

**Born on the High Seas – The HIDE Family**

© Leonie Elizabeth Freeman

My paternal grandfather was very proud of his ancestry and, common to many genealogists, family stories would relate how important his forebears had been, concluding with the statement, “My family is related to the Duke of Bedford.”

I was fascinated by this and as a young mother set out to discover my heritage. Living in the Western District, isolated from Melbourne repositories and prior to the advent of computers, letter writing was the only way to discovery. Thus began what was to prove a painstakingly slow and ongoing adventure into my grandfather’s – and thus my own – genealogy.

After reading every genealogy book available and joining the Genealogical Society of Victoria, I began! I wrote to elderly relatives and applied for my first marriage certificate, my grandfather’s parents’ marriage. How impatiently I waited for that first mail to arrive!

William George Henry HIDE married Catherine Mary ROWE on 21 July 1890 at the Registrar’s office, Carlton.<sup>1</sup> His parents’ names were William George Davey HIDE, a clerk, and Ann née BOULTON. William had been born in Collingwood, Victoria. I sent for his birth certificate<sup>2</sup> to learn he had been born on 7 April 1858 in Derby Street, Collingwood, the son of William George Davey HIDE, Agent, 30 years, born Rio de Janeiro, South America and Annie née BULLEN, 20 years, born Cork, Ireland. They had been married in Melbourne and had one other child, Martha Mariane Le Lacheur HIDE.

My first error – so often discovered on birth, death and marriage certificates – BULLEN not BOULTON – accents or careless registrars often result in mistakes.

A marriage certificate<sup>3</sup> was applied for and arrived, the details of which were to create problems for many years to come! William HIDE, 28, bachelor, Born on the High Seas, Sergeant in the Mounted Police, residence Wood End, 5 Mile Creek. His parents were William HIDE, Sea Captain, and Mary Ann née LE LACHEUR. His wife’s name was Ann Marria BULLEN, 18, born Buttevant, County Cork, Ireland, daughter of William BULLEN, Gentleman, and Martha née BULLEN (I was later to discover they were first cousins). William G D HIDE and Annie BULLEN had been married at St Mark’s Church of England, Collingwood<sup>4</sup> in 1855.

Where does one go from here? “Born on the High Seas” probably near Rio? With GSV guidance, I tried Lloyd’s Shipping Records<sup>5</sup> at the State Library and located Captail William on the ship *Wave*. Correspondence with London and Canadian Maritime organisations was unsuccessful. Captain William had been at sea too early for records of training. I still had no way of knowing from whence he came.

Disappointed, I turned my attention to other family lines and developed research skills along the way. I filled in all lines, including my husband’s, back to England, Scotland and Ireland. I found one convict lad, convicted at Salisbury at the age of 13<sup>6</sup> for stealing a piece of cheese, who arrived in Sydney in 1832. The majority of our forebears had departed Great Britain’s shores in search of the illusion of wealth, via gold, arriving circa 1853. Only two lines had come prior to the 1850s.

It was to be years before I was to return to the HIDE investigation and then it was from an amazing coincidence. How often do we find fate seems to take a part in our research discoveries!

---

<sup>1</sup> Marriage Certificate, District of Carlton 1898, No 6709, Register No 846, 21 July 1890.

<sup>2</sup> Birth Certificate, District of Collingwood 1858, No 4835, Register No 502, 17 April 1858.

<sup>3</sup> Marriage Certificate, District of Bourke 1855, No 1936, Register No 194, 7 July 1855.

<sup>4</sup> This Church is now in the suburb of Fitzroy (Melway C9).

<sup>5</sup> *Lloyd’s Register of Shipping 1828/9* Rig description Barque, Building St John’s, Date 1826, Gross 343, Owner JOHNSON, Master HIDE Class A1, Additional Notes (destined Voyage) London-NSW

<sup>6</sup> William FREEMAN, ship *John*, ID 1311, State Records of NSW, Certificates of Freedom 1823-1869, CF No 37/0339, 19 April 1837, SR Ref 4/4338 Film 998.

**Born on the High Seas – The HIDE Family**

© Leonie Elizabeth Freeman

I had failed to obtain other family birth, death and marriage certificates which would have thrown light on William G D HIDE's nationality. Finally, having discovered the family graves in Melbourne General Cemetery via the Bullen line,<sup>7</sup> I wrote for W G D HIDE's death certificate<sup>8</sup> and found he had spent 3 years in Tasmania prior to coming to Victoria. Sibling certificates revealed further data on the family and on the birth certificate of his first daughter, Martha Marianne Le Lacheur HIDE,<sup>9</sup> William stated he was born "at sea on Board the Barque *Wave* on her passage from Guernsey to Van Diemen's Land."<sup>10</sup>

If only I had purchased all the certificates at the beginning!

I wrote to the State Archivist at the Tasmanian Archives<sup>11</sup> and, to my surprise, he wrote back stating that a Guernsey researcher had written enquiring about my forebears and the barque *Wave* which Captain HIDE had sailed to Hobart. He put me in touch with this gentleman and from then on the discoveries were amazing. Grandfather's ancestors were an important Guernsey family, but the only thing my grandfather and the current Duke of Bedford seemed to have in common was their large roman noses!

The closest we get to a Bedford is the Reverend Dr William BEDFORD<sup>12</sup> of Hobart, Tasmania, who christened George Davey HIDE in the Parish of Hobart Town on 13 February 1829<sup>13</sup> (this date is incorrect as the HIDES had left Hobart on their return journey to Guernsey at the end of January). William had been christened as George Davey HIDE in Hobart but was re-christened on his return to Guernsey as William George Davey HIDE.<sup>1415</sup>

I hired an English researcher to check the London Public Record Office for Registers of Seamen and Certificates of Masters and Mates. This investigation discovered two sailor brothers of W G D HIDE – Wallace Parsons HIDE<sup>16</sup> and Walter Truss HIDE<sup>17</sup> and also revealed that Captain William HIDE sailed the *Lord of the Isles*<sup>18</sup> on regular voyages between London and Jersey during 1831 and 1832.

Shipping records show the *Wave* arriving in Hobart on 1 November 1828 from London and Guernsey via Rio de Janeiro and the Cape of Good Hope.<sup>19</sup> The cargo reads like a haberdashery or hardware store, along with 50 sheep for Captain HIDE.<sup>20</sup> The then headed for Sydney, arriving in Port Jackson on 2 December 1828.<sup>21</sup> Included on his arrival certificate, the Captain remarked, "The *Manlius* Prison Ship from London 20 July had arrived at Hobart town."

---

<sup>7</sup> Melbourne General Cemetery, Ref MSB:MS.

<sup>8</sup> Death Certificate, District of Melbourne North, No 9387, Register No 1417, 21 October 1865.

<sup>9</sup> Birth Certificate, District of Collingwood 1856, No 3328, Register No 472, 2 April 1856.

<sup>10</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>11</sup> State Library of Tasmania, Archives Office, 87/2392, 5 May 1987.

<sup>12</sup> An image of the Revd Dr William BEDFORD can be viewed at the W L Crowther Library Heritage Collection, Allport Library and Museum of Fine Arts, Tasmania.

<sup>13</sup> Baptism Certificate, Tasmanian State Records, Parish of Hobart Town, County of Buckingham 1829, Ref No 448/2934 13 February 1829.

<sup>14</sup> Guernsey Archives (written in French): William G D HIDE was born 30 June 1828 and baptised 24 March 1832. One of the Respondents was George William Harlman DAVEY hence William's name of Davey.

<sup>15</sup> Tasmanian Family Link: HIDE records are being adjusted.

<sup>16</sup> Index to Registers of certificates of Service and competency. William Parsons HIDE was passed as Mate and a Master BT 122/14 and died 4 December 1890 in Borneo. Master of *Ban Wan Zing*, Singapore.

<sup>17</sup> Gillian Hughes Research Services 21 July 1998 Ref No GMH/RA.

<sup>18</sup> The *Lord of the Isles* was a steam packet steamer owned by the Post Office and carried mail from England to Jersey. Notes from Gillian HUGHES, Footnote 15.

<sup>19</sup> Archives Office of Tasmania *Hobart Town Courier* 8 November 1828.

<sup>20</sup> See Appendix I *Hobart Town Courier* 8 November 1828 Report of the Arrival of the *Wave*, listing contents of the cargo.

<sup>21</sup> See Appendix II Report of a Ship by the Surveyor and Searcher of Customs.

**Born on the High Seas – The HIDE Family**

© Leonie Elizabeth Freeman

The *Wave* sailed from Sydney with a detachment of the 63rd brigade<sup>22</sup> for embarkation at Hobart, 11 January 1829. She<sup>23</sup> then departed for Guernsey via Timor, Valparaiso, Rio and Barbadoes on 30 January 1829<sup>24</sup> with the remaining cargo and carrying the Surgeon Superintendent of the *Manlius*.

Prior to leaving England, Captain HIDE had applied for land from the English government:<sup>25</sup>

*To Robert Hay Esq.*

*Sir,*

*Being about to proceed to New South Wales with the intention of eventually establishing myself as an Agriculturalist and Breeder of Sheep, I have to request you will be pleased to submit to the Right Honourable the Secretary of the Colonies my respectful request that the usual allotment of Land may be granted to me on the regulated conditions.*

*I beg leave to refer to the firm of Buckles, Bagster and Buchanan for information relative to my possessing the required amount of Property.*

*I am Sir*

*Your very obedient Subject*

*William Hide*

The Captain's Land Grant was for 2,650 acres, however the application was cancelled the day before he returned to Europe. William had brought out sheep to begin his flock, and it appears he kept some business interests in Tasmania. Certainly, he had dealings with Charles McLACHLAN,<sup>26</sup> the Tasmanian banker, however he did not return to Tasmania. Perhaps the call of his beautiful home, "La Porte" in Kings Mills, Guernsey<sup>27</sup> kept him from returning, as he retired from the sea to become a politician. An interesting article in a Guernsey paper tells of a dispute the Captain had with his Rector on the amount of tithes to be paid for his property's "exquisite productions". An arbitrator in the usual manner in which problems were solved in the Channel Islands was called in and he stated:

*"I decline becoming umpire between you. How do you think it possible that I should bring either of you to his right senses respecting this difference, when I find that the most obdurate of you sinners has gone round the world but not yet learned common sense, and that the haughtiest makes yearly the round of the sacred book, and is yet to discover either humility or forbearance?"*

This newspaper also mentions the Captain's expert plans for a new harbour at St Peter Port, Guernsey. The old harbour was inadequate for the amount of shipping in the 1840s and after several schemes the new harbour was begun in 1853.<sup>28</sup> His wife Mariane (née LE LACHEUR) HIDE died on 25 June 1841 and Captain William HIDE died on 25 August 1841.<sup>29</sup> The last four children, possibly because of the dispute, were not christened and the guardians immediately ensured all were accepted into the Church on 1 September 1841.

<sup>22</sup> 63rd West Suffolk Regiment of Foot. This regiment had served in the West Indies and as the army of occupation in Portugal 1826-27, then proceeded to NSW, Tasmania and Western Australia before leaving for India in 1834.

<sup>23</sup> *Hobart Town Courier* Saturday 31 January 1829 reported the *Wave* is clearing with part of her original cargo for Barbadoes, passengers Dr McTERNAN RN and Mrs HIDE and Family.

<sup>24</sup> *Hobart Town Courier* Saturday 7 February 1829 reported "Sailed on Sunday the bark *Wave* with a general cargo belonging to the Captain. Passengers Dr McTERNAN RN, Mrs HIDE and family."

<sup>25</sup> Captain HIDE's letter is published in David J Hawkin's *Bound for Australia*, Library of Australian History, North Sydney, 1988.

<sup>26</sup> Land Titles Office, Hobart, Land Transaction 4 October 1848, Charles McLACHLAN, a wealthy and successful Tasmanian banker and businessman.

<sup>27</sup> Sarina Estate Agency, St Peter Port, Guernsey advertisement, "La Porte", La Rue de la Porte, Kings Mills, Castel, a typical granite Guernsey Farmhouse built in the 18th century consisting of four floors.

<sup>28</sup> *The Chit Chat* Saturday 17 October 1840, No 159.

<sup>29</sup> See Appendix III Captain William HIDE's Obituary.

**Born on the High Seas – The HIDE Family**

© Leonie Elizabeth Freeman

Captain William HIDE's sister, Amelia HIDE who was married to Henry PRIAULX,<sup>30</sup> also came out to Tasmania and had eight children<sup>31</sup> before passing away in Hobart.<sup>32</sup> Henry PRIAULX held land at Ravenswood, Launceston<sup>33</sup> and was to become the Assistant Commissariat General in Hobart.<sup>34</sup>

William George Davey HIDE returned to Tasmania after he was released by his guardians on reaching maturity. No record has been found of his activities, however by 1853 he was in Victoria, possibly due to the gold rush. Records show he worked as a Mounted Policeman,<sup>35</sup> was the Woodend Station Master when the first train went through to Castlemaine and was employed as a clerk and a commission agent.

Letters to the Chief Commissioner's Office of Police filled in details of William HIDE's height and features. Further investigations indicated he was based at Richmond Barracks and then at Five Mile Creek, Woodend. A letter<sup>36</sup> written by the Lieutenant of Police to the Inspector of Police, Richmond Barracks on 11 March 1854 states:

*"Sir,*

*I have the honor to recommend the Trooper named in the margin (William Hide) for the appointment of Quarter Master Sergeant at Richmond Barracks. I regret to say that Trooper Anderson whom I recommended to you yesterday has since misconducted himself.*

*I have the honor to be Sir,*

*Your most obedient servant*

*Henry Moor, Lieut. of Police."*

This recommendation was endorsed by the Inspector:

*"Trooper Hide I consider is well deserving of this promotion and as he understands accounts and is to be depended upon I think he would make a good Quartermaster Sergeant."*

William's "period of service" in the Police Force was from 1 September 1853 to 15 November 1855. He returned to Melbourne and went back to Woodend as Station Master in 1861. A book on the history of Woodend<sup>37</sup> states:

*"The most notable event of 1861 was the opening of the railway line from Melbourne to Woodend, the first official train arriving at the Woodend station on 29th June of that year."*

An original photograph of the train and the welcoming committee was included. My ancestor can be easily identified as he wears the typical railway cap whilst most of the other gentlemen were wearing the formal top hat. Also included in the book is:

*"Again in 1862 another important event took place as on 1st November the parents of 15 babies attended with the infants, a christening service at St Mary's."*

---

<sup>30</sup> Henry PRIAULX, Commissariat, returned to England with five of his daughters on 26 January 1855.

<sup>31</sup> Baptism, Parish of St John, Launceston, Henry William George PRIAULX, only son of Henry PRIAULX and Amelia HIDE, born 3 September 1830, baptised 1 December 1830, also worked in the Commissariat and died in Sandy Bay, Hobart on 6 September 1858.

<sup>32</sup> Death Certificate, Tasmanian Archives No 35, 1853 609, Amelia PRIAULX 12 November 1853.

<sup>33</sup> Tasmanian Archives, Land Grant 2,030 acres 1828 which he sold in February 1836 to David McGOWAN.

<sup>34</sup> Tasmanian Archives, Appointed Assistant Commissariat General, Hobart 3 May 1853.

<sup>35</sup> Marriage Certificate, District of Bourke 1855, No 1936, Register No 194, 7 July 1855, occupation stated to be Mounted Policeman.

<sup>36</sup> Victorian Police Correspondence 1 November 1854, Ref 5.3.1661.

<sup>37</sup> Betty Jean Barned, *Woodend on the Five Mile Creek*, printed by Dominion Press, Hedges and Bell.

**Born on the High Seas – The HIDE Family**

© Leonie Elizabeth Freeman

The minister was unable to assist, however it seems likely that William's daughter, Annie Ellen,<sup>38</sup> who was born in Woodend on 15 October 1862, was christened during that service. It is interesting to note that the attending Accoucheur at Annie's birth was William DE LA PORTE, Surgeon. At a time when most births were carried out by midwives, the services of a surgeon so far from Melbourne would have been considered extremely fortunate.

William George Davey HIDE died of disease of the lungs on 21 October 1865, aged 38 years,<sup>39</sup> and is buried in an unmarked grave<sup>40</sup> which included members of the immediate family and relatives.<sup>41</sup>

The HIDE family was just one of the many thousands of Channel Islanders with high expectations who had left their homeland during the 1800s. Bravely, they emigrated to Canada, the United States and the far southern lands of Australia and New Zealand in the hope of a better life.

"Born on the High Seas" was solved but, like all research, the investigations continue and you never know what else might be revealed.

---

<sup>38</sup> Birth Certificate, District of Woodend, No 24249, Register No 142, 15 October 1862.

<sup>39</sup> Death Certificate, District of Melbourne North, No 9387, Register No 1417, 21 October 1865.

<sup>40</sup> Melbourne General Cemetery, Grave Church of England "FF" 533.

<sup>41</sup> See Appendix IV Details of HIDE grave, Melbourne General Cemetery.

**Born on the High Seas – The HIDE Family**

© Leonie Elizabeth Freeman

**APPENDIX I**

*Hobart Town Courier* 8 November 1828

On Saturday the barque Wave, Captain Wm. Hide from London 8th May, Rio Janeiro 8th of August, Cape of Good Hope 11th of September, having on board 55 ½ tons of salt consigned to order, 16 casks of beer do, 1 do of loaf sugar do, t puncheons rum do, 32 casks 50 pipes Madeira wine do, 1 chest ten do, 3 cases gloves do, 10 packages apparel, furniture and haberdashery do, 6 cases of hats do, 4 bags sugar and cocoa nuts do, 100 barrels of rosin and pitch, Jones and Walker, 20 kegs nails, 39 bundles iron do, 11 bales and 6 cases muslins and calico, Dawes and Hewitt, 92 casks wine, 24 pipes brandy, 9 casks gin, 218 cases do, 2 pipes spirits wine, 40 tierces vinegar, 35 cases soap, 2 casks salt, 57 boxes pickles, 40 cases liquorice, 20 boxes candles, 6 packages cards, 60 boxes perfumery, 12 cases drugs, capers and pickled oysters, 1 keg sugar lead, 9 cases hanging paper, 2 bags nuts, 3 boxes window glass, 1 box of essences, 12 tins cheese, 3 cases trinkets, 2 hhds snuff, 1 keg verdigrease, 12 boxes boots and shoes, 20 cases soap, 2 boxes gloves and ribbons, and 50 sheep for Captain Hide.

Passengers Mr. Taylor, Mrs. Maingy, Mr. Williams, Mr. Gough, Mr. Goodall, Mr. and Mrs. Prevaux, Mr. and Mrs. Langdon and three children, Mr. and Mrs. Pettite and 3 do, Mrs. Joseph and 1 do, Mrs. Ring and 6 do.

**APPENDIX II**

*Surveyor and Searcher of Customs*

Report of a Ship arrived in Port Jackson, this 2nd day of December 1828

Vessel's name: Wave Tonnage: 340, 21 men

Master's name: Hide

From Whence: Guernsey, Hobart Town

When Sailed: 8 May – 24 November

Loading: General Cargo

Remarks: The Manlius prison ship from London 20 July had arrived at Hobart Town

Passengers' names:

*Cabin* Dr Patrick McGorman RN Surgeon Superintendent of the Manlius, Mrs. Hide and 2 children (Captain's Family), Thomas Taylor (England, Settler)

*Steerage* John Langdon (England, Merchant), Mrs. Langdon and 3 children, William Pettit do do, Mrs. Pettit and 3 children, Alexander Gow (Scotland, Settler), Thomas Goodhall (England, do), Sarah Wells (Servant)

**APPENDIX III**

*Guernsey Star* 6 August 1841 Obituary

Death of Captain Hide. Died on Wednesday evening at "La Porte", Catel, after a short but severe illness, Captain William Hide, aged 45 years. The deceased was in his usual health on Sunday morning, but on the evening of that day he was seized with gout in the head which defied all the medical skills of his medical attendant. Retired from nautical pursuits of his early years Captain Hide devoted much of his energies of his active and patriotic mind to promote the prosperity of his native island and his loss to his country is only inferior in degree to that sustained by his orphan family, consisting of eight young children who within the short space of two months have also been deprived of a beloved mother and of their maternal grandfather.

**Born on the High Seas – The HIDE Family**

© Leonie Elizabeth Freeman

APPENDIX IV

People interred in the grave Church of England “FF” 533 with William George Davey HIDE and their relationship to him.

Annie E HIDE, 1 ½ years, 11 January 1864, daughter

Florence H BRUCE, 6 months, 30 January 1864, not related, father John Benjamin BRUCE, labourer, mother Mary Eliza COOK. A John COOK came out to Melbourne from Guernsey in 1859 on the *Dirigo* so there may have been a common background

William G D HIDE, 38 years, 23 October 1865

Walter W[allace Washington] HIDE, 1 ½ years, 5 April 1866, son

Kate C[ornelia] L[eckie] BERESFORD, 15 months, 7 March 1869, niece, daughter of James Walter BERESFORD, clerk, and Annie BULLEN, cousin of William’s wife, Ann (née BULLEN). James BERESFORD arrived on the *Saldanha* 20 September 1858, Victorian Shipping Records B151,1004

Ann HENRY, 53 years, 12 July 1870, maiden name HEWITT, aunt of Ann BULLEN, first husband George BULLEN, second husband Samuel HENRY

Martha M[arianne] [Le Lacheur] HIDE, 23 years, 11 November 1879, daughter.