

When producing Newsletter No 6 I shall return to the work carried out by Heraldry Today and the early years in Aston Clinton etc., and hopefully will be able to add to my examination of that period which I commenced in Newsletter No 4.

In the meantime the chance discovery of records concerning an early 19th century Briginshaw resulted in so much research being carried out that I am going to make him the subject of this Newsletter No 5.

#### THE BLACKSHEEP

#### RICHARD BRIGINSHAW (CIRCA 1805 - 1823)

Richard's story is told from research carried out by John of Tasmania amongst records in that country and by myself in archives this end. It is a joint effort resulting in much success and yet, at the same time, still leaving one or two important questions unanswered. For this reason I was at first hesitant to use it. However, John and I have put in so many hours of research that I feel justified in doing so at this time, in the hope that answers can be found later.

The investigation was started by John, who in his own words, records:

'Several years ago I was undertaking some research in the Tasmanian State Archives on a matter unrelated to Family History. During the course of my work, when talking to one of the Office Assistants, who asked for my name for the purpose of filling in a form; she said "Oh, I have heard that name before". I immediately became interested and asked her where? She said she had come across it in the Convict Record Section, dealing with the Penal Colony Days.'

Before continuing with John's contribution we must, in the interests of chronological order, go back to the beginning of this story and look at what my research revealed of the early part of Richard's short and sad criminal life which was to end whilst still in his teens. The provision, by John, of copies of documents in Tasmanian repositories gave me all the basic information that was needed to commence this research. Extracts from these documents will be shown later in this Newsletter.

According to these same documents Richard is stated to have been born in St Marylebone circa 1805. That is where my investigation began but so far the record of his birth or baptism has not been found and consequently his place on the family tree not established although I think there can be little doubt that he was a family member.

The Parish Registers of St Marylebone which date from 1668 are now held on microfilm in The Greater London Record Office and have so far been only partly searched. There is still much that can be done. The only entry found so far - a marriage - William Brigenshaw with Mabel Waklen 1782. Too early to be the parents of Richard although possible grandparents. At any rate they show the presence of at least one member of the family in this parish at that time. Then, too, the Church of St George's Hanover Square used the Marylebone Burying Ground and I have record of two marriages at that church - Judith Briginshaw in 1789 and Edward Brickenshaw in 1795 so these registers must also be searched. The difficulties of searching this period in London are manifold.

In the middle of the 18th century Marylebone was still a village some way from London. The name derives from the Church of St Mary that had once stood on the banks of the River Tyburn that flowed through the district; hence St Mary le Burn, St Mary-le-bone and finally Marylebone. In 1740 the church was rebuilt further up the High Street. The relentless spread of development in London gradually enveloped this part just as it did so many others. In 1817 the church was rebuilt on a much larger scale because of Marylebone's expanding population in the early nineteenth century.