

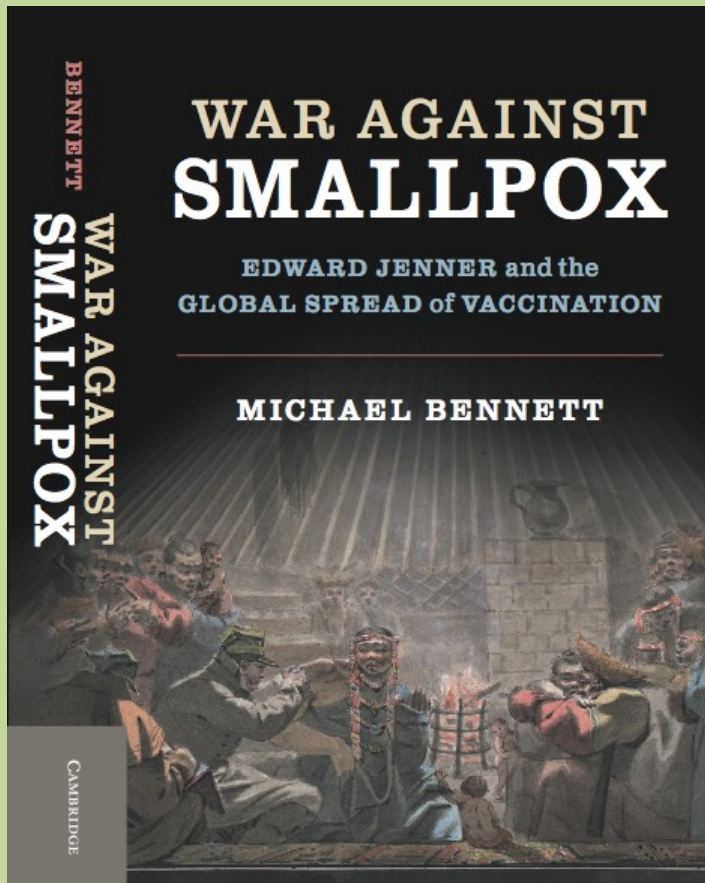
Tasmanian Historical Research Association

Eldershaw Lecture, April 2022

Keeping Tasmanians Safe

Smallpox, Quarantine and Vaccination in
Nineteenth-Century Tasmania

Michael Bennett

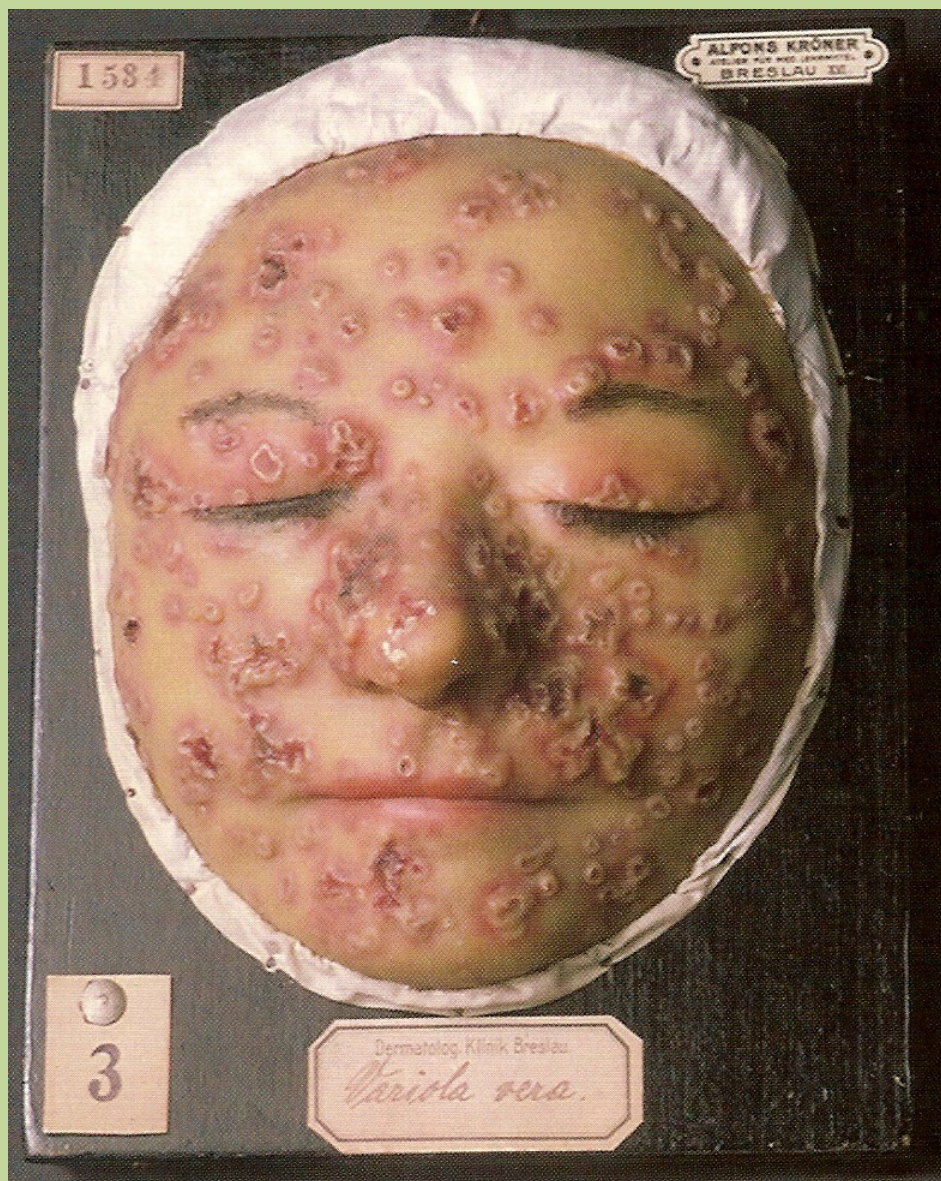


Michael Roe, "Smallpox in Launceston, 1887 and 1903", *THRAPP*, 23 (1976)

Rebekah McWhirter, "Smallpox and vaccination in Tasmania", *THRAPP*, 56 (2009)

Michael Bennett, "Smallpox, vaccination and the Launceston Epidemic of 1887", *Tasmanian Historical Studies*, 18 (2013)

Carey Denholm and Stefan Petrow, *Edward Swarbreck Hall. Colonial Medical Scientist and Moral Activist* (2016)



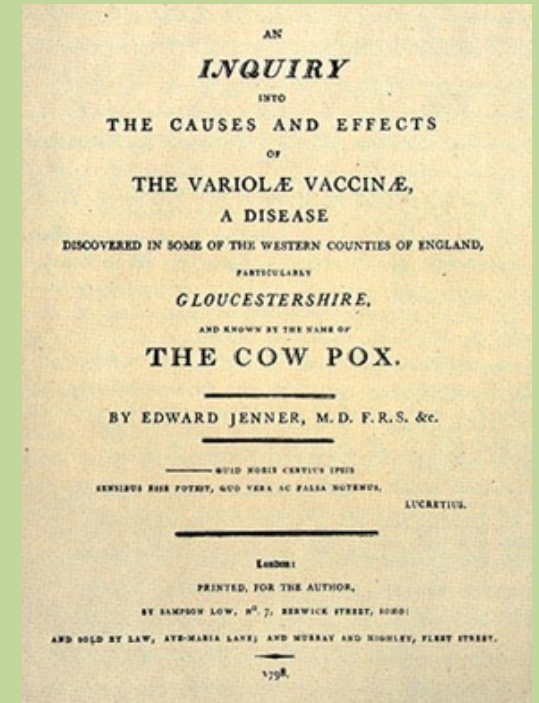
1584

ALFONS KRÖNER
BRESLAU 33

2

3

Dermatolog. Klinik Breslau.
Variola vera.



Edward Jenner,
Berkeley, Gloucestershire, c. 1800

The Invention of Cowpox Inoculation (Vaccination)



Полна фелла пустошамитъ,
и майябъ словабъ неворитъ.
Взгордохъ тово кепучеитъ,
хорово оспу прививаитъ.
А послушайтъ ладны
пѣнь спасла своихъ дѣтей.

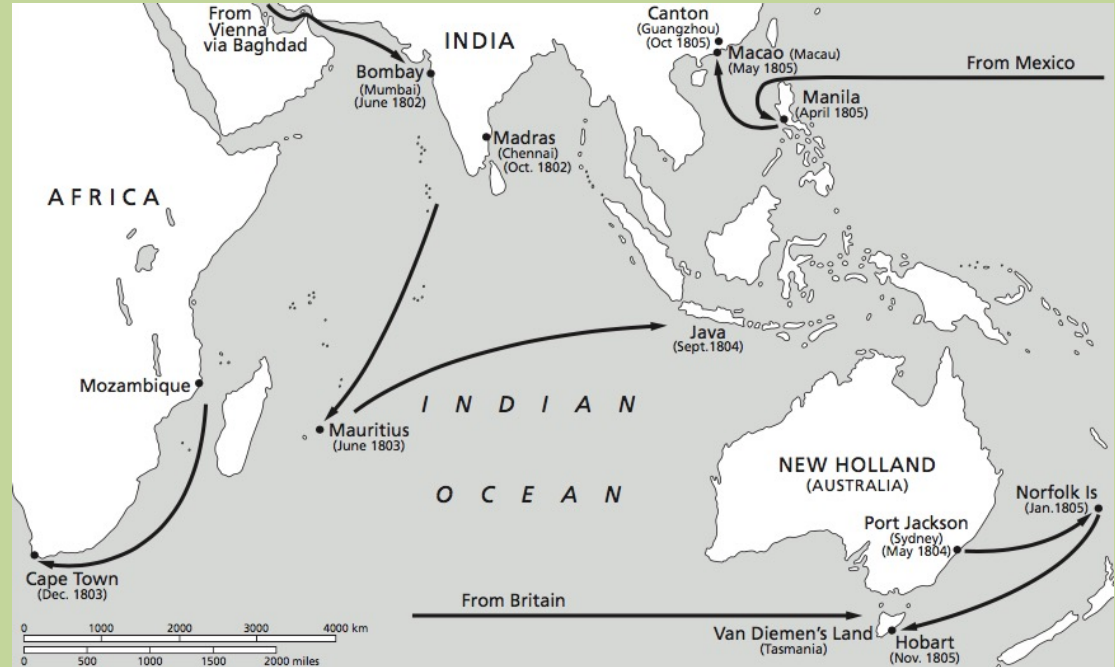
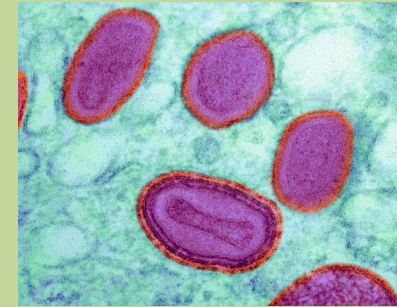
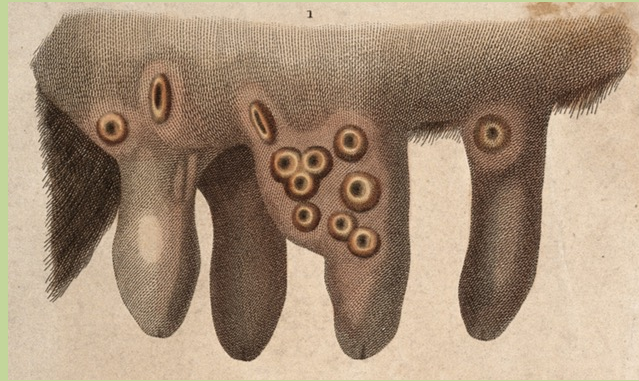
Вижу гуревна любезна,
хорово оспа что палева.
Уидъ пришло теперь решитъся,
чтобъ въ передъ всѣмъ кашимъ дѣламъ
Невора балъ вадимъ бредяитъ.
хорово оспу прививаитъ.



Russian broadsheet (*lubki*)
promoting vaccination,
early 1800s

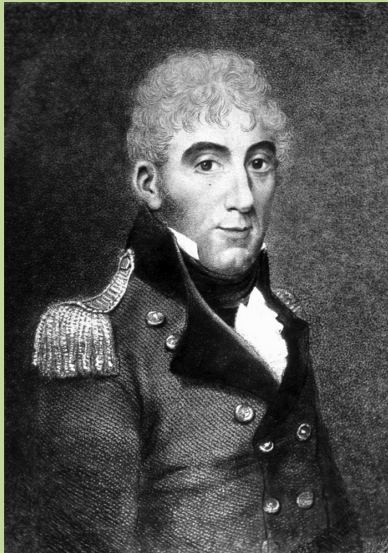
Vaccination among Buryats near
Irkutsk, 1805-6

Vaccination in Russian Empire

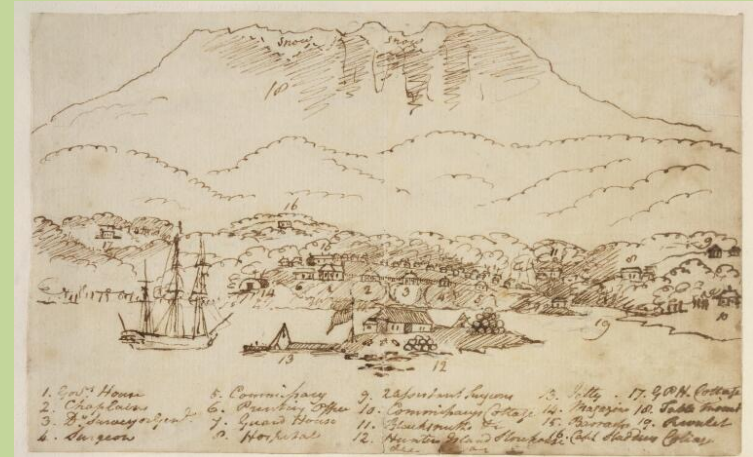


Cowpox Pandemic, 1800-1815?

Vaccinations in Hobart Town, Van Diemen's Land, Nov-Dec 1805



Lieutenant
Governor
David Collins
(1756-1810)



Cowpox brought to Hobart, per HMS Buffalo!



[Enclosure.]

RETURN of Children innoculated with Vaccine Virus Since its first introduction by — McMillan, Esqr., Surgeon of His Majesty's Ship Buffalo, 9th Novr., 1805.

Innoculated:—John Bowden; William Thorne; Richard Hopley; Henrietta Thorne; Robert Hobart May, a Native of Van Diemen's Land.

The above children were innoculated and took the infection in the most distinct and favorable manner.

At present under Innoculation:—Caroline Maria Risaley; Sarah Davies.

From the present appearance of the above two cases, there is every reason to expect a favorable termination of the disease.

WM. P'ANSON, Surgeon.

Gen. Hospital, Hobart Town, 19th December, 1805.

VACCINATION

The Colonial Surgeon having just received a Quantity of fresh Vaccine Virus from the Principal Colonial Surgeon at Sydney, begs to remind the Inhabitants of Hobart Town and the Public, that notwithstanding the happy Escape these Colonies have had from the dreadful Ravages of the Small Pox, the most Loathsome of all Diseases, we know not how soon our boasting may be changed into Mourning by its introduction; and, while in our Power to secure to ourselves a Safeguard against such a Scourge to the

Human Race, it cannot be too strongly impressed on the Minds of Parents the inconceivable Blessing they are capable of bestowing on Society by having their Children inoculated for the Cow Pox, which they may get performed at His Majesty's Colonial Hospital, on every Week Day, between the Hours of 11 and 12 in the Forenoon, or at their Homes, on giving one Day's previous Notice.

The Medical Gentlemen of the Colony may be furnished with the Vaccine Virus, on Application at the Colonial Hospital.

J.SCOTT. R. N.

Colonial Surgeon.

Hobart Town Gazette and Van Diemen's Land Advertiser

Saturday 8 December 1821

79

Vaccination in the District of Great Swan
Port this being the 1st time of its introduction
into the District since I came into it.

10th Emma Buxton M^r. one vesicle which went
through its stages well & was found to take off
the matter from which were vaccinated

11th Emma & George Bradford M^r & M^{rs} both had several
vesicles well formed & genuine.

12th Charles Hawkins M^r 18^{mo} several vesicles in each arm
well formed & genuine (since dead)

13th 5th Hugh Donald MacLaine } both vaccinated & the
Joseph John & Anne McLaine } vesicles were beautiful & very
the parents.

George Cotton } vaccinated but not going on well
John Cotton } were again vaccinated with
James Cotton } with new matter from Emma Buxton
when all the vesicles appeared
again in their proper form

George Smeltzer } of 2nd Regiment at Watertown
Elizabeth Marshall } Point
Nelly } Smeltzer & Marshall well formed & genuine
vaccinated again in 1835 & found
that its stages as if working from the
therefore genuine.



Dr George Story (1800-85)

"Vaccinations in the District
of Great Swan Port, 1835,
this being the first time of
its introduction into the
District since I came into it."

Rural vaccination, c. 1855

John James Dickenson's Reminiscences:

"As soon as I was able to ride, I had to go to Hamilton to Dr. Julian's house, to be vaccinated; I had not long to wait before a woman came in with another nice little boy, and I was vaccinated from him. And would it not be interesting to know whether that other nice little boy is alive, or where he is today? The Doctor must have thought I was a healthy kid, for at the proper time he came to the hotel at the Ouse, and all the other kids in the district were vaccinated from me."

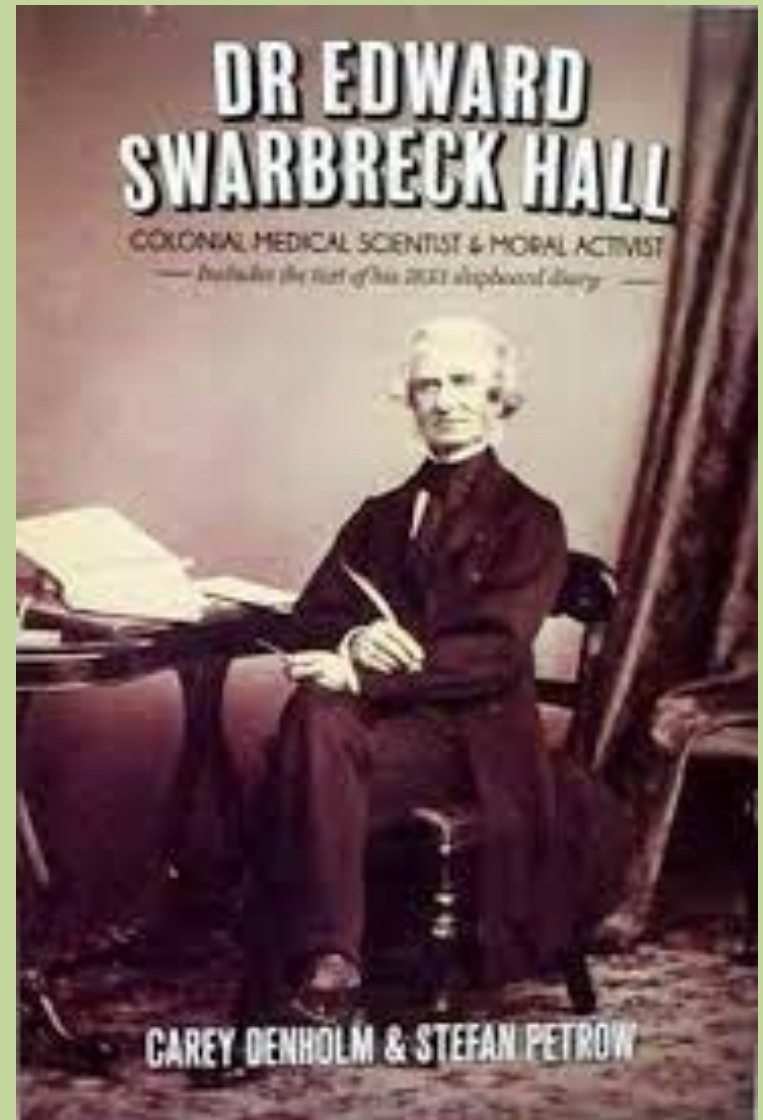


Prospect House, Hamilton

Dr Edward Swarbreck Hall (1805-81)

Superintendent of Vaccinations in
Tasmania, 1863-7

"When the day comes ... to restrain the slaughter of the people from smallpox," he warned in 1879, "as all past experience shows that it will come sooner or later, there will be weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth, and deep humiliation, sorrow, and remorse for those who ought to have averted such a calamity."



Public vaccinations, May 1886

V A C C I N A T I O N.

Dr. WILLES will Vaccinate GRATUITOUSLY in Tasman's Peninsula, at the following places :—

TARANNA, Norfolk Bay Hotel, TUESDAY, May 25, 10·30 o'clock a.m.

PREMAYDENA, Impression Bay, State School, ditto ditto, 3 o'clock p.m.

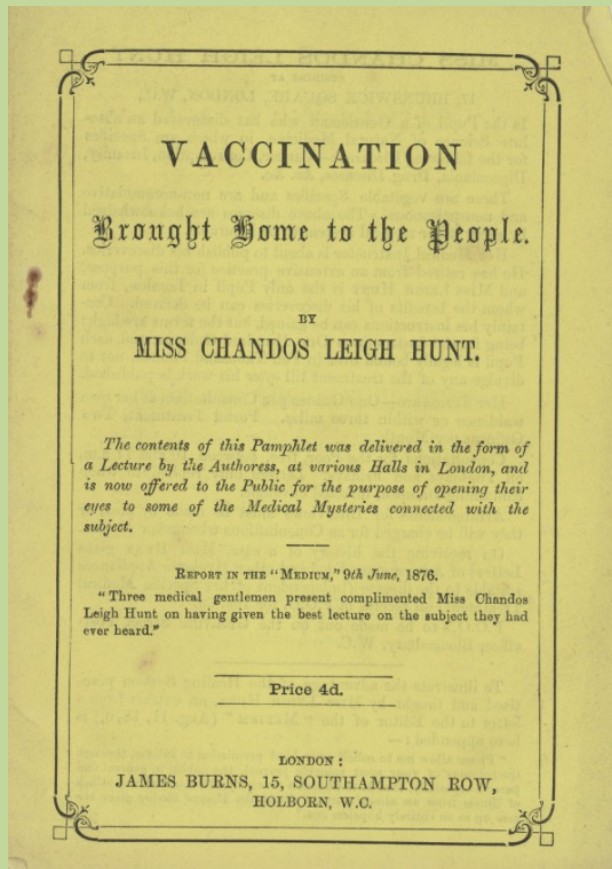
CASCADES, ditto, WEDNESDAY, May 26, 12 noon.

LONG BAY, Mr. G. Wellard's, ditto ditto, 2·30 o'clock p.m.

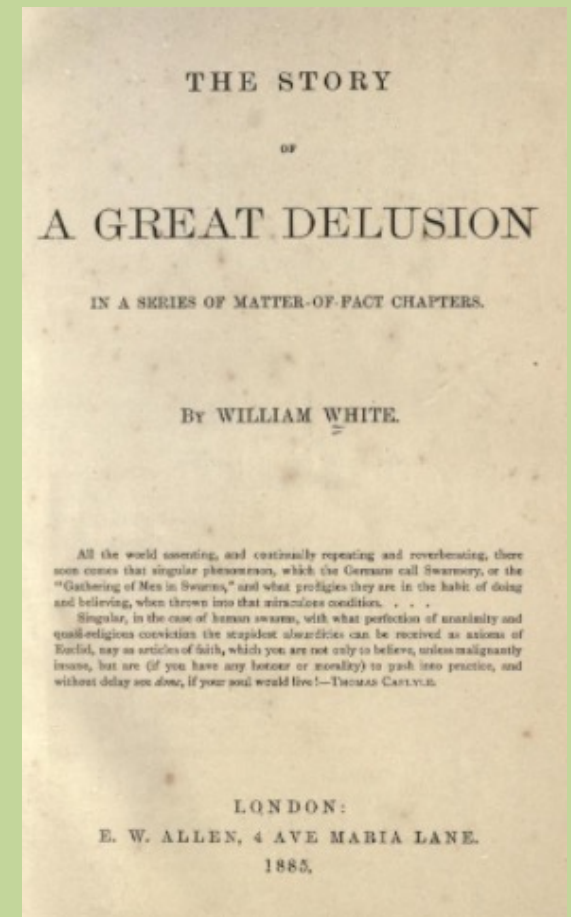
CARNARVON, State School, THURSDAY, May 27, 12 noon.

**C. E. BARNARD, M.D.,
Superintendent of Vaccinations.**

Books cited by T.O. Button, Honorary Secretary of the Launceston Anti-Compulsory Vaccination Society in speeches in August 1885



Chandos Honoria Leigh
Hunt (née Wallace),
(1854-1927)



Parents from the northeast have their say in the Daily Telegraph,
November 1886

"A Father", Scottsdale: compulsory vaccination deprives :an Englishman of his liberty. It is quite time we made a stand ... Let us form a monster anti-vaccination society, and carry the day at any cost."

"Another father", Scottsdale: the Vaccination Act is "a piece of class legislation"; according to Professor Newman "To punish parents for struggling to keep their children's blood inviolate, is a form of tyranny unheard of until modern times, and emphatically as disgraceful as it is impious:; "improved sanitation" has done "far more for the prevention of smallpox" than vaccination.

"A mother", Ringarooma: "Why should those who do not believe in vaccination be compelled to risk the lives or health of their children? ... I don't think doctors ought to have a voice in the matter, as it is against some of their interests."

The opinions of Albert Fraser, fl. 1886-7

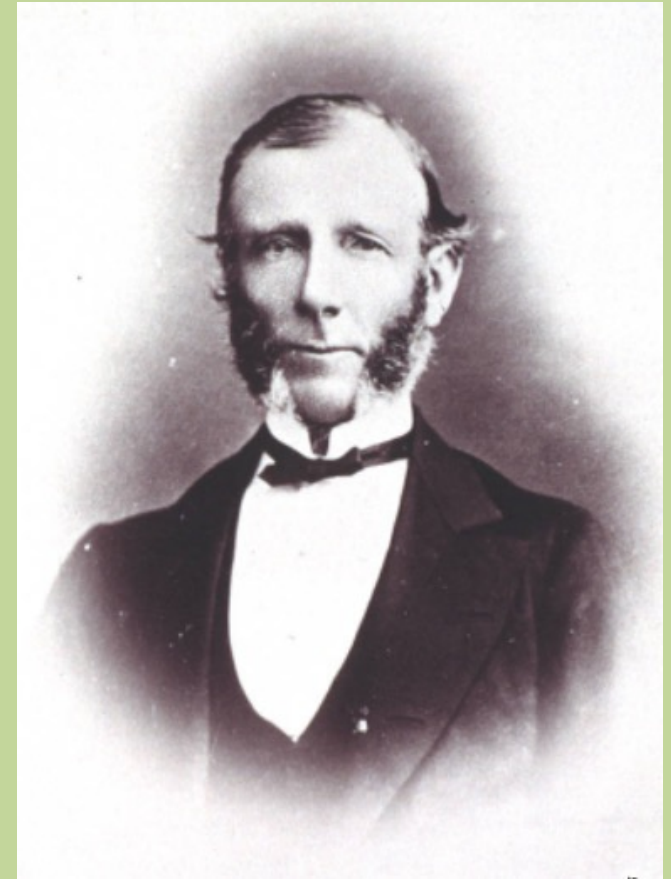
Member of the London Anti-Vaccination Society, Honorary Secretary of the Deloraine Anti-Compulsory Vaccination Society, 1886-7, Honorary Secretary of the Latrobe Anti-Compulsory Vaccination Society, 1887

"For generations from the highest to the lowest people have been taught to believe and take for gospel all that the doctors may say. But we are entering upon a more enlightened age, men are beginning to read and think for themselves, and will no longer be bound to accept the opinions of others contrary to their own conscientious convictions."

"Let us keep ourselves clean and our homes and families clean; our blood pure and healthy by means of plain, wholesome food and pure water; let us avoid intoxicating drinks, which cause nearly as much disease, suffering, and misery as vaccination itself, and no epidemic will ever cause us trouble."



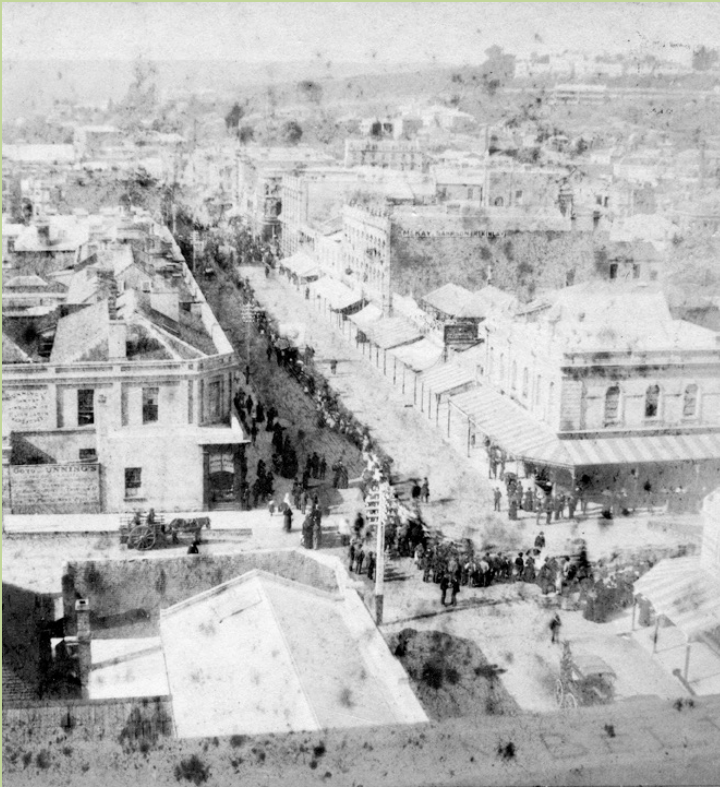
Edward Braddon
(1829-1904) and
Braddon's Bill, 1887



Dr James Willson Agnew (1815-
1901), Premier of Tasmania,
1886-7

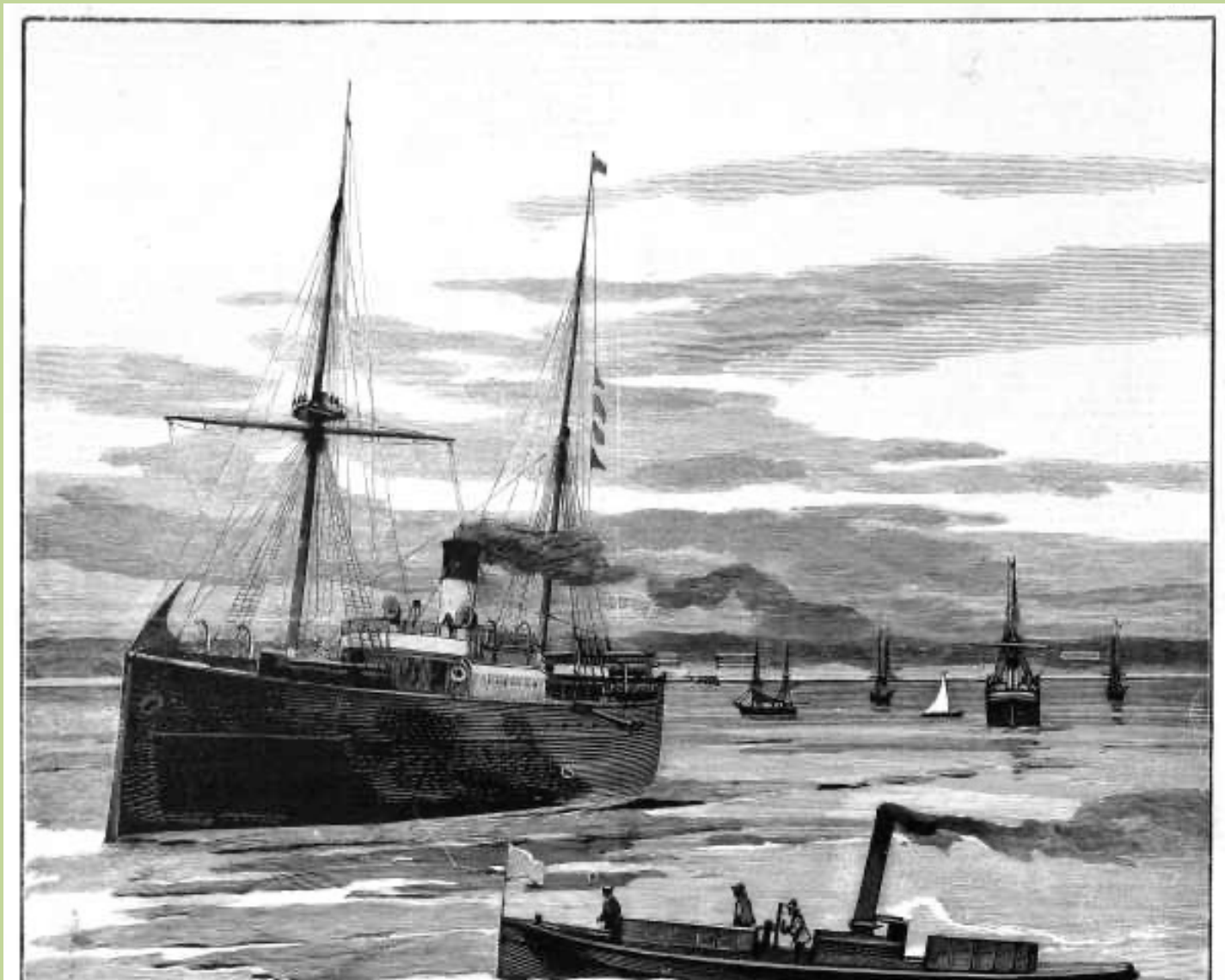
"Whilst admitting that compulsory vaccination was disagreeable, [the Premier] contended it was necessary for the safety of the community", Speech of the Vaccination Amendment Bill, December 1886.

*Or in the contemporary idiom:
"I make no apology for keeping Tasmanians
safe"!*



The gathering of young people yesterday afternoon as the children's part in the Victoria Jubilee was an intensely interesting event. It was a lovely day, and the bursting buds and blossoms of the park were fitting symbols of the thousands gambolling around in the very spring-time of their history. The event will be a sunny spot in the memories of most of them for many years, and it is hoped as their physical frames expand, that they will grow up to be good, useful and happy. What may not Tasmania expect when on such an occasion six thousand children can be gathered together in Launceston alone? (*Examiner*, 29 Sep 1887)

Quarantine of Tasmanian vessel, 1887



**COMPULSORY VACCINATION.
UNITY IS STRENGTH.**

ALL who are opposed to *Compulsory Vaccination* are requested to forward name and address (post card will do) to T. O. BUTTON, Hon. Sec. Devon Anti-Compulsory Vaccination Society, or ALBERT FRASER, Hon. Sec. Deloraine Anti-Compulsory Vaccination Socy., who will post papers etc., in return gratis.
Dec. 3. (m)

Devon Herald, 7 Dec 1886

"They that be whole need not a physician,
but they that are sick."

**THE LATROBE ANTI-COMPULSORY VACCINATION SOCIETY
(And Health Reform Association)**

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J. M. Dooley, Esq., J.P., M.H.A.

VICE-PRESIDENTS:

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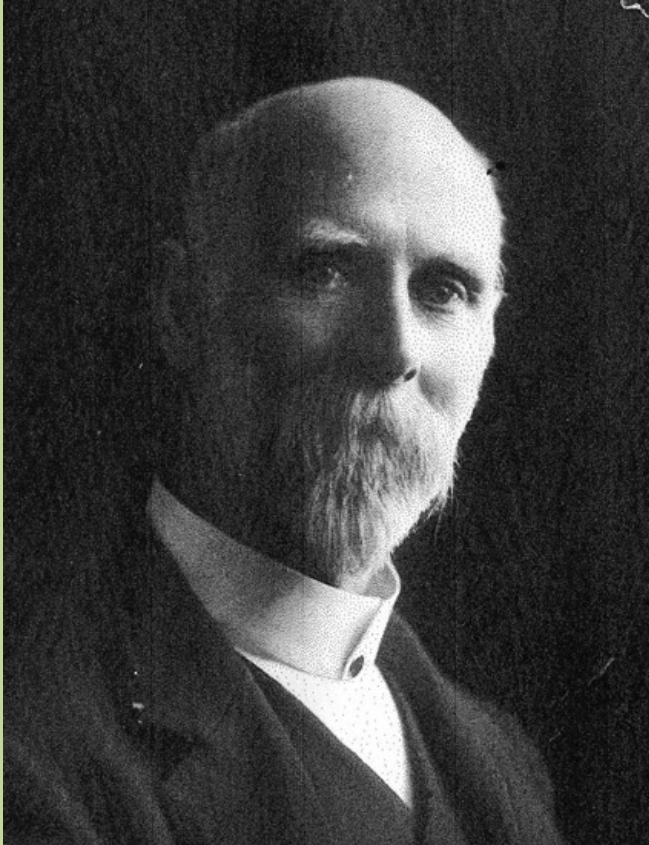
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Vaccination from
the Calf
Melbourne, 1880s

Smallpox
epidemic in
Launceston, 1887
Cases; 35
Deaths: 11
Case mortality
31%

Smallpox
epidemic in
Launceston, 1903
Cases: 66;
Deaths: 19;
Case mortality
28%.





William Bugby (1853-1928),
school-teacher at Forcet, 1903:

Vaccination "is an act that no
emergency can justify, no science
sanction, no plea of expediency
palliate, and no public panic
excuse ...To pox people is to
pollute them, not to protect
them."