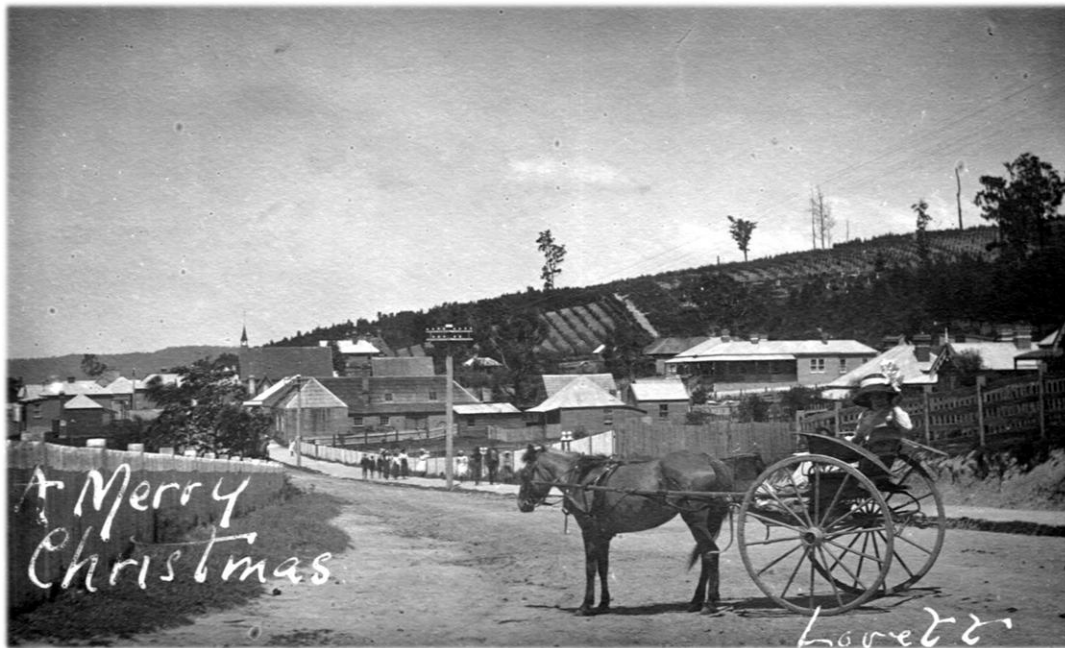


## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	iii
Ch. 1 Local Government	1
Ch. 2 Economic Enterprise	15
Ch. 3 State Schools	43
Ch. 4 The Churches	73
Ch. 5 Sports, Recreation & Entertainment	99
Ch. 6 Descendants of Fanny Cochrane Smith	125
Ch. 7 A Reference Guide to New Arrivals	133
Bibliography	193
Index	195



## *Introduction*

From 1858 until 1915 the township of Port Cygnet was officially known as Lovett. The attribution of the surname to describe the township itself, as opposed to the harbour which was known as Port Cygnet, is the work of the Chief Draftsman in the Survey Department in the late 1850s, Frederick Henry Lovett (1821-1860). In a moment of self-naming glory this official left his imprint on one of Tasmania's towns for decades. The son of a convict, Frederick Lovett was born at Beccles in Suffolk, England, 11 March 1821. He married Jane Hurst in 1839 and had two children; then he married Emma Spurling in 1850 after the death of his first wife. The names of his children live on since they were chosen as street-names for the township. George Street, Louisa Street, Emma Street, Charles Street and Mary Street all carry the names of the children of Frederick Lovett from his two marriages. Frederick Street would appear to carry his own name. Ironically, the life of the Englishman who left his mark on the town so indelibly was cut short early. He died at New Town 24 August 1860 aged only 39.

In 1914 Port Cygnet was much more easily recognisable to the modern eye than in 1900. At the turn of the century the *Commercial Hotel*, the schoolhouse coffee shop (then the Catholic school), St. Mark's church and the State School looked much as they do over a century later. Buildings that were familiar to the inhabitants or visitors in 1900 have since disappeared: the original *Huon Hotel*, the original St. James church, the Methodist church, the Post Office, J.P. Lawler's store and fruit depot as well as Harvey's commercial stores. In this short space of fifteen years, from 1900 until the beginning of the First World War, the erection of a series of buildings made Port Cygnet resemble its modern appearance, especially in the town centre. At the heart of the township the convent, the presbytery, the Commercial Bank, Balfour House, the building now known as the Red Velvet Lounge and the Town Hall were all erected. So was the hotel at the northern end of the town presently called the *Cygnet Hotel*.

This volume traces the development of the Port Cygnet district from the beginning of the twentieth century until the outbreak of the First World War. The creation and achievements of the Port Cygnet Municipal Council in the first seven years of its existence are examined in the opening chapter. Chapter Two looks at economic enterprise (the expansion of the fruit industry, shipbuilding and the river trade, commercial stores and hotels) and ends by detailing how bush fires threatened livelihoods and commercial activity. Chapter Three describes the State Schools at Lovett and in the surrounding settlements. The existence of admission lists and inspectors' reports allows us to have a detailed picture of education in this period. The expansion of the Catholic Church and its involvement in denominational education are the subject of Chapter Four where the activities of the Methodist Church and the Anglican Church are also outlined. Chapter Five turns to various sports, recreations and entertainments that were common at Port Cygnet before the Great War: wood chopping, football, music and singing, horseracing and yachting. An outline of information concerning the grandchildren of Fanny Cochrane Smith is contained in Chapter Six. This is the first time such a complete list has been published. Chapter Seven is a reference guide and contains the names of people and their families who arrived in the district between 1900 and August 1914. As far as possible the geographic origin of these new arrivals is given, the year they arrived and, in some cases, when they left the area. The final chapter allows us to see who lived in the district in late 1914 (other families have been treated in the previous volumes of this series) when the world suddenly changed with the outbreak war in Europe. Volume 4 will cover the war years and the aftermath of the war in 1919.