

[REDACTED]

From: maurice <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Friday, 31 August 2018 4:24 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: St Barnabas Church South Arm

The email from Maurice Potter

South Arm Tasmania Ph. mobile [REDACTED]

Address; [REDACTED]

Dear Alice;

Please find the attachment to this email re the history of the small church St. Barnabas at South Arm Tasmania.

I wish to point out that this church was fully built and funded by the people of South Arm Community and maintained by these people of the community from the day it was built. At no time has the parish council funded the church or the Gellibrand Hall that was built at a later date.

The records that I have been able to located are prove off how this church was funded and paid for by the people at that time.

There are many people in South Arm that are trying by negotiating with the Bishop to get this church removed from sale and retained and managed by our community.

I hope I have brought this to your attention and to the government by sending this information to you. In this endeavour your help in anyway would be appreciated.

Kind regards

Maurice Potter

South Arm Tasmania

Hello Alice,

Let me introduce myself, I Maurice Potter have lived at South Arm all my life just as my parents and grandparents did before me, As you are know doubt well aware of what the Bishop Condi has proposed to sell our St Barnabas Church along with the many others in Tasmania. This is very upsetting and something that we never ever thought would happen, as it is the only church within 30 klms of South Arm we as a community fight to retain the church but we need the help of our local government, this is the reason I have gone to the trouble to write directly to you.

I have research the history of St Barnabas and discovered that it was completely funded and built by the residents in South Arm in 1892-93. I have enclosed all this information and the history to St Barnabus below.

The Mercury of December 2, 1891 reported on a meeting of parishioners to discuss the erection of a Church at South Arm. - A meeting of parishioners of South Arm was held on Sunday evening, 29th November, after Evensong,

The object was to discuss the desirability of erecting a church in the midst of the present graveyard. Hitherto the services have been held in the State school, but in the opinion of nearly all the residents the time has now arrived for the erection of a building specially consecrated for the purpose. The Chairman (Rev. C. Rhodes Hall) read a letter

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from the Bishop of Tasmania, giving suggestions as to the proposed church. Several of the principal residents expressed their approval of the scheme, and promised it their cordial support. Many of the ladies signified their willingness to assist. At the conclusion of the meeting, which was most enthusiastic, about half the amount required to complete the church was promised, and many helpful suggestions were made as to raising the remainder. Plans are now being prepared by Mr. Huckson, and it is hoped the building will shortly be commenced.

CHURCH FAIR AT SOUTH ARM. – The residents at South Arm have for some time been anxious to get a church for public worship, and various means have been adopted to raise money for that purpose. While always willing and happy to accept outside assistance the people themselves have not been idle, and for the past few weeks have been busy preparing for the fair, which was held in a tent at South Arm yesterday afternoon. In connection therewith, the Cygnet run an excursion to South Arm, and the steamer was crowded with ladies and gentlemen desirous of assisting the people of South Arm.

The Mercury of January 28, 1892 reported on a Fair in aid of Church funds: SOUTH ARM CHURCH. – The Fair was later postponed until February 24th. The Mercury of February 25, 1892 reported on the Fair as follows:

A general fair under distinguished patronage, consisting of needlework, plain and fancy homemade bread, cakes, jam, jelly, fruit, vegetables, fresh butter, South Arm in the parish of Rokeby, are desirous of offering a hearty welcome to our bishop. It is true that we are only a few scattered sheep of your large flock; eggs, poultry, and all that is good, not forgetting a refreshment stall, in aid of the above church, another will be held at South Arm on Wednesday afternoon, February 10. The splendid excursion steamer Nubeena will leave the wharf for fair at half-past 2 p.m. sharp, returning about 7p.m. Excursionists will land at Half Moon Bay jetty, and two minutes' walk will bring them to "the tents" in which the fair is to be held, also to the splendid sandy beach.

The Mercury February 2, 1894 at the opening of a Fair at South Arm:

South Arm - A cake, fruit, and fancy fair was held at Calverton hall on the 31st . The object in view was to pay off the small amount owing on St Barnabas Church, the Rev. Woolnough M.H.A. ".... spoke very highly of the way in which the residents had worked to build their church. They did that first, and then the young fellows studied their own pleasure by building the cricket pavilion. At this time there have not been any records found of a committee being

formed to cover the building of the Hall. It was joint efforts by the local people at the time just the same as they did in building the church.

Prior to construction of the Church, services were held at various places including in the open air and at the first school house built 1854.

1899 there are many advertisements in The Mercury when they had many fund raising days for money to go to the church. So that means that the hall would have been built in stages with funds found over that period.

ST. BARNABAS CHURCH, SOUTH ARM

DEDICATION.SERVICE. July 28th 1892

The auspicious weather yesterday was all that could be desired for the service of dedicating the pretty and commodious church, just completed for the residents of South Arm to worship in. The steamer Huon left the wharf at about 1.20 p.m. filled with passengers from town, amongst whom were the Dean of Hobart, Archdeacon Mason, and several other clergymen. The run down was extremely pleasant, the water being calm, with scarcely any wind, and the genial rays of the sun throughout heightened the enjoyment of the short Trip. On arrival the visitors proceeded to the church, and the service commenced shortly afterwards, but although the building was crowded many were unable to gain admittance. The clergy who officiated were - The Dean of Hobart, Archdeacon Mason, Canon Finnis, and the Revs. C.R. Hall and R. Dixon. A form of special service, appropriate to the occasion, was used,

And several hymns from Hymns Ancient and Modern were sung at intervals during the service, Mr. A. McIntyre presiding at the organ. The Dean offered up the prayer dedicating the church to the praise and glory of God, and afterwards delivered an extempore address, taking as his text the 22nd and following verses from the 11th chapter of the Acts of the Apostles, St. Barnabas being set forth as an example well worthy of emulation. The preacher showed that although Barnabas had the fault of a too pliant character, yet his generous temper and kindness of heart, and being withal a man of much sympathy, and full of the Holy Ghost, he was such an one that his hearers could look up to with profit. The Dean said that like Barnabas, he and those who came with him were glad to be there to exhort and encourage those who had so well begun the good work that was manifested to them that day, and he trusted that they would hold fast to the faith and continue in all good works, the service was very heartily participated in by the large congregation, and a very liberal collection was made towards the close.

Tea was afterwards partaken of, provided by the ladies of the district, Miss Lillie Calvert and a bevy of fair waitresses assiduously attending to the wants of the numerous company. A sale of produce also took place, and many purchasers were readily found for such things as home-made bread, jams, jellies, made only as South Arm ladies can make them.

The church is a weatherboard building, 34ft. by 22ft., and built very substantially by Messrs. A. Tibbs and W. Jones, the architect being Mr. Huckson. The interior is lined with pine and varnished, and over the chancel is placed the words, "Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness," and "Holy, holy, holy" surmounts the window at the rear of the Communion table. The lighting has been well considered, and three mammoth lamps, hung from the ceiling, will perform that duty adequately. The entrance door looks out upon Half-Moon Bay, and the picturesque surroundings pleasantly impress the visitor with the beauty of the scene. The committee entrusted with carrying out the building of the church are Rev. C.R. Hull, Messrs. J. Alomes, W.T. Calvert, J. Calvert, O.G. Morrisby, R. Calvert, and H.E. Alomes (secretary & treasurer). The ladies of the district must not be forgotten for the zealous part they performed in the work, as much of the success achieved is due to their efforts. Altogether everyone is to be congratulated upon the very satisfactory returns for their labour of love, and the district now possesses a building that will meet the spiritual needs of the district for some time to come.

The return journey to town was enlivened by the singing of glees, rounds, etc, and a very enjoyable day was brought to a pleasant close shortly after 7 o'clock.

From The Mercury of September 17, 1892: ST. BARNABAS CHURCH, SOUTH ARM.

The Building Committee acknowledge the following AMOUNTS COLLECTED:

By Mr. J. Alomes - Messrs. W.T. Calvert, Geo. Gellibrand, J. Calvert, W. Calvert, J. Alomes, H. E. Alomes, each £10; Mrs. Calvert, Sen., £10; Rev. C.R. Hall and Mr. Huckson, each £2; Mr C, Calvert, £5; Mr. G. Alomes, £4; Mr. J. Potter, 12s. Total ... £83 12 0.

By Miss Calvert - Mr. D. Calvert, £2 2s ;Mr. H. Calvert, £2; Messrs. Fryer and Co., £1; Mr. J. Callaghan, Friend, Mr. W.B. Winspere, Mrs. Winspeer, Sen., Mr. C. Davis, each 10s.; Mr. O. G. Morrisby, £1; Messrs. E.C.A. Nichols and W. Ellis, each 10s; Messrs. Roberts and Co., £1 1s.; small amounts, £3 3s. 6d. Total ... £13 16 6.

By Miss Lillie Calvert - C. E. Featherstone, Esp., M.H.A, Hon. H. Lamb, M.L.C., Mr. S.T. Tuning, Mr. Win. Gellibrand, Mr. J. McIntyre, Messrs. Davies Bros, Rev, Archdeacon Mason, Mr. J. Taylor, Mr. J. Nicholson, Mr. W. Young, Mr. J. K. Morrisby. each £1; Mr. J. Chipman, Mr. C. Chipman, each £2; Messrs. H. J. Marsh and Co., Mr. J.H.B. Welch, Mr. A.P. Miller, Mr. Pierce Butler, Brownell Bros., Mr. S. Morrisby, Mr. G. J. Morrisby, each 10s.; Rev. Canon Finnis, 15s.; small amounts, £1 11s. Total... £20 16 0.

By Mrs. H. E. Alomes - Mr. A. R. Alomes, £2; Mr. T. Heywood, Mr. A. Morrisby, Mr. W.E. Morrisby, Mr. W.D. Peacock, Mr. E.E. Alomes, each £1; Mr. H.C. Heywood, Mr. F. R. Alomes, Mrs. Blatherwick, each 10s.; small amounts,£1 1s. Total... £9 11 0.

By Mrs. Townley – Mrs. Gibson, £3; Mrs. M.E.

Townley, £2; small amounts, 3s. 6d. Total .. £5 2 6.

By Mrs. G. Alomes - Mr. C.E. Innes, Mrs. RV. Rodda, each 10s.; Mrs. G. Alomes, £1 10s ; small amounts, 10s. Total .. £3. By Misses M. and R. Calvert - Mr. R. Jackson, £1 2s. 6d.; Mrs. J. O'Brien, Mr. T. Gibbons, each £1; small amounts,10s. Total ... £3 15s. 6d. By Miss L Gellibrand - Mr. W.M. Williams, Misses Gellibrand, Mr. W.M. Murdoch, each 10s.; small amounts, 10s. Total ... £2.

Cash lent on Church by Messrs. W.T. and R. Calvert, £50; proceeds cake fair, £ 58 church collection Dedication service, £8 13s. 10½d.; tea, sale of goods, etc., s14. Total. . £130 13s. 10½d.

Total amount received ... £272 7s. 4½d.

EXPENDITURE.

Erection of Building - By Messrs. Tibbs and Jones, £235 10s.; Davies Bros, (advertising), £2; Crow Bros (foundation stone), £1 18s.; G.N. Grey (graining doors, frosting windows, etc.), £1 10s. 9d.; church furniture, £23 15s 6d ; balance in hand, £7 13s 1½d Total . £272 7s 6½d.

H.E. ALOMES, Tres. South Arm, Sept. 10, 1892.

Mercury of February 9, 1893:

Entertainments at South Arm.

Owing to rough weather on Saturday the concert was postponed till about the 3rd prox, A general fair will be held on Saturday afternoon next, in the cricket pavilion, for St. Barnabas Church Fund. The s.s. Nubeena will make a trip down, leaving at 2.15

Mercury of April 8, 1893:

ST. BARNABAS CHURCH, SOUTH ARM.

The BISHOP OF TASMANIA will Consecrate the above Church on SATURDAY, (THIS DAY), April 8th. Service at half past 3 O'clock p.m.

The ss. "Taranna" will leave the wharf at half past 1, return at 6 p.m. Tea provided in the cricket pavilion. Tickets, ONE SHILLING. H.E. Alomes.

The Mercury April 10, 1893 reported on the consecration of St Barnabas as follows:

Consecration at South Arm April 8th 1893

An interesting and pleasing ceremony took place at South Arm on Saturday afternoon in the consecration of the recently erected Anglican Church, there. The building is prettily situated on a plot of ground a short distance from the shore in a direct line, but upwards of a mile from the jetty. This plot of land has been used as a burial ground for some years, and has awaited the erection of a suitable edifice in which the proper worship of God might be held. Hitherto services have been conducted in the State Schoolroom, but the new structure will be in every way more suitable, and & commodious enough to accommodate all the residents likely to be on the Arm for some years to

come. It is built of timber lined with tongue and grooved pine nicely varnished. It consists of nave, chancel, vestry, and porch. The nave is 30ft x 21ft, and the chancel 16ft x 9ft. It is well lighted and ventilated, and the seating accommodation is very good. The tasteful vesting's for the altar, antependium for reading desk, lectern, etc., were made and beautifully em-broidered by the Hobart Gentlewomen's Needlework Guild, of which Miss Mault is Hon. Secretary. The project of the erection was begun and successfully completed by an energetic committee of ladies and gentlemen, Miss Lily Calvert and Mr. H.R. Alomes acting as joint secretaries. The whole of the residents generously helped, especially Messrs. W. and R. Calvert, who lent £50 free of interest to pay off the sum which was owing at the time of completion. This has since been nearly all repaid, and yesterday the church was practically out of debt. The building of the church was entrusted to Messrs. W. Tibbs and Jones, who worked to plans gratuitously supplied by Mr. B. Huckson. The pretty little stone font was supplied by Mr. Watson of Hobart. Over the chancel arch is the text "Worship the Lord in the beauty of Holiness," and over the three lights of the chancel window the words "Holy, Holy, Holy." The s.s. Taranna had been chartered to convey Bishop Montgomery and others from town, and about 120 availed themselves of the opportunity of taking part in the ceremony. Besides the Bishop, the incumbent (Rev. Charles Rhodes Hall) was the only clergyman present. The congregation, however, was large, and filled the building. The beautiful Anglican "Order for the Consecration of a Church" was gone through with impressive heartiness. Mr. A. McIntyre, organist, of St. Mary's, Bellerive, presided at the American organ with which the church is furnished, and the singing was led by the choir of the Bellerive church.

Bishop Montgomery at the conclusion of the ceremony gave a short address in which he congratulated the residents of the district on the possession of such a place of worship, and its practical freedom from debt. He referred to the necessity of brotherly unity amongst Christians and said that as that beautiful church had been reared by the organised combination of a number of boards, so Christians by uniting might fulfil God's command that they should be a temple, a kingdom, and a body. He asked them whenever they passed, that church to pray for this unity, and to pray that the services held in it might be beneficial and rich in blessing to all.

After leaving the church, the congregation departed to the newly-erected cricket pavilion, which is a really handsome building, and there partook of tea. Shortly after 6 p.m. a start was made for town, which was reached about 8 p.m. Under present arrangements only about 16 services can be held in the new church in the course of a year, as Mr. Hall's labours extend over such a large district.

Mercury of February 2, 1894: Raising funds

South Arm - A cake, fruit, and fancy fair was held at Calverton hall on the 31st ult. The object in view was to pay off the small amount owing on St Barnabas Church, also to help the funds of Calverton hall.

The s.s. Huon, chartered for the afternoon, left Hobart about 2.30 with a good number of visitors. The Rev. J.B.W. Woolnough, M H A, in opening the fair, said he thought Hobart visitors ought to be very thankful to the South Arm people who had given them the pleasant trip on the beautiful river, and he hoped they had come with willing hearts and open purses. He complimented not only the ladies, but the gentlemen also, who had worked so hard to make the fair a success, on the splendid display. He spoke very highly of the way in which the residents had worked to build their church. They did that first, and then the young fellows studied their own pleasure by building the hall. He was very pleased to see that out of five cricket matches played they had won four; he then wished them every success, and declared the "Fair" open. Business was brisk (considering the depression)

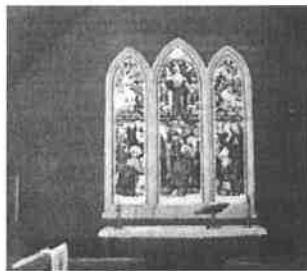
The Church of England has been closed those many years, and that the people there are actually perishing for the lack of knowledge. My informant tells me that when the Rev. Mr. Joseph Tice Gellibrand used to attend in this place the sight was most pleasing on the Sunday, the many boats bringing worshippers to the shore and the rustics wending their way to the Sacred edifice was a picture indeed, but that now this pleasing scene is turned into desolation. Surely one of those young men in holy orders who idle away their evening hour at St. David's, may put in

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their appearance at South Arm, or if they refuse to do this the doors of the church may be thrown open to others who I am told will be willing to go there and do their best,

NOTE:

It is interesting to see how the people of South Arm all supported the effort by each and every one to raise the funds required to build St Barnabas Church in such a short time. Most then were hard working families trying to establish themselves after not long arriving in Tasmania. On completion of the church it did not stop there as several people made donations of furniture apart from what was donated for the construction.



The stained glass windows behind the altar were donated by the Calvert family. The inscription reads "To the Glory of God and in loving memory of Hannah Calvert a devout worker for the church over 54 years. Alfred Gibson Calvert, church warden for 40 years."



Bishop's Chair, In loving memory of Henry and Rose Calvert. Given by Alma Calvert, Lola McDermont, Nancy Bessier, sons and daughters of the above. The Credence Table to the glory of God and in memory of Henry Edward Alomes.



Summary of information from research into Church History from the News papers

The Mercury of December 17, 1878 discussed the lack of a Clergyman visiting South Arm

Mercury of September 17, 1892: Building Committee

The Mercury of February 2, 1894: Fund raising

The Mercury April 10, 1893 reported on the consecration of St Barnabas Consecration at South Arm April 8th.

ST. BARNABAS CHURCH, SOUTH ARM. The Building Committee acknowledge the following AMOUNTS COLLECTED:

ST. BARNABAS CHURCH, SOUTH ARM DEDICATION.SERVICE. July 28th 1892

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The following is the history of the Gellibrand Fellowship Hall by Jane Beavan

In 1982, when we first lived here permanently, the church had no facilities at all, just the building standing in a somewhat overgrown graveyard.

Because there were parents who wanted their children to have some knowledge of the Bible, and the community was growing, with more children attending school, the congregation proposed to build somewhere where the children could have a separate area for Sunday School, and also toilets were obviously necessary. The congregation decided to raise the money and build a hall.

. Judy Goede, who was helping with the children, offered to design a suitable building. Her design was accepted, and immediately money raising began.

. The children's' parents, and various able bodied members of the congregation, including those with special skills, (plumbing, electrician, building etc), all offered their services free, and action began in 1983. Money raising included the usual cake stalls, other stalls, stalls on election days, outside the shops at various times etc. Probably the most consistent money raising came with the idea of the 'Soup and Sandwich' lunches, (suggested by Glad Kelly and my husband. These lunches were very successful, (and continued to the end of 2016), the money was used to restore the church after the hall was built, and later for many different charities.

. A walkathon was arranged from the Church to the, (then new), playground at Opossum Bay. All the children took part, and other people, ending with a BBQ at Opossum Bay. A very happy day was had by all, and lots of money was raised. There were direct donations, and later when the building was complete many people in the Community donated furnishings, crockery, cutlery, etc, and made the curtains. The blinds which are there now were financed by a morning tea run by Lorraine Wiltshire.

. All the painting and carpentry was done by volunteers.

. We had a Fair which raised a lot of money,(organised by Dot Kelly).

. We also had Quiz nights. The only expense was the actual materials from which the Hall was built, in those days about 20,000.

. As soon as there was enough money the ground was cleared, which involved cutting down some quite large trees, and then laying the concrete, and we progressed from there.

. The hall was in use for Sunday School from the start of 1987, and consecrated by Archdeacon Ian Booth, debt free, in April 1987. Many of the people involved are still living in South Arm today.

. Nobody outside the local community had any input at all into the building of the hall.

. As you can see from the History Booklet, the Sunday school was very well supported, with 73 children enrolled, and approx 40 attending each week. Before the hall was built Sunday school had to be held at a different time to church services. It ran well from 1983 to 1994 when the then Rector wanted the children to come to Church for most of their time. As predicted, the children soon got bored, and began to fall away.

Since then a monthly Sunday school was held until 2014 when Rev Helen Phillips decreed that children would have to join in at Howrah; (this didn't happen), so there has been no children's ministry since. However the hall is still in regular use for meals after church and other occasional functions. Adult Ed Art classes were held in the hall for a few years, also children's parties occasionally, a place to gather after funerals, and after any church services for fellowship. The money for the fenced off area was donated by the Girls Friendly Society, and ensured children didn't go wandering, especially when we had evening services. We wanted to install play equipment, But sadly that never happened.

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NOTE: The first burial took place in the Grave Yard at St Barnabas (Convict) Joseph Wilmore 1858.

It must have been about that year when the late George Henry Blake Gellibrand gave a portion of his land for the graves.

There has been a big representation of local families now at rest with in the grounds of St Barnabas.

The relatives of the those people are now very concerned in what will happen in the future if the Anglican Church is allowed to sell the graves and the building.

This information has been compiled from historical records from my research of the years past. I am also holding records of burials with in the church yard starting from the records updated in 1947.

I myself constructed the first memorial wall containing the ashes for many of my ancestors and relatives.

And others

I thank Jane Beavan for here history of the volunteer work and the fund raising for the "Gellibrand Fellowship Hall".

All this proves that it was the dedication of the parishioners of South Arm, Opossum Bay and beyond.

My own family history dates from my great grandfather John Potter who farmed in South Arm in 1866.

On my mother's side which began with her great grandfather who commenced farming at South Arm 1854

The Calvert family history dates from 1851 when Christopher Calvert settled in South Arm. There are many other families who did the same in the middle 18th century.

Not forgetting the relatives of William Gellibrand who was granted the whole of the South Arm peninsula in 1825.

Local Historian

Maurice Potter