (1820-1874).

Joseph's youngest daughter **Mary Selina** (1837-1903) played an important role in the Tasmanian Society for the prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

**Thomas Lloyd Gellibrand**, as the elected member for the District of Cumberland, introduced the first bill for the Protection of Native Animals in 1860, which later became law.

Thomas' son **Sir John Gellibrand** founded the Hobart Remembrance Club in 1923, the inspiration for Legacy in Australia.

The vault can be viewed on Arm End with interpretive signage.



Signage provided by South Arm Peninsula Residents Association. Site conservation work carried out by South Arm & Opossum Bay Coastcare Groups.

## GETTING THERE:

Drive to the end of Spitfarm Road in Opossum Bay and park. Walk through the boom gate and follow the track to the left along Mitchells Beach to Mary Ann Bay. To the north is the Gellibrand Vault.

# FORGOTTEN SETTLERS

