



Colonists' & Convicts' Chronicle

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Welcome to 2025

We welcome the New Year with a new look Chronicle! We hope to continue to bring you many interesting articles, resources and snippets of information about not only our convict past, but also our colonial history until the time of Federation in 1901.

This Chronicle is a work of the members of the Colonists' and Convicts' Interest Group of the Genealogical Society of Queensland, and we welcome new members to join our group. Meetings take place on the 2nd Sunday of every second month, in person in Brisbane, or via Zoom, and all are welcome if you have ancestors who arrived during this time, or you have an interest in this period of history in Australia. We research on designated topics, and share about our research. This is an exercise in developing our skills in new areas, looking at different resources, and also becoming comfortable with sharing our discoveries.

Please see page 22 for more information.



Sir Thomas Brisbane,
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_Brisbane



King George IV,
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_IV



Sir George Arthur,
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sir_George_Arthur,_1st_Baronet

Significant Figures of 1825

The reigning Monarch of the United Kingdom was **George IV**, (b.1762-d.1830). He lived an extravagant lifestyle and his reign was marred by scandal and lack of responsibility.[i]

Major General **Sir Thomas Brisbane** (1773-1860), British army officer, administrator and astronomer, was appointed Governor of New South Wales in December 1821, remaining in the role until 1825. He built the colony's second observatory, encouraged scientific and agricultural training, and became the first patron of the New South Wales Agricultural Society.[ii]

On his departure, General **Sir Ralph Darling** (1772-1858) became Governor of New South Wales.

Major **Sir George Arthur** (1784-1854) was appointed to the position of Lieutenant Governor of Van Diemen's Land from 1824. He selected Port Arthur as the location for the prison settlement, as it was easily guarded and surrounded by shark-infested waters. He was known for developing the harsh reputation of this penal colony.[iii] Arthur was responsible for the repression and persecution of the indigenous population in what is now known as the Black War.[iv]

[i] Wikipedia contributors, "George IV," Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=George_IV&oldid=1268530420 (accessed January 13, 2025).

[ii] Heydon, J.D. (1966), "Sir Thomas Makdougall Brisbane (1773-1860)", Australian Dictionary of Biography, vol. I, Melbourne: Melbourne University Press, pp. 151-155

[iii] Boyce, James (2008). Van Diemen's Land. Black Inc. p. 169. ISBN 978-1-86395-413-6.

[iv] Connor, John (2002). The Australian Frontier Wars 1788-1838. University of New South Wales Press. pp. 93-95. ISBN 0-86840-756-9.

Happenings in the Colonies in 1825



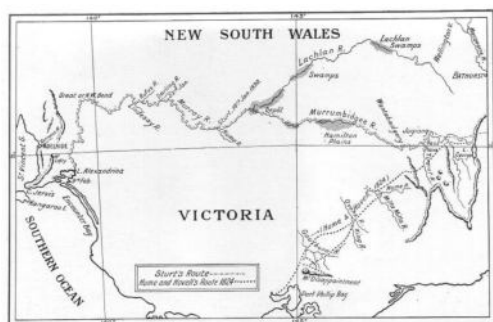
Hamilton Hume,
https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hamilton_Hume



Captain William Hovell,
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Hovell

- 18th January 1825 – Hamilton Hume and Captain William Hovell arrived back in Gunning, New South Wales after their 16-week expedition. It was reported in The Australian newspaper that “Captain Hovell and Mr H Hume have returned from their excursions to the southward. It appears that they penetrated as far as Western Ports [sic], Bass’s Strait, where they discovered a river of considerable magnitude...they represent the country to be remarkably rich and much superior to the county of Argyleshire or Bathurst...”

Source: Robert Macklin, *Hamilton Hume, our Greatest Explorer*, Hatchette Australia, 2017, Sydney. Ch. 11, p. 126.



Route taken by Hume and Hovell 1824.
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Sturt_and_Hume_and_Hovell_expeditions.jpg



Portrait of Musquito c.1860's,
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Musquito_bushranger.jpg

- 25th February 1825 – Aboriginal bushranger, Musquito (c.1780-1825), was hanged at Hobart. Musquito was first encountered in punitive raids on the Dharug people near North Rocks on the outskirts of the Parramatta district in 1805. As he was regarded as a ringleader, his arrest was ordered, and he was captured and held at Parramatta. Due to his attempts to escape, he was transferred to Norfolk Island, where he spent around 8 years. As the Norfolk Island settlement was being decommissioned, Musquito was transferred with the other remaining prisoners in 1813 to Port Dalrymple in northern Van Diemen’s Land. Musquito became a free man when he arrived in Van Diemen’s Land and worked as a tracker of bushrangers and runaway convicts. In return, he was promised repatriation to Sydney by Lieutenant Governor William Sorell in 1817. However, this did not occur, and in 1819, Musquito left the settlement to join a peaceful mob of 30-60, known as ‘the tame mob’, who mostly accepted hand-outs of food, and were mostly made up of ‘Oyster Bay’ people. They remained docile until 1823, when more displaced people had joined them, and more grievances against the increasing number of white settlers reached fever point when their women were raped and they retaliated by raiding and setting fire to farms. Musquito and another leader were named as outlaws. Both were captured and tried in December 1824, and hung on 25th February 1825.[i] Historian Naomi Parry, in her research on Musquito, found the evidence against him was “dubious” and it remained unclear whether Musquito committed any murders”.[ii]

[i] "Executions". *Hobart Town Gazette And Van Diemen's Land Advertiser*. Vol. 10, no. 460. Tasmania, Australia. 25 February 1825. p. 2. Retrieved 7 January 2025 – via National Library of Australia.

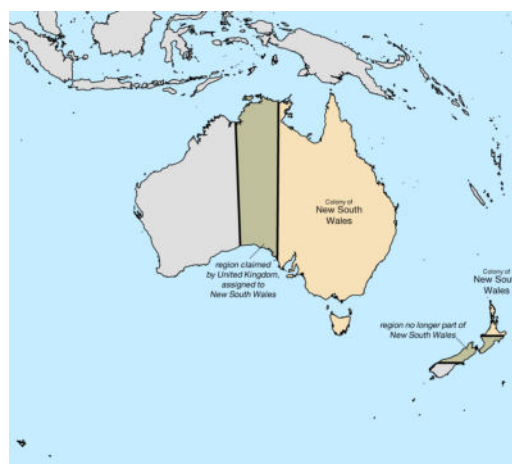
[ii] Parry, Naomi (9 July 2021). "Hanging no good for blackfellow": looking into the life of Musquito". ANU Press. Retrieved 3 December 2024; Parry, Naomi (2019). "Biography - Musquito - Australian Dictionary of Biography". *adb.anu.edu.au*. Retrieved 3 December 2024

Happenings in the Colonies in 1825 (cont'd)



Location of Maria Island

- 4th March 1825 – a penal settlement was established on Maria Island, Van Diemen's Land. The mountainous island in the Tasman Sea, located 2.5 miles off the east coast of Van Diemen's land, is about 12 miles long and a little over 8 miles across. A penal settlement was established at Darlington for convicts whose crimes were not of 'so flagrant a nature' that they should be sent to Macquarie Harbour.
- May 1825 – The Moreton Bay penal settlement was originally settled at Redcliffe in 1824 as a place for secondary offenders from the Sydney colony, but in May 1825 it moved to North Quay on the banks of the Brisbane River, named after the new Governor Sir Thomas Brisbane.
- 14th June 1825 – Van Diemen's land was separated legislatively from New South Wales.[i]
- 16th July 1825, the boundary of NSW was extended westward to 129° East, which is the current boundary with Western Australia.
- 3rd December 1825 – Van Diemen's Land became fully independent from New South Wales, with George Arthur becoming its first Governor.[ii]
- 19th December 1825 – General Sir Ralph Darling (1772–1858) became Governor of New South Wales in 1825, serving in the role until 1831.



16 July 1825: New South Wales is extended westward, but loses land in New Zealand.



3 December 1825: The Colony of Van Diemen's Land is formed from New South Wales.

[i] Munday, Rosemary, ed. (1991). "How Australia Began: Significant Dates in Australian History". The Bulletin Australian Almanac & Book of Facts 1992. Sydney: Australian Consolidated Press. p. 2. ISSN 1038-054X.

[ii] Cameron, Angus, ed. (1985). "Part One: Facts and Figures: An Australian Historical Chronology". The Australian Almanac: 800 Pages Crammed with Australian and World Facts: Politics, the Arts, Geography, History and Much More. North Ryde, NSW: Angus & Robertson. p. 8. ISBN 0-207-15108-3.

Australian Colonial Food

While it was true that our ancestors brought with them the customs and traditions of the countries from which they hailed, they had to be adaptable to survive in the harsh new environment in which they found themselves, with totally different weather patterns, different animals, and they needed to find new ways to grow the crops they knew, or find what local foods were safe to eat if they were to survive. Many of the early settlers became isolated in the bush, and had to experiment by substituting local ingredients, sometimes successfully, at other times not. They learnt to eat local fish, such as cod and mullet, and animals, including kangaroo and even wombat, and observe the foods that the natives ate, such as grains, seafood, potatoes or yams, fruits, nuts and greens.

With the goldrushes, transport improved, and fresh supplies were available to those who lived along the river courses. By this time the cities of Sydney and Melbourne provided a much greater variety of cuisine and availability of produce, although the average family would still have enjoyed limited variety, with flour, tea, milk, sugar, meat and vegetables still being their main fare.

In 1864, Edward Abbott published 'The English and Australian Cookery Book: Cookery for the many, as well as the upper ten thousand', which provided recipes for Australian colonial cooks at all levels of society. Others were to follow, including Philip Muskett's 1893 'The art of living in Australia', which encouraged adapting to a more localised menu, rather than continuing with British tradition in cookery and customs. Muskett promoted the eating of fish, salads and vegetables, as suitable to the local climate, both for supply and for digestion.

Green Tomato Jam

You will need about eight pounds of green tomatoes cut into slices. Add one pint of water and ½ lb of preserved ginger and boil until cooked. Add 6 lb of sugar and the juice of three lemons, then boil some more until it looks and tastes right.

Quandong Jam

This fruit is found on the inland plains of Australia. Remove the kernels and add about three times its own bulk in brown sugar, and allow to boil at a low heat for as long as it takes. Allow to cool and the jam is ready to eat. If you want to keep the quandong fruit for a long time, you can bury them in sand, and they will ripen very slowly.

Bushies' Kangaroo Tail Soup

Remove the hair and clean the tail then cut into strips to fit your cooking pan. Bake for about two hours with a little salt and fat. Peel off the skin and cut into pieces then roll each piece in flour. Put the meat into your pot with water to cover, adding salt, pepper and available herbs. Some chopped bacon is also good for the soup. Halfway through the cooking add some chopped carrots, potatoes and onions. Simmer for one and a half hours.

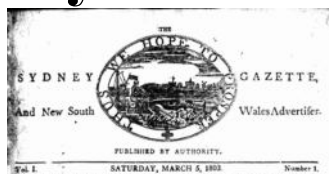
Sources

Abbott, Edward. *The English and Australian Cookery Book: Cooker for the Many, as Well as for the upper Ten Thousand*. London: Sampson, Low, Son and Marston, 1864.
<https://archive.org/details/b28073812/page/n5/mode/2up>.

Fahey, Warren. *When Mabel Laid the Table: The Folklore of Eating and Drinking in Australia*. Sydney: State Library of NSW, 1992.
<https://archive.org/details/whenmabellai/dtabooooofahe/page/n5/mode/2up>.

Muskett, Philip E. *The Art of Living in Australia*. Sydney: Eyre and Spottiswoode, 1893.
<https://dn790005.ca.archive.org/o/items/artoflivinginausoomuskiala/artoflivinginausoomuskiala.pdf#page=37.17>.

The Colony's First Newspaper



It would seem appropriate for this, our first new-look Colonists' and Convicts' Chronicle, to reflect on the first newspaper published in the Australian colonies.

On March 5th, 1803, four pages of foolscap were roughly printed under the title, "The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser", with a cameo woodcut of image of Port Jackson in 1803, showing the few buildings, a ship, a Union Jack, a man ploughing the earth, spades and picks and a female figure sitting on bales, the date of settlement, 1788, and the motto, "Thus we hope to prosper". The designer and cutter of the woodblock is believed to have been an Irish convict transported for forgery – John Austin.

The publisher of this first paper was George Howe, a creole from St Kitt's in the West Indies, who came from a family of printers. He had also gained further experience in London, so by the time he arrived in Sydney as a convict, transported for life, he was ready to start a newspaper of his own. He was not put off by the lack of literacy of the majority of residents, his enthusiasm gaining him an interview with Governor King, who immediately supported his venture.

Howe suffered a number of obstacles in printing his newspaper. Firstly, his paper, ink, and printing press supplies all came from England, and were reliant on the slow and precarious travel of ships between England and the colony. Ships sunk in storms, were attacked by foreign ships, or were just held up by weather. Howe also relied on news from England to supplement local news for the colony's inhabitants, to keep them informed of happenings back home.

While Howe's success was ensured by the government support his paper received, he was also constrained by it. This was a government newspaper, and not the free press, so Howe could only publish what the government permitted. Official Government orders were published in the Gazette, and censorship of other articles was harsh and absolute. In an article written about him by William Folster, censorship of the Gazette by the government was described as follows,

[they] appear to have exercised a rigorous, harsh, and unfair censorship over the paper. Proofs, distorted almost beyond recognition, with his well-considered comments reduced and emasculated, paragraphs essential to the proper understanding of the subjects he was treating were mercilessly erased. Even whole columns were deleted without reasonable warrant.

This changed in 1824, when Governor Brisbane allowed the columns of the "Gazette" to be made "open for public discussion of all matters of history concerning the colony and its government".

After George Howe's death in 1821, the paper continued, its last issue appearing on October 20, 1842. To read more about George Howe, see the article at:

<https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/howe-george-1600>
1803, The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser (NSW: 1803 – 1842), 5 March, viewed 05 Jan 2025, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-page5653>

1947 'Australia's First Newspaper', Central Western Daily (Orange, NSW: 1945 – 1954), 20 May, p. 3., viewed 11 Jan 2025, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article281982866>

The Internet Archive - free online books on Colonial times

A resource that I find particularly useful when researching my ancestors' lives in colonial Australia is books written during that period, as they give a first-hand account of life at the time. I don't have letters or journals written by my own family members, but reading books, diaries, and journals written during this period can give insight into how people lived. My first go-to resource is the Internet Archive, which has a huge number of free digitised out-of-copyright books, plus other archived material. At the Internet Archive may be found books written by convicts, colonial recipe books, colonial plays, books for Australian colonial readers, pre-Federation history books, books on Australian flora and fauna, amongst many others. Some books may be borrowed, and others downloaded to your computer.

One book, 'The Broad Arrow, by Caroline Woolmer Leakey, writing as Oliné Keese', was originally published in 1859, and describes the life of a woman transported to Van Diemen's Land.

Another example is 'Convict Life in New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land', written by Charles White and published in 1889, which gives a series of 'historical sketches' of early settlement, including the ten governors, and the convicts.

Backhouse's 1843 'A narrative of a visit to the Australian Colonies, gives an in-depth description of his travels at quite an early stage of settlement, covering all the colonies, and includes maps, etchings and woodcuts. He describes what he saw of flora, fauna, and the development of each of the settlements he visited over a period of six years, from his London departure in September 1831.

Captain Maconochie's 'Thoughts on convict management' gives us some insight into contemporaneous thinking on the matter of transportation and the treatment of convicts. There are also a number of documents available to download, including year books, medical journals, and Colonial Secretarys' Blue Books. These are just some examples of what you can find in this great resource.

Sources:

Backhouse, James. *A Narrative of a Visit to the Australian Colonies*. London: Hamilton, Adams & Co., 1843. <https://archive.org/details/narrativeofvisito1back/page/n9/mode/2up>.

Leakey, Caroline Woolmer. *The Broad Arrow: Being Passages from the History of Maida Gwynnham, a Lifer*, by Oliné Keese. London: Richard Bentley, 1859. <https://archive.org/details/broadarrowbyoliooleakgoog/page/n20/mode/2up>.

Maconochie, Alexander. *Thoughts on Convict Management, and Other Subjects Connected with the Australian Penal Colonies*. Hobart Town: J.C. MacDougall, 1838. <https://archive.org/details/thoughtsonconvioomacogoo/page/n8/mode/2up>.

White, Charles. *Convict Life in New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land: The Story of Ten Governors and the Story of the Convicts*. Vol. Parts I&II. Bathurst, NSW: C. & G.S. White, 1889. <https://archive.org/details/convictlifeinncoiwhitgoog/page/n6/mode/2up>.

Ann Powell (1808-1835): My 3 times great grandmother's partner in crime.

by Bev Murray

Sometimes our family history research focuses heavily on direct ancestors at the exclusion of others. We tend to overlook members of the extended family or perhaps friends of our ancestors. This is precisely my experience. Whilst I have extensively researched Martha Shaw, my 3 times maternal great grandmother, unfortunately I have neglected her friend and 'partner in crime', Ann Powell.

Martha has been the subject of many hours of enthusiastic pursuit. Her early life was recorded in detail following her arrest for stealing a bonnet in 1823. Subsequently she and her accomplice, Ann Powell were found guilty and sentenced to 14 years transportation. Based on the knowledge available about their crime, there is a temptation to assume that the two 14-year-old friends were high spirited and enjoyed teasing others. It is therefore my suspicion that, as part of a game, they snatched a bonnet from the head of seven-year-old Elizabeth Davis at a Stepney Fair and made a dash, tossing it into a passageway. Unfortunately, when his young daughter became upset, George Davis decided that he should avenge their foolish action.[i]

Subsequently, in November 1823, the two friends found themselves aboard the convict ship, "Brothers" on their way to an unfamiliar land across thousands of miles of ocean. They eventually landed at Hobart town in Tasmania, and I can only imagine their distress when Ann was summoned to the deck of the ship with 48 other young women. They had been selected to disembark at Hobart leaving 39 other young convict girls, including Martha, to sail onto Sydney town[i]. Martha and Ann never saw each other again!

Perhaps Ann experienced the disempowerment of rigid authority in circumstances of unfair hard times.[i]

Whilst on holiday in Tasmania in 2024, I decided that this was my opportunity to discover what happened to Martha Shaw's accomplice, Ann Powell when she landed at Van Diemen's land. The short answer is a lot.

A visit to the Female Factory in Hobart revealed so much about Ann's brief life in Van Diemen's land and the following saga has been sourced from the Female Convicts Research Centre Inc. In the autumn of 1824 fifteen-year-old Ann disembarks at Hobart in April 1824 with 48 other convict girls and women. A documented description reads as follows: Ann Powell being "fifteen-years-old, five foot tall, with light brown hair, blue eyes and no tattoos and her occupation, a servant".

For unknown reasons, Ann's propensity for absconding constantly results in regular imprisonment. Her ignoble career commences within a month of disembarking from the convict ship. Her first Master is Mr Garrett and when she absconds from him on May 12, 1824, she is admitted to the criminal class at the Cascade female factory. Following her release, she is assigned to Sarah Moses but shortly after Ann absconds. On June 16, of the same year, she is found guilty of allowing a man, Patrick Roach into the house of Master Scott and so she is returned to the criminal class at the Female Factory.

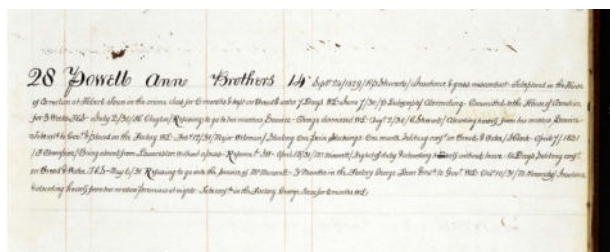
At the conclusion of this sentence, she returns to the service of Sarah Moses, however, in June 1825, again, Ann absconds.

Ann Powell (cont'd)

An advertisement appears in the 'Hobart Town Gazette and Van Diemen's Land Advertiser' offering a reward for her apprehension. Following her recapture, Ann is assigned to Master Anson but on February 24, 1826, she is reprimanded for going out after hours without permission.

In 1827, in the early hours of Wednesday morning, Ann is 'found in bed with a man in her master's house'. This appears to be her sole offence for that year. She is sent to the Hobart Female Factory where she is confined to a cell in the Criminal Class and fed only bread and water for seven days. Following her release in 1828, Ann is assigned to Master Robinson in the district of Launceston however, in October of the same year, Ann is admitted to the Government Female Factory at Launceston after being ill-used by her master, at the time, Master J Reed.

In September of 1829, she is accused of insolence, gross misconduct, and disobedience of orders. Consequently, Ann is sentenced to six months imprisonment and seven days in solitary confinement again, with only bread and water at the Hobart Town House of Correction. During a guided tour of the old Hobart Penitentiary, I volunteered to experience a brief interlude inside to the confinement cells of the old gaol. However, I realised that this encounter was grossly insufficient to gain any real insight into the horrors of solitary confinement.



Tasmania, Australia, Convict Court and Selected Records, 1800-1899,
Alphabetical convict conduct registers – Northern Tasmania H to P 1822-1844.
https://www.ancestry.com.au/discoveryui-content/view/11669:60920?tid=&pid=&queryid=adofbb53-04b5-467b-a878-87075a50a910&_phsrc=GuQ339&_phstart=success
Source

Ann's propensity for absconding continues. At the completion of her sentence, Ann is assigned to Mr Dalrymple in Launceston, but unfortunately, she absconds in May 1830. Following her recapture, she finds herself back in the Launceston House of Correction for three weeks.

In July 1830, Ann refuses to go to her Master's service and so she is placed in the Female factory for reassignment. Master Archer was her new master and whilst serving for him, he accuses Ann of general improper conduct particularly on 6, 12 and 16 October.

This time Ann receives a discharge from Mr Archer's service and sentenced to serve three months in the 'criminal class' of the House of Correction before being returned to the Female Factory.

In February 1831, Ann is sent to work for Major Welman and whilst there, she apparently steals a pair of stockings. For her crime, she is given an entire month of solitary confinement with only bread and water. It appears that Ann's future is hopeless. Perhaps Ann was sent to Georgetown in Tasmania's north in the hope that she may settle down. Unfortunately, after neglecting her duty and absconding from her master, Mr Minnett, again, she is placed in solitary confinement with bread and water for 14 days.

Only a month later, in May 1831, Ann refused to go to the service of M. Minnett and was admitted to the female factory at Georgetown for three months. At the conclusion of this sentence, Ann is returned to government service and assigned to Master Kennedy. In October, she is found guilty of insolence to her master and being absent at night from her master's premises and so Ann is readmitted to the Female Factory at Georgetown for six months.

Ann Powell (cont'd)

In 1832 Ann's next assignment also ends badly with a three-month session at the Female factory for disobedience of orders and insolence to the master, Mr G Walker. At the conclusion of this sentence Ann's next assignment is to Master Chapman however, in March 1833, she is absent from her master's house and is discovered in the disorderly house of Mr Robert Smith. For these transgressions Ann is sentenced to work at the washtub, a heavy and laborious task. She is locked up in a cell at night. It appears that Ann has long given up hope and lives the life of a desperate and dispirited woman. On the morning April 12, 1833, when Ann is due to be released, the authorities discover that she is absent without leave. Her sentence is extended to a further three months in the Female factory.



Source: Tasmania, Australia, Convict Court and Selected records, 1800-1899.
https://www.ancestry.com.au/discoveryui-content/view/168823:60920?tid=&pid=&queryid=5fff41c6-a6b1-43ff-be6b-1afc7a183dab&_phsrc=GuQ345&_phstart=successSource

Her next assignment is with a Master Hull, but he returns Ann to the Cascades Female factory in October 1833 for assignment within the factory. I can't resist wondering whether she feels safe and secure with imprisonment. Perhaps she deliberately chose a perpetual life of crime to remain at the Female factory. Of course, this is needless speculation and Ann's motives will always remain a secret.

The 1833 convict muster recorded Ann as being assigned to Mr Cox but in January, Ann is sentenced to two months in the Second Class of the female factory at Hobart town. Her offence on this occasion involved being away from her master's premises at night.

During 1834 Ann's history of absconding continues with additional accusations of intemperance. She spends 10 months in the female factory for her efforts. Ann is listed as an inmate of the House of Correction in the 1835 Muster and on July 29th, 1835, Ann Powell dies[i] at the Cascades Female factory in Hobart and is buried at St David's Park in Hobart town[ii]. She was only 27 years but at last she was no longer a troubled soul with abundant misguided energy that persisted throughout her sad and unfortunate life.

This exercise has motivated me to include all those other than direct ancestors in my future research efforts. I have realised that, whilst the results can be shocking, they can also reveal more knowledge about the era in which my ancestors lived.

Sources:

[i] Martha Shaw, Brothers, 1824, 'Proceedings of the Old Bailey, 1674 to 1913', www.oldbaileyonline.org, accessed 13 March 2019.

[ii] Martha Shaw, Brothers, 1824, New South Wales Government State Records, 'List of Female convicts arrived at Sydney on board the 'Brothers'', p.43, Ancestry.com, accessed 22 March 2020.

[iii] London, England, Selected Poor Law removal and Settlement Records, 1698-1922.

[iv] Ann Powell, Death record Reg. no. 3946, Australia Death Index, 1787-1985 accessed Ancestry.com

[v] Ann Powell, Burial record, Australia and New Zealand, Find a Grave Index, 1800s-Current, accessed Ancestry.com @ ivi].

Ann Williams-Fitzgerald, ANN POWELL: From childish games to transportation and hard labour, Female Convict Research Centre Inc.

Cloth Fair, City of London



1895 Ordnance Survey Map,
<https://alondoninheritance.com/london-streets/cloth-fair/>



41-42 Cloth Fair,
<https://alondoninheritance.com/london-streets/cloth-fair/>

41-42 Cloth Fair is the oldest house in the City of London. Built between 1597 and 1614, this is the only house to survive the Great Fire of London in 1666. It also survived the blitz in WWII.

Cloth Fair is a street in the City of London where, in medieval times, merchants gathered to buy and sell material during the Bartholomew's Fair.

Cloth Fair is the actual site where Martha Shaw,¹⁴ and Ann Powell,¹⁴ stole a bonnet from a young girl. They were found guilty and sentenced to 14 years transportation. (for full story, see "Ann Powell 1808-1835").

<https://historicengland.org.uk/services-skills/education/educational-images/cloth-fair-city-of-london-11385>

Ancestral Mathematics

To be born, you need:

2 x parents
4 x grandparents
8 x great-grandparents
16 x second great-grandparents
32 x third great-grandparents
64 x fourth great-grandparents
128 x fifth great-grandparents
256 x sixth great-grandparents
512 x seventh great-grandparents
1,024 x eighth great-grandparents
2,048 x ninth great-grandparents

For you to be here, just think of all the joys and all the struggles of those ancestors for you to exist today. Do you know their stories?

To the tune of Rule Britannia.

When first Australia rose to fame,
And Seamen brave explored her shore;
Neptune with joy, with joy beheld their aim,
And thus express'd the wish he bore:
Rise, Australia! with peace and plenty crown'd,
Thy name shall one day be renown'd.

Bright Ceres shall adorn thy land,
And gild thy fields with waving grain,
While roving herds shall o'er thy meads expand,
And range the riches of the plain.
Rise, Australia! with peace and plenty crown'd,
Thy name shall one day be renown'd.

Then Commerce, too, shall on thee smile,
Advent'rous barks thy ports shall crowd;
While pleas'd, well pleas'd, the Parent Isle,
Shall of her distant Sons be proud.
Rise, Australia! with peace and plenty crown'd,
Thy name shall one day be renown'd.

While Europe's Pow'rs in conflict dire
Exhaust the Flower of the brave,
Here peace shall flourish, shall flourish — none conspire,
With human blood thy soil to lave.
Rise, Australia! with peace and plenty crown'd,
Thy name shall one day be renown'd.

The above song was composed by a Mr Jenkins, and sung at a function in 1817 to celebrate the founding of the colony of New South Wales.

The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser (Sydney, NSW), Saturday 1 February 1817, p.3, The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser (Sydney, NSW), Saturday 1 February 1817, p.3,

The Drake Name

by Roselyn Drake

“Drake” is an interesting name to start searching for family history. It is a well-known name but not widely spread outside the west of England. When we first had the telephone connected in Eastwood, a suburb of Sydney, we were the second “Drakes” in the white pages, my half-brother was the third. Fortunately, I had inherited a bunch of original birth, death and marriage certificates, so was able to establish that Henry Drake, a shipbuilder from Devon was the first of my family to come to Australia with his wife, Elizabeth and young family.

Of course many people think of Sir Francis Drake, defeating the Spanish in Queen Elizabeth the first's time but there are no descendants of his. Claiming historical English persons can be fun, Princess Diana and Churchill via Marlborough whose mother was Elizabeth Drake are all available to me if I did not care about facts. I once read a book by an American Mr Drake who claimed St George and King Arthur Pendragon as ancestors as “drake” is likely derived from “dragon”.

Once in Sydney, my great great grandfather, Henry, joined two other men to develop “Hely, Harper, Drake” shipbuilders situated adjoining the Gas Company Wharf in Darling Harbour. They advertised in local newspapers stating that they had facilities for “heaving down vessels of any tonnage”, good workmen and timbers for repairs. (2) One project they were involved in was building two punts. As the Wikipedia article on “Australian Cuisine” states, “Meat constituted a large proportion of the Australian diet during the colonial era”. (3) An abattoir was built on Glebe Island and plans were made to build a bridge to Pyrmont to transport the meat. As the bridge was going to take at least a year to build, two punts were designed by Mr. Moriarty, the Harbourmaster, to move the meat during that time. They were built by Hely, Harpur, Drake and were of an unusual design.

A detailed description of these punts and the mechanism for moving them appeared in the Sydney Morning Herald on the thirty first of March 1860, as they had just been launched. These punts were to be shaped like whaleboats, not the usual blunt shape, made of colonial timber, kauri pine and coppered. A ten horsepower engine on Glebe Island was to power their movement, backward and forward. Each one would take four carts and horses.

What else was going on in Henry's life? Now here is my confession. I know I found, years ago, record of a dispute between private shipping and the government about access to public wharves. I have been unable to locate any record I made about this or indeed any mention elsewhere. The reason I found it interesting was that Henry was to meet with a Government Committee or members of the Legislative Council to represent private shipping interests. It may be that this was not widely recorded as he never met anyone as he died suddenly in 1861. Hence this cautionary tale about keeping records of one's family searches in a state where they can be retrieved.

From a genealogical point of view a sudden death can be a useful thing. It may be absolutely awful for the friends, family and fellow workers of the deceased at the time but if it is reported in the press or sparks an inquest much information is provided for descendants searching for information. Henry died on the sixteenth of July, 1861. The inquest was held at the Gas Hotel, Kent Street, Sydney.

The Inquest reported that this “quiet, sober and industrious man” was supervising repairs on the schooner “Fox”. When the workers left at 8 am for breakfast he followed them down a ladder. It seems he grabbed a rope that came apart and fell onto a spar and then into the water. Taken to his home he was visited by two doctors but his skull was fractured and he died. He was about fifty five at the time and left his wife, two sons and a daughter.

William Smith

by Pat Smith

My great, great, grand-father, William Smith, arrived in the Colony of New South Wales on 9th March, 1822. He came as a convict on a 579 ton vessel, the "Isabella" after a voyage of 126 days, having departed Cork, Ireland on 4th November, 1821. This was the second of 4 voyages which the "Isabella" made to New South Wales (1818, 1822, 1823, 1832). It also made voyages to Van Diemen's Land in 1833 and 1842. On its 1821/22 voyage to the Great South Land the vessel had on board 200 male convicts and a detachment from the 24th Regiment.

On William's Ticket of Leave his place of trial is shown as County Monaghan and his sentence as "Life". On the convict indents held in the Queensland State Library and on the "Isabella" indents he is recorded as having been convicted for uttering forged banknotes. John Malone, another convict on the "Isabella", was also recorded as being convicted of a similar offence.

In The Belfast News Letter of 23rd March, 1821 the trials of both these men at the Monaghan Assizes earlier that month were reported on as follows:-

"John Malone, for uttering forged notes of the Bank of Ireland. - It appeared that in November last, prisoner purchased a bottle of whisky from Hugh O'Hagan, in Carrick, for which he gave him a five pound note, and he wrote the name John Daffey on the back of it. On the same night O'Hagan learned that the note was bad, and on making search, found prisoner in a house drinking, and saw on the table the small notes he had given him in change. Had him taken into custody, and then discovered his real name to be Malone. It was proved by the clerks of the Bank of Ireland that the note had been altered from a one pound note to a five pound note. -Guilty."

"William Smith, for uttering forged notes. - In November last, prisoner purchased the making of a pair of small clothes at the shop of Wm. Quin, Carrickmacross, which he paid for with a five pound note; he called himself John McConnell, which was put on the note. Prisoner was afterwards taken in company with Malone (mentioned above). The note was proved to have been altered from a one pound note. -Guilty."

At the time of his conviction William's occupation was recorded as "Weaver", age 41, height 5 foot 6 1/4 inches, with sallow complexion, dark hair and grey eyes.

Some years ago I obtained the 1820 and 1821 editions of The Belfast News Letter on film on inter-library loan from the Baillieu Library, University of Melbourne. In 1821 the newspaper was published twice weekly - on Tuesday and Friday. It claims to be the world's oldest English-language newspaper, as it was first published in 1737.

I researched the November and December, 1820 editions of the paper in an endeavour to find some reference to the arrest or trial of Messrs Malone and Smith. However, this search was unsuccessful. This certainly was due to the fact that for months prior to 10th November, 1820 most of the space in the newspaper was taken up with verbatim reports of what amounted to a trial by the English House of Lords of Caroline Amelia of Brunswick, Queen of England. She was the wife of George the Fourth. They had married on 8th April, 1795 after knowing each other for only three days. The marriage lasted for just one year. George was the Prince of Wales when they married and Caroline was a German princess and a first cousin of George. She was "short, fat and ugly" and was apparently loath to change her clothing. This resulted in it being said that she "smelt like a farmyard".

William Smith (cont'd)

George's marriage to Caroline was not his first marriage. One of his earlier activities was to secretly marry a Catholic widow, Maria Fitzherbert. The secrecy about this marriage centered around the fact that Parliamentary approval was required for a Royal marriage and that any Royal marrying a Catholic was prohibited from ascending the throne. George is often described as a "well known womaniser."

George did not become king until 1820 following upon the death of George the Third. Caroline had lived in Europe since 1814, but on the death of George the Third she became Queen of England as she was still legally married to the new king. She then announced her intention of returning to England. The English Government offered her 50,000 pounds not to return but she ignored that offer. The Government then appointed a couple of inquires, in one of which Caroline was accused of adultery. The purpose of the Parliamentary proceedings was to annul her marriage and to deprive her of the title of Queen, basically on the grounds of serial adultery during her years in Europe. Caroline admitted that she "did commit adultery once but it was with the husband of Mrs Fitzherbert". The eventual outcome of the Parliamentary action was that, in the face of what seemed overwhelming evidence, the divorce inquiry was passed by a narrow margin of only nine votes. The legislation was then withdrawn as it faced certain defeat in the House of Commons. After the trial was over, I noticed a "letter to the editor" in the Belfast newspaper saying that at long last we might now be able to go back to getting some local news.

There are many articles available on the internet detailing the events surrounding "Caroline, the injured Queen of England". They make interesting reading and are good for a laugh. To readily access this intriguing aspect of English history just type "Queen Caroline, England" into the Google search engine.

I have allowed myself to be diverted from relating information about William Smith. He was apparently well behaved on the voyage from Cork to Port Jackson as he does not rate a mention in the Medical and Surgical Journal covering the voyage. From a reading of that document it is obvious that the convicts were generally well behaved and well treated. This is evidenced by the fact that, at least one month prior to arrival, irons had been removed from all but one convict. In addition the doors to the prison were opened during the day and they were granted approval to move in and out as they felt inclined. No convicts died on the voyage, the only death being the wife of a soldier. When the "Isabella" completed its journey, the convicts were inspected by the then Governor, Sir Thomas Brisbane. William Price, the Surgeon and Superintendent on the "Isabella", stated in his Journal covering the voyage that the Governor expressed "his high approbation of their clean and healthy appearances".

Whilst my ancestor received a sentence of transportation for life, his sentence was not nearly as gruesome as that given to another William Smith who I came across in my research. That person was sentenced to death following his conviction for high treason. The Judge ruled that he was "to be drawn on a hurdle to the place of execution on 13th Nov. and there hanged until he was dead, his head then to be cut off and his body to be cut into four quarters then disposed of as Her Majesty shall think fit. Respited until further order on 28/10/1848." This is obviously an instance of the infamous hung, drawn and quartered sentence of long ago. I have not taken the trouble to ascertain whether the Judge varied his sentence on 28th October.

In 1988 the National Archives of Ireland presented to the Australian Government, as a bicentenary gift, microfilms of historical documents held in Ireland. These records show my William Smith as one of a "list of prisoners of the Crown in the colony of New South Wales who solicit the favour of having their wives and families sent out to them."

William Smith (cont'd)

Wife, Mary Smith, residing in Cavan." William's request is also recorded In the Colonial Secretary's Index. Under the heading "SMITH, William. per "Isabella", 1822" the following entry appears :- "1824 Dec. Government servant at Rooty Station. Petition for free passage for his wife Mary & five children. (Fiche 3287;4/1112.1A pp.346-51) "

William's petition was successful. His wife, accompanied by three of their children - Catherine, Mary and Ann (also known as Nancy) - arrived on the "Thames" as free settlers in April, 1826. The children's ages were respectively 14, 11 and 9. Two older children, Bridget and James, also subsequently migrated. The passengers on the "Thames" comprised the wives and children of emancipated convicts. In a report by a Royal Navy doctor who accompanied the mothers and their children, he described the women, " with the exception of a very few, as the poorest and most wretched type of Irish Peasants - both in appearance and in truth the most degraded of human beings - not to say demonized." Illness, particularly dysentery, was rife on board the ship and castor oil was used as the treatment for this problem. William's three daughters had a combined total of 38 visits to the doctor during the voyage. The doctor said in his report " I regret exceedingly that the castor oil was unavoidably expended too soon, its superior utility in such cases I had ample reason to appreciate." He went on to say "I would particularly recommend a more liberal proportion of this medicine to be furnished to ships where there are many women and children." I doubt that the present members of the medical profession would support this recommendation.

On 10th June ,1826, a couple of months after her arrival in the Colony , my great, great, grand-mother, Mary, submitted a petition for her husband to be assigned to her. Subsequently , the Colonial Secretary received advice from the Principal of Convicts, Parramatta that William Smith's conduct had "always been uniformly good." Mary's petition was successful and William then became under the control of his wife and answerable to her.

I have previously mentioned that Williams three youngest daughters accompanied their mother to New South Wales, arriving in 1826 . Their older sister, Bridget, remained in Ireland where she married a shoemaker named James McCourt. That couple moved to the Colony in 1852 accompanied by their 2 year old son, William Joseph, who, in his adulthood, became a Member of the New South Wales Parliament and who held the important post of Speaker in the Parliament. The girls' brother , James Maguire Smith, also migrated . He later became my great grand-father.

I have not yet ascertained when James arrived in New South Wales, although arrival on 20th August, 1832 as a steerage passenger on the vessel "Waterloo" seems a distinct possibility. James was certainly here prior to 23rd February, 1836 as it was on that date that he married Ann Maria Thorn in Saint Mary's Catholic Church in Sydney. She was then only 15 years of age and is reputed to have been the first Colonial-born female to have been married in the first Catholic church built in Sydney. James and Maria, as she was known, had 17 children. Their fourteenth child, George, who was my grand-father, was born in Bathurst, NSW on 23rd October, 1859, a few months before the State of Queensland was established.

Maria Thorn was a daughter of a convict, William Thorn, who arrived in the Colony in 1790 on the Second Fleet vessel, "Scarborough". Thorn's third wife was Sarah Roberts who was born on Norfolk Island on 28th November, 1801, the daughter of a soldier, John Roberts, and a convict, Sarah Wise. She had been convicted at Gloucester, England on 22nd July, 1795 for the crime of "grand larceny" and sentenced to transportation "beyond the seas" for a term of 7 years. Three months after her conviction she began a six-month voyage to the Colony on the "Indispensible", arriving 30th April, 1796. Sarah was one of my three convict ancestors.

William Smith (cont'd)

In the three years (1823-25) prior to Mary's successful petition to have her husband assigned to her, William is recorded in the General Muster List for those years as a Government Servant employed by Mrs Clack at Parramatta. It seems to me that after leaving that employment he ventured into a farming career. On 1st May, 1833 he was granted a Ticket of Leave under which convicts were entitled to certain freedoms and privileges. One such freedom granted to William was that he was allowed to remain in the District of Illawarra. William's wife was then the owner of a 50 acre property at Fairy Meadow in the Illawarra district. Fairy Meadow is now a suburb of Wollongong. William certainly owned the 50 acre property at his death because in his Will he bequeathed it to his wife. On her demise the property was to be divided into three lots, with 20 acres going to his daughter, Bridget McCourt, another 20 acres to a grandson, Andrew Smith and the remaining 10 acres to a daughter, Catherine A'Hern. An interesting fact associated with William's Will is that he signed it with a "x".

Whilst there were benefits attaching to a Ticket of Leave, there were also conditions the Ticket holder was obliged to obey. Failing compliance with these conditions, the Ticket of Leave could be revoked. It is interesting to note one of these conditions was that the holders were required to attend "Divine Worship" every week if they lived "within 5 miles of a place affording them an opportunity of performing their religious duties".

The grant of a Ticket of Leave was a step towards receiving a Conditional Pardon or an Absolute Pardon. William received a Conditional Pardon on 20th July, 1837. Once such a Pardon was confirmed by the relevant authority it could not be revoked and in effect, within the Colony, the convict had all the rights he would have had if he had not been convicted. William's Conditional Pardon was confirmed on 10th January, 1838. In the period between the grant of the Ticket of Leave and the Conditional Pardon, William received a Ticket of Leave Passport dated 14th May, 1836 which enabled him to attend the markets in Sydney for 12 months.

William apparently was a successful farmer. He spent the last 19 years of his life as a farmer in the Wollongong area. In addition to the Fairy Meadow property, he also owned a 103 acre property at Jamberoo, which he purchased on 15th April, 1852 at a cost of one-hundred pounds. Jamberoo is located in the Kiama region, south of Wollongong. William left this property to his son, James Maguire Smith, the husband of Maria Thorn. After the death of both James and Maria, the property was bequeathed to two of their sons, Patrick and Terence.

William died suddenly on Monday, 2nd June, 1856 aged 78. A week later the following article appeared in the Illawarra Mercury newspaper:-

"Magisterial Enquiry.-- An enquiry took place before Messrs Davison and Ellis, at B. McCauley's public-house, in Corrimal-street, on Monday (i.e., 2nd June) touching the death of William Smith, who died suddenly in the above house on that day. The first witness called was Robert Haworth, who stated that the deceased, William Smith, about twelve o'clock that day, came into the house and complained that he was not well; his horse having run away, and in his endeavour to stop him he was badly hurt on his breast, putting his hand on that part of his body. He left me to go to McCauley's Inn. Thomas Maher gave similar testimony.

W. King, M.D., said he was called to attend at McCauley's Inn Wollongong, about noon as Mr Smith was there very ill. I went as required, and found on my arrival that he was dead. I have examined the body, and am of the opinion that he died from a decay of nature. His death may have been accelerated by the injury said to have been received in endeavouring to restrain his horse."

So ended the life of my great, great, grand-father. His working life began as a weaver in Ireland and ended as a farmer on the other side of the world.

Thomas Webber: A Convict-Constable.

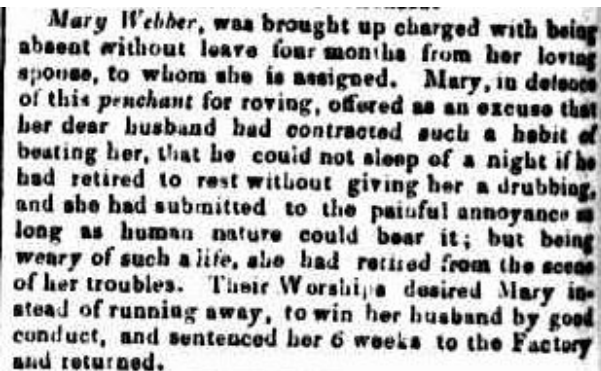
by Fleur Creed

Thomas was born and raised in Devon, England, and was described as an agricultural labourer, ploughman, or reaper. On 11th August 1821, he appeared before Sir William Best at the Devon Lammass Assizes, for stealing a tea chest containing two £1 notes, and was sentenced to death, which was commuted to transportation for life. He departed Portsmouth on 1st April 1822 on the Asia II, arriving at Port Jackson on 24th July 1822.

We don't know much about Thomas' voyage to New South Wales, but we do know that on arrival he was assigned to work at the property of John Drummond at Liverpool. Drummond had been quartermaster of the ship Sirius when it arrived with the First Fleet in 1788, and met Ann Read, a former convict, by 1797, at Norfolk Island where he served as harbourmaster after the wreck of the Sirius. Drummond and Ann returned to Sydney, where they married in 1813, and he was granted land at Liverpool and Parramatta. A few years after Thomas' assignment, Drummond died, but Thomas remained with Mrs Drummond. Thomas formed a relationship with another convict who had been transported for life, Mary Oxley, who had arrived on the Harmony in September 1827, and applied to marry her, and although permission was initially refused in November 1827, approval was gained from the Governor soon after, and they were married on 3 December 1827 at St John's, Parramatta, by Rev. Samuel Marsden.

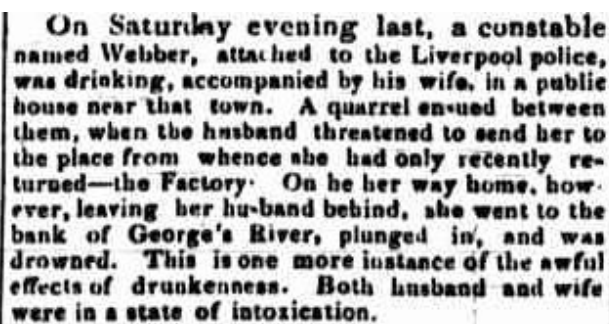
Thomas received an Exemption from Labour to live with Mary and was appointed as a police constable at Liverpool in 1828. Thomas soon distinguished himself by apprehending a group of runaway convicts, and for this was granted a Ticket of Leave in November 1831.

The marriage does not appear to have been a happy one, and records show that Thomas was a habitual drinker and wife-beater, and Mary was first reported as having absconded from the marriage in May 1832.



Mary Webber, was brought up charged with being absent without leave four months from her loving spouse, to whom she is assigned. Mary, in defence of this penchant for roving, offered as an excuse that her dear husband had contracted such a habit of beating her, that he could not sleep of a night if he had retired to rest without giving her a drubbing, and she had submitted to the painful annoyance as long as human nature could bear it; but being weary of such a life, she had retired from the scene of her troubles. Their Worship desired Mary instead of running away, to win her husband by good conduct, and sentenced her 6 weeks to the Factory and returned.

In December that same year, Mary again attempted to escape from the marriage, leaving for four months. Giving evidence before the magistrate after her recapture, she testified in court that he “had contracted such a habit of beating her, that he could not sleep of a night if he had retired to rest without giving her a drubbing”. As she was not only married to Thomas, but also a convict assigned to him, she was punished by being sent to the Female Factory for six weeks before being returned to him, with instructions to “win her husband by good conduct”!^[i] Finally, in December 1834, newspapers reported that the couple had been seen arguing in a drunken state in public in Liverpool, with Thomas, a local constable, threatening to return his wife to the Female Factory, at which time “she plunged into the George’s River and was drowned”.^[ii]



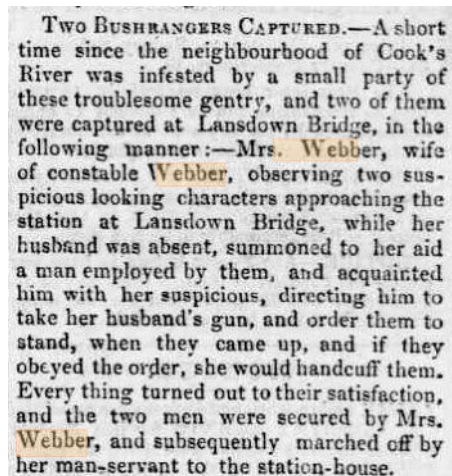
On Saturday evening last, a constable named Webber, attached to the Liverpool police, was drinking, accompanied by his wife, in a public house near that town. A quarrel ensued between them, when the husband threatened to send her to the place from whence she had only recently returned—the Factory. On her way home, however, leaving her husband behind, she went to the bank of George's River, plunged in, and was drowned. This is one more instance of the awful effects of drunkenness. Both husband and wife were in a state of intoxication.

Thomas Webber (cont'd)

Within a short time, Thomas had found another wife, marrying Dublin-born Elizabeth Smith, another convict, at St Luke's, Liverpool in December 1835. Elizabeth had been convicted of stealing money in London at Middlesex Gaol Delivery in September 1832, and sentenced to seven years transportation. She had arrived in Sydney in May 1833 on the Diana.

Meanwhile, Thomas' was busy in his policing career. In February 1836, he was promoted to district constable, receiving £54 15s per annum, and in 1838, he received a Conditional Pardon as a result of having served ten years as a constable, a benefit for those serving life sentences instituted by Governor Hunter in 1796. The Liverpool area was at that time plagued by attacks from bushrangers and other lawlessness.

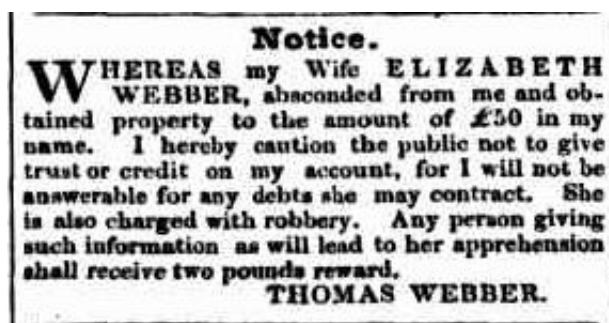
On the home front, the Webber family was growing, first with the arrival of Louisa Ann in 1836, followed by Thomas Henry in 1838. Elizabeth, it appears, was a woman of great courage, which she exhibited one day in December 1838 when she was left at home with the two infants while Thomas was away from the property. Knowing there were bushrangers in the vicinity, when she noticed a couple of suspicious-looking characters lurking about, she called a man who worked for her husband, telling him to take her husband's gun and point it at the men while she hand-cuffed them! This was successfully achieved, and they took the men to the station-house at Liverpool. Sadly, not everyone was pleased with this, the Police Magistrate being more concerned that the Constable did not have his gun in his possession and that someone else had access to it, rather than applauding their bravery and the successful apprehension of the bushrangers! [iii]



TWO BUSHRANGERS CAPTURED.—A short time since the neighbourhood of Cook's River was infested by a small party of these troublesome gentry, and two of them were captured at Lansdown Bridge, in the following manner:—Mrs. Webber, wife of constable Webber, observing two suspicious looking characters approaching the station at Lansdown Bridge, while her husband was absent, summoned to her aid a man employed by them, and acquainted him with her suspicions, directing him to take her husband's gun, and order them to stand, when they came up, and if they obeyed the order, she would handcuff them. Every thing turned out to their satisfaction, and the two men were secured by Mrs. Webber, and subsequently marched off by her man-servant to the station-house.

Perhaps Thomas wished quick-thinking Elizabeth was with him when, in May 1839, three bushrangers he was pursuing attacked him and took his arms and ammunition! They then proceeded to a local residence at George's Hall, where they stole horses, saddles and bridles. [iv]

It would appear that this was not a happy marriage either. Elizabeth received her Certificate of Freedom in October 1839, and almost immediately tried to leave Thomas. In November 1839, Thomas posted an advertisement offering a £2 reward for Elizabeth's return, also declaring that she had stolen from him and that he would not be responsible for debts incurred in his name. Elizabeth possibly thought, as a fully emancipated convict that she would be free to leave her assigned master, but unfortunately, as a married woman, she still could not do so.



Notice.
WHEREAS my Wife **ELIZABETH WEBBER**, absconded from me and obtained property to the amount of £50 in my name. I hereby caution the public not to give trust or credit on my account, for I will not be answerable for any debts she may contract. She is also charged with robbery. Any person giving such information as will lead to her apprehension shall receive two pounds reward.
THOMAS WEBBER.

Thomas Webber (cont'd)

Thomas was transferred to Bungonia in 1840, where a further four children were born, Maria Jane in 1840, James Richard in 1842, Elizabeth Ellen in 1845, and Charlotte Amelia in 1846. Bungonia, near Goulburn, was a growing town at the time. However, other areas became more attractive to pastoralists and the Police Office and Court of Petty Sessions moved to Marulan in 1847, at which time Thomas was transferred to Queanbeyan.

Two more daughters were added to the family at Queanbeyan, Harriett in 1849 and Sarah Frances (aka Mary) in 1852. Thomas bought land at Rob Roy, now known as Royalla, building a pisé home which he named BelleVue. He became Chief Constable at Queanbeyan in 1851. This role involved his appointment as Inspector of Distilleries and Inspector of Slaughterhouses for the local district.[v]

On 10 June 1853, Thomas reportedly died and was buried in the Anglican section of the Riverside Cemetery at Queanbeyan on 12 June 1853. An inquest was held, with the Coroner's Report listing a "Visitation of God" as the cause of death.[vi] There is still some question over his death, however, as when he was called as a witness in the Goulburn Circuit Court in September 1853, another constable declared that Webber was presumed dead but that a body had not been sighted. [vii] No headstone nor grave could be found, so the body could not be exhumed to confirm his death. We now know that the Queanbeyan River has flooded numerous times, causing bodies and gravestones to be washed away.[viii]

The question remains: did Thomas die in June 1853, and if so, how? Some have suggested that he may have been murdered, while others think he may have escaped to the goldfields, changed his name, and lived out his life as a free man in Australia or elsewhere. The mystery remains to be solved!

[i]"Police Report," The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser (NSW: 1803-1842, 9 April 1833, p 2, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article2211524>, accessed 5 June 2023.

[ii] 'News, Old in Sydney, but new to our Country readers, for whose amusement the following extracts from our contemporaries have been selected', The Sydney Monitor (NSW: 1828-1838), 24 December 1834, p 3, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article32147894>, accessed 14 May 2023.

[iii] 1838 'DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE.', The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser (NSW :1803 - 1842), 27 December, p. 2., <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article2551773>, accessed 25 January 2025.

[iv] 1839 'DARING ROBBERY.', The Australian (Sydney, NSW :1824 - 1848), 4 May, p. 2., <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article36861266>, accessed 25 January 2025.

[v]; 'Police', New South Wales Government Gazette (Sydney, NSW: 1832-1900), 14 November 1851, p 1867. <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article230772248>, accessed 13 May 2023;

'Inspectors of Distilleries', New South Wales Government Gazette (Sydney, NSW: 1832-1900), 18 November 1851, p 1887, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article230769163>, accessed 13 May 2023;

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[vi] Thomas Webber, Asia 2, 1822, List of Inquests, New South Wales State Archives, Series: 2921, Item: 4/6613, Roll: 343, New South Wales, Australia, Registers of Coroners' Inquests, 1821-1937, Ancestry.com, accessed 31 May 2023; 'Assize Intelligence: Goulburn Circuit Court', The Sydney Morning Herald (NSW: 1842-1954), 10 September 1853, p 3, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article12948741>, accessed 13 May 2023.

[vii] 1853, The Sydney Morning Herald (NSW : 1842 - 1954), 10 September, p. 3. , viewed 26 Jan 2025, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-page1505989>.

[viii] 'Corpses Washed Away', The Sun (Sydney, NSW: 1910-1954), 25 June 1925, p 11, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article224043554>, accessed 9 June 2023; 'Graves at Cemetery Flooded Again', The Canberra Times (ACT: 1926-1995), 18 October 1976, p 9, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article110831002>, accessed 9 June 2023.

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by Helen Best

Keziah Stranger (whose name was more often spelt Kezia) was born in Devon in 1815 and arrived in Australia on 12 September 1828 at the age of 13 or 14 with her parents, Elias and Margaret, brother Elihu (age 3) and sister Thirza (or Theresa) (age 2), on the ship *Caroline*.

By 1834, Elias Stranger (Keziah's father) was granted a licence to sell wine, malt and spirituous liquor for the house known by the sign of The New Inn in Eastern Creek Parramatta. We are not sure how Kezia ended up in Newcastle to marry Christopher there in 1831 at the age of 16, nor do we know what Christopher was doing in Newcastle at the time. However it's probable they married because she was pregnant as Jane Stranger Moniz appears to have been born later the same year although that date is also unclear.

By 1834 Moniz was publican of the Welcome Inn at Richmond. In 1936 he had a "licence to retail Wines and Malt and Spirituous Liquors". Three Justices of the Peace agreed that he was "a fit person to keep a public house".

In Feb 1835 they became parents of a daughter, Ritta, a son George Thomas in November 1839, another daughter, Eleanor, in 1840, and a son, Alfred Elias on 5 July 1842. Another son died at the age of two in 1835.

As announced in the Sydney Herald 25 April 1842 (page 2) Moniz was granted the licence to the Madeira Inn on Western Road in Prospect.

The licence for the Madeira Inn was renewed in April 1844 and they were joined by another son, John Stranger, on 1 May of the same year – the seventh child!

[illegible]

Christovao Moniz & Keziah Stranger (cont'd)

On Saturday 28 Dec 1844 and 11 Jan 1845, the Parramatta Chronicle and Cumberland Advertiser ran an advertisement titled "To be Let". The Madeira Inn was advertised as having "10 rooms, a detached kitchen, six stall stables etc as well as a ten-acre paddock with a good crop of corn".

In January 1845 a special meeting of the magistrates allowed the transfer of the Queens Arms public House on South Head Road opposite the New Court House to C Moniz from W Walker.

In November 1845, according to the Hawkesbury Courier and Agricultural and General Advertiser Windsor, Moniz sued Robert Taylor for slander for defamation of character for calling him a thief and robber and a receiver of stolen property. Moniz was accused of having robbed the defendant of £1/15/-.

In 1846, according to the census, Prospect had a population of 714 while Parramatta as a whole had approx. 7887 people. There were many public houses in the area.

In August 1846 an advertisement in the Sydney Morning Herald asked people interested in forming a fund to assist distressed mariners and others belonging to foreign countries to meet at Moniz's pub, The Land we live in. There was another ad in the paper the following week but then it seems to have died as an idea.

In September 1846 an ill-kempt person, Dennis McFadden, came into the Queen's Arms and tried to sell Chris Moniz a pair of shoes. Moniz thought they might have been stolen and offered him two shillings for them. Moniz accused him of stealing them and sent for a constable. McFadden fled down the street with Moniz in pursuit. The constable took McFadden in charge and took him to the lock-up. The bench remanded him in custody to allow time to determine the owner of the shoes.

In February 1847 the pub *The Land we live in* in Queen's Wharf, Lower George Street Prospect was transferred from Moniz to George Hewer but we can't find when he got the licence for The Land we live in.

In early 1847 Keziah gave birth to another son, Henry Stranger, their eighth child.

In May 1847 Moniz was granted the licence for a public house on the Windsor Road to be called the *Queen's Arms*. We're not sure whether this is the same one he was running in 1846 or a different one. Pub licences seemed to be renewed every year or two.

In December 1847, a public pound was established at Vinegar Hill and Moniz was appointed as the poundkeeper.

Marea Marguerite Moniz was born on 25 July 1849. Louis Australia Moniz was born in 1854 and the last child Jacinta Roza Moniz was born on 26 June 1859 by which time Keziah would have been about 43 and having her 11th child.

By 1861, the census revealed the population of Prospect to be about 929 people of which 430 were female.

On 8 February 1862, Moniz was appointed as Poundkeeper in Prospect when the incumbent, Charles Andrews, resigned.

In late March 1862, Moniz was granted a licence to run a vineyard with a view to distilling. He was granted a licence to distil brandy from his own vineyard in April 1863.

New South Wales Government Gazette (Sydney, NSW : 1832 - 1900), Friday 3 December 1847

NOTICE is hereby given, that a Public Pound has been this day established at Vinegar Hill, on the Windsor Road, in the District of Parramatta, and that Mr. Christopher Moniz has been appointed keeper of the said Pound, in conformity to the Act of Council, 4th William 4, No. 3.
By order of the Magistrates,
GEORGE LANGLEY,
Clerk of Petty Sessions.
Police Office, Parramatta,
27th November, 1847.

Christovao Moniz & Keziah Stranger (cont'd)

In 1864, Moniz was on the list of persons “licensed to distil Brandy from Wine, the produce of their own Vineyards and of Persons licensed to keep “Stills for Scientific purposes”, according to the New South Wales Government Gazette.

On Friday 11 August 1865, Moniz attempted suicide by trying to cut his own throat with a razor in a barber shop run by Thomas Clarke (a hairdresser) in George Street, Parramatta. He was removed to the lunatic asylum “living but in a dangerous condition”. On 1 September 1865, Moniz is listed as being in the lunatic asylum at Tarban Creek after being committed by friends. The event was widely reported in various newspapers of the day!

Moniz died a couple of weeks later on 2 September 1865. An inquest was held into his death. According to doctors evidence reported in the papers, Moniz was “suffering under great mental anxiety and depression resulting from family troubles”, and one of the jurors had remarked that “there was something strange about Mr Moniz for some months past.” The verdict of the inquest was of suicide “while temporarily insane”.

Moniz was buried on 5 September in the Roman Catholic Cemetery at Parramatta with one of the witnesses being his brother-in-law, Elihu Stranger.

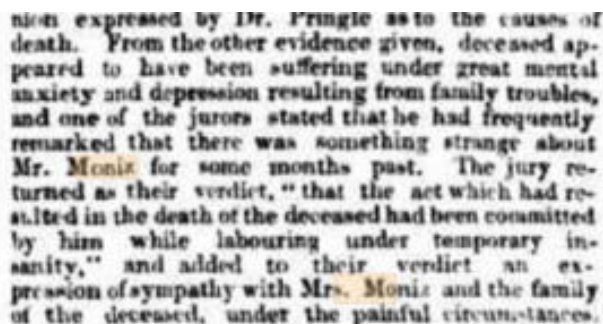
After the death of her husband, Keziah continued to run the Prospect pound being officially appointed on 9th September 1865 according to the Government Gazette so they were very quick to hand over Moniz’s responsibilities although the Govt Gazette of December 1865 shows both Kezia and Christopher as poundkeepers for Prospect, three months after Christopher died. Government Gazettes continue to show K Moniz as the poundkeeper until June 1871 when she formally resigned and Robert Macgowan was appointed in her place.

In 1888, the Sands Directories: Sydney and New South Wales, Australia gives the address for Mrs Keziah Moniz as 2 Highbury Villas, Albany Road, Petersham. It also lists her as Norton St, Leichhardt which is presumably a business address. These documents show her as a grocer in 1873, 1876 and 1877.

In the 1901 census, there is an R Moniz, whose household consists of 1 male and 8 females, at 55 Middleton Street, Marrickville. This could well refer to Ritta, their daughter. Little more can be found about Keziah until she died on 19 September 1902 at her home, ‘St Hiliers’, Middleton Street, Stanmore. She was buried Sunday 21 Sept 1902 at Waverley Cemetery in Sydney.

Marea Marguerite Moniz went on to marry Samuel Gilbert Best in February 1880. Samuel was the grandson of George Best, a third fleet convict who arrived in Sydney in 1791 and Martha Chamberlain, a convict who arrived in 1796. Marea and Samuel are my great grandparents.

As an interesting aside, Louis Australia Moniz, their last son, ended his days in the Dunwich Benevolent Asylum on Stradbroke and ended up in an unmarked grave.



nion expressed by Mr. Fringie as to the causes of death. From the other evidence given, deceased appeared to have been suffering under great mental anxiety and depression resulting from family troubles, and one of the jurors stated that he had frequently remarked that there was something strange about Mr. Moniz for some months past. The jury returned as their verdict, “that the act which had resulted in the death of the deceased had been committed by him while labouring under temporary insanity,” and added to their verdict an expression of sympathy with Mrs. Moniz and the family of the deceased, under the painful circumstances.

“Bob’s Your Uncle”

Are you familiar with this phrase? Have you ever wondered about its origins? Do you understand its meaning? I confess that I have often used this phrase in many and varied contexts, and so I was delighted to discover the answers to these questions recently. I was reading David Hill’s book, “Gold Rush” and there it was. When did it originate? If you guessed the 19th century, you would be correct. The phrase gained popularity during the 18–18-? when the 3rd Lord Salisbury, Lord Robert Cecil, was Prime Minister of Britain. Apparently, he favoured his nephew, Lord Balfour, with several “plum government jobs”. Lucky Lord Balfour although it resembles nepotism, in my opinion. How easy for him to secure a highly sought-after work position with an Uncle like Lord Cecil. The public invented the phrase, “Bob’s your uncle”, to acknowledge an easy achievement, possibly aided with the help of relatives or close friends.

GSQ MEMBERS!

We are pleased to announce new databases available in the Resources section of MyGSQ – the Dr Craig James Smee Collection, consisting of the following:

"Births & Baptisms, Marriages & De Facto Relationships, Deaths & Burials in the Colony of New South Wales: 1788 - 1830"

"Born in the English Colony of New South Wales: 1788 - 1820"

"Female Convicts Transported to the Colony of New South Wales: 1788 - 1840"

Happy searching!

CONVICTS and COLONISTS Interest Group

This year we will be researching a variety of topics, and how these relate to our ancestors. These include the early 19th century British economy, immigration schemes, shipping, occupations, the experience of women, and photography.

Let’s get ready to research!

Connections 2025

Come and visit us on our stand and hear some of the great speakers over this three day conference. It is not too late to register!



We would also like to make you aware of another event taking place later in the year – our annual GSQ virtual seminar for 2025, titled “Rogues, Rebels and Respectables: Crime and punishment in your family tree” on 11th October, so put this in your calendars now! More details coming soon.



Please contact us at CandC@gsq.org.au if you have ideas for an article or area of interest during Australian colonial times for a future issue of the Convicts’ and Colonists’ Chronicle, or would like to submit one. See you next time!

The Editor