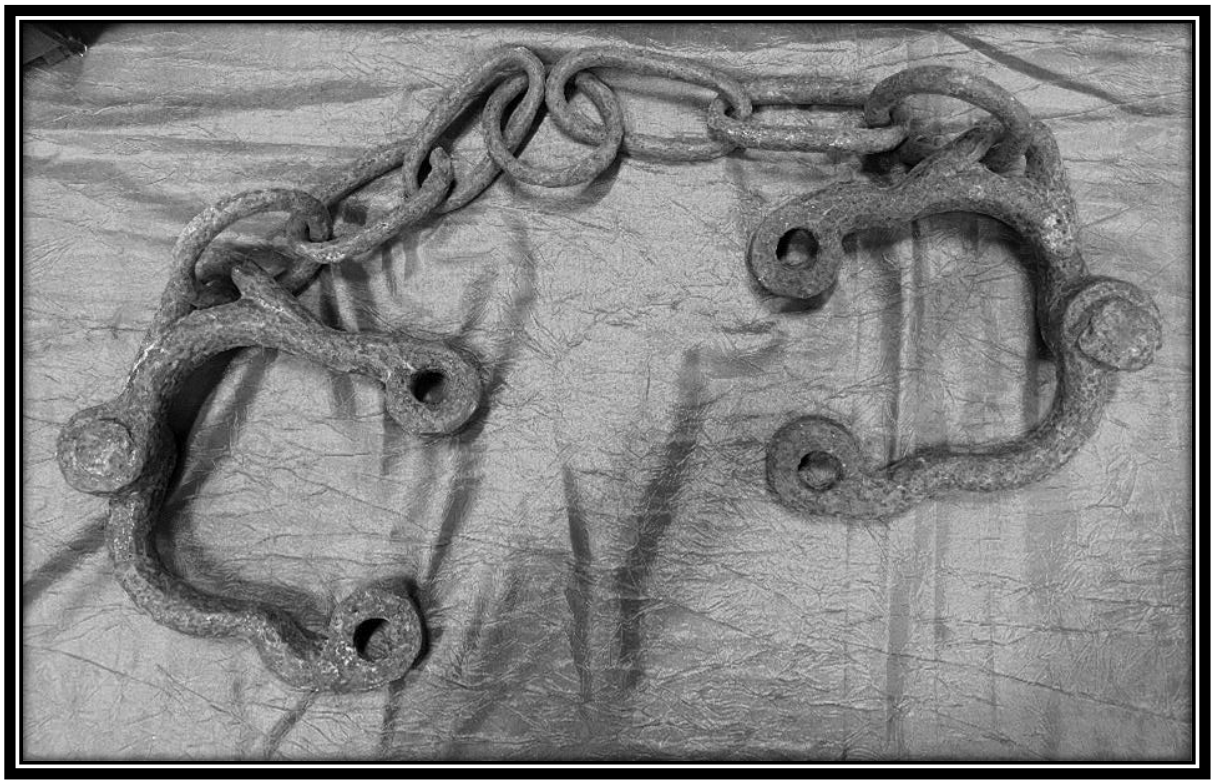
Footsteps



Port Macquarie & Districts
Family History Society Inc.

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SOCIETY ORGANISATION AND CONTACTS

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Areas of Responsibility ~ 2023–2024

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Footsteps Magazine……. Wendy Haynes / Leonie Hiles
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Research Support Group……...Clive Smith
Writers' Group……..Diane Gillespie

CURRENT PROJECT COORDINATORS

Port Macquarie Rate Books…….Rex Toomey

***Life members**: Terry Browne, Kay Browne.*

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COVER PHOTO

Medium-weight leg irons dug up in Port Macquarie and worn by some convicts during the early 1800s.
*Ian **Goulding**, who is the custodian of this authentic set of leg irons, brought them along to our April meeting when he also spoke about convict ships and displayed some of his splendid models of convict ships.*

NEW MEMBERS

We hope you enjoy your association with our Society and that you will benefit from the resources, meetings and workshops that are available.

A warm welcome is extended to:

Linda Graham, Telegraph Point
Olga Rumble, Laurieton
Elizabeth Lindsay, Wauchope
Karen Quinn, Sancrox
Gail Crozier, Port Macquarie
Deidre Kerr, Beechwood
Kerrie White, Port Macquarie
Gus Meldrum, Port Macquarie
Steve Jenkins, Port Macquarie

PRESIDENT'S TWO CENTS WORTH

*Diane **Gillespie***

2024 certainly began in a hectic way. We no sooner returned from our Christmas break, when we chose to launch *Rowdy Voices & Quiet Voices*, our Society's latest publication.

The book launch was held at St Thomas' Anglican Church in Port Macquarie, with over 70 people in attendance for both the launch and the morning tea that followed. I would like to thank all those involved in the launch from Rev. Daniel **Berris** and his staff, the ladies who proudly brought the bonnets to be blessed, to the members of St Thomas' ladies' auxiliary who provided a delicious morning tea, as well as those who distributed bookmarks and assisted with the many tasks that needed to be completed.

Pre-publication sales of the book have exceeded expectations with many people taking advantage of the low price. The follow-up sales have also been constant, which is very pleasing.

Two of our members, Lis **Hannelly** and Beryl **Walters** who were suitably attired as convicts, related stories from *Rowdy Voices & Quiet Voices,* and Rex **Toomey** read his 'Ode to the Convict Women'.

In conjunction with the book launch some members of our Society and other members of the wider community, made some beautiful convict bonnets, which were proudly carried through the church before being blessed by Rev. Dan and then displayed in the hall for all to admire.

The bonnets have also been exhibited within our local library for International Women's Day and will again be on display within St Thomas' Chapel during Heritage Celebrations on 4 May.

Accompanying the display of bonnets was an impressive display of model ships: brigs, steamers and cutters, constructed by Ian **Goulding**. These were models of some of the ships that conveyed the convicts to Port Macquarie from 1821 to the closure of the settlement in 1847. I would like to thank Ian **Goulding** and Lyn **Workman** for the impressive display of models. Ian and Lyn joined our convict ladies and other members with convict ancestors at our April meeting and provided many details of early sailing days and the perils of sailing along the east coast during the nineteenth century.

Our March speaker was Jeff **Madsen,** who spoke on early land grants and the pastoral runs and where to locate them before the advent of the HLRV (Historic Records Lands Viewer). Thank you, Jeff! I learnt much from that presentation. Jeff also held a workshop on accessing

the HLRV the following Monday. This session was popular. Our members certainly got value for money that weekend.

Our next event was our annual Beginners' Course, which ran over a 4-week period and formed the basis of our contribution to Heritage Week activities. The course was well-attended, and both the participants and the new presenter learnt a lot.

We hope that we can provide many more opportunities for our members to learn about their ancestors during the coming year.

FROM THE EDITORS

*Leonie **Hiles** & Wendy **Haynes***

'Convicts' are the theme for this edition. Between 1788 and 1868, an eighty-year period, approximately 162,000 convicts were sent to colonies in Australia. Recent estimates are that 20% of Australia's population are descended from people originally transported as convicts.

It is within the living memory of many of us that our older relatives would never freely disclose they had ancestors who were convicts, and for many, it was a shame that had to be hidden at all costs.

In 1953 Australian poet, Mary **Gilmore**'s poem, 'Old Botany Bay'[1] first appeared. In this poem, Mary **Gilmore** speaks of shame in a different way. For her, it is shame on those who deny that it was the hard work of the convicts that set us up in this place we are in.

Today enough distance has passed to allow Australians to look back on their convict heritage with interest, and even pride.

It is not often we hear the voice of a convict herself, but in Bruce **Simpson**'s, 'Anne **Bailey** Story', her voice *is* heard from the official papers behind the System. Lyndall **Nairn** tells of the privations and hardships of a life before transportation contrasted with that of the life after serving time, while Terry and Kay **Browne** speak of opportunities presented, leading to better lives.

A change of pace with Kathy **Robison**'s poem, which is repeated from a previous edition of *Footsteps*. I must apologise to Kathy for the omission of a couple of words from this poem in that instance.

Also in this edition is Pam **Moodie**'s romantic love story during WWI, and then there is a further change of pace with Ted **Campbell**'s story of his great-grandmother, Essy.

Please have a think about how you might contribute to our August edition of *Footsteps* when the theme will be 'Hardship or poverty or destitution.'

[1] Old Botany Bay-Mary **Gilmore** – https:// mywordin your ear.com, Austlit.edu.au

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ANN BAILEY, MY 3X GREAT-GRANDMOTHER

*Bruce **Simpson***

Ann was probably born as Ann **Smith** on 1 Jan 1787 and baptised on 15 Feb 1787 at St Sepulchre, Newgate, London, the daughter of Joseph **Smith** and Hannah (Ann) **Rice**.[1] Joseph and Hannah had been married on 4 Jun 1773 at St Thomas, Southwark, London following banns declared on 16 May, 23 May, and 30 May.

At Ann **Smith**'s marriage to Thomas **Bailey** on 18 July 1808 at the Church of St Mary Le Bone in Marylebone High Street, London, she was entered in the register as Mary **Smith.**[2] The marriage was performed by Benjamin **Lawrence**, Curate, banns having been published on the three Sundays of 3 July, 10 July, and 17 July prior to the marriage.[3]

It is also probable that her husband was the same Thomas of the Parish of St Anne within the Liberty of Westminster who, with Mary **Jackson** and Mary **Watson**, was charged that, on 23 October 1813, counterfeited and uttered a silver shilling. Thomas was convicted on 29 October 1813, to be held in the Clerkenwell House of Correction for one year and then to find sureties for a further two years good behaviour.[4]

Children born to the marriage were a daughter who Ann advised the authorities had died in Newgate Gaol, a son, John, born in 1809 or 1810 but whose christening has not yet been found, and a second son, Thomas, born on 21 April 1813 and christened on 20 June 1813 at St Mary Le Bone.

Middlesex Session Rolls[5]

'Thomas **Bailey** of the Parish of St Ann within the Liberty of Westminster, Labourer, with Mary **Jackson** and Mary **Watson** on 23 October did counterfeit and utter a silver coin, a shilling. Convicted 29 October to be held in the Clerkenwell House of Correction for 1 year and then sureties for a further 2 years good behaviour.'

It is probable that Ann was the same Ann, wife of Thomas **Bailey** late of the Parish of St George, Hanover Square who, with Martha, wife of John **Byatt**, and John **Williams**, was charged on 18 or 19 April 1814 with uttering a counterfeit shilling to Frances, the wife of William **Mitchell** on 6 April 1814. The trio were found guilty on 22 April 1814 and sentenced to six months detention in the Clerkenwell House of Correction and at the end of that time, to find sureties to be of good behaviour for a further six months. It can only be assumed that Ann was already in gaol when tried in July 1814.[6]

Ann **Bailey**, late of the Parish of Saint James, Clerkenwell, spinster(?), was sentenced to 14 years transportation at the sixth session of the Gaol Delivery Sessions for the County of Middlesex held at the Justice Hall in the Old Bailey starting on 6 July 1814.[7] She was tried before the Rt. Hon William **Domville**, Lord Mayor of the City of London, and the 2nd Middlesex Jury, 'that she, on 26 March, feloniously and without lawful excuse had in her custody and possession a forged Bank Note with the intention to defraud the Governor and Company of the Bank of England'. She pleaded guilty.[8]

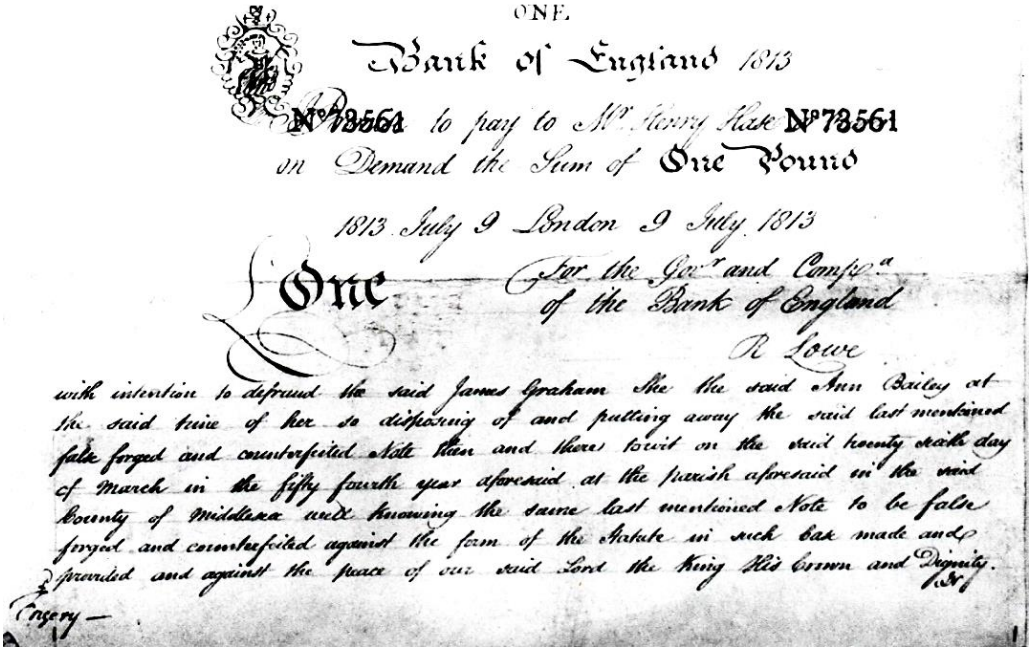
A second charge of 'feloniously forging on 26 March, a banknote for the payment of £1' and 'for disposing and putting away a like forged bank note with the same intention' was not proceeded with along with various other counts as the prosecution declined to offer any evidence.[9]

It is considered by a contributor to the Convict Records website entry for Ann, that she pleaded guilty in a plea bargain with the Bank prosecuting representatives agreeing to the 14 years sentence instead of the potential death sentence for uttering forged notes.[10]

Old Bailey Session Rolls

Middlesex

To wit, the Jurors for our Sovereign Lord the King upon their oath present that Ann Bailey of Saint James Clerkenwell in the County of Middlesex, Spinster heretofore to wit on the twenty sixth day of March in the fifty fourth year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George the third by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland King Defender of the Faith with forces and arms at the Parish of Saint James Clerkenwell in the County of Middlesex feloniously knowingly and wittingly and without lawful cause had in her possession and custody a certain forged and counterfeit banknote the tenor of which said forged and counterfeited Bank Note is as follows that is to say -


ONE
Bank of England 1813
N°78561 to pay to Mr. Henry Hase N°78561
on Demand the Sum of One Pound
1813 July 9 London 9 July 1813
One For the Gov.r and Comp.a
of the Bank of England
R Lowe
with intention to defraud the said James Graham She the said Ann Bailey at the said time of her so disposing of and putting away the said last mentioned false forged and counterfeited Note then and there towit on the said twenty sixth day of March in the fifty fourth year aforesaid at the parish aforesaid in the said County of Middlesex while knowing the same last mentioned Note to be false forged and counterfeited against the form of the Statute in such case made and provided and against the peace of our said Lord the King his Crown and Dignity.
Entry —

Copy of forged bank note given in evidence at Old Bailey as being in possession of Anne **Bailey**

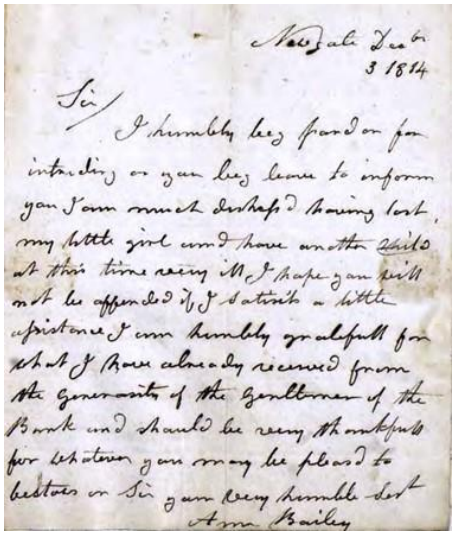
with intention to defraud the said James Graham She the said Ann Bailey at the said time of her so disposing of and putting away the said last mentioned false forged and counterfeited Note then and there towit on the said twenty sixth day of March in the fifty fourth year aforesaid at the parish aforesaid in the said County of Middlesex while knowing the same last mentioned Note to be forged and counterfeited against the form of the Statute in such case made and provided and against the peace of our said Lord the King his Crown and Dignity.
Confesses herself Guilty on Goods to be transferred beyond the seas to such place for the term of fourteen years.

In the entry in the Newgate Calendar of Prisoners, Ann was recorded as being 26 years of age. In the Old Bailey Court Report in the *London Packet* and *New Lloyd's Evening Post* newspaper of 11 July, Ann was named among the 13 prisoners convicted of felony on that day.

Ann **Bailey** arranged for another prisoner, Martha **Bramwell**, to write on her behalf to the Bank of England's solicitor, Mr. **Westwood**, of Freshfields as follows:[11]

Newgate, 3 December 1814[12]
Sir
I humbly beg pardon for intruding on you beg leave to inform you I am much ?distressd having lost my little girl and have another child at this time very ill I hope you will not be offended if I ?solicit a little assistance I am humbly gratefull for what I have already received from the Generosity of the Gentlemen of the Bank and should be very thankfull for whatever you may be pleased to bestow on Sir
your very humble Sevt
Ann Bailey

[in Martha Bramwell's hand].



Anne **Bailey**'s letter of appeal
Bank of England Archive (F25/3/22)

Attached is an earlier copy of a note dated 24 November 1814, from Bank solicitors to J. H. Capper, home office:

*Messrs KF & K present their Complts to Mr **Capper** and take the liberty of reminding him that Amelia **Hatfield** & Ann **Bailey** may be sent in the Ship now about to sail to Botany Bay, the Husbands of these two Convicts are now in Custody for uttering forged Bank Notes & the Husband of **Hatfield** has been committed to Newgate for Trial & if these Convicts are suffered to remain in Newgate it will be impracticable to prevent their Selling forged Bank Notes there.*

It is considered that Martha **Bramwell**, in addition to writing on behalf of other prisoners, also turned in evidence for her own benefit. One of her letters to the authorities mentioned Ann **Bailey** and Amelia **Hatfield** with possession of forged banknotes within Newgate Prison.

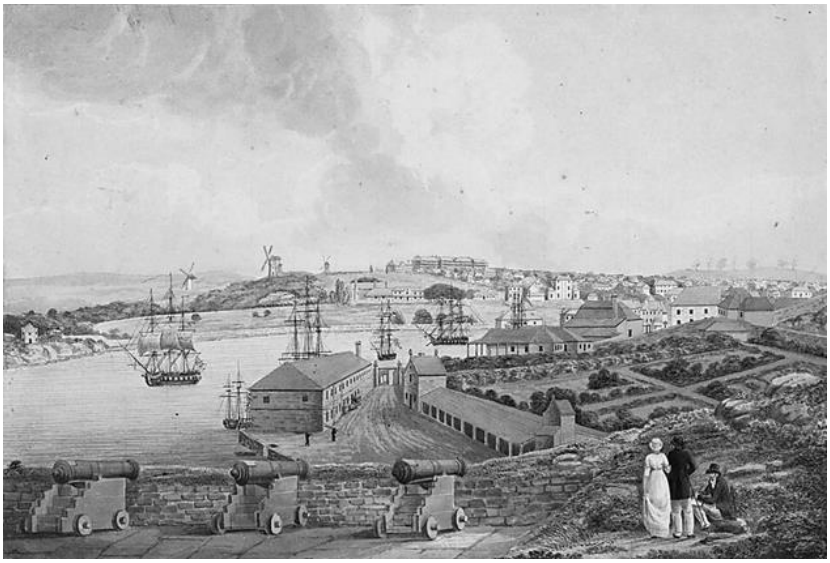
This information prompted an internal bank memo to the Newgate gaolers that as the pair were due shortly to be put on the *Northampton* to Botany Bay, they should be prevented from taking forged notes with them. That memo also noted that the husbands of both women were then in custody for also uttering forged bank notes.

Ann had been paid 7s 6d per week from July 1814 to December 1814 and was given a further £5 on departure on the Northampton. Ann and sons, John, and Thomas, were embarked on the Northampton from Portsmouth on 1 January 1815 with 100 female prisoners and 25 children. They arrived in Sydney on 18 June 1815 having survived the 200-day voyage but which one woman and five of the children did not. She was 27 years of age on arrival according to the muster roll.[13] *According to the journal kept by the Surgeon, Joseph Arnold, Ann and her two children were among those convicts sent to the Female factory at Parramatta.*[14]

From information provided by Barbara **Cox** and confirmed by Trevor **Bailey**, Ann had made an application on 4 August 1823 to marry George **Taylor** (*Ocean II*),[15] but no marriage apparently took place. At the time of the November 1828 Census, Ann **Bayley**, Sarah **Taylor**,

and Eliza **Taylor** were all at the house of John **Smith** in Kent Street, Sydney. George **Taylor** was in Sydney Gaol having been sentenced on 23 October 1828 to 3 months on an iron gang.

On 28 August 1832, Ann again petitioned to marry George **Taylor**, this time stating that she had known him since about 1819 and had cohabitated with him as man and wife since that time. She also stated that she had had five children with him. Only two have so far been identified: Sarah born about 1822, and Eliza born about 1824.



View of Sydney Cove from Dawes Point by Joseph **Lycett** circa 1818
en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/File

George **Taylor** was a convict who had arrived on the *Ocean II* on 10 January 1818. He was a native of Sheffield, born c1797, but he had been tried and sentenced at Leicester Assizes on 26 March 1817.[16] At the time of the second petition, he was working as a tin man assigned to a Mr. William **Smith** of George Street, Sydney.

The petition to marry was supported by Rev. William **Cowper** and no objection was raised to their marriage. However, Ann was told that because of George **Taylor**'s poor record, he would not be granted a Ticket of Exemption until deserving of it. No record has yet been found of any marriage. George **Taylor** was not granted his Ticket of Leave until 19 August 1846 at Bathurst and his Conditional Pardon until June 1852. There is a death of a George **Taylor,** aged 73, at Bathurst in 1863, which may be him.

Ann died on 22 October 1843 and was buried at St Matthews Church of England, Windsor. Her son, Thomas, was buried in the same plot on 28 December 1876.[17]

[1] City of London, St Sepulchre Holborn 1774-1792, *Family Search*
[2] St Marylebone Parish Register, Ref No 1602
[3] St Marylebone Parish Register, Ref No 950
[4] Middlesex Session Rolls, Ref MJ/SR/3887 No 141
[5] Middlesex Session Rolls, Ref MJ/SR/3898 No 54
[6] In the transcripts of later trials, she was variously recorded as 'Mary Ann **Bailey**' and 'Ann **Bailey**'.
[7] Middlesex Gaol Delivery Sessions, Old Bailey Ref OB/SR/469
[8] Old Bailey Proceedings Case 580
[9] Old Bailey Proceedings Case 582
10 https://convictrecords.com.au Robyn **Sharkey** Old Bailey Session Rolls OB/SR/469, Cases 1 & 2 July 1814
www.oldbaileyonline.org/browse.jsp?path=sessionsPapers/18140706.xml
[11] Bank of England.co.uk/archives/freshfields/F25/3/22
[12] https://www.british-history.ac.uk/london-record-soc/vol42/pp34-65
[13] Col Secretary's Papers List of female convicts per *Northampton*
[14] www.parramattafemalefactoryfriends.com.au
https://convictrecords.com.au
[15] https://convictrecords.com.au
[16] Ibid. George **Taylor**
[17] NSW BDM **Bailey**, Ann 562/1843, V1843562 27B

CONVICTS, CONVICTS, CONVICTS!

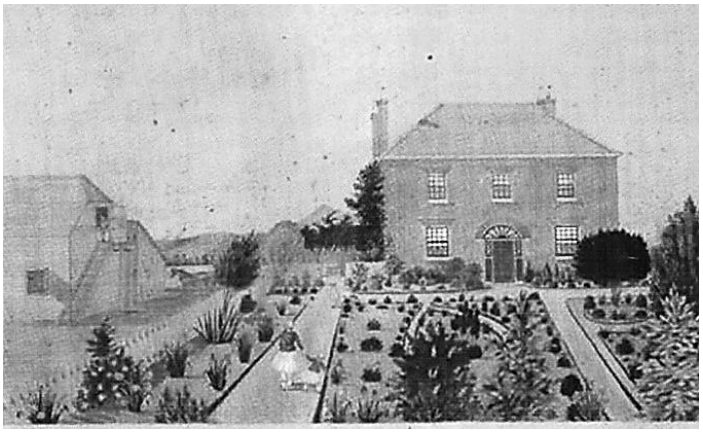
*Terry **Browne** (researcher) and Kay **Browne** (writer)*

It was at one of our first family history meetings in Canberra, where we realised how many convicts were in Terry's family. It was very early about 1990 and the guest speaker's topic was convicts. Before he started to speak, he asked the audience (close on 100 members) to stand if they had found convicts in their family.

Members stood up, and there was barely any still seated. He worked the audience by having them sit if they had one, then two, and so on. I sat down when he said two. Many people sat down by four or five, but Terry was still standing. There were fewer and fewer by ten, then twelve, thirteen and even the speaker was looking surprised. By that time Terry and one other were still upright then both sat at *fourteen!* Wow! The speaker quizzed them a bit and then gave his talk.

Of course, one of the reasons for fourteen convict ancestors can be explained by their arrival. It was very early; if I recall the woman had a first fleeter, while Terry's first was on the second fleet. Being a convict, even though many were convicted of petty crimes, and even after a person had served their time, it carried a social stigma. This meant that convicts mixed with each other. Marriages or liaisons took place between them. Even a child born to parents who had been convicts, often married a person with a similar background. It took many years for this social attitude to change.

Words also caused tensions in colonial society. 'Free' was used to denote a person who had arrived as a settler, but it was also a word to indicate a convict had served their sentence and could resume their rights as a citizen. By 1829 the word 'freed' was used to denote an ex-convict. Similar terms were used for children; 'currency', indicating born in the colony opposed to 'sterling,' born in Britain. It is no wonder with discrimination such as this, people tried to hide their early connections to convicts. Convicts were always labelled with the ship they arrived on.



Residence of Mr Kennedy **Murray** - Prosperous House 1852
(Watercolour by Charles Costantini)

Most of Terry's convicts were typical petty thieves, stealing to survive. His first convict was Kennedy **Murray**. Kennedy came from Scotland, with a slightly dubious background and there was probably some intervention to ensure he was transported and removed from the family when he was found guilty of stealing. Kennedy arrived on the *Pitt* in 1790 and went to Norfolk Island where he had a liaison with Ann **White**. They had two children, Kennedy Jnr, and Elizabeth. Both these children married convict offspring. Elizabeth married a son of Nathaniel **Lucas**, the man responsible for constructing Sydney's first windmills. Kennedy fathered three more children when he married former convict Ann **Parker** (*Glatton* 1803) as a freed man in Sydney. Kennedy spent his last days next to his son, Kennedy's house in Evandale, Tasmania.

Ann **White** remained on Norfolk Island until Kennedy **Murray** gained his freedom and returned to Sydney. Ann had been convicted of stealing linen from a shop with Sarah **Woolley**.

They both came out on the notorious *Neptune* in 1790. She had a daughter by a sailor, John **Scott**, but this girl did not survive infancy. After the two children with Kennedy, she had other children with another convict, Richard **Sydes,** who she finally married after they and all her children transferred to Tasmania in 1811.

Thomas **McQueen** was another convict on Norfolk Island. Thomas was a schoolteacher also sentenced for stealing. He was given a special position as a schoolteacher on the Island. His relationship with Catherine **Jones,** who was transported for stealing two shillings, produced a daughter Sarah, who married the son of Kennedy **Murray** Jnr.

Convict Joseph **Benjamin** was convicted of 'pocketpicking'. He was 18, a shrewd boy, and he was caught with a gold watch plus money in his pocket taken from a priest. He escaped on the way to the police station, running the streets and lanes of London. He was caught, identified, and sent for transportation on the *Sir Godfrey Webster (1823)*.

He was in Tasmania almost finished serving his seven years, when in 1830 he received a colonial sentence for receiving stolen goods and sent to Maria Island. There he received 50 lashes for 'making eyes at the Commandant's wife.' I suspect she should have been lashed as he wasn't the only man punished for this crime.

Joseph applied to marry Mary **Gale** in 1844. Mary was caught in London with five pairs of boots under her shawl. Apparently, she had done this before, and the other pairs were found with a receiver of stolen goods, so he was caught also.

Photograph of Joseph **Benjamin** from the *Cyclopedia of Tasmania* 1900.

Mary and Joseph **Benjamin**'s family became a well-known and respected family in Tasmania and one of their sons married into the **Murray** family. Joseph was clever and opened inns and stables along the road from Launceston to Hobart, and they were used as changeovers for horses. His work was acknowledged with his photograph in the *Cyclopedia of Tasmania*.

All the above were convicts in Tasmania. Terry also had another six in New South Wales:

Samuel **Cross** was from Nottingham, where he was tried as a 27-year-old man. He had stolen a silk hanky. He was a married man with two daughters at that time in 1831. He arrived in Sydney in 1832 and was placed in an iron gang at Parramatta. Samuel lived in the Windsor area in 1842, as he and another convict had a son there.

They applied for marriage but were denied. He stated he was a widower, but it was not until he got his Ticket of Freedom (46/169) that he married Elizabeth **Meggison** two months later in 1846. By then she had had another son by him. Samuel became a tailor in Sydney, living in Woolloomooloo. He died in a nasty way in 1870 when he was found dead in the Domain with head injuries. Drunk, or mugged was never resolved.

Elizabeth **Meggison** alias **Strutton** was a convict from Killarney, Ireland. She was 26 and married at the time of her trial in 1837 for stealing money, arriving in Sydney at Christmas the same year.

William Thomas **Parker** was a 20-year-old Londoner when he was caught and tried. He arrived on the *Surrey* (1823) for seven years. Initially he was assigned to Bathurst but in 1825 was found guilty of stealing and killing cattle so was reassigned to Iron Gang No.5 at Baulkham Hills as shown in the 1828 Census. He had experience working with hemp and flax, so it is not surprising that he became a ropemaker when freed. He married another convict, Ann **Webb**, in 1833 as a free man. His earlier applications had been denied due to her married status.

Ann **Webb** was alias **Smith** alias **Brabbin**. She was born as **Webb** in Manchester about 1804, and it was here that she married a John **Brabbin** in the 1820s and had three children. Ann was tried for stealing 'cloths', and as she was found guilty with former convictions, she was transported to Australia in 1829.

She was originally sent to Newcastle on arrival in August 1829. By May 1830 she was transferred to Parramatta Female Factory where she gave birth to a daughter, Elizabeth, in June. Elizabeth may be the daughter of Ann and Joseph **Smith**. Who Joseph **Smith** was, is not clear. Ann obtained her freedom in 1836 as a married woman, Ann **Parker**.

In Manchester, Robert **Robinson** and a mate broke into a warehouse and stole scarves and shawls. They were not alone; others were with them, but a woman alerted them that the runners were coming, so they threw the goods away and took off. Robert took off too but was captured with the goods in his possession, same as was his mate, Richard **Higham**. They were both convicted in 1822 for seven years, arriving in Sydney on the *Ocean.* In May 1830 he applied to marry an Irish woman from Dublin. Robert had been a shoemaker and pursued this trade until he died. Interestingly, his death notice included a note for Manchester papers to please copy. Obviously, he was still connected to family there.

Margaret **Reynolds** (alias **Gallagher)** was a house servant who stole from her employer. Margaret was Irish and possibly from Dublin where she worked. She was tried in 1826 and came to Sydney on the *Brothers (2)* arriving in early 1827 at the age of 18. She was assigned to James **Reid** in Macquarie Street Sydney. She and Robert **Robinson** married in August 1830. A daughter, Catherine, had already been born to them in July of that year.

Except for the **Robinsons**, all these convicts are from Terry's paternal side. They did well, following former trades or learning new skills and certainly used the opportunity to find a better life despite their hard beginnings.

References and Notes:

Convict Indents
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Donohue, James Hugh: *Norfolk Island 1788-1813: the people and their families.* 1986
Laugeson, Amanda: *Convict Word : Language in early colonial Australia*. 2002
McKay, Peter: *A Nation Within a Nation: the **Lucas** Clan in Australia 2nd ed. 2004*
Who Do You Think You Are–TV series: Roger **Corser**/Kennedy **Murray**
Prosperous House was painted by Charles Henry Theodore **Costantini**. **Costantini** was a convict artist. Sent to Tasmania as a second offender but used by the Governor to do portraits and he became well known. (The painting is held in the Allport Library/Museum Tasmania

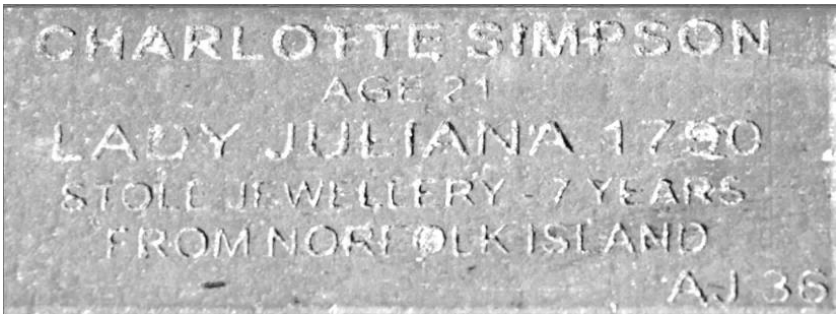
CHARLOTTE SIMPSON-HALL, A CONVICT ON A SHIP OF THE SECOND FLEET

*Lyndall **Nairn***

Encountering a double-barrelled name like '**Simpson-Hall**', a reader today could easily assume that Charlotte belonged to the landed gentry or at least that she was intent on upward social mobility. That assumption would be incorrect because her double-barrelled name has a mundane explanation. Charlotte **Hall** was born in 1766 in Croydon, now an outer borough of London, one of the seven children of Rachel **Cope** and John **Hall**.[1]

Unfortunately, when Charlotte was twelve, her father died,[2] and it seems as if her mother formed a new relationship with a man named **Simpson**. To identify as one family, it is understandable that the children of Rachel's first marriage would change their surname to **Simpson**, even if no official documentation was involved. In the convict records, Charlotte is named as '**Simpson** (alias **Hall**).'[3] Later in life, she gave two of her sons the middle names of Hall and Simpson.[4]

How did Charlotte become a convict and end up on the *Lady Juliana*, bound for 'parts beyond the seas'? We Australians today tend to interpret our convict heritage somewhat rosily with claims like, 'My ancestor was transported to Australia for stealing a loaf of bread.'



Charlotte's brick in the Convict Brick Trail, Campbell Town, Tasmania. (https://northernmidlands.tas.gov.au)

Although it is true that in eighteenth century Britain, minor crimes against property were punished harshly, to focus on individual examples of petty crime means that we can overlook the wide extent of poverty, homelessness, unemployment, alcoholism and crime in British cities of that day. The truth is that for thousands of poor people, crime was a way of life; sometimes it was the only way they could support themselves.

The industrial revolution saw huge numbers of agricultural labourers moving to the overcrowded cities, looking for factory work, but often too much competition for jobs meant that they felt forced to resort to crime. For example, a number of women on the *Lady Juliana* were convicted of 'stealing in a dwelling house'. Even if they had no job, they would need a place to sleep, so they would rent a room in someone's house, often sharing that room with others and sharing the bed, either two or three at a time and/or sleeping in shifts.

A common practice was to pay the first week's rent; then just before the second week's rent was due, they would strip the room of everything that could be moved: sheets, blankets, curtains, pillows, wash basins, furniture, the lot! They would take these items to a pawn shop and then disappear and repeat the process in another part of the city[5]. For women, particularly in port cities, another source of income was prostitution, often being convicted of 'stealing from a person.' It would be easy to get a client drunk and then to rifle through his pockets once he had passed out.[6]

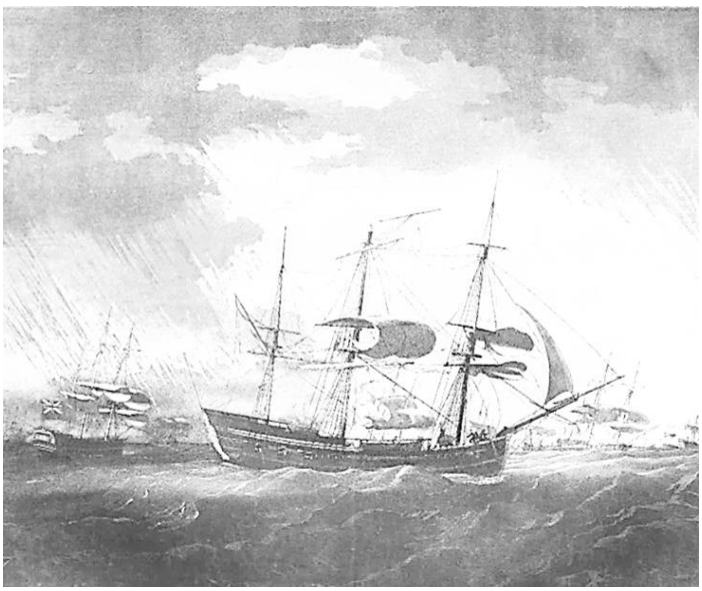
Many of the 226 female convicts on the *Lady Juliana* had come through the courts with similar experiences. Charlotte was no exception. On 24 October 1787, aged 21, she was charged twice

at the High Court of London, known as the Old Bailey. In the first case, Charlotte was found not guilty, but her luck did not hold because in the next case, she was found guilty of stealing three items of clothing and a paste pin, worth a total of five shillings. She had been caught trying to pawn these items. Her sentence was seven years' transportation.[7]

Charlotte spent a total of 21 months in Newgate Gaol, including the time before her trial and afterwards waiting to be transported to NSW.[8] The conditions in Newgate were truly appalling. Historian Sian **Rees** gives a description:

> *By December 1788, 151 females were living in three female cells in Newgate, which had been built to house a maximum of 70. They lived on rations for that theoretical maximum and not for the number actually confined. Each cell had one window opening on to an interior wall. There were no beds. Instead, there was a ramp at one end of the room with a wooden beam fixed to its top end that served as a pillow. To sleep on the ramp was a privilege to be paid for weekly. To rent a blanket woven of raw hemp cost extra. Those who could afford neither curled up together on stone slabs awash with saliva and urine. Before the cells were opened each morning, turnkeys would drink a glass of spirits to keep them from fainting, for the 'putrid stream or miasma' was enough to knock them off their feet.*
>
> *The population of Newgate was malnourished, debilitated, cold, inadequately clothed, and infested with disease-bearing lice. Its cells were a happy home for typhus.*[9]

In the winter, gaol fever was rife, and there was not enough money to pay for food, let alone medicine.[10] Even though the women who were bound for NSW must have felt daunted by the prospect of travelling to the other side of the world, they must have also felt some relief about leaving Newgate. Before dawn on 12 March 1789, Charlotte was one of 108 women transferred from Newgate to the *Lady Juliana* in the Thames.[11] Over the next three months, more women from other English gaols joined them, making a total of 226 convicts on board.[12]



The *Lady Juliana* struck with lightning in the Gulf of Florida 1783
By Robert **Dodd** © Trustees of the British Museum [18700514.2144]
(CC BY-NC-SA 4.0 license)

The *Lady Juliana* was one of the convoy of six ships that comprised The Second Fleet. Three aspects of this ship's voyage to NSW were unusual. The Second Fleet has the reputation of the death ships because over 25% of the 1250 male convicts on board the *Neptune*, the *Surprize*, and the *Scarborough* died during the voyage. Those who did survive were like skeletons when they disembarked, and some were too weak to walk when they landed in Sydney. In fact, a further 80 men died within three weeks of arrival.[13] What caused this disaster?

These three ships were chartered by a slave trading firm, so the ship owners and the captains knew that they were expected to make as much profit as possible. The agents on board reduced the convicts' rations so that they could sell the remainder to the members of the First Fleet, who they knew were short of food in Sydney.[14]

However, the agent and the surgeon on the *Lady Juliana* were more ethical. They deliberately focused on maintaining the good health of the women in their charge by providing the appropriate rations, keeping the ship clean and giving the women frequent access to the deck for exercise and fresh air.[15] Only five women died on the *Lady Juliana*; none of these deaths were due to neglect.[16]

Also, the *Lady Juliana*'s voyage was slow, lasting over ten months because they stopped four times – at Tenerife, Cape Verde, Rio de Janeiro and Cape Town – each time for a number of weeks, when the women were provided with fresh food. As a result, when they arrived in Sydney, they were in better condition than when they left London.

The second unusual aspect of the *Lady Juliana* is its salacious reputation. It became known as 'the floating brothel.' Certainly, in the stopover ports, officers and sailors on other ships in the harbour visited the *Lady Juliana* for 'entertainment' with the women, for which money changed hands.[17] However, that is not the whole story because many of the women moved out of their assigned quarters in the hold in the middle of the ship and took up residence with the crew in the forecastle, resulting in the births of more than thirty babies, either towards the end of the voyage or soon after arriving in Sydney.

It seems as if a number of these relationships were more than just shipboard flings because when the time came for the *Lady Juliana* to leave Sydney for the next leg of its journey to Canton, several women refused to disembark. The only way that Governor Phillip could force them to separate from their partners was to order the soldiers to train their guns on the crew on deck and threaten to shoot the sailors.[18]

The third unusual aspect of the *Lady Juliana*'s journey is that it took on an additional load in Cape Town, that is, some of the stores and survivors of HMS *Guardian*, one of the two store ships of the Second Fleet. The *Guardian* had left Cape Town before the *Lady Juliana* arrived, but it travelled south of the usual route across the Indian Ocean and was damaged by an iceberg.[19] Many of the crew were lost at sea, but the ship was rescued by a whaler and limped back to Cape Town, where the *Lady Juliana* was undergoing repairs.

In addition to its stores of dried food, live plants and animals, the *Guardian* had been carrying 25 male convicts, a corps of marines and seven men called superintendents of convicts, whose job was to supervise the convict chain gangs in the construction of public works in New South Wales. The five surviving superintendents now joined the *Lady Juliana*.[20] One of these was William Thomas **Dodge**, who took a fancy to Charlotte while crossing the Indian Ocean.

The *Lady Juliana* arrived in Port Jackson on 3 June 1790; that was 309 days after leaving Portsmouth.[21] Their arrival was a huge disappointment to Governor **Phillip** and the colonists, who were suffering serious food shortages. Instead of the bountiful supplies the colonists had been expecting, the *Lady Juliana* brought a small number of cattle and sheep, 75 barrels of flour and 100 gallons of wine, but also over 230 more mouths to feed.[22]

In the next few weeks, the *Neptune*, the *Surprize* and the *Scarborough* arrived, with many of their male convicts dead or dying. The small community in Sydney was not able to support them, so within six weeks, most of the *Lady Juliana* convicts boarded the *Surprize*, bound for Norfolk Island.[23]

Charlotte and William Thomas **Dodge** went together to Norfolk Island in August 1790. Their first baby, Ralph **Dodge**, was born in May 1791. Their second son, William was born a year later, but died at fifteen months. Their third child, a daughter, Sarah, was born on

23 May 1795.[24] Then less than three months after Sarah's birth, William Thomas **Dodge** boarded a ship bound for Port Jackson because he had heard that civil servants were eligible for land grants on the Hawkesbury River. He and Charlotte had not married, so it seems as if William felt no responsibility for her and their children.

Charlotte was not alone for long because she was soon co-habiting with an Irish convict, Hugh **McGinnis**. Hugh had come to NSW on the Third Fleet convict ship, the *Queen*, with a seven-year sentence.[25] He arrived on Norfolk Island in November 1791, and took up farming. By 1804, he and Charlotte were self-supporting, had completed their sentences and had a 12-acre land grant and a 14-acre lease in the northern part of Norfolk Island, near Cascade Bay.[26] Between 1798 and 1805, Charlotte and Hugh had five children.[27]

Then in 1807, the powers that be made a decision to close the Norfolk Island settlement and to move all the residents to Van Diemen's Land. Even though they were promised double the landholdings in Van Diemen's Land, the Norfolk Islanders were reluctant to leave, but they had no choice. In May 1808, Charlotte, Hugh and their children climbed into a lighter, were rowed across the reef and then hoisted up in a sling in order to board the *Estramina*, bound for the Derwent River.[28]

They took up farming land at Clarence Plains on the east bank of the Derwent, near Rokeby. Charlotte's eldest son, Ralph **Dodge**, took up land a little further east, near Carlton, and later operated a ferry service between his farm and Hobart. That spot is still called Dodge's Ferry today.[29]

In July 1810, Charlotte and Hugh married in St. David's Anglican church, Hobart,[30] and that same year, their last child, Margaret **McGinnis**, was born. The records indicate that Charlotte and Hugh continued farming at Clarence Plains, where Charlotte died in 1828.[31] Hugh remarried in 1838 and died three years later, aged 71.[32] They played their part, not once, but twice, in establishing European settlement in Australia.

[1] Family Search Database. England, Select Births and Christenings, 1538-1975. Ancestry.com
[2] Family Search Database. England, Select Deaths and Burials, 1538-1991. Ancestry.com
[3] TNA. Australian Convict Transportation Registers – Second Fleet, 1789-1790. Class HO 11; Piece 1. Ancestry.com
[4] Cathy **Dunn**. *Norfolk Island*: Rev. **Fulton** Baptisms, Burials and Marriages 1801-1806. Cathy **Dunn**, Milton, NSW, 2014. eBook.
[5] Sian **Rees**, *The Floating Brothel*. Sydney, Hachette Australia, 2005. p.13
[6] Ibid. p.15
[7] Old Bailey Proceedings Online (www.oldbaileyonline.org, version 9.0). October 1787. Trial of Charlotte **Simpson**, otherwise **Hall** (t17871024-72)
[8] TNA. UK, Prison Commission Records, 1770-1951. Series 1/I. Ancestry.com
[9] **Rees**, The Floating Brothel, p.43
[10] Ibid. p.44
[11] Ibid. p.67
[12] Ibid. p.103
[13] Michael **Flynn**. *The Second Fleet: Britain's Grim Convict Armada of 1790*. Sydney: Library of Australian History. 1993. p.1
[14] Michael **Flynn**. *'Second Fleet.' Dictionary of Sydney*. State Library NSW, 2016. https://dictionaryofsydney.org
[15] **Rees**, The Floating Brothel, p.212
[16] David **Collins**, *An Account of the English Colony in New South Wales*, Vol. III, 1798. Sydney: AH & AW Reed, 1975. p.127
[17] **Rees**, *The Floating Brothel*, pp.128-131
[18] Ibid, p.220
[19] Penny **Edwell.** 'HMS *Guardian*.' Dictionary of Sydney. State Library of NSW, 2016. https://dictionaryofsydney.org
[20] Rees, The Floating Brothel, p.183
[21] TNA. Australia: Convict Records Index, 1787-1867. Series HO 11/1, p.17(10). National Library of Australia, Trove, AJCP. http:nla.gov.au
[22] **Rees**, The Floating Brothel, p.205

[23] Ibid, p.222
[24] Cathy **Dunn**. Norfolk Island: Rev. Fulton Baptisms, Burials and Marriages 1801-1806. Cathy **Dunn**, Milton, NSW, 2014. eBook.
[25] State Archives NSW. New South Wales, Australia, Convict Indents, 1788-1842. NRS 1150; SZ115; Microfiche 622. Ancestry.com
[26] State Archives NSW. New South Wales, Australia, Registers of Land Grant and Leases, 1792-1867. NRS 13836, 7/445; Reel 2560. Ancestry.com
[27] Cathy **Dunn**. Norfolk Island: Rev. Fulton Baptisms, Burials and Marriages 1801-1806. Cathy **Dunn**, Milton, NSW, 2014. eBook.
[28] Monument Australia. *Estramina* Arrival Plaque. St David's Park, Hobart, Tasmania. 2016. www.monumentaustralia.org.au
[29] **Sorell**: 200 Years On. 'Carlton Congregational: **McGinnis** Family.' Blog. 2022. https://sorell200.edublogs.org
[30] Australia, Marriage Index, 1788-1950. Ancestry.com
[31] Australia and New Zealand, Find a Grave Index, 1800s-Current. Ancestry.com. https://www.findagrave.com
[32] Libraries Tasmania. Names Index: Deaths. Hugh **McGuinness**, Jan 1841. RGD 35/1/1 No. 744. https://librariestas.ent.sirsidynix.net.au

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MY PAIR OF IRISH CONVICTS

Kay ***Browne***

'Old man, I don't like to leave you,' she said as she held her husband's hand, and these were her last words. Catherine **Normile** was on the ground, with a tin of poison lying beside her. He and his daughter tried to induce vomiting, but Catherine suffered strong convulsions, and within half an hour she had died. It was 18 July 1859,[1] and she was only 43 years old. I have written about Catherine before in *Footsteps*[2] and only just found this account while researching her husband, Cornelius. What brought her to this sad end we will never know, but for about seven years she had shown mental instability.

Cornelius and Catherine were both Irish convicts. At the age of twenty-five, Cornelius was caught stealing clothes, and on 11 March 1826 he stood trial in Cork, Ireland and was sentenced to seven years transportation to Australia. All convicts were recorded, and entries made in embarkation logbooks for identification purposes. These logbooks contained a brief record of their conviction, any former convictions and their description. 'Connor' was a smallish man, being only a little over five foot five. He had brown hair and hazel eyes, was freckled, and described as having a ruddy complexion. He also was recorded as having fluid in his left eye.

He arrived at Port Jackson ten years earlier than Catherine, his ship the *Boyne* having arrived on 26 October 1826. After 121 days on board the *Boyne,* it was a relief to finally step ashore even if it was days after dropping anchor. It was the 10 November and the hard conditions, and the perils of the sea were over. My first ancestor had arrived.

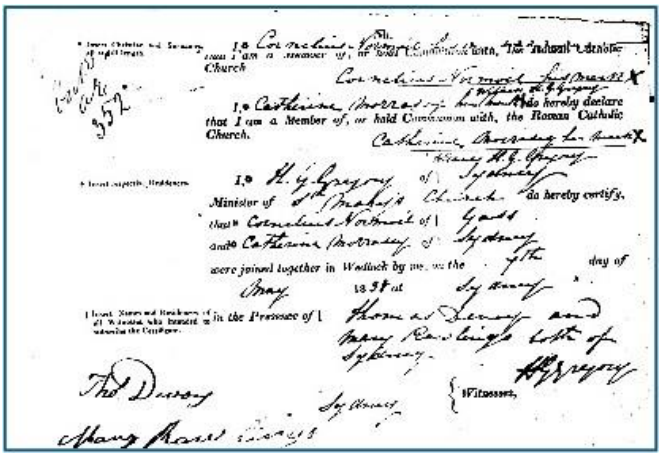
What impressions Cornelius had of his new homeland; we can only gather from other comments from the time. We can imagine that his feelings would have been very mixed: a sense of relief for his safe arrival, apprehension for the future, and a renewal of homesickness on seeing a land so different to the one he'd left. If he arrived in daylight, then the impact of the entrance to the Sydney Harbour would have been breathtaking: the huge craggy headlands opening out to the beautiful deep-water harbour with the untouched bushland shores, bays and inlets. The site of Sydney was some miles further from the entrance to the harbour, and after close on fifty years, it had developed into a bustling little town by 1826.

His first sight would probably have been the windmills built on the hillsides surrounding the town. In the broad waters off Sydney, Cornelius would then have seen the houses, built into terraces on the steep and rocky western side of the town. Sandstone buildings had been erected by the Government using the convict labour available. On disembarkation, he would have been

marched along the wide streets that had been clearly laid out and probably was confined, at first in the Hyde Park Barracks which had been set up in the very centre of the town. Beyond the barrack walls was a marketplace and then residences that stretched to the limits of the town, which was not much more than a mile inland.

His first year as a convict was possibly spent labouring in the town or working on a road gang. By 1828[3] Cornelius was assigned to work for Thomas **Bowden** at Mt Pleasant, Kissing Point (now Dundas). He most likely served his time with him, or he may have been reassigned to another landholder. In 1838 he had moved to an area near Yass, which was the location he gave at the time of his marriage.

Cornelius had served his sentence by the time he decided to marry. He had received his Certificate of Freedom on 23 May 1835. Cornelius may have simply waited until he was freed from servitude and able to support a family before he thought of marriage. How he met his wife is unknown, but she was still serving her time.


Photograph of Marriage Certificate 1838

Catherine **Morrissy** had arrived at Christmas, 1836. She was assigned to Mr J. F. **Barnett** as a nursemaid/housemaid, but as early as March 1837[4] she had absconded. She absconded again from a similar position with N. **Bushby** at the end of 1837,[5] so she was a wilful convict. Cornelius applied to marry her, and permission was granted on 10 April 1838. She was then assigned to Cornelius. They were married in Sydney, at St Mary's Roman Catholic Church, a few days later.


Photograph of daughter, Mary **Bertelson** née **Normile**

After their marriage, Cornelius and Catherine returned to the southern highlands living at Norwood—a property near Goulburn. It was in this area that they had their family, three daughters, Johanna, Mary, and Bridget, who were all baptised at the Church of St. Peter and St Paul in Goulburn. Mary and Bridget were baptised in 1844, and by that time their mother would have been a free woman again.

By 1859 they were living at Tirranna[6] closer to Braidwood where the eldest daughter lived after marrying Charles **Tyler**. Only one daughter was still at home, my 2x great-grandmother, Mary. After Catherine's untimely death and Mary's marriage in 1862, we find that by 1865 Cornelius has moved closer to Mary at Bungawannah.

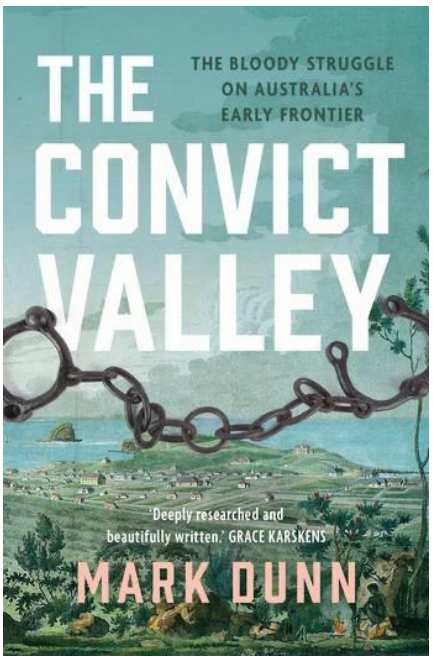
Cornelius also had an unfortunate death by accidentally falling into a fire. As a convict he had been recorded with blindness in his left eye. His death certificate in 1866 states he is 80 years old, so no doubt it would have been a combination of age and a disability.

Comments:
Cornelius' age has always been controversial: his convict records would imply that he was born in 1801; death differs. His name also is often recorded as Connor and **Normoyle**, **Normill**, **Mormile** which makes research confusing.

[1] *Illawarra Mercury*, 4 August 1859
[2] *Footsteps*, No 153 November 2019
[3] NSW 1828 Census
[4] Government Gazette 8 March 1837
[5] Government Gazette 22 November 1837
[6] 1863-1864 Electoral Roll for Goulburn Tirranna.

RECOMMENDED READING

Leonie ***Hiles***



The Convict Valley

The bloody struggle on Australia's early frontier

by Mark **Dunn**

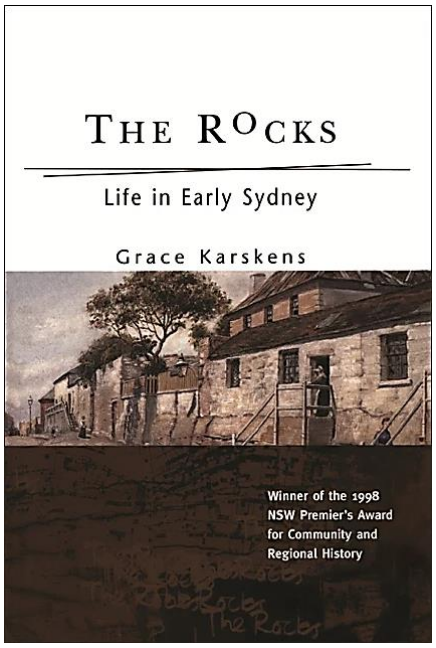
Public Historian and former Chair of Professional Historians Association of NSW and ACT

Publisher: Allen & Unwin, 2000, 256 pages

Both parents of the author had convict ancestry. Set in the Hunter Valley from the early 1790s to the early 1850s, the book offers a snapshot of history taken from letters, diaries and journals of convicts, aborigines, and early settlers and their descendants.

'Deeply researched and beautifully written' – Professor Grace **Karskens**

The Convict Valley is available to borrow from our local Port Macquarie library.



The Rocks: Life in Early Sydney

by Grace **Karskens**

Professor in School of Humanities and Languages at University of NSW

First published in 1994, 320 pages

Winner of NSW Premier's Award for Non-fiction 1998

Set in 1788-1830 and focussing on the Rocks area of Sydney, this book gives an intimate glimpse into the lives of convicts and ex-convicts, and the mix of inhabitants. With a wealth of detailed records, maps, letters, and archaeological evidence we hear their voices in the first forty years of European settlement.

A SPIRITUAL PLACE TO CALL HOME

Kathy ***Robison***

Home is with family, with the people I love, those who love me,
those who have gone before, and those yet to be born.
I hold family close in my heart and there's room for more.
New little ones on the way already have a place on our tree.

Family history friends and support groups have welcomed me,
offering safe spaces for unravelling the secrets of my past
as each riddle reveals another brick-wall impasse.
There's something on every week - if I just had their energy.

Home is with those who smile at me on my morning walk, those who say my name,
exchange a greeting, or stop to chat.
They encourage me when I'm feeling slack,
and when they seem weary, I do the same.

Home is standing at the shore breathing in the sea air or at the river mouth,
admiring surfers and swimmers and sails,
spotting stingrays, dolphins, koalas and all those whales
passing close by - north and then south.

It's the people and places and spaces that fill each day
out there in the air, and also very near.
I know now there's a mob that I will always hold dear
when home sometimes seems such a long way away.

A WARTIME LOVE STORY

Pam ***Moodie***

My grandmother, Margaret Murray **Maxton,** was born in December 1880, in Edinburgh, Scotland.[1] She was the third child of Archibald **Maxton** and his wife Jane (née **Breck**). Margaret's father owned a shirt manufacturing business in Edinburgh. There were five children in the family: four girls and one boy, and they lived in a fine brick house near Leith.[2] Little Margaret came to be known as Meg.

It is not known what Meg did when she completed her schooling. She may have worked in her father's business, as her younger sister Barbara did.[3] When Meg was 21, she was working at a convalescent home in Murrayfield and living at home with her parents. This work obviously appealed to Meg, as she went on to train as a nurse at St Pancras Infirmary in London,

beginning her training when she was 24. She then worked and studied at a number of other hospitals in London and also Wales. When war broke out, Meg was again living with her parents and working as a nurse for the School Board in Edinburgh, at Willowbrae Defective School.[4]

Margaret Murray **Paxton**

In December 1914, Meg applied to join the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service reserve and was posted to Colchester Military Hospital in May 1915.[5] At some point over these years, Meg became engaged to be married, but sadly her fiancé died from pneumonia. Nothing is known about him; however, a month before Meg's one year contract at Colchester was up, she formally requested to resign her post due to 'urgent family affairs.' She withdrew this resignation a few weeks later and remained with the QAIMNS. Perhaps this was when her fiancé had become gravely ill and died.

Meanwhile on the other side of the world, in a farmhouse in Westbrook, near Camden, NSW, Australia, a baby boy was born on 3 March 1887.[6] He was named Malcolm Ernest **McNiven**, the first child of Malcolm **McNiven** and his wife Minnie (née **Wheeler**). Malcolm and Minnie went on to have five more sons.

When Malcolm was 14 years old, he was working for his uncle in Mt Hunter, when his leg became tangled in the chain leading a bull.[7] His leg was badly broken in this accident and was likely the 'old injury', which caused his rejection when he first tried to enlist in the army.

When he was 15, his parents divorced, supposedly due to Malcolm senior's affinity to liquor. Malcolm's mother, Minnie, was granted maintenance to support her family, but it is not known whether it was paid or not.[8] Certainly Malcolm, at 15, and the eldest of the boys, would have felt a responsibility to help his mother. His youngest brother was three at the time.

As an adult, Malcolm was, I believe, a teetotaller. I imagine his young life impacted this decision. It may also have been the reason why he ended up living in the town of Clunes in the Northern Rivers of NSW. In its early days, most of the residents of Clunes were staunch Presbyterians and few drank alcohol.[9]

Ward No7, Interior Colchester Military Hospital Christmas 1917 (https://militaryhospitalcolchester.1918.wordpress.com)

Regardless of the reason, Malcolm was living in Clunes in 1916, along with his brother Earl, who had recently married. Malcolm was working as a hairdresser. What a change from his life growing up on a farm in Camden!

When war broke out, Malcolm's application to enlist was rejected due to an 'old injury.' He eventually successfully enlisted in November 1916, aged 29, in Casino, NSW. Malcolm was assigned to the 25th Battalion, Australian

Imperial Force (AIF), and was transported to England on HMAT *Wiltshire*, proceeding to France in July 1917.[10]

WW1 Colchester Military Hospital. 'Dinnertime' for the soldiers (https://militaryhospitalcolchester.1918.wordpress.com)

Malcolm's time on the Western front was relatively short. His battalion was involved in the Third Battle of Ypres, near Menin Rd, and it was here that Malcolm was badly wounded. He received gunshot wounds to his leg and shoulder on 21 September 1917, and was transferred to England on 27 September, seriously ill. Malcolm was admitted to Colchester Military Hospital where he remained until 2 January 1918. It was here that he met Sister Margaret **Maxton**, who nursed him through the worst of his difficulties.

Malcolm recovered enough to be transferred, in January, to Harefield Hospital, a convalescent hospital for wounded Australian and New Zealand soldiers. After a few weeks there, he was moved to Weymouth Hospital to continue his recuperation. Malcolm was obviously unfit for further action, as he was transported back to Australia in early April 1918.[11]

A month after Malcolm departed the UK on his return for Australia, Sister Margaret **Maxton** was sent to Salonika with the QAIMNS. Margaret was posted to the 49th General Hospital, a casualty clearing station. She was there for about four months when she herself became ill and was admitted to a Red Cross Hospital. No doubt her working conditions and the state of many of the men she treated impacted her health. Malaria and dysentery were rife in Salonika. She spent approximately one month in hospital before rejoining her unit in late October. A month later the war was over. Meg returned to the UK in early March 1919 and resigned her duty with the QAIMNS on 8 March 1919.[12]

Meg had been a conscientious and reliable sister, always very kind and attentive to her patients. Her abilities were noted by her matron as being 'above the standard of her rank.'[13] In the three and a half months that Malcolm was in her care, the two obviously developed genuine feelings for each other. No doubt they corresponded after Malcolm returned to Australia.

Malcolm was always known as a gentleman, as well as a gentle man. He was kind and helpful, unassuming and considerate of others, with a quiet nature. These qualities made for an ideal husband for Meg, and the compassion she had shown towards Malcolm while nursing him obviously endeared her to him.

Meg left her parents, her siblings and her homeland and travelled to Australia. On 28 February 1920, less than a year after Meg had been demobilised, she married Malcolm in Mt Hunter, NSW.[14] They had known each other less than three years, and in that time had spent barely three months together. They made their home in Clunes on the NSW North Coast. In 1921 they had a son who sadly died at eleven days old.[15] In September the following year they were blessed with a daughter, Dorothy Jean.[16] The little family lived in the Richmond River area, in Murwillumbah and Lismore. Meg died in 1953,[17] and Malcolm in 1961.[18]

1 Birth record of Margaret Murray **Maxton**, 17 December 1880, ScotlandsPeople, Statutory Birth Registers no. 685/012343
2 1891 census, National Records of Scotland 685/02129/00003
3 1901 census, National Records of Scotland 685/02129/00003
4 British Newspaper Archives, The Scotsman, 27 October 1909
5 National Archives War Records, WO/399/5739
6 NSW BDM, 17068/1887
7 Camden News, 21 November 1901
8 Camden News, 13 June 1902
9 Northern Star, 10 January 2014
10 WWI Service Records, Malcolm Ernest **McNiven**
11 WWI Service Records, Malcolm Ernest **McNiven**
12 QAIMNS War Records, Margaret Murray **Maxton**
13 QAIMNS Annual Report by Matron on MM **Maxton**, 15 May 1918
14 NSW BDM 1956/1920
15 NSW BDM 22425/1921, NSWBDM 8298 /1921
16 NSW BDM 41813/1922
17 NSW BDM 5529/1953
18 NSW BDM 2286/1961

ESSY'S FUNERAL

Ted ***Campbell***

Esther (Essy) Mary **Wheatley** (nee **Rathjen**) – 28 April 1873-03 July 1953

Essy was my great-grandmother through my father's mother. I have small fragments of memory of her. She was diminutive and feisty according to my memory and the reports of family. Just after her 21st birthday she received an inheritance from her father, an inheritance held in trust until she gained her majority. Armed with this inheritance, and a 32-calibre pistol, she sailed alone from Newcastle, UK to Sydney via Hobart to start a new life in Australia. This part of her story relates to the last chapter.

This story was told to me by Les, a cousin umpteen times removed. Les told me about the about the day of Essy's funeral, in July 1953, and his version of events was confirmed by both my father and grandparents. Unfortunately, I was not allowed to go to the funeral as I was thought to be too young, but I did sneak a peek at the coffin being loaded into the hearse. To do this I hid myself in the privet hedge at the back of the farmhouse and kept very still and quiet.

Arrangements for the funeral to be held in Crookwell on Saturday 11 July 1953 included a graveside service and burial in Crookwell Cemetery late in the afternoon to allow time for many mourners to travel the six hours from Sydney. The mourners planned to gather in the Crookwell Park before assembling for the graveside service.

On the Saturday in question the weather was foul, wet and cold, an east-coast low had descended. As the weather was so bad, plans to meet in the park were abandoned and an alternate assembly place sought. The only place large enough to accommodate all the mourners was one of the local pubs, so it was here that the mourners awaited the arrival of the hearse.

However, the hearse, travelling from Fairfield, broke down in Mittagong, about halfway through the journey and was delayed several hours whilst it was being repaired. It was sometime before the mourners could be located by the undertaker from Mittagong and given the message about the delayed arrival of the hearse. Instead of the hearse arriving at the planned

time of 2 pm, the mourners were told that the anticipated arrival time was now about 4.30 pm, some 45 minutes before sunset, so the mourners continued their wait in the pub.

As far as I can work out, the mourners had the wake before the funeral. Meanwhile, the rain continued to pelt down. Eventually, the hearse arrived about 4.15 pm, and so everyone made their way to the graveside in the pouring rain for a quick service and burial in the gloomy light. As it was an open grave, the clay soil was soddened and sticky. All in all, the scene was unpleasant and uncomfortable. The pallbearers were all nephews of Essy. Les, one of the pallbearers, and Essy had long been sparring partners. They had fought and argued for years but held each other in high regard. Les, whom I remember as an extremely funny man, especially when he had had a few drinks, was in especially good form by the time the hearse arrived at the cemetery.

Although the grave diggers did their best to cover the mud with hessian bags, it remained a muddy mess. Now in the course of getting the coffin into position over the gaping hole, to be lowered in by hand, Les slipped and fell in the mud and into the open grave. This caused great concern for the other pallbearers who struggled to keep the coffin stable in the mire that surrounded the open grave. The danger was that if the coffin slipped and landed on Les it could seriously hurt him or worse. Simultaneously there was a blend of consternation, dismay and sniggering from the assembled gathering each of whom was trying to keep relatively clean and dry whilst witnessing the unfolding farce which had been interposed in the middle of this solemn occasion.

Meanwhile, Les, his good suit covered in choice Crookwell mud, mixed with clay, had struggled to regain his feet and get out from under the coffin. He was drenched and coated with a muddy white clay. He looked quite a sight. My father said that if a stranger had been passing by at the moment that Les emerged from the hole, he would surely have thought a zombie was crawling out of a grave, and run off into the bush never to return.

However, once safely out of the grave Les drew himself up to his full height and said something to the effect of, 'You old bat, you always swore you would get me in the grave first and you bloody well nearly succeeded.' The comments caused great hilarity amongst some of the mourners and deep disgust amongst others.

Les told me, years later, that some relatives and friends had never spoken to him since that day because of the comments he made at a solemn funeral. However, Les reckons that Essy would have loved the comment, and he swore that she planned the whole thing as a last parting swipe at him. With proceedings at an end, everyone departed quickly, some back to the pub, others to their home.

PS Les dined out on this story for years, but he always remembered Essy with great affection and recounted their many battles with vigour and enjoyment.

PPS On 31 January 2013, I spoke to Dad, then aged 89, and asked him if he remembered Essy's funeral. Dad started to smile, then snigger, and finally burst out laughing, and with tears streaming down his face, he said it was the funniest thing he had ever seen.

Editorial Comment: It is not often that, when recounting a funeral, the first reaction is to laugh! Perhaps this was Essy's parting gift.

FOOTSTEPS CONTRIBUTIONS

The next edition of *Footsteps* will be published in August 2024. The deadline for contributions will be **15 July 2024**. Members are encouraged to submit stories and articles to editor@pmdfhs.org.au. Our next issue calls for a theme of **'Hardship or Poverty or Destitution.'**

Alternatively, have you had any interesting research breakthroughs or funny snippets or what you have found out about your ancestors?

We all enjoy reading about how you tracked down your elusive relatives or about any significant incidents or special activities in which you and your ancestors have been involved.

Articles should be limited to between 1500-1550 words with up to four photos, or up to 1800 words without photos. It is always important when researching to cite your references and sources. When inserting the references or sources in your articles, it is requested that you use numbers i.e., 1,2,3, etc. (not Roman Numerals) and that you place them as 'endnotes' not 'footnotes, positioned at the end of the text'.

Stories that are submitted for publication in *Footsteps* should generally be the work of the author or the contributor submitting the story. If the writing is not the work of the author, please seek permission from the original author where possible, and indicate the source of the work when the article is submitted.

SOME HINTS FOR WRITING ARTICLES

Topics

General – select a story from your family's past about a specific person or group of people.
Cookbook – Choose a favourite family recipe and write about the family- include the recipe.
Image – From a family image, person, or subject, write down your thought – include the image.
Research – Enlarge on a newspaper item, for example, that you found whilst researching.
Themes – Immigration, how your ancestors arrived, ship, plane, their journey etc.
Successes – 'rags to riches' such as gold mining, successful farming etc.
Conflict – just about everyone has a family member who served their country.

Scope

Try to limit the article to one with no more than two pages - this helps to limit the 'waffle'.

Sources/References

Add these as endnotes. Some readers may find them useful when doing their research.

Society Membership Fees

	Renewals	New Members*	
	Payable at 1st July each year	1st July to 30th June	1st Jan to 30th June
Single	$30.00	$35.00	$20.00
Family	$40.00	$45.00	$25.00
Footsteps Journal editions—November, February, May, August	4 issues included in Membership fees		
	Subscription is available to Non-Members at $15.00 for one year.		

***Includes a one-off $5.00 joining fee.**

FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH

The Society will undertake family history research for an initial fee of $20 for two hours and will include a list of records used, entry into *Footsteps* (where appropriate) and suggestions regarding other resources. There may be an additional fee for further research.

Please make your initial enquiry to the Research Officer at secretary@pmdfhs.org.au and include as many details as possible about the person/family and any other relevant information including sources already researched. Alternatively, enquire via mail and include a business size, stamped, self-addressed envelope to the Research Officer, PO Box 1359, Port Macquarie NSW 2444.

INFOEMAIL

Our Society newsletter, *InfoEmail*, is emailed on a regular basis to members who have provided an email address. Remember to keep your email address up to date so you do not miss out. Please email us if you are not receiving the *InfoEmail*.

If you do not have an email address, but have a computer with internet access, the *InfoEmails* are available on our website at www.pmdfhs.org.au to download and read. Journal reviews now have their own separate tab on the left side of the Society's website.

RESEARCH ASSISTANCE

General assistance with family history – local, Australian, and overseas – is available for members and non-members in the Local Studies Room at the Port Macquarie Library. Our volunteers are normally on duty to help on most Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10 am to 3 pm, with a break over Christmas.

RESEARCH SUPPORT GROUP

The Research Support Group for members is held at Port Macquarie-Hastings Library, in the Library Meeting Room, from 1 pm to 3 pm each month on the Wednesday following our general meeting.

The topic is advertised in the latest *InfoEmail* and at the most recent General Meeting.

Publications for Sale

Publication Name	Member Price	Normal Price	Weight
Port Macquarie's Last Convicts; The story of the end of the convict establishment in 1847, 204 pages, soft cover	$18	$20	737g
Tile Tales; Stories behind the names on the front wall of the Port Macquarie Swimming Pool, 752 pages, hard cover	$60	$60	2kg
Cemetery Trail; Port Macquarie – Hastings Full colour, 224 pages (glove box sized)	$27	$30	425g
Can You Remember? Memory Joggers for writing a Life Story (A5 booklet – pink cover – 16pp)	$3	$3	25g
Starting Your Family History (A5 booklet – yellow cover – 20pp)	$3	$3	30g
Pedigree Chart & Family Group Sheets 1 chart, 16 group sheets (A5 booklet – blue cover – 40pp)	$5	$5	54g
Certificates of Freedom Records for PM Convicts: Runaways, Robbers & Incorrigible Rogues (CD-ROM)	$8	$12	n/a
Port Macquarie Index to Colonial Secretary's Papers 1796-1825 (CD-ROM)	$8	$12	n/a
Harvesting the Hastings – Farming Families (CD-ROM in colour)	$17	$20	n/a
Sydney Gaol Records for Port Macquarie Convicts April 1821-1826 (CD-ROM)	$8	$12	n/a
General Cemetery Port Macquarie – Transcriptions & Images (CD-ROM)	$8	$12	n/a
Rowdy Voices & Quiet Whispers, 324 pages, soft cover	$30	$30	770g

Note: All CD-ROM purchases include postage

Postage Australia Wide		
Up to 250g (Large letter)	$5	Holds one book only
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Over 500g (Prepaid satchel)	$18	Holds several books

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However an order form is also available at: **www.pmdfhs.org.au** – please complete the order form and send with your payment to: The Secretary, Port Macquarie & Districts Family History Society Inc. PO Box 1359, Port Macquarie NSW 2444.

Cheques and money orders should be made payable to Port Macquarie & Districts Family History Society Inc. Alternatively, please send an email to **secretary@pmdfhs.org.au** to obtain the Society's banking details to direct deposit into our account via the internet. Pre-payment is required; however Local Government Libraries can be invoiced.

PORT MACQUARIE & DISTRICTS FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY INC.

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Our Research Home

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Port Macquarie-Hastings Library
Corner of Grant and Gordon Streets
Port Macquarie NSW 2444

Our Meeting Room

CC Mac Adams Music Centre
Gordon Street
Port Macquarie NSW 2444
(between Port Macquarie Olympic Pool and Players Theatre)

Port Macquarie & Districts Family History Society is affiliated with:

Royal Australian Historical Society

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Australian Federation of Family History Organisations Inc.

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of Family History Societies Inc.

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