



ANCESTRAL LINES

Maitland and Beyond Family History Inc

Issue No 5

March 2025

Society Directory

Contact Details

Premises –

(temporary meeting places, due to closure of The Barracks)
Community Hub, Redwood Dr, Gillieston Heights

Hours – Wed 10-2

Greenhills Retirement Village Hall

Hours – Sat 10-2

Phone – 02 4905 1878 (redirected to a committee member).

Postal – P O Box 247, Maitland, NSW 2320

Email -

IMPORTANT: Please note that our email addresses have changed.

General – admin@mbfh.org.au

Research – research@mbfh.org.au

Membership – membership@mbfh.org.au

Newsletter – editor@mbfh.org.au

Website – www.mdgs.org.au

Facebook -

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/maitlandbeyondfamilyhistory>

Office Bearers

President – Ruth King

Vice-President – Suzan Dickson

Secretary – Peter Henderson

Treasurer – Allan Murphy

Public Officer – Sally Halliday

Committee Members –

Chris Barrett

Robyn Harris

Steve Bone

Vicki Osborn

Roger Seymour

Kerry Farley

Publicity Officer – Ruth King

Cemeteries' Co-ordinator – Peter Fox

Database – Allan Murphy

Newsletter Editor – Peter Williams

Archives Co-ordinator – Maree Farrelly

Grant Co-ordinator – Barry Urwin

Female Convict Co-ordinator – Vicki Osborn

Digitising – Alison Lawrence, Suzan Dickson

Librarians –

Maree Farrelly

Suzan Dickson

Alison Lawrence

Membership

NOTE: Reduced fees will apply temporarily for 2024/25, due to closure of The Barracks.

Fees apply from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025

All memberships - \$20

A **Membership Application Form** is available at www.mdgs.org.au

Payment can be made -

In person, by cash, EFTPOS or Cheque (payable to Maitland & Beyond Family History Inc) at Greenhills Retirement Village Hall on Wednesdays

Online, BSB 650 000 (Newcastle Permanent Building Society), A/c 544283002 (Maitland & Beyond Family History Inc), Reference your name + MEM

Posted Cheque – payable to Maitland & Beyond Family History Inc, P O Box 247, Maitland, NSW 2320

Research Services

NOTE: On-site research services have been temporarily halted but will be available once The Barracks reopens. Members can still make an enquiry via mail or email.

Non-member visitors to our premises can access research assistance for a day-research fee of \$10. Reciprocal visits from other family history groups are welcome.

Members have access to –

- Ancestry.com
- Findmypast.com
- BDA-onlineorg.au (Biographical Database of Australia)
- Familysearch.org (Affiliate Library Status, access to restricted images)
- Our Electronic Database
- Extensive library
- Large research archive
- NSW Registers of Baptisms, Burials and Marriages, 1787-1856 (images)
- Transcribed Parish and Cemetery Records
- Transcripts of Death Registers from Maitland Court House, 1856-1945
- Pioneer Registers
- Large range of CDs and digital material
- Transcribed Electoral Rolls
- Maitland Council Rate Books for 1870 and 1871

Research enquiries can be made in writing via email to research@mbfh.org.au or post using the Research Referral Information Form (available at www.mdgs.org.au). Be specific, give background information, and attach relevant records or documents. One of our volunteer researchers will work with you on your enquiry. Fees may apply depending on the nature of the request. Requests can also be made by telephone during open hours.

Disclaimer

While every care is taken, Maitland & Beyond Family History Inc is not responsible for and makes no representation or warranty in respect of information, documents and materials provided (including the accuracy, adequacy, suitability or completeness of that information, documentation, and materials).

Newsletter

This newsletter is published in March, June, September, and December. The deadline for contributions is the first of each of those months. Please send contributions to editor@mbfh.org.au.

We welcome articles of any length for publication. Consider including information that demonstrates methods, sources, and tactics which will help other researchers. Copyright clearance is your responsibility, and you must ensure that written and illustrative material does not breach copyright and that all sources are correctly acknowledged. Digital images should be of high quality and sent

separately to text. Please provide a caption for each image, clearly indicating the source, and that you have permission to submit for publication. The editor reserves the right to edit and format the text of articles, and to include or omit, edit, and place images.

Cover Image

The cover image shows The Barracks. Credit – Ruth King.

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President's Message

From Ruth King

Since the last newsletter we are still not in our home at "The Barracks."

We contacted Maitland City Council (MCC) as the Barracks needed cleaning and pest control. They sent in their contractor Michelle to attend to the cleaning etc, and I will say she has done a wonderful job. She dusted everything and vacuumed the main building and whatever was in her spray bottle left the Barracks with a wonderful fragrance. Also, the kitchen area was cleaned, and she used the hose to clean the outside toilets. MCC paid for this service and for the pest control. I would like to have her monthly after we return to the Barracks, although we would need to pay for this service. However, it may be sometime in 2026 before we are able to move back in.

In the meantime, MCC allows us the use of a room at Gillieston Heights Community Hub, which we use for Wednesday meetings. Greenhills Retirement Village Hall at Greenhills has been a great venue for us on Saturdays and we have it booked until the end of the year. Both venues are air-conditioned which has been wonderful on hot days. Please come and visit for a chat and cuppa and do some research if needed.

Please take advantage of the events that are scheduled (see next page) or help with our fundraising activities by volunteering at our regular BBQs at Bunnings or in other ways (see final page).

We are currently partnering with MCC Heritage to document people who are buried in Glebe Cemetery. We are being reimbursed for our efforts and some of our members have already started to research these headstones. If you would like to help, please email us showing your interest. Otherwise, if you have family members buried there and you have researched them we would love to hear from you.

Vicki and her small group of workers are now working on sewing a quilt to remember the female convicts who came to Maitland. Vicki would like to hear from you if you have a female convict and are able to make a 'square' for the quilt. If you are interested and would like to help, please contact us. The quilt will be hung in the Barracks for everyone to see.

Another small group are planning a Female Convict Seminar for 2026. More information will follow.

More talks are being organised, and these will be held at Greenhills Retirement Village Hall on a Saturday in the afternoon.

If you would like to come to have a chat and hang out with us, or ask for help or need assistance, please feel free to come to the Retirement Hall. The parking can get a little crowded, so you may need to park out on the street.

Thank you for all your support over this period of time, we appreciate it very much. I hope you can attend the General Meeting on 22 Mar 2025 at 2pm to learn more of what is happening in our society.



Events Calendar

For more information on our up-coming events, visit our Facebook page or send us an email. Some arrangements and locations are subject to change due to our lack of permanent premises at present.

March 2025

Sat 22, 2pm – General Meeting at Greenhills Retirement Hall.

Fri 28, 7am to 6pm – State and Mitchell Library bus trip.

Our visit will include:

- **Getting Started Presentation:** Kick start your research, onsite and online resources and mastering the Library's Catalogue
- **Family History Reference Area Tour:** to get an overview of services and facilities
- **Time for your own research**

When: Friday 28 March 2025

How: By bus

Time: 7am to 6pm

Cost: Free, limit 36 people (waived previous fee will be reimbursed on the day)

Itinerary:

7am: Depart Maitland Railway Station, morning pit stop at Ourimbah

9.30am: Arrive at the Library

10am to noon: Guided tour of the facilities

Noon: Lunch (café on site)

12.30pm to 3pm: Own research

3pm: Depart for home, afternoon pitstop at Ourimbah

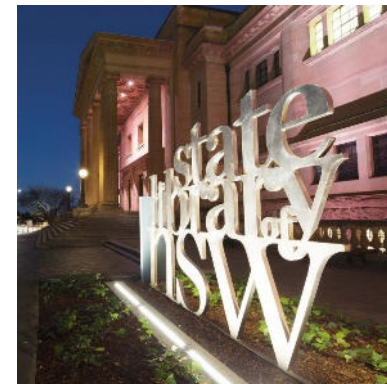
6pm: Arrival at Maitland Railway Station

You need to bring:

- Your own research
- State Library Card
- Pencils, phone, tablet, USB

Booking is Essential:

- **RSVP:** by 22 March 2025
- **Phone:** 02 4905 1878
- **Email:** admin@mbfh.org.au



Sun 30, 8.30am to 1pm – Succulent Cacti Plant & Handmade Market at Anzac Park, John Street, East Maitland.

This is the last time this will be held. **But can you help, please?** We need slices, cakes, or cookies for our stall. Please email admin@mbfh.org.au if you can help.



May 2025

Sun 4, 10.30am– Glebe Cemetery Walk.

Wed 21, 11.30am– Lunch at Hunter River Hotel. In lieu of the usual meeting at Gillieston Heights Community Hub (which is unavailable on this date).

June 2025

Sun 15 – Heritage Fest at St Mary's Church, Maitland. We will have a display of bonnets and have an information stall.

September 2025

Date and time TBA, Museums of History NSW at Kingswood bus trip.

A First Fleet Reunion

From Linda Waters

In October this year, a gathering of descendants of three convicts of the First Fleet will take place in Hobart. The purpose is to celebrate the strength and resilience of our ancestors, their unique history, and to share stories of their lives.

When the First Fleet set sail on 13 May 1787, on board the *Scarborough* were Jacob Bellett and Edward Garth and, on the *Friendship*, was Susannah Gough. All were convicts, found guilty of theft and sentenced to transportation.

After the landing in Sydney Cove in January 1788, Edward and Susannah were selected to travel to Norfolk Island to establish a colony to grow food and harvest flax. They were the first to step foot on Norfolk Island when Philip Gidley King established a settlement there on 6 March 1788. They married and had seven children on the island.

Jacob was sent to Norfolk Island on 4 March 1790 on the *Supply* and married Ann Harper, who was transported on the Second Fleet.

When the decision was made to close the settlement on Norfolk Island, the families chose to re-settle in Hobart to start again. The two families were removed to Hobart by 1808.

The families must have known each other well on the island as, after their arrival in Hobart, three children from the Garth family married three from the Bellett family – James Garth married Mary Bellett in 1815, Edward Garth married Ann Bellett in 1816, and John Bellett married Susannah Garth in 1822. These marriages created a strong bond between the two families and a unique family history.

Thousands have descended from the Garth and Bellett families and we hope many will attend the week of activities. If you are related and would like more information about the reunion, email hobartoct2025@gmail.com for details or go to <https://garthbellett.wordpress.com/the-event/>.

Sources:

Mollie Gillen, *The Founders of Australia: A Biographical Dictionary of the First Fleet* (1989).

People Australia - <https://peopleaustralia.anu.edu.au/>

Tasmanian Archives



Raper, George. (1790). *Principal settlement on Norfolk Island*. Retrieved 4 Feb 2025, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-135310196>.

Some Updates on Researching your Ancestors

From Suzan Dickson

FamilySearch has added a host of new records to their collection, including thousands from Italy, France and Peru. From the United Kingdom there are 207,197 records from Ireland, Catholic Parish Registers, 1740-1900. Also 2,262,236 records have been added from Scotland, Civil Registration 1855-1875, 1881, 1891. I was able to find the death record of my husband's 3x great grandfather, James Dickson, who died in Kirkmabreck, Kircudbrightshire, while visiting his daughter in 1875 (which I already had), but none for his siblings. Hopefully, others will have more success.

For those who would like some ideas on how to use **Ancestry** more fruitfully, Ancestry has several videos available. Topics include AncestryDNA 101, AncestryDNA Match List, Family Tree Clean Up and Ancestry Pro Tools. Go to <https://www.ancestry.com.au/c/discover/education>. These videos and more are also available on Ancestry's YouTube channel.

If you have ancestors from the **United Kingdom**, you may find it useful to contact one or more of the many **family history societies** there. Most counties in England and some areas in Wales have a society. In addition, there are a number for those with particular interests, such as the Irish Genealogical Research Society and The Families in British India Society. Go to the website of the Family History Federation - <https://www.familyhistoryfederation.com/find-a-society> - to find a list of all the societies (including ones from Tasmania, Victoria, South Australia and Queensland) and directions to their websites. FamilyHistory.co.uk has an even more comprehensive list, comprising 55 local family history societies. Go to <https://www.familyhistory.co.uk/societies-clubs/>.

Those with ancestors from **Lancashire**, in the north-west of England, are particularly well supported. There are currently five family history groups - Liverpool and South-West Lancashire Family History Society, Manchester and Lancashire Family History Society, Lancaster & District Family History Group, Lancashire Family History and Heraldry Society, and Lancashire Parish Registers

Society. I joined the Lancashire Family History and Heraldry Society a couple of years ago and find it very useful and informative. Members are extremely helpful, often going above and beyond when a request for information on a particular family or individual is added to the forum. In addition, there are regular talks by members and experts, the majority of which are recorded for those who aren't available at the time or, like many of their members, live overseas. The latest talks include Tracing Your Industrial Ancestors, Turnpikes and Maps in the Northwest and The Real Sherlock Holmes. I've been trying to find more about my great grandfather who was the captain of a harbour dredger and, when I asked for some help, one of the members even took photos of the street where my great grandparents lived.

Another useful website to bookmark is the **Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations (AFFHO)**, particularly their What's On page - <https://www.affho.org/whats-on/> - which provides a list of coming events from their member organisations. Some are face to face events while others are offered online. Upcoming online events include three from the Genealogical Society of Queensland - *Discovering the Treasures in Parish Records* on Sunday 12 April, *Researching in Kent, England* on Saturday 7 June and *Solving Genealogy Brickwalls Case Study – Finding a Great Grandfather* on Tuesday 7 June.

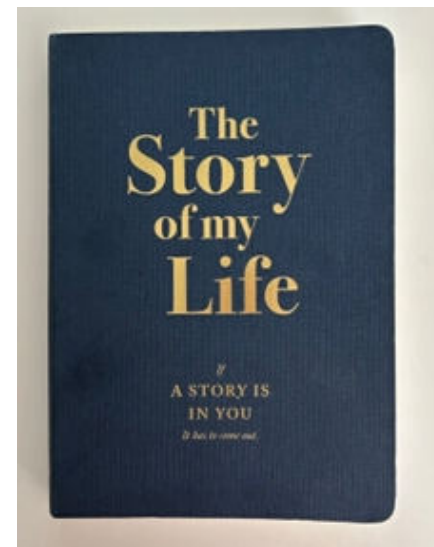
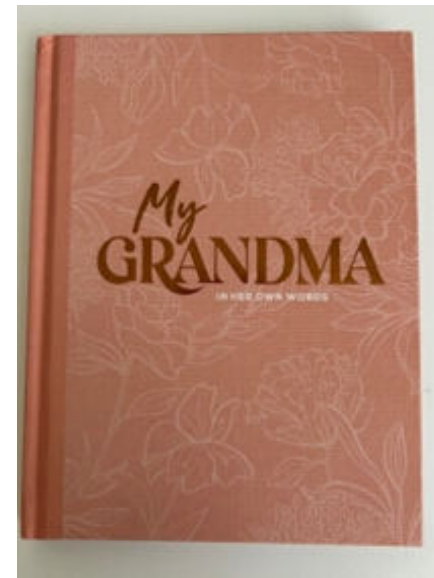
Knowing my interest in family history, for Christmas last year my daughter-in-law gave me a book entitled **The Story of my Life** with instructions to fill it with recollections of my life so my family can learn more about me. Each of the 204 pages has a prompt such as:

- My family ancestry originates from... Go into as much detail as you can.
- What noises did you hear when you woke up in the morning? Go into as much detail as you can.
- What pets did you have in your household growing up? How big a part of your life were they?
- The most memorable family holiday was...
- The adult who influenced me the most was...

- How did your first child change your life? What adjustments did you and your spouse/co-parent (or just you if you were a single parent) make to your work and social life?
- What was/is your personal style? How do your clothing choices reflect your personality?

Not only will the completed book give my family a much greater insight into my life, but it has also already made me recall so many incidents from my childhood that I hadn't thought about for years.

The book is published by Piccadilly (www.piccadilly.com) but there are other similar versions available. There are also shorter versions such as *My Grandma in her own words*.



Female Convict Stories Presented at Our Seminar – Part 3

From Vicki Osborn; Researched for the Seminar by Chris Barrett; Seminar Presentation by Chris Barrett.

Caroline Haines

Caroline Haines was only fifteen years old when she stood in the dock at Southampton Quarter Sessions on 1 Jan 1833. She pleaded guilty to the charge of housebreaking. Caroline was sentenced to seven years transportation. Caroline, 4'11" in height, slight in build, dark complexion, brown hair and eyes and a gap between the front upper teeth, had several warts on the back of her left hand and on the right middle finger. Her trade or calling was "all work," so possibly she had been employed as a servant. She was born in the village of Horsley though on her convict records her birthplace is only given as Gloucestershire. She could read at this time but not write. She smoked a clay pipe all her life.

Caroline left Portsmouth on the convict ship *Buffalo* on 12 May 1833 bound for the colony of New South Wales. One hundred and eighty female convicts boarded the *Buffalo*. After 146 days at sea the *Buffalo* disembarked at Sydney on 5 Oct 1833. On arrival, Caroline was sent to Newcastle for distribution where she spent some time in the overcrowded female factory.

On 10 Nov 1834, almost a year after her arrival, Caroline married Thomas Marsh in the Parish Chapel of St Peter's Church of England, East Maitland. Chaplain George Rusden performed the marriage ceremony. Thomas Marsh, 34, was free by servitude and was engaged in tobacco farming. Caroline was still bonded.

In Jan 1835, Caroline, aged 17, was in trouble and admitted to Newcastle Gaol and then sent to Maitland to be 'dealt with'. On 20 Feb, Caroline was admitted to Newcastle Gaol for 14 days in the cells before being returned to her husband.



In 1837 Caroline was assigned to Edward Innes of Maitland as a servant. Even though she was married, she remained a convict of the colony and did not receive her Certificate of Freedom until 14 Jan 1848. During the eleven years that Thomas and Caroline spent in Maitland, six children were born. Isaac was born in Morpeth in 1835. William followed at Maitland in 1837 and then Mary Anne was born in 1839. Elizabeth was born in 1842 in West Maitland, Hannah followed in 1843 and lastly Thomas was born in 1845. Isaac was killed in an accident caused by a capsized bullock dray in 1840, and Thomas senior was very badly injured in that accident but lived for another five years. At the age of 28 Caroline was left alone with five young children to care for. She remained in West Maitland working as a servant until 1846.

In June 1847 Caroline married Robert Schofield in the Church of England Parish, West Maitland. Robert had been a convict. In 1848 Caroline and Robert settled in the Tamworth area working on a property named *Pullaming* where Caroline gave birth to three children. The first was Edward who was born in 1848, then Sarah arrived in 1850 and Robert in 1852. The family moved to John Howe's property, *Carroll* where Caroline birthed two more children. In 1857 Caroline, Robert and some of the children moved to Queensland to follow in the footsteps of friends. William and Thomas Marsh established a property called *Biddicarraba* on the Macintyre Brook at Goondiwindi.

Elizabeth (Marsh) did not accompany the family north. She married John Lamey, a labourer, at Tamworth on 27 Jan 1859. Both were 18 years of age and had eloped. Elizabeth, like John, had been residing at Menedebria. John Lamey was of Aboriginal descent and very handsome. Both sets of parents were against the marriage. Mary Anne Marsh, now Mary Anne Honess, also did not move to Queensland, with the rest of the family.

In August 1858 Caroline gave birth to her last child, Phoebe Sophia Schofield. On 9 May 1862, Robert suffered "a disease of the heart" and died. He was 54 years of age. In 1868 Caroline Schofield with two sons and three daughters followed Caroline's oldest two sons to *Perwell* opposite *Hillsborough*. The boys sold *Perwell* and purchased *Hillsborough* in 1870.



Hillsborough Homestead, ca 1880.

The image on this page is of a painting of Hillsborough Homestead circa 1880 owned by John Beardmore of *Rosehill* Station, St. George. The Marshes purchased *Hillsborough* station in 1870 from the London Chartered Bank which had acquired it from the original leaseholders of Prince, Bray and Ogg and Malcolm C McHardy. The Homestead was built by Mr Kidd, who took the place up for the London Chartered Bank in 1860 until it was sold in 1870 to Mr William Marsh.

In less than thirty years since she left England, Caroline had experienced a voyage from England in a convict ship, the loss of two husbands, the birth of twelve children and the death of two. In addition to this, she had endured the long trek by bullock dray through inland New South Wales to Queensland, the marriage of three daughters and the birth of several grandchildren. Charlotte was tasked with making a new life in the little-known southwestern Queensland.

In 1880 Caroline moved to live at *Rookwood* with Phoebe and John and would have been midwife for their first child, Caroline Phoebe, born in 1879 who lived for one week. During the 1890's Caroline moved to Roma where her daughter Hannah was then living.

Caroline died on 28 June 1907 in Roma at the home of her daughter Hannah. She was 89 years and eight months old. In 1907 she had 83 grandchildren. Thus ended the long life of one of Australia's pioneers. She worked very hard all her life to bring up a large family and left them with a legacy of courage and endurance.

A special acknowledgement to the research of the late Barbara Baker (descendant of Phoebe Sophia, Caroline's last child).

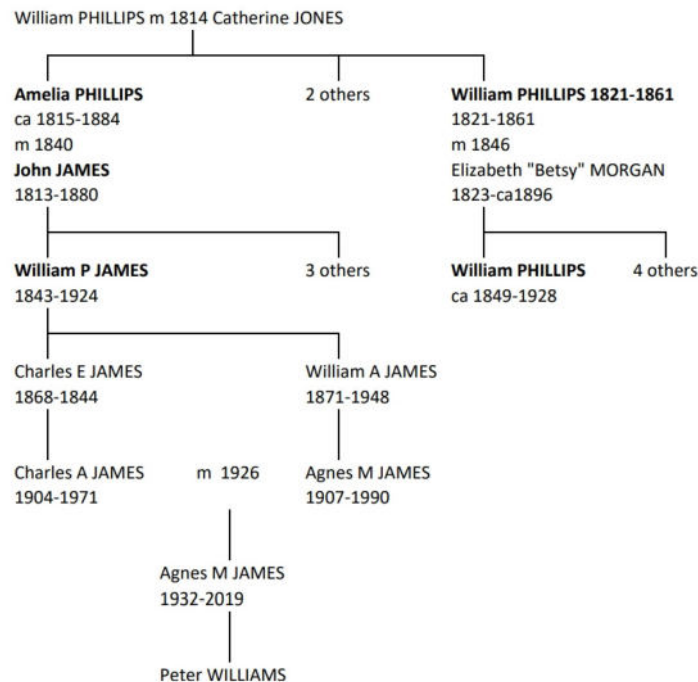
More information about Caroline Haines can be found by contacting the MBFH Female Convict Group.

Tragic End to Family Feud

From Peter Williams

This story, from my late mother's PHILLIPS family ancestry, covers certain events that took place in the upper reaches of the Rhymney Valley, around New Tredegar and Cwmsiflog, in the parish of Bedwellty (in Monmouthshire) and Brithdir, in the parish of Gelligaer (in Glamorganshire), part of the South Wales coalfield. See attached 1899 map snippet (from <https://maps.nls.uk/os/6inch-england-and-wales/info1.html>). Involved were the families of two siblings - Amelia and William PHILLIPS. Amelia was my mother's ancestor (see attached abbreviated family tree where names in bold are mentioned below).

PHILLIPS Family of South Wales



To set the scene, I attach a table showing the evidence of the two families from the 1851 census to the 1861 census. They both start out at Blackwood in 1851. In the early to mid-1850s, both families were at Fleur de lis (near Blackwood). In the late 1850s, William's family spent short periods of time in the parishes of Llanwonno and Llantwitfardre in Glamorganshire. By 1859, Amelia's family was living at Cwmsiflog, where coal mining was starting to boom. By the time of the 8 April 1861 census, William's family had returned to Fleur de lis, and Amelia's family had crossed the river and were living at Woodland Cottage, Brithdir.

| Date | Amelia's family | William's family | Source |
|-------------|--|--|-------------------|
| 1851 Mar 31 | Living at Blackwood, Bedwelty | Living at Blackwood, Bedwelty | 1851 Census |
| 1852 Oct 3 | Daughter Mary born at Fleur de lis, Bedwelty | | Birth Certificate |
| 1853 Jul 13 | | Daughter Susannah born at Fleur de lis, Bedwelty | Birth Certificate |
| 1856 May 24 | | Daughter Mary Ann Jane born at Tai'r Berw, Llanwonno | Birth Certificate |
| 1859 Oct 15 | | Son Lemuel born at Treforest, Llantwitfardre | Birth Certificate |
| 1859 Oct 16 | Children John Phillip and Mary baptised at Bedwelty, abode Cwmsiffig | | Baptism Register |
| 1861 Apr 8 | Living at Woodland Cottage, Brithdir, Gelligaer | Living at Benjamin Davies Houses, Fleur de lis, Bedwelty | 1861 Census |

By September 1861, William's family had evidently moved up the valley to Brithdir as well. Around that time, there was some industrial trouble in the local coal mines - the usual story of miners' union versus colliery proprietors. It appears that Amelia's and William's families fell out during the dispute. I suspect that either William PHILLIPS or John JAMES (Amelia's husband) may have broken ranks with the union to return to work during a strike, thus earning for himself the derogatory term of "scab". Disloyalty to the union was regarded very seriously by union members.

Matters came to a head on 23 September, when John and Amelia's son, William P JAMES, aged 18 years, allegedly threw stones at William PHILLIPS, aged about 12 years. The young boy was the oldest child of William PHILLIPS and Elizabeth "Betsy" MORGAN. The father, defending the young William PHILLIPS, then assaulted William P JAMES. William P JAMES responded by bringing charges at the Tredegar Petty Sessions on 2 October. A report of the proceedings was published on 5 October:

"Tredegar.

Petty Sessions - Wednesday.

(Before the Rev Edmund LEIGH)...

William JAMES charged William PHILLIPS with an assault at Rhymney, on the 23rd ult. - Prisoner pleaded sufficient provocation, as the prosecutor had thrown stones at his boy and called himself a turncoat. He thought it was better to give his sister's son a flip than go to law with him. - Case dismissed."

Source: *Monmouthshire Merlin*, 5 Oct 1861, page 5,
<https://newspapers.library.wales/view/3399836/3399841>

TREDEGAR.
PETTY SESSIONS.—WEDNESDAY.
[Before the Rev. EDMUND LEIGH.]

Johanna Butler was charged with a breach of the peace by Mary Ann Edwards, in taking up a knife and threatening to kill her.—Prisoner denied this, but was ordered to find sureties.

Hannah Neal was charged with assaulting Timothy Neal, a big burly Irishman.—He said prisoner spat in his face, threw stones at him, and finally struck him a severe blow with the tongs.—Prisoner charged him with abusing and striking her, so there was nothing for it but hard swearing and the usual division of costs.

William James charged William Phillips with an assault at Rhymney, on the 23rd ult.—Prisoner pleaded sufficient provocation, as the prosecutor had thrown stones at his boy and called himself a turncoat. He thought it was better to give his sister's son a flip than go to law with him.—Case dismissed.

William Beynon and **Thomas Adams** were charged with malicious damage to a window, by David Morgan.—No appearance.—Case dismissed.

There being only one magistrate present, summonses by the Rhymney, the Ebbw Vale, and Nantyglo Companies had to stand over, besides transfers, constabulary, and other business.

Although the assault case at the Tredegar Petty Sessions on 2 October 1861 was dismissed, the quarrel between the PHILLIPS and JAMES families continued.

Shortly afterwards, William PHILLIPS allegedly visited the JAMES household and threatened to "kill every one of the b---y brigade", putting John JAMES and his

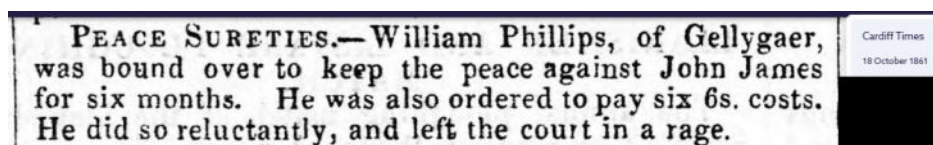
family "in bodily fear". John JAMES retaliated by having William PHILLIPS charged with threatening breach of the peace. The case came before the Merthyr Tydfil Police Court on Saturday, 12 October. The proceedings were reported in the press on 18 and 19 October, as follows:

"Merthyr Police - Saturday.

(Before J C FOWLER, Esq)...

Peace Sureties - William PHILLIPS, of Gellygaer, was bound over to keep the peace against John JAMES for six months. He was also ordered to pay six 6s (sic) costs. He did so reluctantly, and left the court in a rage."

Source: *Cardiff Times*, 18 Oct 1861, page 6, findmypast.co.uk



"Merthyr Police Court.

Saturday, Oct 12 - (Before J C FOWLER, Esq)...

Gwilym PHILLIPS, collier, of Gelligaer, was charged by John JONES (sic) (his brother-in-law), of the same place, with coming to his house, and threatening to kill him, saying that he had 'a good mind to kill every one of the b---y brigade', meaning, the witness supposed, his family relations. The witness having sworn he was in bodily fear of the prisoner - a not unlikely thing, judging from the excitable manner of the offender - he was ordered to enter into his recognizance in the sum of 5 pounds, with two sureties, to keep the peace for six months, and also to pay 6s costs. The payment was made with great reluctance, and under a fearful threat that he would bring the whole matter before a superior Court, and that there would be shortly a Mandamus to compel the Bench to reinvest him with the full liberty of smashing up the brigade."

Source: *Merthyr Telegraph and General Advertiser for the Iron Districts of South Wales*, 19 Oct 1861, page 2,

<https://newspapers.library.wales/view/3072968/3072970>

Gwilym Phillips, collier, of Gelligaer, was charged by John Jones (his brother-in-law), of the same place, with coming to his house, and threatening to kill him, saying that he had "a good mind to kill every one of the b---y brigade," meaning, the witness supposed, his family relations. The witness having sworn he was in bodily fear of the prisoner - a not unlikely thing, judging from the excitable manner of the offender—he was ordered to enter into his recognizance in the sum of £5, with two sureties, to keep the peace for six months, and also to pay 6s. costs. The payment was made with great reluctance, and under a fearful threat that he would bring the whole matter before a superior Court, and that there would be shortly a *Mandamus* to compel the Bench to reinvest him with full liberty of smashing up the brigade.

"Merthyr Police Court. Saturday. - Before J C FOWLER, Esq...

Threatened Breach of the Peace. - An application for sureties was applied for by John JAMES, against William PHILLIPS, of Gellygaer. The dispute arose in connexion with a strike of the colliers in the neighbourhood and as usual led to something worse. - Ordered to find sureties to keep the peace for 6 months and to pay 6s costs; this he said he could not do, and asked for time. On this being refused he told the bench in a very insulting manner that he was not short of money, silver or gold, that if 20 pounds was wanted he had it to spare; having paid the amount he left the court looking ridiculous through his impotent rage."

Source: *Cardiff and Merthyr Guardian Glamorgan Monmouth and Brecon Gazette*, 19 Oct 1861, page 6, <https://newspapers.library.wales/view/3092849/3092855>

THREATENED BREACH OF THE PEACE.—An application for sureties was applied for by John James, against William Phillips, of Gellygaer. The dispute arose in connexion with a strike of the colliers in the neighbourhood and as usual led to something worse.—Ordered to find sureties to keep the peace for 6 months and to pay 6s. costs; this he said he could not do, and asked for time. On this being refused he told the bench in a very insulting manner that he was not short of money, silver or gold, that if £20 was wanted he had it to spare; having paid the amount he left the court looking ridiculous through his impotent rage.

Notice that in the second report, William PHILLIPS was named as "Gwilym" - the Welsh equivalent of the name "William". The fact that the case was heard in Merthyr Tydfil indicates that the offence occurred in the parish of Gelligaer, where both families were living. Gelligaer fell under the jurisdiction of the Merthyr Tydfil Police district. Notice also, that John JAMES was erroneously reported as John JONES in the second report. The relationship was stated as "brother-in-law".

Just two days after William PHILLIPS stormed out of the Merthyr Police Court in a rage, on 12 October 1861, after being bound over to keep the peace, he was killed in a tragic colliery accident.

On 14 October 1861, he went to work at the White Rose Colliery at New Tredegar. During his shift, he was crushed to death instantly when two tons of stone fell on him. Two days later, an inquest was held by C H ASHWIN, Deputy Coroner for Monmouthshire, where the death was determined to be caused by injuries received in an accidental fall of stone. He was buried in St Sannan's churchyard, Bedwellty on 17 October, by Coroner's order. The death was registered on the following day. The death certificate reads:

"No - 164
When died - 14th Octr 1861
Where died - New Tredegar, Bedwellty
Name - William PHILLIPS

Sex - Male
Age - 42 Yrs
Rank or Profession - Collier
Cause of Death - Injuries received by a fall of stone
Informant - Information received from C H ASHWIN Deputy Coroner for Monmouthshire, Inquest held 16th October 1861
When Registered - Eighteenth October 1861
Registrar - Edward William LEWIS Registrar"
Source: GRO, December quarter 1861, Bedwellty Registration District, 11a/57

| No. | When Died | Name and Surname | Sex | Age | Rank or Profession | Cause of Death | Injuries, Diseases, and Accidents of Death | Where Registered | Signature of Registrar |
|-----|---------------------------|------------------|------|--------|--------------------|--------------------------------------|--|------------------|--------------------------------|
| 164 | 14 th Oct 1861 | William Phillips | Male | 42 Yrs | Collier | Injuries received by a fall of stone | Information received from C H Ashwin Deputy Coroner for Monmouthshire Inquest held 16 th October 1861 | Bedwellty | Edward William Lewis Registrar |

The burial register reads:

"Burials in the Parish of Bedwellty in the County of Monmouth in the Year 1861...

No - 583
Name - William PHILLIPS
Abode - New Tredegar
When Buried - Oct 17th
Age - 40 yrs
By whom the Ceremony was performed - A ROWLANDS Curate"
Source: Monmouthshire Burials, findmypast.co.uk

| BURIALS in the Parish of <i>Bedwellty</i> in the County of <i>Monmouth</i> in the Year 1861 | | | | |
|--|---------------------|--|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Name. | Abode. | When buried. | Age. | By whom the Ceremony was performed. |
| <i>Catherine Laro</i> No. 577 | <i>Pontblynn</i> | <i>Oct. 6</i> | <i>3 yrs 8 months</i> | <i>R. H. Morgan</i> |
| <i>Elizabeth James</i> No. 578 | <i>Blackwood</i> | <i>Oct. 6</i> | <i>82 yrs</i> | <i>R. H. Morgan</i> |
| <i>Susan Webb</i> No. 579 | <i>Blackwood</i> | <i>Oct. 8</i> <i>2 yrs 4 months</i> | <i>8 months</i> | <i>R. H. Morgan</i> |
| <i>Mary Barry</i> No. 580 | <i>Pontblynn</i> | <i>Oct. 9</i> | <i>3 yrs.</i> | <i>R. H. Morgan</i> |
| <i>Mice Holland</i> No. 581 | <i>Rhymney</i> | <i>Oct. 15</i> | <i>40 yrs</i> | <i>A. Rowlands Curate</i> |
| <i>John Richards</i> No. 582 | <i>Bedwellty</i> | <i>Oct. 16</i> | <i>53 yrs</i> | <i>A. Rowlands Curate</i> |
| <i>William Phillips</i> No. 583 | <i>New Tredegar</i> | <i>Oct. 17</i> | <i>40 yrs</i> | <i>A. Rowlands Curate</i> |
| <i>Margaret Hannon</i> No. 584 | <i>Rhymney</i> | <i>Oct. 20</i> | <i>24 yrs</i> | <i>R. H. Morgan</i> |

A search in the Memorial Inscription microfiche for the parish of Bedwellty indicates that there is no headstone.

The tragic death was mentioned in three newspaper items (one in the Welsh language):

"New Tredegar. In taking a round through this valley the other day, we found the state of affairs better than might have been expected. The coke ovens and the Rose colliery of Messrs MARSHALL were at work. We regret to say that on Monday a poor man at work in the latter place was crushed by the fall of two tons of stone. Of course his death was instantaneous. Higher up the valley, at the pit of Messrs POWELL, suspended some months ago, we found that the new shaft then began, was finished, and there is no doubt the inhabitants of the village will soon be at work again in their old pit."

Source: *Monmouthshire Merlin*, 19 Oct 1861, p7, findmypast.co.uk

NEW TREDEGAR.
In taking a round through this valley the other day, we found the state of affairs better than might have been expected. The coke ovens and the Rose colliery of Messrs. Marshall were at work. We regret to say that on Monday a poor man at work in the latter place was crushed by the fall of two tons of stone. Of course his death was instantaneous. Higher up the valley, at the pit of Messrs. Powell, suspended some months ago, we found that the new shaft then began, was finished, and there is no doubt the inhabitants of the village will soon be at work again in their old pit.

"Rhymney. New Tredegar. - On Monday, at Mr MARSHALL's pit, below the coke ovens, a man named Wm PHILIPS was killed by a tremendous fall of stone, two tons in weight, which crushed the poor fellow to death instantly. Poor fellow! twelve of his countrymen will pretend to enquire into his death, of which the public would never have heard, but that we saw, in the hands of the contractor a parish order for his coffin."

Source: *Merthyr Telegraph and General Advertiser for the Iron Districts of South Wales*, 19 Oct 1861, page 3,

<https://newspapers.library.wales/view/3072968/3072971>

RHYMNEY.

NEW TREDEGAR.—On Monday, at Mr. Marshall's pit, below the coke ovens, a man named Wm. Philips was killed by a tremendous fall of stone, two tons in weight, which crushed the poor fellow to death instantly. Poor fellow! twelve of his countrymen will pretend to enquire into his death, of which the public would never have heard, but that we saw, in the hands of the contractor a parish order for his coffin.

"Dydd Llun wythnos i'r diweddaf, lladdwyd dyn o'r enw W Phillips, yn mhwl glo Mr Marshall, Tredegar Newydd, Rhymni, trwy i gareg anferth gwympo arno."

Source: *Baner ac Amserau*, 30 Oct 1861, page 6,
<https://newspapers.library.wales/view/4259020/4259026>

Dydd Llun wythnos i'r diweddaf lladdwyd dyn o'r enw W. Phillips, yn mhwl glo Mr. Marshall, Tredegar Newydd, Rhymni, trwy i gareg anferth gwympo arno.

This translates as "On Monday a week to last, a man named W Phillips was killed in Mr Marshall's colliery, Tredegar Newydd, Rhymney, by a huge stone falling on him."

Note the variation in the age of the deceased in the official records.

William PHILLIPS was survived by his wife, Elizabeth "Betsy" MORGAN, 38; and children William about 12, Elizabeth 11, Susannah 8, Mary Ann Jane 5, and Lemuel who turned two years old the day after his father's death.

William PHILLIPS is the patriarch of several branches of the family, including the DAVIES/DAVIS line that emigrated to Pennsylvania, and the WATTERS family that emigrated to New South Wales. Some members of the JAMES family also emigrated to Pennsylvania and then moved to Montana; while others emigrated to Queensland, Victoria, and New South Wales, Australia.

Having discovered that William PHILLIPS died in a horrible accident at the White Rose Colliery, New Tredegar, in October 1861, I decided to investigate its history a little.

The colliery opened in 1855. The proprietors were Mr James Brownlow MARSHALL, KNOWLES & Co. It was located near the intersection of Tredegar Road, Dyffryn Terrace, and James Street, New Tredegar (approximate coordinates 51.720628, -3.241721, see <https://maps.app.goo.gl/WxfsjKiyko6dr7Ex5>). The Rhymney Railway Company opened a goods and general merchandise service in 1858 from Newport, with one of the stations being the White Rose.

Messrs MARSHALL and KNOWLES were mentioned frequently in the newspapers in relation to industrial and employment matters at their colliery. In 1859, a foreman complained of being dismissed without notice. In January 1861, four workers were charged with breaking the winding-up engine at the pit. One of the four men was Mr MARSHALL himself, who was taking revenge against the obstinacy of his partner Mr KNOWLES! In April 1861, a case relating to circumstances which took place in April 1859 came before the courts, where the matter related to a dispute between Mr MARSHALL and an employee engaged to manage a truck shop near the colliery. In May 1861, a coal miner was crushed to death between the wall of the tunnel and a set of moving trucks.

In June 1862, the colliery proprietors had a contract with the Royal Dock Yard at Pembroke Dock to supply coal to the gas works.

Later in the 1860s, George FELL was the proprietor, but from the 1870s, the big company in the valley, Powell Duffryn, took over. White Rose Colliery closed in November 1908. The site is now occupied by residential properties (pictured below).



Sources:

<https://nmrs.org.uk/mines-map/coal-mining-in-the-british-isles/collieries-of-the-british-isles/coal-mines-wales/>

And the following newspaper articles -

Merthyr Telegraph -

- 27 Aug 1858, page 3

- 23 Apr 1859, page 3

- 12 Jan 1861, page 3

Monmouthshire Merlin -

- 12 Jan 1861, page 2

- 4 May 1861, page 7

Hereford Times -

- 6 Apr 1861, page 9

- 27 Apr 1861, page 9

Star of Gwent -

- 6 Apr 1861, page 7

Hereford Journal -

- 1 May 1861, page 6

Cardiff Times -

- 31 May 1861, page 6

Swansea and Glamorgan Herald -

- 18 Jun 18682, page 4

all findmypast.co.uk.

Researching Convicts – Part 3

From Vicki Osborn

New South Wales, Australia, Gaol Description and Entrance Books, 1818-1930.

New South Wales, Australia, Gaol Description and Entrance Books, 1818-1930 – Ancestry, <https://www.ancestry.com.au/search/collections/1783/>

This collection of Gaol Description and Entrance Books, from prisons in New South Wales, contains two different, but similar, records. The first were kept before the New South Wales government required record keeping. These include records from Sydney and Darlinghurst gaols (Sydney held prisoners until 1841, when they were transferred to the new gaol at Darlinghurst), as well as Albury (1861–1867), Berrima (1840–1847), Goulburn (1848–1867), Maitland (1860–1867), and Newcastle (1840–1859).

The other series of books started after a proclamation in the *New South Wales Government Gazette* in 1867 required that description books be kept for incoming and outgoing prisoners. This collection contains books from 12 different prisons, or gaols, in New South Wales. The descriptions include individual records for each prisoner with pictures and personal information used as a detailed prisoner file. This collection contains records from:

Albury (1876–1929)
Armidale (1894–1915)
Bathurst (1874–1930)
Berrima (1883–1888)
Biloela (1885–1906)
Broken Hill (1904–1929)
Darlinghurst (1869–1914)
Deniliquin (1895–1929)
Dubbo (1889–1920)
Goulburn (1867–1930)

Maitland (1867–1930)

Trial Bay (1892–1901)

The **earlier books** aren't as detailed and may not contain a photograph, but a physical description is included.

The early Gaol Records can provide some very useful information for those researching convicts:

- **Name:** The convict's name (sometimes their aliases) and ship appear on all records. When researching a convict, it pays to use known names and aliases. Records for women can also appear under a married name or *de facto* name.
- **Native Place & Birth Year:** Town, county and country where the convict was born eg England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, and a few from places like India and Germany. Many convicts were not convicted in their hometown. They were transferred to larger counties with suitable courts. Their ages were included, not necessarily the year of birth. Convicts ages ranged from about 8 to 80 years old.
- **Religion & Education:** Religion was mostly identified as Roman Catholic or Protestant, with the occasional Presbyterian or Gypsy. Convicts could read or write or were illiterate.
- **Description:** Height, complexion, hair and eye colour and any distinguishing features eg scars, tattoos. These descriptions were very important for convict identification as there were no photographic images available.
- **Location:** Court or Quarter Session of sentencing, the gaol they were sent to, and sometimes where they came from before, eg a convict sentenced by the Maitland Bench (could have come from anywhere in the Maitland District) could be sent to Newcastle or Sydney gaols or to the Parramatta Female Factory. If convicts were assigned, the master's name and possibly their location appeared. Men sent to iron gangs may

have their location noted. Penal settlements may be recorded for those sentenced.

- **Trade or Occupation:** The convicts possessed a multitude of skills eg carpenters, shoemakers, farm labourers, dressmakers, house servants, weavers, etc. When convicts were assigned, these skills were often overlooked with males being assigned as farm labourers or road builders and females as house servants, for example.
- **Prisoner's status** in the colony: ie born in the colony (BC); bonded (B), free by servitude (F by S); had a Certificate of Freedom (CF) or Ticket of Leave (TL) or were free (F).
- **Crimes:** The convicts committed an array of crimes eg bigamy, robbery, larceny, stealing livestock, receiving stolen goods, assault, attempting to escape, housebreaking, embezzlement, forging coins, stealing tools, murder, etc. The date and place of conviction were recorded.
- **Punishment:** The women were generally sent to the Female Factories at Parramatta or Newcastle. Those returned to government waited for reassignment. Pregnant women were sent to 2nd Class and those receiving a custodial sentence were given Hard Labour (HL) in the 3rd Class. The men on the other hand were often sentenced to hard labour from 3 months to 3 years in the iron gangs to work on roads and government building projects, floggings or time on the treadmill. For more serious offenders the sentence was transportation to a Penal Colony, eg Newcastle, Port Macquarie, Moreton Bay. Extreme cases were bound over to the Supreme Court. Hanging was an ultimate punishment.

Examples of Gaol Records

- ❖ **Admission Book for the Quarter Sessions.** Parramatta Records commence in Oct 1843.

| No. | Name | Trade | Date of Arrival | Date of Departure | Place | Sentence |
|-----|------------|----------|-----------------|-------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 | John Cowie | Robbery | 5 July | 8 July | Robt in dwelling house | 10 Years Penal Settlement |
| 2 | John Cowie | L. House | 5 July | 8 July | Robt in dwelling house | 10 Years Penal Settlement |
| 3 | John Cowie | L. House | 5 July | 8 July | Robt in dwelling house | 10 Years Penal Settlement |
| 4 | John Cowie | L. House | 5 July | 8 July | Robt in dwelling house | 10 Years Penal Settlement |
| 5 | John Cowie | L. House | 5 July | 8 July | Robt in dwelling house | 10 Years Penal Settlement |

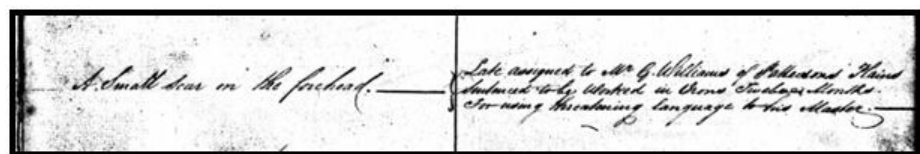
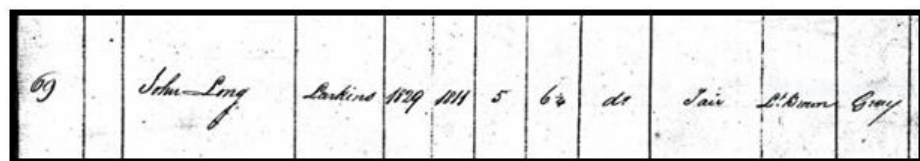
On 8 Jul 1845, John Cowie, *Lady Harewood*, was bonded. He was convicted of robbery in a dwelling house. He was sentenced to 10 years in a Penal Settlement.

❖ Discharges – Newcastle 1840-1846

| | | | | | |
|-----|--|-----|-----------|-------------|---------|
| No. | Name | No. | Name | Date | Place |
| 330 | Mary Jackson | 330 | Wellesley | 16 Mar 1839 | Factory |
| 8 | Assignment. To be manied to Threlfold. | | | | |

Mary Jackson per (*Henry*) Wellesley was received at Newcastle Gaol on 16 Mar 1839. She was sentenced to 6 months in 3rd Class in the Factory (Newcastle). She was discharged on 8 Apr 1840 to be assigned to Threlfold.

❖ **Entrance & Description Book – Newcastle 1832-1833**



John Long arrived on the *Larkins*, 1829. He was born in 1811. John was 5' 6 1/4" with a fair complexion, light brown hair and grey eyes. He had a small scar on the forehead. His last assignment was to G Williams of Patterson Plains. His sentence was to be worked in irons for twelve months for using threatening language to his master.

Case Study: MARY FITZGERALD

One of our Maitland Female Convicts, Mary Fitzgerald (aka Poll Cott), became very familiar with the gaol system as she was incarcerated numerous times in Parramatta, Newcastle, Darlinghurst and Maitland Gaols.



Mary Fitzgerald, a young Irish lass, arrived in the colony on board the convict ship *Sir Charles Forbes* in 1837. She was only 17 years and had been sentenced to 7 years transportation for stealing cheese. On her arrival, Mary was sent to the 1st Class at Parramatta Female Factory to await assignment. After six months she was assigned to Mr Warner, a settler in Newcastle. She was returned to government after making a complaint about inappropriate behaviour towards her by one of Mr Warner's sons. Mary was then assigned to Mr Flood of Maitland.

Mary met her husband James Cott, a convict, at Maitland and they were married in 1839. A son was born to the couple in 1845. However, Mary's blissful life fell apart when her dear little boy died in 1847. Mary blamed the doctor for her son's death and proceeded to smash up his surgery in a fit of rage. Consequently, she ended up before the Maitland Bench and sentenced to 3 months. Poll was known to frequent Hiland Crescent Cemetery where she would lay on her baby son's grave, sing and push a thin rod down to tap on his coffin.

Over the next 38 years, Mary (Poll) became intimately acquainted with a gaol cell, even saying she had her own in Maitland Gaol. She was arrested over 250 times for drunkenness, vagrancy, obscene language, assault, stealing and property damage. The newspapers took great delight in reporting her exploits, an example being 'Mary evidently thinks it is an honour to drink a drop too much. She again appeared before the Court yesterday morning for being intoxicated and was ordered to pay 20s towards the revenue or go up for seven days. She went up'.

In 1874 Poll was charged with lunacy and sent to Tarban Creek Lunatic Asylum. Mary hit the spirits and over time frequented the 40 Inns and Public Houses around Maitland. She stumbled about the streets with a lemonade bottle in a stocking swinging about her head as a weapon and to keep people away.

Poll's life changed dramatically with a chance encounter with a Salvation Army officer who treated her with kindness and offered her a bed for the night. Poll became a Salvationist in 1885 and devoted the rest of her life sharing her story.

Poll's story has been extracted from the research of Chris Barrett.

24

No. 362 Name Mary Cott ab. Staggard

Date when Portrait was taken, 22nd March 1881

Native place England

Year of birth 1823

Arrested in (Ship the Ch. Taber)

County (Year 1857)

Trade or occupation (previous to conviction) Housewife

Religion Roman Cath.

Education, degree of None

Height 5 feet 4 1/2 inches

Weight (On arrival) 120 lbs

Weight (On discharge) 120 lbs

Colour of hair Red & Grey

Colour of eyes Blue

Mark or special features (—)

Where and (When tried) Maitland

Offence Indecent language

Sentence 1 year 2 months

Remarks 2nd 24th 1881

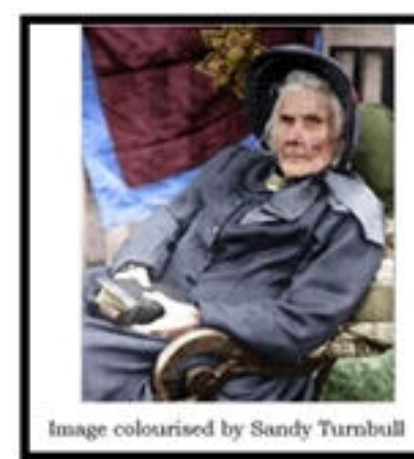
(No. of previous Portrait)

PREVIOUS CONVICTIONS

| Where and When. | Offence. | Sentence. |
|---|--|--|
| <u>From 21st January 1849 to 22nd June 1851 - 43 months -</u> | <u>for Larceny - Drunkenness & Indecent language -</u> | |
| <u>Maitland P.O. 20 Jan. 56</u> | <u>Stealing</u> | <u>1 month imp.</u> |
| <u>" 7th 11th Jan. 57</u> | <u>Larceny</u> | <u>12 months & 6th</u> |
| <u>" 11th 24th Apr. 56</u> | <u>Stealing money</u> | <u>1 month imp.</u> |
| <u>Newcastle P.O. 14th Apr. 56</u> | <u>Assault</u> | <u>1 "</u> |
| <u>Maitland P.O. 5 July -</u> | <u>Stealing</u> | <u>6 weeks & 6th</u> |
| <u>Newcastle P.O. 8 Mar. 52</u> | <u>Indecent language</u> | <u>7 or 10 days imp.</u> |
| <u>Singleton P.O. 10 22</u> | <u>Drunkenness & 10 or 12 months imp.</u> | |
| <u>Maitland P.O. 12 Jan. -</u> | <u>Indecent language</u> | <u>7 or 10 days & 12 months & 6th</u> |
| <u>" 22 Sep. -</u> | <u>Drunkenness & language</u> | <u>" "</u> |
| <u>Lambton P.O. 24 Dec. -</u> | <u>Drunkenness</u> | <u>7 or 10 days imp.</u> |
| <u>Newcastle P.O. 3 Jan. 53</u> | <u>Language</u> | <u>13 or 14 months imp.</u> |
| <u>" 1st Jan. -</u> | <u>Id.</u> | <u>45 or 53 months imp.</u> |

Mary Cott, State Records Authority of New South Wales,

https://search.records.nsw.gov.au/primo-explore/fulldisplay?context=L&vid=61SRA&lang=en_US&docid=INDEX2074765



Many female convicts experienced time in Maitland Gaol. They had no support system, and they were lonely desperate women. Larceny, drunkenness, vagrancy, and the use of obscene language were often the cause. However, illness and not being able to care for themselves or their children also found them inside the walls of Maitland Gaol.



Maitland Gaol, https://freesettlerorfelon.com/maitland_gaol.htm

On 30 Dec 1848, the 40 prisoners confined in Newcastle Gaol, accompanied by gaol-keeper William Tristram and his turnkeys and watchmen, were loaded onto a steamer at Newcastle wharf to be transferred to the new gaol at Maitland.

Volunteering

To raise funds for our organisation, we conduct BBQs at Bunnings each month. Proceeds help us to pay the rent on our premises and to achieve our aims. If you wish to volunteer to help at a Bunnings BBQ, please contact us. Upcoming dates are:

Sun 27 Apr 2025

Sun 18 May 2025

Sun 29 Jun 2025

There are many **other ways to become a volunteer** in the society. Perhaps you could help in the **library** (where there is always plenty to do, such as scanning documents, family histories, and photographs); or you could assist with the organisation of one of our **events**. The coordinators of our special **projects**, such as the Female Convicts Project, are always in need of extra hands. There is also on-going **maintenance** required at our premises. Perhaps you are at a stage in your family history journey where you can **help others with their research** or **give a talk** about a family history topic. Volunteering can be flexible and rewarding and puts you in touch with like-minded people. Please think about how you can help to support our organisation and have a chat to one of our committee members to get the ball rolling.

Note that while volunteering within The Barracks is not possible at present, anyone interested in volunteering could either email or phone and they will be informed about what current projects are under way.

