

NOTICES

On Tuesday the ship Brixton, Captain Lusk, arrived from England with passengers and merchandise having put in at the Cape on her passage . . . The passengers this week from England are as follows: Brixton . . . Mr. Dawes . . .

Mr. Dawes was Frederic Dawes and he arrived in Hobart Town on 21 January 1823. He brought with him a free settler's letter recommending that a grant of land be made 'in proportion to the means which he may possess of bringing the same into cultivation'. The Under Secretary of State for the Colonies also wrote a private letter to his Honour Lieut.-Governor Sorell saying that 'he had received such satisfactory testimonials as to Dawes's character and respectability that he wishes to beg leave to introduce Dawes to the Lieut.-Governor's favourable notice and protection'.

A letter from Walter A. Bethune, a merchant of Hobart Town, in answer to the Lieut.-Governor's inquiries about Dawes, reveals:

that his friends in London are of the highest respectability and very willing as our letters assure us, to assist him to any reasonable amount. He has, however, from his former known gaiety been sent here with moderate means to set out with—His uncle has ordered us (through Messrs. Paxton Cockerell Trail & Co. House) to pay him £300 and to tell you the truth, I would be very glad to get hold of his bills to double that amount—He has some cash in his own hands also which of course I cannot ascertain the precise amount of—also a very valuable library . . .

Dawes made application for a grant of land in December of that year and contained in his statement of the property imported by him was, *inter alia*, 'Law library which cost full £300 . 0 . 0.'

Indeed, Frederic Dawes was an Attorney and Solicitor of the Courts at Westminster. His petition for admission as a solicitor in the Lieut.-Governor's Court for Van Diemen's Land came before Judge John Wylde, LL.B., and was allowed. Notice of this was reported in the press on 8 February 1823. On 9 April 1823 he was admitted as an attorney of the same Court. On 2 April of that year he took an oath of office before the Commissioner at the Settlement (Thomas Bell, Esq., J.P.) and was duly admitted the attorney, solicitor and proctor of the Supreme Court of Civil and Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction for the Territory of New South Wales.

Little can be ascertained about Dawes' legal career. Perhaps it was he who advertised in the Hobart Town Gazette on Saturday 26 April 1823 to this effect:

LAW.

A gentleman of respectability and liberal Education, having been bred to the profession, and having a handsome capital to embark, wishes to engage in Practice with a respectable Partner on equitable Terms, and has no objection for one year most assiduously to undertake the fatiguing part of the Business.

Apply to the Printer.

He did, at all events, at some stage, enter a partnership with Alexander Paterson, which was dissolved and a notice appeared on 15 October 1825 stating that '... they will in future carry on business separately: Mr. Dawes at his House in Macquarie Street ...'

His place of residence could be followed from time to time by the press notices. Thus on 19 April 1823, 'Mr. Frederic Dawes, Solicitor, has removed from his present residence to the house lately occupied by the Rev. Mr. Bedford in Macquarie Street.' Three years later, on 22 July 1826, 'To be let, a two storey Brick House, situate at the corner of Macquarie and Harrington Streets, Hobart Town, late in the occupation of F. Dawes Esq., . . . Apply to McGregor Cartwright, Solicitor, Macquarie Street.' And on 19 May 1827 'The offices of Mr. Dawes, Solicitor, Hobart Town, are removed to Messrs. Solomons, Argyle Street.'

Exactly four months after his arrival Dawes married Miss Caroline Maria, daughter of Mrs. Lord of Hobart Town. The remainder of his life span was destined to be not quite a decade, for in July 1832 the *Launceston Advertiser* reported that 'The remains of Mr. Dawes, the solicitor, were conveyed to the grave in Mr. Jackson's hearse followed by a numerous train of respectable inhabitants all mounted.' It is probable that he spent his last year or so in Launceston because in April of 1829 he was living apart from his wife. This is evident from a letter written by Mrs. Dawes to the Lieut.-Governor when she made application 'for a small grant of land for my two boys'. Her letter, dated 21 April 1829 and headed 'Carr Field House', continued: 'Deserted by my husband and life with two young children totally unprovided for, I find it very difficult to obtain the means of administering to all their little wants'. Her request for land on which she intended to depasture her 120 head of cattle was not complied with.

Now the important part of this history is that there were sons. One son was Edward John Lord Dawes, who trained as a lawyer and was admitted to the bar in July 1851. He married and in due course had a son who also became a member of the Tasmanian Bar in 1899. This latter son was the father of yet another lawyer, namely, F. R. S. Dawes.

Mr. F. R. S. Dawes now lives and practises in Sydney. But the connections with Tasmania continue. Indeed this year, 140 years after the first Dawes stepped ashore from the 'Brixton' with a law library in his trunks, yet another library has arrived, this time under the hand of a fourth generation Dawes. Mr. F. R. S. Dawes has made a gift to the Tasmanian University Law Library of a full set of the Revised Reports—a gift which will be read and studied and appreciated by many more generations of lawyers.

THE LAW LIBRARY

The Law School would like to acknowledge generous gifts of books from Messrs. Malcolm Bethune and Robert Baker, both of Hobart, and the gift of the centenary edition of *Wisden's Almanack* from Mrs. R. Phillips Higgins of the English Law Society.