TEACHER RESOURCES – THE AUSTRALIAN COLONIES

Colonial Western Australian History – Study of the Swan River Colony 1827 to 1890s

TEACHER RESOURCE 3
PENINSULA FARM: THE HARDEY FAMILY

Joseph Hardey and the Family - Background

Joseph was born 1804 and died 1875.

He migrated to the Swan River Colony in 1830 at the age of 25 with wife Ann.

The Hardeys sailed on the 500 ton Brig* Tranby from Hull to Fremantle leaving England in September 1829 and arriving in Fremantle on 3 February 1830. The boat carried 37 passengers and a crew of 14 and was commanded by Capt John Storey (total 51 on board). The passengers were bound by their Wesleyan (Methodist) faith and all originally settled on the Peninsula.

Joseph and Ann were married in August 1829. Two of his brothers, John Wall (and his wife Elizabeth) and William, travelled on the Tranby with Joseph and Ann. William died aged 17 in January 1830 shortly before Tranby arrived at the Swan River Colony.

Stirling granted the Hardey family land at the Peninsula on the Swan River. They also received a land grant in the York area in 1831.

According to a letter written by John and Joseph Hardey, Governor Stirling said “he wished more like us would come out (to the Colony), for, of those who had already arrived, nineteen in every twenty knew nothing about farming.” (Berryman, Swan River Letters, p.194)

Joseph and Ann had seven children. Five daughters and one son survived to adulthood. One daughter died aged 26 days.

*A BRIG is a small two-masted ship with square sails. Originally brig was an abbreviation of brigantine, vessels favoured by sea brigands or pirates in the Mediterranean. There is a replica brig Amity in Albany beside the museum.

Joseph Hardey's Character

Joseph Hardey kept a series of diaries but his entries were very brief.

Joseph was a strict Methodist who gained permission from the Governor to preach in the colony on June 1830. He was known as “the father of Methodism” in WA.

He held very high moral standards. He held strong views against duelling - “wretched murderers”; horse racing - “everything that’s bad”; and betting and drunkenness.

He demanded high standards and a great amount of effort from people. "Impatience, annoyance and high criticism were typical of him." (p 50 Johnston)
He believed in hard work and perseverance and was determined to succeed in the new colony.

In 1832 in a letter to Captain Irwin, Joseph wrote of the colony: “there is little doubt but it will succeed, and well, if it receives the encouragement and support which all colonies need in their infancy.” (Johnston, p19)

Joseph built 2 boats or ‘flats’ to be towed behind a small boat to transport supplies to his property on the Peninsula. The ‘flat’ measured 9m long (27 feet) by 2.5m wide (8 feet). The first ‘flat’ was stolen and destroyed but he quickly had a second built which was used 13 times to transfer goods from Fremantle to his property.

During 1830 Hardey planted wheat, rye and oats and many garden vegetables at Peninsula Farm.

The Wesleyan (Methodist) faith that guided Hardey’s life

Some of the main Wesleyan beliefs include:

- BIBLICAL AUTHORITY: The Bible is the guide for all activities. Beliefs, practices and priorities in life are to be anchored in the teachings of the Bible.
- CHRISTLIKENESS: All Wesleyans are given the clearest example for holy living in the life of Christ. They believe in integrity, excellence, faith, hope and love as shown by Christ.
- DISCIPLE-MAKING: Wesleyans believe that it is important to convert people to Christianity as a requirement of faith and to enable the church to grow.
- LOCAL CHURCH CENTERED: Local churches are the main places to spread Christian beliefs. There must be a focus to keep finding the best ways to serve and strengthen congregations.
- SERVANT LEADERSHIP: The authority and effectiveness of spiritual leadership is earned by being a dedicated Christian. Wesleyans desire to be leaders in serving and so they accept preaching from Wesleyans who are not ordained by the Church.
- UNITY IN DIVERSITY: Every person is important before God and there are wide ranges of difference in personality, culture, race, talents and perspectives. Social class is not important. Loving all people is basic to Wesleyan faith.

Joseph and John Wall Hardey helped build ‘Wesleyanism’ in Western Australia:

- Hardey promoted and helped fund the first Wesleyan Church in Perth in 1842. The present church in Perth was built in 1870.
- The Hardey and Clarkson families (both travelled on the Tranby together) petitioned for Reverend John Smithies and his family to come to the colony. Smithies served Church needs and the education of Aboriginal children in the colony from 1840 to 1855. Joseph and John Wall’s brother, Reverend Samuel Hardey, a Methodist missionary, served in the colony from 1855 until 1862.
- Hardey was committed to the education and conversion of Aboriginal people in the Colony. He was disturbed by the “Encounter with Natives down at the Murray River” (the 1834 Battle of Pinjarra, also termed the Pinjarra Massacre) and wrote in his diary.
that “It had been a shocking Slaughter”. Joseph was interested in Aboriginal language and had three pages of Aboriginal words translated to English in his private papers.

- The Hardey family assisted in the planning and funding of Wesleyan churches in York, Greenough, Fremantle and Perth.

**Peninsula Farm (Tranby)**

- Built by Joseph in 1839, he lived there until his death (1875) and the house was held in the family until 1913.
- Joseph held prayer meetings in his home. The Sabbath (Sunday) was always kept for prayer, hymns and relaxation.
- Original Items from the Hardey family that can be seen at Peninsula Farm today include: the treadle sewing machine (used by Ann), the Four Poster Bed, baby’s cradle and the medicine chest.
- Joseph also had a property in York, town properties and a farming property in the Darling Ranges.
- Joseph and John Wall worked as farmers but were also important in the Methodist Church, moral leaders in society and members of the Agricultural Society*
- Joseph sat on the General Board of Works and John Wall was on the General Road Trust and pressured for the construction of the Causeway (built in 1843). They also petitioned the Government to build roads to York.
- Joseph supported the Total Abstinence Society*, which began in 1850, and the Working Men’s Benefit Society, Aboriginal schools and education of the wider community.
- Labour was very scarce and affected farming profits but Joseph was strongly against the introduction of convicts to the colony as he believed they would lower the moral standards of the community.
- John diversified his farming to include horses, grapes, olives, almonds and flour milling.

*The AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY was formed in 1831 to share knowledge and voice concerns facing the rural areas. In 1832 the Society sent a petition to the Governor demanding more agricultural labourers, military force and government to construct more infra-structure.

*The TOTAL ABSTINENCE SOCIETY was part of the 19th Century “Temperance Movement” to educate people about the dangers of alcohol and petition for anti-alcohol legislation. Some ‘temperance societies’ encouraged moderation (reduced use) while others promoted total abstinence or going without alcohol completely.