



Convict Connections

An Interest Group of the Genealogical Society of Queensland Inc

THE CHRONICLE



*Sydney Cove Medallion made in 1789
by Josiah Wedgwood*

February 2023

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BENDIGO BANK BSB: 633 000 Account: 198816720

Our *Chronicle* is published
February, June and October

Subscribers need not be members of GSQ.

Annual subscription is \$15 (includes postage).

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V. Blomer (Editor)
For Convict Connections.

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FRONT COVER



This rare medallion was sold at auction by Lyon & Turnbull of Edinburgh in November 2022. It was made from clay which was taken from Sydney Cove back to Britain in 1789. Governor Phillip had reported that white clay could be found just a few feet below the surface. When the First Fleet ship *Fishburn* returned to Britain it carried a box of the clay which was to be delivered to Joseph Banks. Banks forwarded a sample of the clay to Josiah

Wedgewood, a British potter, for experimentation.

As a result, around 24 of the “Botany Bay medals” were made from the clay. Under Wedgewood’s directions to commemorate the new settlement at Sydney Cove, Henry Webber was entrusted with the design of a medallion and William Hackwood made the moulds. Only twelve of the “Botany Bay medals” have so far been located.

Botany Bay is obviously not depicted, but in the background is a sailing ship and the beginnings of a settlement on land. There are three female figures and one male figure displayed. The first female is dressed in a Grecian robe in front of an anchor which is the symbol for hope. She is Hope and is encouraging peace, art and labour. Peace holds an olive branch and has a horn of plenty at her feet. The third female figure, symbolising Art, holds an artist’s palette. The male figure wears a loin cloth and has a sledge hammer over his shoulder to represent labour.

The word Etruria and the date 1789 complete the design. Etruria Works was the name of the factory established by Josiah Wedgewood in 1769 at Stoke-on-Trent. He had been greatly inspired by ancient Greek pottery which was then described as being Etruscan.

Josiah presented Banks with several medallions. His accompanying letter said, *I have the pleasure of acquainting you, that the clay from Sydney Cove, which you did me the honour of submitting to my examination, is an excellent material for pottery, and may certainly be made the basis of a valuable manufacture for our infant colony there. Of the species of ware which may be produced from it, you will have some idea from the medallions I have sent for your inspection.*

The auctioned medallion had been part of a private collection in the U.K. and sold for £36,000. Of the remaining eleven, five are in the Mitchell Library, one in the National Museum in Canberra, one is held by the Sydney Living Museums Corporation, the Silent World Foundation, the British Museum, the Lady Lever Art Gallery and the Potteries Museum and Art Gallery.

<https://www.lyonandturnbull.com/news/article/the-first-fleet-and-the-sydney-cove-medallion/>

CONVICT CONNECTIONS NEWS

Our December and February meetings unfortunately were poorly attended, thus giving rise to thoughts of disbanding our Special Interest Group. Over the years we have helped many with their convict ancestry, but numbers have been dwindling for a couple of years now. It seems Zoom meetings are preferred by many, and with no one in our group wanting to be in charge of that, then the tough decision has to be made.

This may then be the last year for our *Convict Connections Chronicle*. I have enjoyed compiling the information, even though there have been times when I wondered how I was going to fill 40 pages! A bonus for me was learning so much about our early convict and colonial history. I must admit that sometimes the knowledge comes in handy on trivia nights!!!

Please note page 2 for our new GSQ bank details and our current email - convictconnections@gsq.org.au

The Biographical Database of Australia On-Line

<https://www.bda-online.org.au>

What was added in 2022?

- Indents for convicts sent to NSW from India, Ceylon (Sri Lanka), South Africa, Mauritius & Burma (Myanmar) 1823-1826
- List of landholders in NSW 1813, including a guide to land districts in relation to modern Greater Sydney suburbs
- First Fleet 1788 victualling list: effectively the first census of colonists arriving in Australia from Europe
- Catholic baptisms 1832-1837 Sydney, Yass, Goulburn, Bungonia, Wollongong, Blue Mountains & Maitland
- Marriages & burials 1838-1867 St Lawrence C of E Sydney
- More records of absconding convicts NSW 1832-1838.

THE WILL OF DR WILLIAM REDFERN [1774-1833]



You can never overlook the importance of Wills as a genealogical resource, especially if your ancestor owned property and/or named relatives as beneficiaries. The executors can also be of relevance. Reading the Will of Dr Redfern led me on a search to find out more about the man who arrived in New South Wales in 1801 as a convicted mutineer and, as a qualified Doctor, was of great benefit to the colony while, unsurprisingly, also ensuring that he himself benefitted financially.

A rare book held by the Berkelouw Rare Books Department (near Berrima) is said to include the original manuscript copy of the grant of 100 acres in Sydney Town by Governor Macquarie, as well as the

Will of Dr William Redfern which is dated 1 July 1825. The book is offered for sale at \$10,000. A description of the item is - *Handwritten in a fine clear hand on pale blue/grey paper stock measuring 41 x 33cm single-sided 5 pages of script a 6th page blank at end. The LAND GRANT by His Excellency Lachlan Macquarie Esquire Captain General and Governor in Chief of His Majesty's Territory of New South Wales and its Dependencies. Witnessed by H. C. Antill and Joseph Cowgill. The WILL AND TESTAMENT appoints W. C. Wentworth H. C. Antill T. Wills and wife Sarah Redfern as Executors of William Redfern's estate comprising his town estate as well as his extensive holdings at Campbellfield Airds. The whole folded and with vellum seal on upper left corner.*

The Mitchell Library claims to have the original Will which was gifted to them by Dr Redfern's great-grandson. When a Codicil was added in 1828, this would have become his last Will and Testament. [A full transcription can be found on-line at <http://redfern.s3-website-ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/will.pdf>.] It shows the rise in prosperity of a young court-martialled naval surgeon who became a prominent figure in our colonial history.

Dr Redfern died in 1833 while in Scotland. His wife, obviously with knowledge that her husband was ill, sailed from Sydney but arrived in Edinburgh just two days after he was interred. The Will was proved in London the following year. The only surviving son was a minor who was being educated in Scotland. All land holdings were in New South Wales.

Much has been written about the life of Dr Redfern. While his was a relatively short life, it was certainly an interesting one. He was born around 1774 and was 22 years old when he was court-martialled. He was the Surgeon's First Mate on board the Royal Navy's HMS *Standard* for just a matter of months before

those on the ships making up the Channel Fleet were charged with mutiny at Spithead while Britain was at war with France. The Spithead and the Nore mutinies of 1797 were the first of a series of unrest among the sailors of the Royal Navy. At Spithead the strike action was peaceful and based on economic grievances whereas Nore was more radical and political. There was a great deal of dissatisfaction among the men as they had not been paid for some time. Dr Redfern seemingly had ties with the United Irishmen, members of whom were said to be responsible for the mutinies. They demanded immediate peace with France and for King George III to abdicate. It was revealed that Surgeon Redfern had advised the men on board *HMS Standard* to be '*more united among themselves*' so he was included as one of the leaders to face court martial.

Whether an injustice was done in finding him guilty is open to speculation. He was given a death sentence in 1797, but it was reprieved due to his profession and age. After spending four years in Maidstone Gaol, arrangements were made to place Redfern on a hulk before transporting him in 1801 on the *Canada* as a mutineer rather than as a political prisoner. During the voyage to Sydney, he was allowed the privilege of aiding the ship's surgeon.

Dr William Redfern arrived in Sydney in 1801 at the age of 27 years. By June 1802, he was appointed as the Assistant Surgeon on Norfolk Island and was granted an absolute pardon. He remained on Norfolk Island until May 1808 when he returned to Sydney with an unnamed wife and a servant. There was no further mention of this wife in the records. He was soon appointed as the Assistant Surgeon at the General Hospital which was then a dilapidated building at Dawes Point. Thomas Jamieson was the Principal Surgeon at the time, and he was impressed with Dr Redfern's ability.

The good doctor seems to have set about befriending those who could aid him in his profession and later as a landholder, a breeder of cattle and sheep, and a vine grower. It was fortuitous that he was able to treat John Macarthur's daughter in 1809. A grateful father promised to use his influence in Redfern's favour. It was probably because of this that 500 acres in the district of Cabramatta were granted to the Doctor in that same year.

The start of 1810 saw Lachlan Macquarie take on the role of Governor. He wrote, *I also beg to recommend that Mr William Redfern, who has for some time past been acting as Assistant Surgeon in the Civil Medical Establishment of this Colony with great credit to himself and advantage to the public service, may be confirmed in that situation by a commission from His Majesty.* Redfern had established himself as a qualified doctor and was obviously in favour with the Governor. In July 1810, he wanted to go to England for 12 to 18 months, but his request was denied because he was needed in the colony. At the close of 1810, Dr Redfern accompanied Governor Macquarie on an exploratory visit to the Airds District.

On 4 March 1811, Dr William Redfern married Sarah Spencer Wills (born 1796 in England). She was the eldest daughter of Edward Spencer Wills (more later!). Her mother gifted the couple 30 acres of land in Sydney which she had previously purchased. In May, Dr Redfern was granted 800 acres of prime land in Airds, and he named it Campbell Fields. The accumulation of land and stock continued.

After the crossing of the Blue Mountains in 1815, Dr Redfern accompanied the Governor to Bathurst. No doubt he hoped to eventually have a grant of land in that vicinity. Meanwhile, in 1816, he was granted 70 acres adjoining his wife's 30 acre dowry. This made up the 100 acres held in Sydney and mentioned in the Will.

Sydney's hospital had been in dire need of replacement, and one of Governor Macquarie's first tasks was to see that a new one was built. When it was finally completed in 1816, Dr Redfern was put in charge. Although D'Arcy Wentworth was the colony's principal surgeon, he rarely visited the wards. The hospital may have been new, but there were still many issues regarding cleanliness and sanitation, disorderly staff (many being convicts) and theft.

Dr Redfern also ran his own private practice. Not only did he have an out-patient clinic for convict men serving on gangs, but he was also the family physician for the Macarthurs and the Macquaries. His professional skills were highly regarded in the colony. He had prepared a report on the high mortality rate on board the convict ships of 1814 and advised that naval surgeons, not under control of the ships' captains, should be appointed.

With the establishment of the Bank of New South Wales, William Redfern had become one of its directors in 1817. He was also the third person to deposit money in the bank. He and Sarah were also financial contributors to the Benevolent Society. It was in 1817 that there was a set-back for emancipists like Dr Redfern. A ruling by the King's Bench in London concerned any convicts who had been given pardons by governors. Such men were no longer allowed to be involved in local law or able to retain or transmit property.

When D'Arcy Wentworth resigned as Principal Surgeon in 1818, Dr Redfern expected to take his position. Instead, Dr James Bowman was appointed by Lord Bathurst. Not long after Dr Bowman arrived in Sydney, he inspected the hospital without informing Dr Redfern. This was enough for the latter to indignantly resign. Governor Macquarie decided to appoint Dr Redfern as a Magistrate in the District of Airds in 1819 to compensate for his disappointment in losing the position to Dr Bowman.

Sarah gave birth to their first child, William Lachlan Macquarie Redfern, in 1819. This coincided with Commissioner Bigge being in the colony. Bigge advised the Governor against Redfern's appointment as magistrate because he was an ex-convict. The following year Lord Bathurst would officially order his removal from the position of magistrate.

Commissioner Bigge was scathing of conditions in the colony and its governance. He was selective with those he interviewed in preparing his report. One of his recommendations was a land grant system in Van Diemen's Land whereby the 'right class of people' would be encouraged to take up land and be supplied with convict labour. When the Governor and Mrs Macquarie traversed the island by horse and gig in 1821 Dr Redfern accompanied them.

Bigge's Report of the colony had also been scathing towards Dr William Redfern. He accused him of theft - ... *that he had for some time kept a dispensary in the house provided for him by government, near the hospital at Sydney, where he was in the habit of making up and dispensing medicine for his private practice in the town, as well as for those of the civil officers whom he attended... Mr. Redfern having had the largest share of private practice in the colony, and having never imported medicine on his own account, it is to be inferred that he partook more largely of the medical stores of government than any other person ... on the sight of a remarkably well cleared and well cultivated estate, that had attracted my notice in passing through the district of Airds, and which I was informed was his property, had certainly excited in my mind some suspicions of the possible abuse.*

In October 1821, Dr Redfern and Edward Eager sailed for London to present a petition to the King regarding the ownership of land issue. It was successful and was rectified in the NSW Act of 1823. While in Britain, Dr Redfern took the opportunity to criticise Commissioner Bigge and his report on the colonies of New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land.

Sarah and their son had accompanied William on that trip to England in October 1821 and a second son was born in England in 1823. The family returned to Sydney in mid-1824 after a brief stop in Madeira for Dr Redfern's health. By



1825 there was a further grant of 4860 acres and an additional 1096 acres he had purchased at Campbell Fields, Cowra and the Bathurst district. Although he already had 1400 cattle and 4000 sheep at Campbell Fields, he had arrived back from Britain with merino sheep and grape vines. As the Redfern family had settled at Campbell Fields more time was now devoted to agricultural pursuits.

We have seen that Dr Redfern made his Will in 1825. He had decided to return to England for health reasons, but he did not go. He momentarily resumed his private medical practice, where he included free treatment to the poor, until he ceased practicing altogether in 1826. Appointed as Executors of the 1825 Will were W C Wentworth, H C Anthill, T Wills, and his wife Sarah Redfern. His estate included his extensive land holdings and stock. Beneficiaries of the Will were his two sons William Lachlan Macquarie Redfern and Joseph Foveaux Redfern. Should

both sons die before their mother, the estate would go to Sarah. His livestock, goods and chattels were to be shared equally by Sarah and the sons. In the event of the sons dying and no heirs to inherit, then shares of his estate were bequeathed to his sisters Margaret Watt and Eliza McDowell. (Executor H C Anthill was married to Sarah's sister and Thomas Wills was Sarah's brother.)

In 1825 the Redfern children were just six years and two years of age. In the Will, Dr Redfern had appointed Sarah, if she remained unmarried, to provide the education of the children until they reached ten years of age. They were then to be sent to public schools and Colleges in England or 'elsewhere deemed most expedient'. Education appears to have been very important to William. He was well qualified in his own profession. Also, according to his Will, if Sarah remained unmarried while the children were minors, she had the option of residing at Campbell Fields without paying rent.

This was also the year in which William's brother, Robert Redfern, arrived in the colony and received 2000 acres at Bathurst. The Redferns were known to have some of the best cattle breeds in the colony.

Redfern was making a lot of money from the sale of his stock holdings. He once again became a director of the Bank of NSW, but faced criticism from *Sydney Gazette* editor, Robert Howe, son of George Howe. Dr Redfern resigned as director. (George Howe had married Sarah's widowed mother.)

In 1828 it was time for his eldest son to receive further education abroad. William added the Codicil to his Will on 6 March 1828 just three days before father and son departed Sydney. Monetary amounts were to be left to his brother, Robert Redfern, his sisters and their children. His library was to go to his children, and "*I do hereby further will devise and bequeath unto my dearly beloved wife Sarah of her dower.*" Having read that Sarah's mother had gifted them 30 acres of land when they married, I wonder if this dower refers to a dowry, or did it refer to the whole of Sarah's inherited portion as a widow?

Dr Redfern had settled in Edinburgh while he supervised his son's education. Sarah did not accompany her husband to Scotland. It was reported that she had suffered a horse accident at Campbell Fields in January 1829. The following year tragically saw the death of seven year old Joseph Foveaux Redfern at the home of his mother in Pitt Street, Sydney.

Unfortunately, Dr Redfern did not return to Sydney. He died on 17 July 1833 in Edinburgh. His wife had boarded the *Norfolk* on 10 March but arrived in Scotland two days after her husband was interred. News of his death reached Sydney in December 1833 - *'As a professional man, the abilities of Dr Redfern were highly respectable; as a private individual, those who were connected to him by ties of blood deeply lament a firm, liberal, and affectionate friend.'*

Mrs Macquarie had visited Dr Redfern in Edinburgh. She wrote to William Charles Wentworth - *I hope young Wills [Redfern's brother-in-law Thomas Wills]*

has informed you of the melancholy state to which Mr Redfern is reduced. I find he is quite out of his mind at Edinburgh. I much fear he will ruin his family by making away with his property, he is surrounded by bad and low people, keeps six horses, has engaged to pay £3000 for a house, gives dinners etc. His kind brother has been summoned from Ireland to try what could be done, but returned without being able to do any good. Before I knew how very far his intellects were gone, I paid some bills he drew here to the amount of £300; even if I were able to afford (which indeed I cannot) I should not think of lending him more money. I have got his note of hand for this money and I think of sending either the original, or an attested copy of it, to Mr Fitzgerald, and letters to you. I hope you will manage to secure this money from the general wreck which I look for as too likely to befall this most unfortunate person who having saved the lives of thousands is now himself reduced to the most deplorable condition. I would have taken charge of the poor Boy but he will not part with him . . . Poor Mrs Redfern. No doubt her brother informs her of every particular - he knows I am sincerely sorry for her. Lachlan is at school. We both hope to be on the road for Scotland for our Holidays by this day next week, but we shall not be near Edinburgh where Mr Redfern is. I should not like to see him in his present state.

This paints a very grim picture of Dr Redfern's mental and physical health. Who were the 'bad and low people' I wonder? Mrs Macquarie was indicating to Wentworth that there was a possibility that Dr Redfern could sign away his property.

After the death of Dr Redfern.

The Will and Codicil were proved at London on 20 October 1834. By then Sarah Redfern had remarried! Her new husband was James Alexander, a merchant of Glasgow. Her only son was now 15 years old.

James Alexander, Esquire may have hailed from Glasgow, but he was on hand to accompany Sarah on the voyage from Sydney to London in March 1833. It is unclear whether or not James was already in Sydney or if he had arrived with the sole purpose of escorting Sarah to her ailing husband.

For London direct, yesterday, the barque Norfolk, Captain Henniker, with Colonial produce. Passengers, Mrs. Henniker, Mr. James Alexander, Mrs. Redfern, and servant, Mrs. Aubrey, child, and female attendant, Mrs. Brown, and Thomas Brown.

On 8 December 1834 the *Sydney Morning Herald*, having received news of Sarah's betrothal, published the following – *Marriage:- At Glasgow, on the 24th June, James Alexander Tertius, Esquire, to Sarah Redfern, of Campbellfield, New South Wales.* Tertius, of course, was not the surname of James. It means the Third

– thus James Alexander III. A daughter, Sarah Elizabeth Alexander, was born in Glasgow 8 months later.

The Redfern's Sydney estate, probably under the direction of the executors, was advertised in 1834 to be '*let upon lease by auction in allotments suitable for creation of genteel cottages for residences of gentlemen in public office*'. No allotments were available for tradesmen. It is possible that this referred only to Sarah's 30 acres.

In 1837, William Lachlan Macquarie Redfern (Mac) gained his medical degree from the University of Edinburgh. He appears to have returned to Sydney soon afterwards. When Sarah and James Alexander and their daughter returned to Sydney in 1841, Sarah was a woman of considerable means. James Alexander and young William Lachlan Macquarie Redfern formed a partnership as importers and exporters. They also added cattle stations to the Redfern estate holdings. In 1841, however, according to the census, young Mac was back in Scotland. [He married in 1842 and had six children. His occupation in 1851 was that of commission agent. The couple divorced in 1860. Mac died in London in 1904.]

In January 1842 the 'estates of the late Dr Redfern' were advertised to be sold by public auction. The sale took place on 12th September 1842 and included properties at Sydney (100 acres), Campbell Field (6,000 acres), Cabramatta (270 acres), Emu Plains (57 acres on the Nepean River), Liverpool (3 acres), North Geelong (2 allotments), Cox's River (4,700 acres) and Lachlan River (11,362 acres) plus stock. "*A more important or genuine Sale of Property than this is not to be found in the Registry of all the auction annals of the Colony of New South Wales*". Apply to Mr Stubbs at the Auction Mart, King Street, or to James Alexander, Esquire, at Messrs Gilchrist and Alexander's, Lower George Street. The auction realised £4,592.

Although James Alexander could be contacted through Messrs Gilchrist and Alexander, it was not he who was in partnership with Gilchrist, it was his brother John Alexander. John had joined the mercantile and shipping firm in 1838 and brought with him a great deal of capital. Apart from their import and export dealings, the firm were instrumental in bringing out boatloads of Scots people in the 1840s.

In March 1843 John travelled to London with James and Sarah Alexander and their daughter. They intended settling in the United Kingdom. John returned to Sydney 18 months later.

In 1847, a petition from William Lachlan Macquarie Redfern of Glasgow and James Alexander, merchant of London, dated August 1842 and February 1843, was presented to the Legislative Council to appoint John Alexander as the Trustee of the Redfern Estate. He left the firm of Gilchrist and Alexander in 1852 and continued as a merchant on his own and also took up squatters' runs. From 1856 to 1861 he was a member of the NSW Legislative Council.

Sarah Alexander (nee Wills) died in 1876 in London and James Alexander III died the following year. Mac Redfern died in 1904, and Sarah Elizabeth Van der Bijl (nee Alexander) died in 1905 in London.

EDWARD SPENCER WILLS, convict

[Edward Spencer Wills was the father of Sarah Wills who married Dr William Redfern.]

Edward was born in Middlesex in 1778 of a well-to-do family. He married Sarah Harding in 1795. Their daughter Sarah Wills was born the following year. In January 1797 Edward and two others were arrested for using arms to rob a man of his watch, a half guinea, a sixpence and 18 half-pence. The money was found at Edward's residence. Found guilty, he was sentenced to "be hanged by the neck until dead". Edward appealed with a petition to the Duke of Portland. Signatories were the Curate and Church Warden of his parish church, his old employer, and, surprisingly, the victim!

He was shown mercy - *"Edward WILLIS and James DASHPER having been convicted of Highway Robbery, and having been humbly recommended as fit objects of the Royal Mercy His Majesty has now been graciously pleased to extend his Royal Mercy on condition of their being transported for the term of their natural lives to the Eastern Coast of New South Wales."*

Edward arrived in Sydney in 1799 as a convicted highwayman on the ship *Hillsborough*. His wife and child accompanied him on the journey.

In 1803 he was granted a conditional emancipation. According to a newspaper report in October 1804, there was a robbery at his shop. Copper coins and merchandise were stolen. The shop was in George Street. Items such as sugars, teas, soaps, linen, muslin, shoes, dungarees, ribbons, etc. were for sale at the house of Edward Wills.

Edward went into partnership with another ex-convict, Thomas Reibey. In 1805 they were dealing in seal skins and soon entered the ship building trade. Their first vessel was the *Mary and Sally*. They also acquired the sloops *Raven* and *Eliza*.

By then Edward and Sarah had four children – Sarah (Sally), Thomas, Eliza and Edward. Elizabeth Selina was born in 1807 but died 3 years later. They were doing well financially.

In 1810 Edward was granted a pardon by Governor Macquarie. He also petitioned the Governor for a lease on the land on which they were living and trading. The former Lieutenant-Governor had given them the original lease and they had spent considerable money on improvements.

Edward made his Will in May 1810, probably knowing he was in poor health. He appointed his loving wife as the sole Executor and administrator of his estate. "... *this I do in consideration as well of her constant kindness and affection towards me as the entire confidence, I feel myself thoroughly satisfied in placing in*

her maternal love towards my children all of whom are the children of my much beloved wife to whose parental care and regard next to Almighty God I commit the future protection and provision of and for my dear children Sarah, Thomas, Eliza, Edward Spencer and Elizabeth Selina Wills..."

Edward died a year later on 14 May 1811. In that last year he and Sarah were involved in Sydney's social scene. Their George Street home was first a tavern and then a fashionable restaurant. Their new warehouse was opened with food and drink for their patrons. Sarah was pregnant when her husband passed away. Horatio Wills was born soon after.

At just 33 years of age, Edward Spencer Wills left Sarah a widow with six children to care for. The *Sydney Gazette* published an obituary written by its editor George Howe - *Died, at his home in George Street on Tuesday night, the 11th inst, Mr Edward Wills, after a painful illness of nearly three months duration in his 33rd year. The generosity of his disposition was evinced in all his actions, his integrity was undoubted; and he lived universally respected, and his death must be sincerely regretted by his most distant acquaintance; while his amiable family and those who were happy in his friendship will be devoted by the melancholy event, to a length of inconsolable affliction.*

At the time of his death, his assets were valued at more than £15,000. The same George Howe of the *Sydney Gazette* married the widow of Edward Spencer Wills by special licence in 1812.

SARAH WILLS (nee Harding)

[Sarah Wills (nee Harding) was the mother of Sarah Wills who married Dr William Redfern.]

Sarah was born in 1776 in Middlesex, England. Her father, Thomas Harding, was a watch glass grinder. At the age of 19 years, she married Edward Spencer Wills. She and their daughter Sarah arrived in Sydney in 1799 on the same ship that was transporting her husband for a life sentence. The *Hillsborough* was known as the "death ship" because of the mortality rate. Of the 300 who boarded, 95 perished. Many were ill with gaol fever caught in the prisons and on the hulks. The conditions on board were horrendous – the men were double chained, inadequately fed, and their bedding was seldom dry. Governor Hunter described the survivors as "*the most wretched and miserable convicts I have ever beheld, in the most sickly and wretched state*". Almost every prisoner required hospital treatment on landing. Luckily, Edward, Sarah and their child survived.

We have seen that Edward had a shop in Sydney by 1804. He and Sarah were operating a thriving import business. The 1805 muster shows that they had purchased 22 acres of land and had as stock 1 bull, 10 cows, 75 rams and 75 ewes.

They were doing well financially and were moving in influential circles. Both the Redfern and the Wills families were on very good terms with the people who mattered.

In May 1808, Sarah wrote to her mother back in England. It is obvious that they intended returning as soon as they had amassed sufficient funds.

Dear Mother

Sally left school some time back on account of her Masters quitting the country, but I hope to be home soon enough for her to finish her education; she is tall for her age, and as much like her father as she can possibly be. Thomas is at school and is taken great care of. Eliza is at school also, you would not know her from Sally, they are so much alike. Edward is a fine fellow, he is very big for his age, and so saucy that he can fight anybody.

I have no doubt but you have heard of the character of Governor Bligh. He had not been here long when he took shameful advantage of those that lay in his power. From some he took good houses and gave them bad ones. From others he took their houses and turned them into the street without compensation. Some he stopped building, others he made make improvements against their inclination, in his endeavour to crush every person as much as possible. But at last the officers and gentlemen in general found themselves so much imposed on that they would put up with it no longer, and for the good of the people, Major Johnston took up the cause. On the 26th January, to our surprise the drums beat to arms, the soldiers marched to Government House, put the Governor under arrest, Major Johnston took command.

We are still making money very fast, and when we think we have enough to live at ease will come home to give our dear friends a part.

Sarah did not make the journey back home. In early 1811, Sarah's mother, Mrs Harding, visited Sydney and the plan was to send their eldest daughter back to England with her. However young Sarah/Sally had different ideas. She married Dr Redfern in March 1811. Just two months later Sarah Wills was a widow.

The year after Edward died in 1811, Sarah married the government printer George Howe, but she made sure with a legal document that her money and assets would stay in her hands and those of her children. She applied for a grant of the George Street land in 1812 and it was approved – but according to the regulations at the time, it had to be in her husband's name. In her presence, she had George Howe draw up his Will leaving everything to her. However, two months before he died, he sneakily revoked the Will and left his son, Robert Howe his printing business and the George Street house to his four illegitimate children; Horatio Wills who was born after his father died; and his and Sarah's daughter Jane Howe. This resulted in litigation which was led by Sarah's eldest son, Thomas Wills and his lawyer William Charles Wentworth. Sarah claimed that George Howe had become 'mentally deranged' prior to his death on 11 May 1821. The litigation lasted until

Sarah's death in 1823. The court finally ordered that the property be placed in the hands of her trustees for the benefit of her children.

Sarah Howe (nee Harding) died on 8 July 1823 in Sydney. She was just 44 years old.

The children of Edward Spencer Wills and Sarah (nee Harding) -

Sarah Wills had married Dr Redfern.

Thomas Wills had a grant of land at Liverpool and had 95 cattle and 150 sheep. In 1822 he married Celia Reibey but she died the following year. The *Sydney Gazette* recorded the following - *"This amiable young lady was united to Mr Thomas Wills, to whom she has bequeathed a pledge of her tenderest affection, a sweet little girl. Prior to her confinement, Mrs Wills caught a violent cold, which fastened on the lungs and originated rapid consumption. The delineate the grief of the astonished widower and young father is a task to which our pen is incompetent"*. Thomas married again in 1827 and moved to England.

Eliza Wills, at 16, married 39 year old Captain Henry Colden Anthill in 1818. He was with Governor Macquarie's 73rd Regiment. He had been secretary to Governor Macquarie and was a cousin of William Bligh. He too had land at Liverpool and had cattle sheep and crops.

Edward Wills left for England at the age of 20 to study law. He managed to get himself into considerable debt and in 1828 he committed suicide in London.

Horatio Wills had little formal education. He was employed at Howe's *Sydney Gazette* office at age 12 and became apprenticed to Robert Howe who inherited the *Gazette* until Robert's death in 1829. He took over the newspaper and also printed his own *Currency Lad* from August 1832 to June 1833. He ended his interest in the *Gazette* and married. He later became a pastoralist and a politician.

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IN MEMORY OF PETER HIBBS



In the Wiseman's Ferry Cemetery is the grave of Peter Hibbs who died in 1847 at the age of 90 years. His tombstone reads – *Pass a few swiftly fleeting yrs and all that now in bodies live shall quit like me the vale of tears their righteous sentence to receive.*

Two brass plaques have been attached to the tombstone below the inscription, and they indicate that there is more to know about Peter Hibbs.

The upper plaque shows that Peter Hibbs arrived with the First Fleet. Was he a convict? Was he a crew member on board one of the eleven ships that made up the First Fleet? Was he an officer? Was he a marine? The inscription reads -

*PETER HIBBS
ARRIVED FIRST FLEET
20.1.1789
DIED 12.9.1847
FELLOWSHIP OF FIRST FLEETERS
1953*

The lower plaque tells us more! He was a seaman on the *Sirius* in 1790 when it was wrecked on Norfolk Island. He was also the sailing master of the *Norfolk* when Matthew Flinders circumnavigated Van Diemen's Land, and also when they sailed northwards to Hervey Bay. The inscription -

*PETER HIBBS WAS A SEAMAN ON SIRIUS WRECKED ON NORFOLK ISLAND
IN 1790
HE WAS FLINDERS SAILING MASTER ON THE SLOOP NORFOLK DURING
HIS
CIRCUMNAVIGATION OF TASMANIA IN 1798-1799
ALSO TO HERVEY BAY IN 1799*

Peter Hibbs was born in 1757 in Kent, England. He claimed that he sailed on the *Endeavour* with Captain Cook as a cabin boy. He would have been 11 years

old when Cook left England on his first voyage of discovery in August 1768. Hibbs also claimed he was the second person from the ship to have set foot on the beach at Botany Bay in 1770. It is quite possible that his claim was correct. Boys as young as 9 years old were encouraged by the Royal Navy to enlist as apprentice seamen. They were given training on the rigging of the sails and were often cabin boys, errand boys or servants to the officers. As they were under-age their names did not usually appear as crew members.

His actual naval career commenced in 1786 as an able seaman on the battleship *HMS Goliath*. Governor Phillip is said to have chosen Hibbs to join the voyage to Botany Bay in 1787/88 as he had previously been there. This tends to give credence to the story. Peter Hibbs joined the crew of the *HMS Sirius* in March 1787 at Portsmouth. This was to be the flag ship of the First Fleet. When the ships finally arrived at Sydney Cove after a long voyage Peter Hibbs was 31 years old.

By October 1788, the settlement was in dire need of supplies. The *Sirius* set sail for Cape Town. In charge of the ship was Captain John Hunter. His skill was much needed in the extreme weather conditions they faced, and it was an arduous seven month journey. The crew would have welcomed the sight of Sydney Harbour when they returned in May 1789!

While the *Sirius* was undergoing repairs after that voyage, Peter Hibbs was chosen as a crew member in June 1789 when Governor Phillip led an expedition to the north and found the Hawkesbury River.

In March 1790, Hibbs was again on the *Sirius* when it sailed to Norfolk Island. The ship, which was so vital to those both in Sydney and on Norfolk, came to an ungracious end when she was shipwrecked so close to the shore. No lives were lost and much of the cargo was saved. Captain Hunter and his crew were stranded on the island for almost a year. It was not until February 1791 that Peter Hibbs boarded the *Supply* and sailed back to Sydney.

The Governor hired a Dutch ship to take Hunter and the crew back to England where Hunter was acquitted at a court martial hearing regarding the loss of the *Sirius*. Not all of the crew sailed back to England on that ship. Governor Phillip was aware that some of the men wished to remain in the new colony. Farmers were desperately required, so the offer of settlement and farming was awarded to just three marines and ten or eleven able seamen. As Norfolk Island seemed to be the best option for growing crops, eight of the crew who had originally arrived on the *Sirius*, including Hibbs, were each granted 60 acres of land there.

While at Norfolk Hibbs married Mary Pardoe/Barlow who had arrived on the *Lady Juliana* in 1790. She had given birth to a daughter Ann Scott, while at sea. The father of the child was an able seaman on the ship, but he had returned to England. With Peter Hibbs, Mary had a son they named George.

The *Norfolk* was built on Norfolk Island from local timber as well as salvaged timber from the *Sirius*, and Peter Hibbs helped to build it. He sailed it to

Sydney in 1798 with a crew of men from the island. Governor Hunter immediately confiscated the illegally built vessel and decked it out as a government ship.

As the plaque on his tombstone says, Hibbs was the Master of the *Norfolk* when Matthew Flinders and George Bass navigated their way around Van Diemen's Land. Several Tasmanian landmarks were named after him – Hibbs Pyramid, Hibbs River, Cape Hibbs and Hibbs Bay. Hibbs also took Flinders as far as Hervey Bay in 1799.

The *Norfolk* was used to convey goods between the Hawkesbury River and Sydney when she was seized by fifteen convicts in late 1800. The pirates managed to get as far as the Hunter River before the ship was wrecked. Seven of the men were ironically sent to Norfolk Island where the ship was built!

When Hibbs had earlier accompanied the first Governor to the Hawkesbury River, a piece of land on which they had camped seemed to him that it would be an ideal place to settle. He and Mary and the children did settle on 60 acres there, and they lived in a cave at the mouth of Pumpkin Creek.

In 1804, Peter Hibbs was granted 100 acres at Mulgrave Place on the Hawkesbury. Mulgrave Place was the name given to the Hawkesbury district in general rather than a specific point on the map.

His son, George, was granted the adjoining 100 acres. The floods of 1806 and 1809 had a dire effect. A public auction saw the sale in 1810 of *A Quantity of Household Furniture, a few Pigs and Goats, and other Effects...Two Stacks of Wheat and about Four Hundred Bushels of Bread Corn* to pay his debts. He continued to owe money and his 100 acres were sold for £100 in 1812.

Hibbs owned a sloop by 1816 and he plied his *Recovery* along the Hawkesbury River and down to Sydney, servicing the settlers along the banks. In 1821 he acquired a grant for 60 acres on the River at Haycock Reach. He and Mary and seven children had already been living there anyway. They had built a home and had 14 acres in wheat. Their sons also became Hawkesbury landholders.



Mary died in 1844 at Lower Portland Head, and Peter died on 12 September 1847 at the age of 90 years. They are buried side by side. Mary is buried with their son Richard Hibbs - *Sacred to the memory of Richard Hibbs died Dec 15th 1859, aged 59 years, also Mrs Mary Hibbs, his mother, who died 19 May 1844 aged 76*

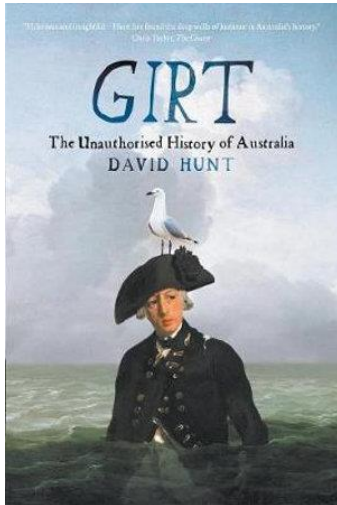
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FROM OUR LENDING LIBRARY



If you are looking for a light-hearted account of our early colonial history, then this is the book you may want to read. David Hunt has titled his book **Girt the Unauthorised History of Australia**.

Although having researched rather extensively, the author reveals some little known gems and adds a quirkiness which makes reading our early history anything but dull. He introduces us to Girtitude, Girtuousity and Girtedness. Even the added footnotes are humorous.

He describes our history as being based on “jolly convicts, villainous governors, rum, squatting with sheep, rum, gold diggers and other token women, geographically and nutritionally challenged explorers, rum, plucky Irish outlaws in scrap metal couture, stump-jump ploughs and Coolgardie safes (stocked with rum).”

Why was Botany Bay chosen? Many reasons were put forward, but Hunt added the following – 1. *The French had sent Laperouse to sniff around the South Seas and Pitt [the British Prime Minister] didn’t want to be eating baguette next time he crossed the Equator.* 2. *Pitt was having problems with his dope dealer. Catherine the Great of Russia controlled the world’s cannabis supply and Pitt needed a regular fix, as the Royal Navy used hemp from the cannabis plant to make rope and canvas. Catherine had ordered Russian merchants to form a cannabis cartel and instructed her spies to buy up Britain’s warehoused hemp. She then demanded that the Admiralty buy the Russian product at exorbitant prices.*

Joseph Banks, who had accompanied Cook in 1770, believed New Zealand hemp or flax plant was superior to the Russian stuff and noted the potential of Norfolk Island pine for the navy’s ships.

Of the First Fleet – Phillip had asked for healthy young men and breeding women for his colony, but was given Dorothy Handland, a sprightly 82 year old perjurer, and Elizabeth Beckford, a septuagenarian cheese thief.

The refusal of the Americans to accept Britain’s convicts was partially brought about by the monopoly of the tea trade by the East India Company and the tax on tea. Hunt writes that *Australia owes its existence to tea, tax evasion, criminals, and cannabis. With these four sturdy pillars as its foundation, what could possibly go wrong?*

The author gives his interesting slant on the colony up to the departure of Governor Macquarie. Take a moment to step back from the seriousness of your own family research and enjoy David Hunt’s historiography.

1802 ACCOUNTS LEDGER FOR THE BRIG 'FANNY'

The Silent World Foundation is a not-for-profit organisation which focuses on Australasian maritime history. Their collection has more than 2,000 original objects. This includes maps, paintings, manuscripts, shipwreck items, coins, medallions and historical artefacts.

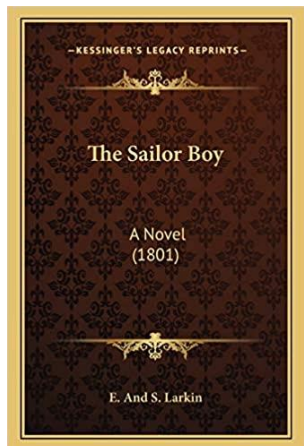
In the manuscripts collection is the Accounts Ledger for the Brig *Fanny* which arrived in Sydney from America in July 1802.

Sydney, New South Wales - July 16 th 1802		(1)
Sold on acc ^t of Mel Harris, W ^m P. Smith & Robert Harris		Storing
To Capt ^r Flinders of the <i>Investigator</i>		
3 Hogsheads New England Rum -		
	100	
	107	
	100	317 gals 2 b/..
Received a sett of Exchange on the Commissioners		95 3
for victualling his Majesty's navy at Sydney -		
Taken for the use of the ship <i>Fanny</i> on acc ^t		
of James & Tho ^s H. Perkins -		
1 Case Ginns -		3

The first entry in the ledger shows that 3 Hogsheads of New England Rum were sold to Captain Flinders of the *Investigator* Six days later, the *Investigator* sailed northwards to survey what is now the Queensland coast.

Sydney July 24 th 1802		
Received Mr King the Governor's Lady -		
the following books on acc ^t of John & Co. Lockhart		
Washington's Epistles - 1 vol -	6-10-0	
Belgar's Poet - 5 2/3 -	10-9	
Latin Book - 1 2/3 -	6-3	
Washington's Letters - 2 2/3 -	13-9	
Guyon's Virgil - 4 2/3 -	1-5-0	
		3 13 9

On 24 July 1802, we find the entry regarding books for the wife of the Governor - *Presented Mrs King the Governor's Lady the following books on and of Ebenezer and S Larkin.*



The Larkins were booksellers in Boston, Massachusetts. *Sailor Boy* was a novel written in 1801. *Beggar Girl* was also published in that year. *Washington's Epistles* and *Washington's Letters*, and 4 volumes of the *Gypsy Countess* made up the list of books priced at £3/13/9.

The *Fanny* also carried such cargo as West Indian and New England rum, Havana sugar, flour, and barrels of salted beef and pork.

When Governor King sent a despatch to Lord Hobart in November, he wrote that "Those Ships [*Naturaliste* and *Geographe*] wants of Salt Meat and Spirits were amply provided by the Arrival of the American brig *Fanny*".

Names in the ship's ledger include Simeon Lord, Lieutenant-Governor William Paterson, John Palmer, William Cox, John Harris, Michael Massey Robinson, David Dickerson Mann, Captain Thomas Rowley, Thomas Laycock, D'Arcy Wentworth, Rev. Samuel Marsden, J. Jamison, Anthony Fenn Kemp, Isaac Nichols, Judge Richard Atkins, and Sir Henry Hayes.

25th

Presented the following on and of the ship *Fanny*
 William P. Smith & Robert Harris

To William Moore & Row Keyau	4. 10
" Sam ^r Gov ^r Patterson 1 D ^{ble}	4. 10
" John Palmer Esq ^r 1 D ^{ble}	4. 10
" William Cox Esq ^r 1 D ^{ble}	4. 10
" Rich ^d Atkins Esq ^r 1 D ^{ble}	4. 10
" John Harris Esq ^r 1 D ^{ble}	4. 10
For a sample --- 1 D ^{ble}	

<https://silentworldfoundation.org.au/collection-about/collections-ehive-objects/1245836/> -

WILLIAM FERNYHOUGH (1809-1849)

William Henry Fernyhough has been described as a sketcher, a silhouette artist, a lithographer, a zincographer and a draughtsman. He was also an assistant surveyor and architect employed by the New South Wales Government. He died in 1849 at the age of 40 years, leaving a widow and six children.

In an earlier issue of the *Chronicle* the art of lithography in printing was explained. Zincography is similar except that instead of using a cumbersome limestone plate, prints were drawn on a less expensive zinc plate. The method was new when William arrived in Sydney and had only been used commercially in England since 1830. He is said to have introduced zincography to New South Wales.

Born in England in 1809, William married in Sydney not long after his arrival. *The Colonist* on 3rd November announced the following – *Married at Sydney, on the 14th September 1836, by the Rev J McGarvie, Mr W H Fernyhough, youngest son of Captain Thomas Fernyhough, Quarter-master of the King's Own Staffordshire Militia, to Mrs L M Burnett, youngest daughter of Captain Black, Quarter-master of the Ceylon Rifles.*

Arriving in Sydney a couple of years before William Fernyhough was another lithographer named John Austin. He had established his business in 1834 with a copper-plate printing press with which he could print maps, views, bills of lading, bills of exchange, etc. 'on short notice at reasonable terms'.

In 1836 and 1837, William Fernyhough joined Austin and they traded as J G Austin & Co. in Bridge Street, Sydney. The partnership was short-lived and in



1838 their lithographic equipment was sold to Raphael Clint who had moved to Sydney in 1835 after carrying out work as a surveyor in Western Australia and Van Diemen's Land. In Sydney, Clint had advertised his trade as a seal-engraver and surveyor. With the acquired J G Austin & Co equipment, Clint produced fine maps of Australia and New Zealand and was sought after as an engraver and lithographer. The depression years of the 1840s saw his business decline and he was declared insolvent in 1847. The same fate of insolvency was in store for William Fernyhough.

While he was in partnership with John Austin, William produced prints said by the *Sydney Times* (17 September 1836) to be much superior in quality to those previously available in the colony. *It would have been next to an impossibility before the arrival of Mr. Fernyhough in the Colony a few months ago, to have*

obtained such excellent lithographic and zincographic prints, as may now be used to embellish our Colonial literature. This referred to his series of twelve profile portraits of the aboriginals of New South Wales and numerous silhouettes. In October he produced full length black profile portraits of military officers and well-known civilians. This became known as the *Sydney Characters*.

In a book written by William Brockett titled – *Narrative of a Voyage from Sydney to Torres' Straits, in search of the survivors of the 'Charles Eaton'; in His Majesty's Schooner 'Isabella', C.M. Lewis, Commander*, 28 illustrations by William were used to enhance the narrative in November 1836. This was the earliest Sydney work which paid attention to the visual appearance of the Aborigines of the Torres Strait, thanks to those illustrations.

Brockett was a junior officer on the *Isabella* when Governor Bourke sent the vessel to find survivors of the wrecked *Charles Eaton*. Only two were found – a cabin boy and an infant. Most of the crew had been massacred within hours of reaching the shore and their skulls preserved in the rituals of the people in the region. The drawings for the book were supplied by Brockett, but Fernyhough prepared them as excellent lithographs.

William took time away from his trade in 1837. On 25 April a case was before the Supreme Court with Bettington versus Fernyhough of Bridge Street. Obviously, money was owed and, if William could not pay, the Sheriff would sell two printing presses, one press zinc, household furniture and sundries. In May 1837, by mutual consent, the partnership with Austin was dissolved.

In October that year he advertised that he was available to resume his lithographic drawing and printing at his Lithographic Establishment. "Profile likenesses executed in the best manner." His address now was Jamison Street.

He moved to new premises in George Street in 1838 and displayed his prints, but business was slow. When he gained government work that became a steady source of income. William designed ornaments for the roof of the original St Mary's Cathedral. He was appointed as surveyor and architect by surveyor Mitchell. He drew the original plans for St Patrick's Roman Catholic Church at Church Hill in 1840.

The onset of economic depression, however, saw him unemployed and both he and his father wrote letters requesting that he be re-employed. The request was denied, and William was forced to advertise as a private surveyor and draughtsman as he had a wife and children to support. In 1842 and 1846 he faced insolvency hearings.

The father of William Fernyhough did not have lessons in drawing, but over the years he had made pen and ink drawings in places he had served. Captain Thomas Fernyhough was the Governor of the Military Knights of Windsor. The Knights were retired military officers who received a pension and accommodation at Windsor Castle. After Thomas died in 1844, his son in London put together an

album of the drawings which had been prepared for publication by his other son William Fernyhough in Sydney. It is unclear whether or not there was an inheritance for William as it seems his father had assisted him financially when he made the move to Sydney.

In 1844, however, the Fernyhough family moved to Pitt Street, Sydney. Thomas John William Fernyhough was born there in 1844. Charles was born in 1845, and Clara Elizabeth was born in 1848.

At the time of his death on 15 August 1849, William and Louise had six children. He apparently sustained injuries when fell after suffering a fit and these contributed to his death. With support from William's family in England, Louise set up her own business in Sydney. She married again and died in 1862 in Stockton, NSW.



A Botany Bay Police Magistrate 1836.

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HENRY HELLYER, SURVEYOR, VAN DIEMEN'S LAND COMPANY

Like the Australian Agricultural Company in New South Wales a similar company was established to operate in Van Diemen's Land. The main reason for forming both companies was the desire to develop a wool industry in a British colony rather than having to rely on importing wool for the mills from Spain and Italy.

It was in 1824 that a meeting took place in London regarding the potential of replicating the Australian Agricultural Company and acquiring a vast tract of land for the purpose in Van Diemen's Land. William Sorell, the former Lieutenant-Governor of that colony supported the group of mill owners, wool merchants, bankers and investors who attended the meeting. An application was made to Lord Bathurst for a grant of 500,000 acres. Bathurst agreed to half of that acreage, and the Company was given permission in November 1825 to cultivate the land, build roads and bridges, lend money to colonists, and build houses, wharves and other buildings. Such an undertaking would surely encourage free settlement in the southern colony. Eventually, six parcels of land would be granted to the Company in the north-west region and would total more than 350,000 acres – but first it had to found and surveyed.

The company began to seek tradesmen and labourers who would help them develop the land in preparation for introducing their sheep. The directors knew that convict labour could be supplied, but there was no guarantee that any of the convicts knew anything about agriculture. The answer seemed to lie in engaging a workforce of indentured servants. People from the poorer rural areas of England, Scotland and Ireland were eager to comply with the rules and regulations and signed up – often with an “X” as their mark. Labourers, shepherds and blacksmiths were chosen for their skills and good moral character. These indentured servants were offered a free passage and food, housing and wages for a fixed term. Families as well as single men were accepted.

In Van Diemen's Land suitable acreage had to be found. The north-west corner of the island was where their land grants had to be. Edward Curr who had been to New South Wales previously, was appointed as the chief agent for the Company. He and a group of English officials arrived in Hobart in March 1826. They headed north. Henry Hellyer, a surveyor and architect was one of the officials. A superintendent, and agriculturist and two more surveyors made up the group. They selected land at Circular Head (now Stanley) in the far north-west, and Highfield House, designed by Hellyer would become the Company's base.

Born in 1790, Henry Hellyer was young and fit. He had to be to take on exploration of the region. It was imperative that he find a suitable port and he chose Emu Bay (now Burnie).

Cargo, stock and some farm labourers had arrived at Circular Head by May 1826 and the Company was eager to start operating. Hellyer made numerous

arduous treks inland seeking suitable grazing land. He explored much of the north-west corner of the island, mindful that a road would have to lead in and out of any settlements established. He found land which he felt would be ideal and named it Hampshire Hills and Surrey Hills. He sent a report to Edward Curr in Hobart recommending that this land should be included in the Company's grant.

As Hellyer had already suggested Emu Bay (now Burnie) as the port, he had to carve a narrow dirt road through dense rain forest and hilly country from the port to the selected land using a bullock gang and crude hand tools. The "hills" area was to be the principal region for sheep grazing and grain growing. In May 1827, Hellyer supervised the construction of a jetty and a store at Emu Bay, as well as a saw-pit and several huts. Curr took up residence at Circular Head in November 1827 in a weatherboard cottage. Hellyer drew up plans for a more befitting residence but construction did not begin until 1832 and was completed in 1835.

Although Henry Hellyer was a successful explorer and had great physical endurance to map such a wild landscape, he did not know the intricacies of the unfamiliar land. He was a draughtsman and a surveyor, not a sheep breeder or grain grower.

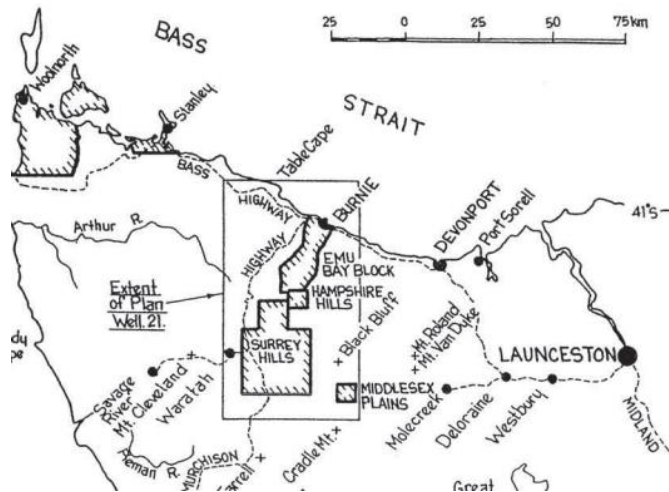
When settlers began arriving in 1829, they found that much of the selected land was barren and the cold and wet climate in the hinterland was not suitable for sheep. Thousands of sheep were lost due to starvation, the weather, Tasmanian tigers and the natives. The indentured servants complained of mistreatment. Their food rations were considered inadequate, there was no housing when they arrived, and, to their dismay, they were treated as equals to the labouring convicts. It was not a good beginning for the Company.

Negotiations were made for further land grants to make up for the barren, unproductive land. In 1832, there were 62 men, 7 women and 10 children living in Surrey Hills/Hampshire Hills. At Woolnorth there were 24 men, 11 women and 25 children. Circular Head had a population of 45 men, 11 women and 25 children. With the "hills" area not being as productive, the principal establishment soon became Circular Head.

Conflict with the native population was undeniable, but Edward Curr made out to the authorities and his employers that relations between the settlers and the natives were harmonious. He did not want to attract any prying into the Company's affairs. Curr was not popular with the colonial government (or with many of the settlers) and the Company was disappointed with the slow progress being made. Wool production was the main purpose of establishing the Company, but results were not as good as expected.

Hellyer felt ridiculed because his chosen "hills" were not as ideal as he had hoped. Many sheep and cattle had been lost during the cold winters. The Company incurred large losses as a result. Although he continued his mapping and surveying work for the Company, Hellyer fell into depression and believed that criticisms and

slandrous allegations were being made against him. In 1832 the Surveyor-General recommended him for a position with the Survey Department. He never took up his appointment. He committed suicide at Circular Head on 9 September 1832.



The Australian Surveyor, June, 1988, Vol. 34 N



Highfield House

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ANGELS FROM HEAVEN - submitted by Steve Fletcher.

The St Vincent's Foundation Queensland kindly sent me information about the history of the Sisters of Charity which was founded in Dublin in 1815 by Mary Stackpole Aikenhead (1787-1858). Having witnessed poverty first-hand, Mother Mary Aikenhead was able to open St Vincent's Hospital in Dublin in 1834. Here the poor could access the same medical care the rich received.



Mary was the daughter of a physician and chemist and was a Congregationalist. She began her charitable work in 1808 after seeing the plight of the unemployed in Dublin. With a friend she began visiting the poor and sick in their homes. She sought to join a religious institute which was devoted to such work but found none. Archbishop Murray of Dublin was prepared to bring a charitable French order to Ireland if Mary would lead it. In preparation for the task, she became a novice from 1812 to 1815 in York. She took the name Sister Mary Augustine, and in September 1815 she was appointed as Superior-General of the new institution in Dublin. The Sisters of Charity devoted themselves to poverty, chastity, obedience, and servicing the poor. By 1831, Sister Mary's health was deteriorating due to her unrelenting work.

Bishop John Bede Polding, the first Catholic Bishop in New South Wales had arrived in Sydney in 1835 and was most concerned about the plight of the female convicts who had been transported. He had visited Mother Mary in 1834 and had asked her then to consider taking her mission to New South Wales.

The Sisters of Charity at that time was a small organisation, but the fact that Irish women - transported Catholic Irish women so far from home – who needed help and guidance, was a cause which could not be ignored. Mother Mary was able to send five of her well-trained Sisters to Sydney. They were Mother Mary John Cahill, Sister Mary de Sales O'Brien, Sister Mary Baptist de Lacy, Sister Mary Xavier Williams (a novice) and Sister Mary Lawrence Cator who made the long journey.



On the last day of 1838 the *Francis Speight* arrived in Sydney Harbour. The Sisters were lowered one by one into a small boat and on reaching the shore were saluted respectfully by the sailors with "God bless you ladies". Dressed in their traditional dress they were given a heart-warming welcome by Bishop Polding and a large crowd who had never seen a nun before. As a term of endearment, they became known as the "Angels from Heaven".

The Sisters were housed at Parramatta and their role was to care for the sick and poor, and to give religious instruction. They walked between Parramatta and Sydney visiting the Female Factory, government hospitals, orphanages, schools, and gaols. The *Sydney Chronicle*, in May 1847, reported that the Sisters of Charity had applied themselves with untiring zeal to promote the spiritual and temporal welfare of their fellow creatures with beneficial results.

The Sisters visited the Female Factory in the early mornings and in the evenings, and taught children at the school during the day. Much of their activity revolved around the Catholic Church - teaching the faith, visiting the prisoners and the sick, helping the poor, and sewing for the clergy. They continued their work at the Parramatta Female Factory until 1847, while also working in the broader Sydney community

It was in 1847 that Father Therry asked the Sisters to send several of their ‘*ministering angels*’ to Van Diemen’s Land to ‘*administer consolation to the female prisoners in that island*’. The number of Sisters was still small but three were spared for this purpose.



Almost twenty years after they first arrived, the Sisters of Charity were able to open a small hospital for the poor at Woolloomooloo. They moved into a stately manor house named ‘Tarmons’. It was situated on a five acre block of land with views of Port Jackson. It had been the home of Maurice O’Connell and his wife Mary, daughter of former Governor Bligh. Within its peaceful setting the grand manor had hosted the cream of Sydney’s society with fine dining and elegant balls. When O’Connell died in 1848 the manor was sold to Charles Nicholson and he converted the ballroom into an extensive library. He returned to London in 1855, and ‘Tarmons’ was offered for sale for £10,000.

Many of Sydney's leading citizens - Protestant, Catholic and Jewish - came together to help the Sisters raise the money needed to purchase the manor. Charles Nicholson himself donated £1,000. They took possession in March 1856 and renamed it St Vincent’s Convent after St Vincent de Paul. The library became a chapel and renovations were made to accommodate a hospital. It was opened in August 1857. The following year the Sisters opened a day school for poor children.

Sources:

The Catholic Press 10 May 1923

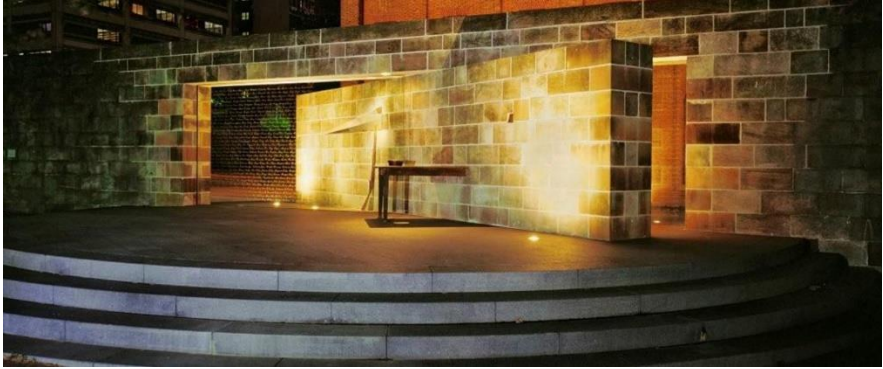
Newsletter of the St Vincent’s Foundation Queensland - Issue 1, 2023.

Sydney Chronicle 12 May 1847

<https://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/tarmons>

THE EARL GREY ORPHAN SCHEME.

At our last meeting we discussed the Earl Grey Orphan Scheme and the Irish Famine Memorial at the Hyde Park Barracks in Sydney. The Memorial was unveiled in 1999. It was inspired by the arrival in Australia of over 4,000 single young women, most of whom were teenagers who arrived under the Earl Grey Orphan's Scheme which lasted from 1848 to 1850. This special emigration scheme was put in place during the years of the Great Irish Famine and was designed to resettle destitute girls from the workhouses of Great Britain and Ireland.



There are 420 names etched in the glass panels of the Memorial to represent the identified 4,114 workhouse girls. As this is an artwork, it is not possible to add or remove any of the names. Advertisements were placed in various newspapers when the Memorial was being designed. Replies were received from descendants of numerous girls who arrived through the scheme, and the names of those girls have been included at the request of their relatives.

Two of the replies to the advertisements were from descendants of Mary Dunphy and Ellen Connell.

Mary Dunphy was baptised in 1829. When the Great Famine struck, she and her mother went to the Abbeyleigh Workhouse. Mary's father had already died. The ship *William and Mary* left Plymouth in July 1849, and Mary was on board when the ship sailed into Port Jackson in November 1849. She was aged 18, Roman Catholic and could neither read nor write.

Mary was housed in the Hyde Park Barracks. She travelled later to Goulburn where she was hired to work as a needlewoman. In 1852 she married James Atkins, a shepherd originally from Carlow in Ireland. Their first two children were born in Goulburn. James then took up his trade of shoemaker as the family moved to

Metong in the district of Cooma, then to Maharatta and Bombala. They raised twelve children.

Ellen Connell was born in 1833 in County Cork and died in 1888. She and her sister arrived in Sydney on the *Lismoyne* in November 1849. Ellen was 16 and her sister Catherine was 17. Both girls were described as being farm servants. They were Roman Catholics, could not read or write, had no relations in New South Wales and their “state of bodily health and probable usefulness” was described as good. Their parents were both deceased. Ellen and Catherine went to the Bathurst area, where they were both employed by J McPhellamy of Bellvue.

Can you imagine being a young girl in a workhouse in Ireland and being selected for a government immigration scheme which would see you taken to a port, embarked on a ship, and given the opportunity of an escape from the overcrowded accommodation and poor conditions you had been suffering? Some would have been absolutely traumatised by the very prospect. Some were not even orphans, so would be parting with loved ones, never to see them again. Others would have seen it as an opportunity to better their lives.

The Earl Grey Scheme was not the first British scheme to send single females to the colony. In 1832 two ships arrived. Irish women were sent to Sydney on the *Red Rover* and the *Princess Royal* took English women to Hobart. The 200 women for each ship were selected by the Emigration Commissioners in London. Considered a success, more women were chosen as emigrants in that decade. Although some were orphans, there were also girls selected from respectable families. All were indentured as servants until marrying. Authors and historians, Elizabeth Rushen and Perry MacIntyre published *Fair Game: Australia's First Immigrant Women* in 2003. It looks at the fate of the women on both ships. Liz Rushen has an on-line database of the women from both ships.

When the *Red Rover* arrived, Governor Bourke had made provision for accommodating the women in the Lumber Yard until they could be employed. He also appointed a Ladies Reception Committee to look out for their welfare and assist them to find employment. The committee consisted of wives and daughters of well known colonists. Most of the girls were aged between 16 and 24 and were predominantly from the House of Industry and the Foundling Hospital.

It has been surmised that many of the girls on the *Princess Royal* had some misdemeanour against their names. Elizabeth Fry was on the British Ladies' Committee which selected the 200 girls to go to Van Diemen's Land. About were from the Refuge for the Destitute, the Chelsea School of Reform, the London Penitentiary, and the National Guardian Institution. Some were also recorded as being from a workhouse.

In Hobart, there were 42 ladies preparing for the arrival of the *Princess Royal*. As the ship approached the mainland it was caught in a violent storm and the

women had to be rescued. [Thelma McKay has compiled a list of these female emigrants.]

What were conditions like in Ireland when the Earl Grey Scheme was operating? I found this harrowing description in the *Sydney Morning Herald*, 4 September 1849. The article written in Dublin on 8th May was titled -*IRELAND – PROGRESS OF DESTITUTION. The accounts from the provinces are so revolting, and appear so incredible, that I am almost ashamed to transcribe them. For instance, G. E. Burke, J.P., late Chairman of the Moyculem Hospital, writing to the Central Board of Health, states that the mortality within the last month, is more than frightful.*

On Sunday last, in about four hours, I saw twelve burials; on Monday there were eight, and yesterday, I saw within two hours, no less than seven rude coffins conveyed to the grave-yards, on carts drawn by horses, which were scarcely able to drag their burdens.

A few days ago my attention was attracted by the noise of pigs contending for their prey, to an out-house in this village; I went in, and found to my horror, the brutes fighting for a meal of the remains of a poor lad, of about fifteen years of age. I know of six people to have been lying dead at the same time last week in one small village, and to have been left unburied until the pure air of God was tainted by the decomposition of their remains, because the relatives of the unfortunate victims could not procure coffins for them, as they had not been recipients of "the relief".

I have known a mother who had entered the poorhouse, or as it should, under present management, be more properly called the "pest-house" of this union, with her husband and four children, to have been turned out in a state of disease after having seen her four children lying dead, to have been carted about from place to place, refused admittance into any hospital, and left to die on the public roads; and why was this? Because her poor husband fled the "house" in despair at the loss of his children, and preferred death from starvation outside to cruel treatment and certain death within.

In Skibbereen the scenes of last summer are repeated with additional horrors. At the village of Ballymacaw, near Skibbereen, three inquests were held in the course of the week, and in each case the verdict was, "Died from want of food". In one case, that of a man named McDonnell, Dr. Cooke, the medical attendant, stated that he examined the body of the deceased, and could scarcely find out his stomach in consequence of the want of food in it; he had not the slightest doubt on his mind that the man had died from starvation.

Constable Michael O'Connor visited the house of the deceased the morning of his death, and found him stretched on a heap of dung, with more than half the roof off the wretched cabin in which he lay.

This is a powerful account and the description of how people were suffering is horrid. Multiply this so many times over and you begin to appreciate the wider

picture. It was no wonder Britain was ready to put another immigration scheme into place.

The Earl Grey Scheme brought 4,114 identified girls, termed “orphan girls”, to the colony. It was originally intended to select female orphans aged between 12 and 20 years from the workhouses of Great Britain and Ireland, but those eventually chosen were from Ireland. Some were as young as 14 years old. To be classed as an “orphan” the girls had to have lost one or both parents. The girls were selected by government officials. They had to be young, single, obedient, healthy and free of smallpox.

The government did see that the girls were adequately equipped with clothing and personal items for their journey. On leaving Ireland, each girl was given a kit of clothing, linen and utensils in a lockable box. They were also legally responsible for the health and well-being of the girls, their moral and religious welfare, their education and employment. Not all of the selected girls had willingly joined the scheme, but the choice not to go would have left them facing starvation. Although many spoke English, some only spoke their native tongue. Some had been trained for domestic service, but many had not. On the ships, the surgeon-superintendent and a matron supervised the girls.

11 ships sailed to Sydney with	2253 girls
6 ships sailed to Port Melbourne with	1255 girls
3 ships sailed to Adelaide with	606 girls

The first of the ships to arrive in Sydney was the *Earl Grey* on 6 October 1848. An immigration depot was set up at Hyde Park Barracks and a ‘hiring room’ operated on the ground floor. Government officials and Orphans’ Committees were to ensure that the girls were indentured to employers for a specified term and wage.

From the on-set the girls faced generalised hostility because of their youth, incompetence and their Irishness. There was concern that the money spent on transporting so many orphans and the cost to the colony to provide for them, should have been spent to keep the girls in Ireland. Despite the perception that they were low-class, unruly and “workhouse sweepings”, most of the orphan girls found work within weeks. As new areas of settlement became available, the girls often ended up in isolated parts of the colony.

The scheme was abandoned in 1850. Anti-Catholic and anti-Irish prejudices were at the forefront, but, in practical terms, the girls lacked any education and had not been trained as domestic servants.

For those young Irish girls not selected for the orphan immigration scheme, there were other assisted schemes from Ireland, but the strict criteria attached would have made it nigh impossible for those in the workhouses to apply.

Government immigration assistance did not prioritise single young girls. If a relative or friend in the colony had the money to pay for a girl’s voyage as part of a family reunification programme, there were often delays and, in reality, the

process of committing a crime, being convicted and then transported could be completed before an application for assisted migration could even be approved.

The females who committed deliberate crimes that would warrant transportation were aware that they would not meet the emigration scheme criteria. Many were not orphans. Many had been in-mates of work-houses, and some had probably even been rejected from the work-houses. In fact, some of women targeted work-houses or their property when committing the crimes. Those who had been “on the streets” would have had a reduced chance of being selected with an unblemished moral character. Many would have been considered unsuited to working in the colonial households.

Transportation was an obvious way for desperate girls to secure a passage out of poverty and deprivation. They acted with a purpose to create what they believed would be a better life for themselves. They used transportation as a means of emigrating. For many, arson was a crime which fitted their goals.

While the Earl Grey scheme was still operating, female convicts were being sent to Van Diemen’s Land. The ship *Earl Grey* made its fourth voyage in December 1849 with 240 female convicts. The surgeon reported that *240 female convicts with 81 children were embarked at Kingstown from the Grange Gorman Penitentiary, Dublin, for the passage to Van Diemen's Land, also 3 male, 7 female free settlers, a Matron and assistant, total 333. The prisoners were almost 6 months at sea. 20 of them were 1 to 2 years convicted. They were all in a fair average state of health on embarkation, however the majority of the children who in most instances were consigned direct from the Union Houses were embarked in an extremely emaciated condition, but most of them speedily became robust under such improved conditions of diet etc.*

Studies undertaken by Dianne Snowden in Tasmania have revealed the plight of numerous girls who deliberately committed arson to be transported. There is the case of 18 year old Jane Allen who attempted to set fire to the poor-house at Enniscorthy but made sure that she was caught in the act so that no damage eventuated. She said that she wanted to join her friends who were being transported. Others wanted to join family who were already in the colony, and some admitted they wanted to ‘improve their condition’.

Obviously, some of the girls who arrived with the Earl Grey scheme went on to have happy fulfilled lives in their new homeland, but others did not fare so well. Some married early and found harmonious relationships. Some married but did not find contentment. Some became poorly paid servants. Some of these servants found they could play the system by becoming insolent and neglectful so that their masters would terminate their employment and send them back to Hyde Park Barracks. These girls were wily enough to know they could keep doing that until they could find better employment and better masters or mistresses elsewhere. Many of the girls appeared before the courts for a variety of reasons. This, however,

fuelled colonial criticism of the orphan girls in general, especially amongst those who were anti-Irish and anti-Roman Catholic.

Alice Ball was born in 1834. She arrived on the *Diadem* on the 18th of January 1850. She had been a nursemaid prior to leaving Ireland. She was Episcopalian. Alice was indentured as an apprentice by John Brown, a Sailmaker of Richmond, Victoria, for 12 months at £6 per annum. Three months later, being in “the family way”, she sadly committed suicide by throwing herself in the Yarra River on 23rd April, and despite efforts to rescue and revive her, she was dead at the tender age of sixteen. According to the eye-witness account by James Craig, approximately an hour before Alice’s drowning he “*heard Alice’s employer, Mr Brown and his wife at high words*” as they passed his house. Reporting the conversation with Mrs. Brown, Alice had attempted to throw herself in the river the previous week after falling pregnant to Mr. Brown – although, it was said, it wasn’t Mr. Brown’s fault as Alice was a “strumpet” and “everything that was bad.” This same witness gave testimony that Mr. Brown was “unconcerned” about the death and that there “*was jealousy on the part of his wife towards the girl*”. Among the witness depositions at the inquest was a short statement by a fellow shipmate of Alice’s on the *Diadem* – Catherine McCarroll – recalling that Alice “was a quiet orderly girl on board ship.”

Ellen Cafferty was 18 years old when she arrived in Sydney on board the *Inchinnan* in February 1849. She was from Ballina and her parents were James and Cecilia. Her mother was still living. She was to be employed in Parramatta for four years at £8 a year by Mr Robert Hilton Shackles, a merchant of 224 Church Street in Parramatta.

Before her first year was up, she refused to work and go back to serve Hilton “*for any consideration*”. This resulted in her detention in “*the lock-up*” in February 1850. Using her case as an example of the Irish orphan girls in general, the newspapers noted that Ellen Cafferty “*is a girl in a situation where regular hours are kept, good food, and good wages*”. The newspaper articles complained about the amount of wages that these girls were demanding, which were double that of what “*good housemaids*” were paid in England, and yet “*these girls... have to be taught everything*”. There were comments on how the girls then spent their money, that “*they pant for liberty to spend it in useless and unbecoming dress, in a place where there is little or no restraint*”. Ellen’s defiance for her wages to be paid in full led to Shackles appearing in Court. He produced evidence of payments to her cost of goods. The court awarded Ellen a balance of £1. She was also reprimanded by the court by her false claim “*that her mistress had six servants since she left her*”. **Mary Stephens** was from Castlebar and was 18 years old when she arrived in Sydney on the *Inchinnan* in February 1849. She was Church of England, could read and write, and her parents, John and Ann, were both dead. Mary was embroiled in controversy during the voyage. She claimed she was assaulted by Alexander Taylor,

the Chief Mate. On arrival, the ship's doctor took her to the Immigration Agent, and she was accompanied to the Police Office to make her complaint. A court case followed. It seems Mary had been in service twice before she had entered the Ballina Union Workhouse. For part of the voyage, she acted as a servant to widowed Mrs Martelli and tended her child. Mrs Martelli testified that she had witnessed Taylor beating Mary. Taylor had twice assaulted Mary – once by beating her with a broom handle and kicking her. The case was postponed till the next day.

It was reported that seven or eight of the female immigrants appeared, *not one of whom could write her name, or, to use their own expression, " was scholar enough" to recollect the name of the month, or even the hour of the day, when the assault took place.* Mary was indentured to J Mackay in Sydney, but the indenture was cancelled, and she was sent to Moreton Bay in July 1849.

Hannah Mack was from Westport, Mayo. Her parents were both deceased. At age 19 she sailed on the *Panama* bound for Sydney, arriving on 12 January 1850. She was Church of England and could read and write. Hannah was employed by Edward Dyas Thomson for £8 a year. Thomson had been the Colonial Secretary and was a powerful parliamentarian. He lived in a villa in Darlington.

In July 1851, Thomson sought the cancellation of Hannah's indenture due to repeated misconduct. *"She not only systematically neglects her duty, and disobeys the orders which are given to her, but absents herself in the evening for hours together; although I have myself personally warned her against such serious impropriety of conduct. It is because I feel the sacred obligation which is imposed upon me by the conditions of her apprenticeship, and the impossibility, from her intractable temper and habits of disobedience and irregularity, of satisfactorily fulfilling them, that I am so desirous of ridding myself of the responsibility of longer retaining her in my service."* Hannah was returned to Hyde Park Barracks.

Was Earl Grey's scheme of sending young women, some as young as 14 years old, from the workhouses of Ireland to Australia a noble rescue operation, or was it a way of exporting these "workhouse sweepings" on "bride ships" to create a supply of wives and domestic servants for the colony? Although it was promoted as a scheme to give "orphan girls" a better opportunity in life, it appears that about a quarter of the girls were not even orphans.

Mary Ann Duddy was born in 1832 and entered a workhouse in Galway after the death of her parents. She arrived in Sydney on the *Digby* in April 1849. Mary Ann, at age 16, could not read or write, and she had no relatives in the colonies. She was indentured to Mrs Laycock at Heathfield, near Liverpool in New South Wales. In 1850, she married Robert Sindel a 23 year old Englishman and auctioneer, at St Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Sydney. They had eight children who survived to adulthood. The family lived in Goulburn and then Queanbeyan where they ran a large general store. Mary Ann died at the family's store in 1870, aged 37, and was buried at the Wesleyan cemetery in Queanbeyan.

THE MEMOIRS OF JANE CAMERON, FEMALE CONVICT.

The Memoirs of Jane Cameron is a work of fiction, but it is based on research of prison life in Glasgow, Millbank and Brixton prisons. The author, Frederick William Robinson, published his two volumes in 1864. The first volume was titled "*Female Life in Prison*" and the second being "*The Memoirs of Jane Cameron. Female Convict*".

William Maddock, of Maddocks Select Library in Sydney, listed the new books he had received via Mail Steamer in February 1864. One was listed as "*Jane Cameron by a Prison Matron*" 2 volumes.

Sections of the Memoirs appeared in various newspapers. Several chapters were serialised in the *Sydney Mail* from June 1864. The *Sydney Morning Herald* even advertised that "A reprint of this new and highly entertaining work will be found in the *Sydney Mail*."

You can read the entire book on-line at -

https://books.google.com.au/books?id=RvYBAAAQAAJ&printsec=titlepage&hl=en&redir_esc=y#v=onepage&q&f=false

The author writes the story from the perspective a matron. In the past it was realistic enough for Jane's story to have been taken by many as literal history. There is a mixture of crime and romance with Jane's involvement with men during her criminal career, and also with her involvement with another female prisoner, her relationship with the woman she is sent to work for, and her relationship with the matron.

It is an interesting concept for the author to take on the role of a matron as a storyteller. In *Female Life in Prison*, Robinson writes - "*If the hearts of these prison women could be laid bare, there would be found a story in each which has hitherto escaped the poet and the novelist; the matter for a thousand books is floating amidst the desolate wards that echo to these women's sighs, or ring with their defiance. Theirs have not been quiet lives, and from the elements of life's discord spring the incidents to interest mankind*".

Narratives of crime and punishment were popular with readers, and Robinson gave Jane, a convict, a voice. We follow her journey from arrest in Glasgow, through incarceration to learning to pick up the pieces of her life.

Jane Cameron, one dark damp evening, then, was "on Duty" at the corner of a close, standing alone there as if from shelter from the misty rain that was descending. Poorly clad, with her shawl drawn over her head, and her face – painted for the occasion – peering therefrom, she looked like a factory girl, or a weaver's daughter, waiting for the rain to clear up to proceed about her business. Feigning to be poor is as successful as feigning to be rich... The object was to find a victim of some means, get him drunk, and relieve him of his money. Jane's accomplice disappeared and when Jane faced the Court she was found guilty. The sentence was 14 year's transportation, but she served her time in Britain.

MAJOR D'ARCY WENTWORTH. (1793-1861)

In the last Chronicle, I mentioned Ted Flack's book about the 63rd Regiment. On looking through it, I noticed the name of D'Arcy Wentworth, son of Dr D'Arcy Wentworth and brother of William Charles Wentworth (of the Blue Mountains crossing fame).

D'Arcy the younger was born as Dorset Crowley on 23 June 1793 on Norfolk Island. His mother was convict Catherine Crowley. When he was six years old, his mother died and his father changed the boy's name to D'Arcy Wentworth. In 1802 D'Arcy and his brother, although illegitimate and the sons of a convict, were sent to England for their education.

While William later studied law, D'Arcy became the first person born in the colony to be commissioned into the British Army. He served as an Ensign with the 73rd Regiment from 1811 and later transferred to the 63rd. Captain Wentworth and his wife arrived in Hobart in April 1829 with a detachment of the 63rd. In 1830/31 he was the Officer commanding the Regiment's No 6 Company in the Bothwell area. When the main body of the Regiment departed Hobart in 1834, D'Arcy remained in Van Diemen's Land. He became a Major by purchase in 1837. The cost was £1,400 and he used land holdings as security.

D'Arcy died on 21 July 1861. His body was transported from Launceston to Sydney and then by train to Parramatta. Many assembled at the Sydney Railway Terminus to show their respect. Old colonists came from far and near to attend the funeral. He was buried in the family vault at the St John's graveyard.



A mistake on the inscription says that he was with the 65th Regiment and not the 63rd. The stonemason also made an error with his sister Martha's inscription. Her age is shown as 54 years instead of 34 years.

The Wentworth vault at St John's has the following inscriptions -

Here lie the mortal
Remains of
DARCY WENTWORTH ESQUIRE
Late of Home-Bush in this
County who departed this
Life the 7th Day of July A.D.1827
in the 64 Year of his Age

Also of CATHERINE his wife
removed at the time of
his interment to this vault
from a contiguous grave
who departed this Life
AD 1800 in the 28 year of her age

Also
MARTHA REDDALL
his daughter
by another mother
She departed this life
the 1st of January 1847 in
the 54 year of her age

Also
his second son MAJOR D'ARCY WENTWORTH
late of Her Majesty's 65th Regiment
who departed this life the 27th day
of July 1861 aged 65 years
In my Father's house are many mansions
John 14.2

Sources:

Empire, 7 August 1861

Colonial Times, Hobart 10th February 1838

<https://tedflack.files.wordpress.com/2014/09/the-63rd-regiment-of-foot-manuscript.pdf>

THE TOWERS OF ST JOHN'S PARRAMATTA

With new development in today's Parramatta, it is not only the towers OF St John's Anglican Church that I refer to, but also the proposed tower BESIDE St John's. The church's twin towers have managed to survive, thanks to major repair work undertaken in the 1850s as well as ongoing maintenance. Many of us with convict and colonial history have visited the historic church, and many may be dismayed at the CBD's development plans.



ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, PARRAMATTA.

design based on the St Mary's Church in Reculver, Kent, England.

St Mary's had fallen into disrepair and was being demolished when Lachlan and Elizabeth Macquarie left England in 1809. The towers had long been important as a landmark for shipping, and Elizabeth's last glimpse of England is said to have been the towers. She wanted to replicate them at St John's.



Although the foundations of St John's were originally laid in 1797, the building was not completed until 1808. It was between 1817 and 1819 that the twin towers, spires and west front of St John's at Parramatta were added.

Elizabeth Macquarie asked John Watts, the Governor's aide-de-camp to draw up the



During the latter part of last year, I read that there was concern about the development of 45 storey high rise tower to be built by the Anglican Church beside St Johns - *The church is building what is predominantly a commercial development to be sold to members of the public and not only for church parishioners. At the centre of the debate is the possible demolition of the St John's Parish Hall – a building that has sat in Parramatta for 111 years.* The projected image shows how the once high steeples will be dwarfed by a new tower.

Sydney Mail 26 Oct 1938

Sydney Mail 28 Jun 1884

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/blog/australias-oldest-church-site-under-threat-st-johns-parramatta/>

PAST MEETS FUTURE AT PARRAMATTA

While working on the Parramatta Station for Sydney Metro West which will in future link Greater Parramatta to the Sydney CBD, construction workers recently came across remnants of old Parramatta. It is certainly not unusual to find hidden pasts and artefacts when new projects are undertaken.

Earlier excavations in Parramatta have revealed bottles, ceramics and pipes in Barracks Lane where there were cottages built in the 1840s; small Aboriginal stone artefacts, as well as earthenware, Chinese porcelain, clay pipes, sandstone bricks, and clay tiles in George Street; a Kings School Cadet Button, 1799 Britannia coin, a bone toothbrush under the Westfield car park; and more from other sites.

Roseneath Cottage was the home of the Templeton family. It was not an excavation site, but hidden treasures from the past were found in the attic. Janet Templeton, a widow, had arrived in 1831 with eight children, seven Scottish servants, some capital and 63 Saxon merino sheep. She intended to be a pastoralist. They moved into Roseneath Cottage in 1837. After the family left in



the 1840s, other families moved into the cottage. In 1989, the original door and other fixtures were listed as heritage items, and Roseneath Cottage potentially became an archaeological site.

In 2015, while listed for sale, the owners found children's toys over 100 years old concealed beneath the floor of the attic. There were marbles, wooden animals and a piece from a board game. Also found were hand made nails.

An archaeology team is now slowly working at the Parramatta metro station site. What they have uncovered are the footings of a convict hut which apparently housed women 230 years ago. It is believed that the hut, situated in Church Street, dates back to 1792. Artefacts found include diverse items from different cultures. Examples of Chinese, Melanesian and Aboriginal objects will be preserved and eventually placed on display.

The team is expected to continue working at the site until mid-2023.

Sources:

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/media-releases/230-year-old-history-unearthed-beneath-future-sydney-metro-parramatta>

<https://historyandheritage.cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au/cultural-collections/archaeological-artefacts>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roseneath_Cottage

Convict Connections was formed as an Interest Group of the Genealogical Society of Queensland Inc. to accommodate the growing interest and enthusiasm in our Colonial Heritage. It was decided that the Group would endeavour to service the needs of those members whose ancestral path led them back not only to the Convict Era but also the Colonial Era.

Aims and Objectives

Convict Connections aims to provide a specialist forum for members with a particular interest in Convicts and Colonial Heritage, to share and exchange information, achieve a wider knowledge, and foster a greater appreciation of those who suffered the horrors of transportation.

Membership

Convict Connections membership is available free to all members of the Genealogical Society of Queensland Inc.

Certificate of Proof

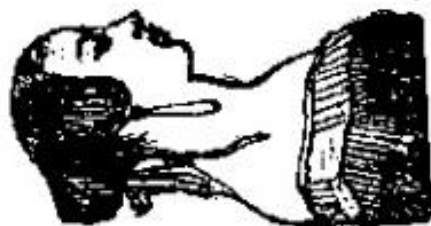
Convict Connections can provide a Certificate of Proof on receipt of certified evidence of convict descent which has been verified by our Officer of Claims. Applications must be lodged on an official Claim Form accompanied by legible photocopies of certificates or other Archival proof.

Cost - \$10 for initial Certificate
\$4 for additional tickets for family members
(includes postage)

Meeting dates for 2023

12 February	9 April	11 June
13 August	8 October	10 December

THE LONDON CONVICT MAID.



But ah my youthful heart betrayed,
And now I am a Convict Maid.

To wed my lover I did try,
To take my master's property,
So all my guilt was soon displayed,
And I became a Convict Maid.

Then I was soon to prison sent,
To wait in fear my punishment,
When at the bar I stood dismayed,
Since doomed to be a Convict Maid.