

HOBART.....11.4.39.

Dear Dr. Bell,

Yours on 2nd. inst., has been delayed in delivery on account of the holidays and only reached me this morning. Thank you very much for the enclosure which is a much more generous fee than I generally receive. Unfortunately I must delay in forwarding data because I have 3 Capts. Bell in my index of early residents, 2 of whom were "John", as well as the "J. Bell" who came per by "Lanna" in 1838, arriving at Hobart Town on Nov.22 with Mr. Bell, wife and child and several other passengers.

2 Capts. Bell were in Hobart Town in August of 1827. One arrived as Captain of the "Wimeroa" (brig) from Leith on August 3 as "Capt. Bell". The other "Capt. John Bell" by bq., "Triton"; from Leith, on August 1. This latter died at New Town suburb of Hobart Town in 1841 and was probably not the Captain you mention.

I want if possible,

(1) the christian name of the uncle who brought out "John Bell", in order to be able to connect him with Capt. Bell of brig. "Wimeroa", of 1827. (It is a coincidence that a "George Bell" came to Hobart Town from Leith per "Wimeroa" on 30.9.32) or possibly with the "Capt. John" who died in 1841.

(2) Your own father's christian name which I might be able to connect with the latter (Capt. John). One of these Captains owned an estate named "Annandale" near Lake Crescent, in 1840.

I am sorry to cause this delay, but, through the loss of some of our early files, I have never been able to satisfy myself in regard to the "J" Bells in my index and this may help.

Faithfully yours,

.....

HOBART....26.4.39. .

Dear Dr. Bell,

I feel very apologetic at writing you again for what may seem inadequate reasons, but I am so anxious to get on the back of your "Capt. Bells". Enclosed is a copy of a paragraph quoted by a Hobart Town editor from a "Geelong Advertiser" which may refer to a relative who came from India to Tasmania in 1839, of whom I can find nothing further. He may have been on furlough or else retired. Many came here on leave instead of taking it in England and some of them returned as settlers on retirement from Military Service. I can find no further data of this Capt. Bell. He may have belonged to a Cavalry Regiment and gained his majority before retiring. There were no cavalry among the regiments stationed here on service, so that this man must have retired (from service) when, or before, his residence in Tasmania.

You seem to have set aside "Capt. John Bell" of "Belle Vue", New Town - suburb of Hobart Town, who owned an estate which was named "Annan", and a residence at New Town. He became a merchant and shipper but I have never been able to discover if the title of "Captain" was of military or marine service. A son was born to his wife in 1831 (he arrived in 1827). She died of fish poisoning soon after, leaving 3 or 4 children. In 1834 he married Louisa, daughter of Geo. Meredith of "Cambria" near Gt. Swan Port, East Coast, by whom he had 3 sons and a daughter. He died in 1841.

Geo. Meredith - a son born in 1834, married a daughter of Wm. Robertson (of "Melrose", Hobart Town and of Colec Station, Victoria, he left a very large fortune). They lived later in New Zealand. I have no record of other children of Capt. Bell.

In 1841 he owned over 12,000 acres - "Annandale" had 10,000 acres. Mrs. Louisa Bell was living round about 1854-5. It is quite possible that the "Bell" who brought out J. Bell in 1838 was this Capt. Bell, with wife and family who came by S. "Laura" (see 1st. letter). No reference is made to a wife of "J. Bell" in the S. "Laura's" passenger list.

Certainly Capt. John Bell of New Town had some connection with "Dumfriesshire". It could hardly be a coincidence that he should name his estate in Tasmania "Annandale".

(cont.)

Trusting that these notes may throw some light on the Capt. Bell problem.

Yours sincerely,

.....

This Capt. Bell's notes for the Land Board on his application for a "grant" are missing from the files. It is from this source that I am sometimes able to find a reference to the applicant's residence prior to immigration.

.....