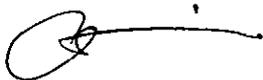


**Beyond the Convict System: the
Aged Poor and Institutionalisation
in Colonial Tasmania**

Andrew Kenneth Shaw Piper, M.A. (Hons)

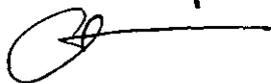
Thesis submitted in fulfilment of the requirements for the Degree
of Doctor of Philosophy, School of History and Classics,
University of Tasmania, May, 2003

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5 May 2003.

This thesis contains no material which has been accepted for a degree or diploma by the University of Tasmania or any other institution, except by way of background information and duly acknowledged in the thesis. All the work of this thesis is my own, containing to the best of my knowledge and belief no material previously published or written by another person except where due acknowledgment is made in the text of the thesis.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'C' followed by a horizontal line that ends in a small hook.

5 May 2003.

Like one, that on a lonesome road
Doth walk in fear and dread,
And having once turned round walks on,
And turns no more his head;
Because he knows, a frightful fiend
Doth close behind him tread.

Samuel Taylor Coleridge

The Rime of the Ancient Mariner

ABSTRACT

Colonial Tasmania's aged poor were initially managed through incarceration in government institutions under strict discipline and supervision. Essentially regimented penal environments, they were founded as a means to isolate, seclude and control pauper emancipists who were perceived as a social contagion. The incipient charitable institution housed an undifferentiated pauper population in which all inmates were seen as undeserving. This thesis investigates the mechanisms by which one constituent, the aged poor, transcended its mid-century categorisation to join the ranks of the deserving.

At first the agencies which dealt with invalids were *ad hoc* and marked by incompetence. As administrators learnt from their mistakes and came to better understand the scale of the problem confronting them, new approaches were implemented. These may be characterised as refined inmate classification, institutional specialisation, centralisation of administrative power, bureaucratic professionalism and medicalisation of institutions. These tools, along with other measures, particularly coerced labour, strict discipline, confinement, surveillance, regimentation and punishment were used increasingly to control the lives of pauper invalids. They were also the means which led to reformers fighting for progressive invalid management regimes. Invalids were not passive participants in these events. They resisted the control measures imposed upon them and they proved to be proficient adversaries in manipulating the charitable system to their advantage.

Classification, specialisation and surveillance resulted in a greater understanding of the issues confronting invalids. As the middle class involved themselves directly with invalids, the significance of the issues which had alienated them waned. Increasingly they were perceived as a medical rather than a moral problem. Coupled with this there were many changes in the conditions of institutional life which by our modern standards we would judge as progress. While there continued, and continues, to be

unsavoury aspects to the management of the aged poor, what differed in 1901 when compared to earlier periods was that a greater number of people were prepared to involve themselves in changing the system for the better. Part of this was the result of increased knowledge. Foucault has drawn our attention to the link between knowledge and power. While he has focused attention upon the use of this power to discipline and punish this thesis demonstrates that knowledge can also be used as a vehicle for progressive reform.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This thesis is dedicated to Geoffrey Charles Shaw Piper, my father, who died on 31 August 2002. He, and my mother, have given all my academic endeavours unwavering encouragement and in the pursuit of my doctorate this support substantially contributed to its completion.

The period of my life in which this research has been undertaken has seen the best and worst of times. At its commencement, my wife Lynette Ross and myself, were residing at the Port Arthur Historic Site where we both worked in heritage conservation. The 1996 Port Arthur Tragedy profoundly changed our lives. This was the worst of times. The ledger was more than balanced by the arrival of two wonderful young boys, Catalin and Emil, who joined our family from Romania, respectively in 2000 and 2001.

Lynette has had to bear a disproportionate share of the load associated with managing the changes that have taken place in our family in order that I could continue to work on this thesis. As a historian (my own background being in archaeology) Lynette has offered constructive guidance to the intricacies of the discipline and her skilful editorial eye is greatly appreciated. In order to finalise this thesis my family has had to make sacrifices which I acknowledge and unequivocally give my heartfelt appreciation. I am indebted to you all.

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I acknowledge the financial assistance given by the University of Tasmania, who funded the first four years of study through an University of Tasmania Research Scholarship and an APA Scholarship. The School of History and

Classics' graduate research support scheme also enabled much of the archival research associated with this study to be undertaken. I would also thank the management of the Brisbane, and later Ye Olde Commodore, Hotel who provided accommodation at a reduced rate while I conducted lengthy research in Hobart.

In the later stages of this research, my employer, Officeworks, proved to be very flexible and in particular provided me with an absence of leave that enabled me to finish this thesis. I would also thank Professor Michael Bennett and Professor Carey Denholm for being understanding of my circumstances and for supporting and affording me additional time to complete this work.

I would also thank the staff of the various libraries and archives that I have accessed over the course of this research. Specifically I would acknowledge the staff of the Archives Office of Tasmania, the Mitchell Library, the Archives Office of New South Wales, the University of Tasmania libraries, the Tasmanian State Library, the Tasmaniana Library and W. L. Crowther Library, and the Allport Library and Museum of Fine Arts. The assistance of the Archives Office of Tasmania deserves particular mention. The supportive, knowledgeable and friendly staff of this institution made the many months spent delving into the records it holds a memory indelibly etched with fondness and happiness.

Many individuals have assisted me in this research, either by furnishing me with records, information or other forms of help. I would thank Kim Pearce, Brian (see I did not forget), Joyce Purtscher, Barbara Valentine, Susan Hood, Lindy Scripps and Greta Festinger. To those who are not mentioned by name please accept my sincere thanks.

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LIST OF THE GOVERNORS

The names of the Governors of Van Diemen's Land and Tasmania, 1840-1901.

Name	Office	Date of Assumption of Office	Date of Retirement from Office
Sir John Franklin	Lieutenant-Governor	6.1.1837	21.8.1843
Sir J. E. Eardley-Wilmot	Lieutenant-Governor	21.8.1843	13.10.1846
C. J. Latrobe	Administrator	13.10.1846	25.1.1847
Sir William T. Denison	Lieutenant-Governor	26.1.1847	8.1.1855
Sir Henry Edward Fox Young	Governor	8.1.1855	10.12.1861
Colonel Thomas Gore Browne	Administrator	11.12.1861	16.6.1862
Colonel Thomas Gore Browne	Governor	16.6.1862	30.12.1868
Lt-Colonel W. C. Trevor	Administrator	30.12.1868	15.1.1869
Charles Du Cane	Governor	15.1.1869	28.11.1874
Sir Valentine Fleming	Administrator	26.3.1874	June, 1874
Sir Francis Smith	Administrator	30.11.1874	13.1.1875
Frederick A. Weld	Governor	13.1.1875	5.4.1880
Sir Francis Smith	Administrator	6.4.1880	21.10.1880
Lt-General Sir J. H. Lefroy	Administrator	21.10.1880	6.12.1881
Major Sir George Cumine Strahan	Governor	7.12.1881	28.10.1886
William Robert Giblin	Administrator	29.10.1886	18.11.1886
Sir W. Lambert Dobson	Administrator	18.11.1886	11.2.1887
Sir R. G. C. Hamilton	Governor	11.3.1887	30.11.1892
Sir W. Lambert Dobson	Administrator	1.12.1892	8.8.1893
Viscount Gormanston	Governor	8.8.1893	14.8.1900
Sir John S. Dodds	Administrator	14.8.1900	8.11.1901
Sir A. E. Havelock	Governor	8.11.1901	16.4.1904

LIST OF THE COLONIAL AND CHIEF SECRETARIES

The names of the Colonial and Chief Secretaries of Tasmania, 1856-1901.

Name	Office	Date of Assumption of Office	Date of Retirement from Office
William Thomas Napier CHAMP	Colonial Secretary & Premier	1.11.1856	26.2.1857
Thomas George GREGSON	Colonial Secretary & Premier	26.2.1857	25.4.1857
William HENTY	Colonial Secretary	25.4.1857	1.11.1862
Thomas David CHAPMAN	Colonial Secretary & Premier	1.11.1862	20.1.1863
James WHYTE	Colonial Secretary & Premier	20.1.1863	24.11.1866
Sir Richard DRY	Colonial Secretary & Premier	24.11.1866	1.8.1869
James Milne WILSON	Colonial Secretary & Premier	4.8.1869	4.11.1872
James Reid SCOTT	Colonial Secretary	4.11.1872	4.8.1873
Thomas David CHAPMAN	Colonial Secretary	4.8.1873	1.4.1876
George GILMORE	Colonial Secretary	10.4.1876	20.7.1876
Thomas REIBEY	Colonial Secretary & Premier	20.7.1876	9.8.1877
William MOORE	Colonial Secretary	13.8.1877	20.12.1878
Thomas REIBEY	Colonial Secretary	20.12.1878	29.10.1879
William MOORE	Chief Secretary	30.10.1879	15.8.1884
Ayde DOUGLAS	Chief Secretary & Premier	15.8.1884	8.3.1886
James Wilson AGNEW	Chief Secretary & Premier	8.3.1886	1.3.1887
Henry ROOKE	Chief Secretary	1.3.1887	29.3.1887
Philip Oakley FYSH	Chief Secretary & Premier	30.3.1887	17.8.1892
Adye DOUGLAS	Chief Secretary	17.8.1892	14.4.1894
William MOORE	Chief Secretary	14.4.1894	12.10.1899
George Thomas COLLINS	Chief Secretary	12.10.1899	8.4.1903

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ALP	Australian Labor Party
AOT	Archives Office of Tasmania
BPP	<i>British Parliamentary Papers</i> (Irish University Press reprint series)
CSO	Colonial (later Chief) Secretary's Office
HBS	Hobart Benevolent Society
HGH	Hobart General Hospital
LBA	Launceston Benevolent Asylum
LBS	Launceston Benevolent Society
LGH	Launceston General Hospital
LID	Launceston Invalid Depot
ML	Mitchell Library
NSW	New South Wales
NTCI	New Town Charitable Institution
THAP	<i>Tasmanian House of Assembly Papers</i> (1856-1883)
TLCP	<i>Tasmanian Legislative Council Papers</i> (1856-1883)
TPP	<i>Tasmanian Parliamentary Papers</i> (1884 -)
VDLLCP	<i>Van Diemen's Land Legislative Council Papers</i> (to 1856)

LOCATION OF MAJOR PLACES AND INSTITUTIONS MENTIONED IN TEXT

