

## Mothers and children of the *Cadet* (1848 & 1849)

By Maureen Mann, October 2018

The *Cadet* made 3 trips to VDL: in 1844 with male convicts; 1848 and 1849, carrying women. In 1848 there were 164 convicts, 19 children admitted to the Orphan School and 9 infants. The 1849 voyage, delayed by sickness, had 150 convicts with 16 children admitted, and 10 infants.

There was the usual infant mortality from both voyages, but the older children fared better. There are lots of “dead ends” probably because it was so easy to adopt a new identity. In this talk I can't manage to include everyone – the longer version is to be uploaded to the website.

Ann Armsley brought 3 of her 6 or 7 children with her, aged between 12 and 6. The youngest was discharged to his mother, TL in 1855, though in fact she had her freedom in 1854. And there is no further firm trace of either him or his mother. Ellen, the oldest child was discharged to Lovett in Hobart in September 1849 and her mother had been assigned to Lovett at the time of her October 1849 offence, so there was contact between them. The older 2 children married, had children and seemed to lead successful lives, probably keeping in touch with each other as both later lived in Launceston. Was this move because their mother moved there? We don't know. These two children died in 1891 and 1905.

Ann Carruther's son William Scumberg (I just love the name) was discharged to her in 1851, then aged 11, and though she had married a Richard Halliwell I have found no trace of any of them after her freedom in 1854.

The same story goes for several other convicts from both voyages: their children were released to them usually when they received their TL and frequently had married, but I have found nothing more following the various spellings of any of the surnames. These women and their children were: Janet MacDonald, now Douglas (1853), and her son John McKechnie discharged in 1854; Ellen McCann now Elsey (1851) had her son John discharged in 1853; Catherine Henderson/Anderson, now Perry (1849) had her daughter Mary, born about 1839, discharged in 1849; Margaret McLoughlin, now Dring (1851) had her son John discharged soon after her marriage; Hannah Johnson, (Rayner in 1852), her daughter was released to her in 1854; Agnes Sinclair, daughter of Ann Jones #4, (Hicks from 1850) returned to her mother in 1852; Arthur Quinn, son of Ann Quinn, (married Wilding in 1851) returned to her in 1852; Edward Philimore/Cooke returned to his mother Elizabeth Philimore (Salter from 1851) in 1852; Mary Cullen (Murray from 1849) had her children, Michael and Ellen Sullivan, returned in 1850.

In November 1848 Jane Patterson's son, George Brown, aged 6, was discharged in Hobart to his aunt Ann Patterson, later Smerdon (QOS site says at his mother's request) who seemed to have come free and married in Hobart in 1849. But he too disappears, mainly because it is so hard to follow someone with this name. Jane Patterson married John Godfrey in 1851, had 3 more children and she died in 1878. Her later children have been traced, so it's possible that George also survived and had contact with his mother.

Mary Ann Dunn's daughter, Catherine (Dunn or Griffiths) was apprenticed, aged about 14, to E D Walker at Perth in 1852. Though we have no direct evidence that she spent time with her mother, it can be assumed that she did. In 1852 Mary Ann married Edward Wickham, and died in 1857. Catherine married not long after her mother's death and Edward Wickham was a witness. Catherine had 10 children and lived till 1918. An interesting aside is that Edward Wickham remarried in 1861 and his second wife was also Mary Ann Dunn – or was this a clerical error?

Mary Murphy whose proper name was Catherine Allen, had 4 of her 5 children on board, with ages ranging from 12 to a few months. The youngest died soon after arrival. The oldest, Richard was apprenticed to the Comptroller General (then J S Hampton) in 1851. William and Esther Allen were discharged to their mother, 2 months apart. Why the different dates, one wonders. Catherine and George Edwards had another 2 children, though only one survived. Catherine may have died in 1854 but the name is too common to be certain. Esther married James Lockwood in 1864 as a 22 year old, had 13 children and died in 1932 in Victoria, aged 90. No firm trace of the boys, either as Allen or Edwards.

Elizabeth Thomas, proper name Jones, had 2 of her 4 children, aged 13 and 8 with her, both using the surname Parry. In 1851 in Oatlands Elizabeth married William Payne. Mary, the older child, was apprenticed to C J Walker at Derwent Park in 1851 and probably married Adam Pennycott in 1855 at Oatlands, so we can assume some contact with her mother. She had 9 children and died in 1917 in Oatlands. The younger daughter Laura, released to her mother, has not been traced.

Jane McDonald's children, Henry and Mary Ann McDonagh, aged 8 and 5 on arrival, were discharged to their mother in 1850 and 1852. Jane had married Lawrence Flaherty in 1849, had twins a few weeks later, but I have found no further reference to any of them. Jane's conduct record shows no levels of freedom after 1854 when her TL was revoked. She would not have been free till 1856 as she had a 10 year sentence. That makes it look as though they left the state under new names.

Lydia Rackham was transported for 10 years for theft while her husband James received 7 years for receiving, and was sent to WA. 3 of their 5 surviving children, James 12, William 7 and Emmeline 5, were on board. James was apprenticed to Sharland at New Norfolk in 1852 but William and Emmeline were discharged to their brother-in-law George Powling who arrived in Tasmania in 1854, having married the oldest Rackham child, also Lydia, in 1854 in Perth WA en route from England. The Powlings went on to have 8 children and Lydia jnr died in 1909. James and Emmeline have not been traced, but William died in July 1875 and was buried at Queensborough cemetery with his mother who had died in the June. This suggests that all the family maintained their connections in Hobart.

Ann Crawley is more complicated. Her son, Henry Rossthorn, aged about 7, was discharged to his TL mother in 1850; another son John died about 6 weeks after arrival. In 1851 Ann married William Grimshaw and had another 8 children, several of whom died in infancy. Two of the surviving children (William and Samuel) were admitted to the OS in 1860 after their father's death and both were apprenticed eventually to Hagley. Samuel won several school prizes between 1862 and 1868. James, the then youngest child stayed with his mother. In 1864 John was born, father unknown; Ann was charged with manslaughter through neglect when he died aged 7 weeks. In 1865, The Mercury called her a "notorious bad character" as she was constantly in court for various offences. In 1866 she was convicted and imprisoned as Margaret Taylor, and died during this time in 1867. No trace was found of Henry Rossthorn (or Grimshaw). William Grimshaw married in 1872 in Westbury and died in 1932. Samuel disappears from the records. In 1866 an application was made for James Grimshaw or Grimshaw to be admitted to the Orphan School and it's not clear if it was successful. He died, aged 23, in 1879 in Launceston of necrosis. He may have been the Joshua Grimshaw imprisoned for sodomy in 1873.

Harriet Wiseman, with a 10 year sentence, had 2 children on board: Harriet Elizabeth 13 and Miles, 11. Miles was discharged to her, TL, in 1852. She married William Spinks in 1853 and died in 1854, still under sentence. Harriet Elizabeth married in 1854 in Hobart, having been discharged to Mr Nutt in New Town in 1852; and then possibly a second time in Victoria in 1862 though her first husband seems to have still been alive. If the *latter is correct*, she re-fashioned her story and name, becoming

Eliza Jane (with Coverdale added later) and she died in 1891 with her parents named as John and Harriet Wiseman. Miles seems to have disappeared. For some time, I followed a Wiseman Spinks (a coincidental combination of names) but he was not Miles. This pursuit was a large red herring and considerable time was spent until I could discount him, once I found his baptism in Norfolk and arrival in VDL in 1841.

Margaret Sponsforth had her daughter Alice on board. Alice was apprenticed in 1852 in the Jericho area, but married George Hutchison in Hobart in 1856. She must have maintained her relationship with her mother as she was the informant for Margaret's hospital death in 1860.

Elizabeth Kain, a widow, had 3 of her 7 children on board: Catherine, Bridget and Margaret. Catherine and Bridget were apprenticed in Hobart and Launceston, in 1849, so they probably lost touch with each other. Elizabeth married William Moulds in 1850 and Margaret was discharged to her mother and father in 1851. Moulds died in Tasmania in 1867 but there's no firm trace of Elizabeth or her older girls after her departure to NSW in 1855. She possibly died in the Melbourne Benevolent Asylum in 1871 of gout – age and place of birth are correct. Margaret probably married Timothy O'Connor in 1869 and died in 1889 in Victoria.

Ann Jones 3<sup>rd</sup>, sentenced to 15 years, had 2 daughters on board: Mary Ann or Maria (10) and Sarah Jane Jones or Sails/Sales (aged 2). Ann married Thomas Thompson in July 1852 and both girls were discharged to their mother in December but on different days. The Thompsons went on to have 4 children, 3 of whom married with families, and it is likely that at least Sarah kept in touch with her mother because Thomas Thompson was a witness when she married Edward Devlin in 1862. They had 9 children and she died in 1928. Her obituary indicates that the family hid their convict past and re-imagined their parents' lives. The database research notes say that Mary Ann Jones married George John Coward (1865) but my research doesn't support this, and I have found no firm trace of her. Descendants claim that Maria and Sarah lived with the Thompson family in the Devonport/Formby area, where their step-father was a ferryman. Ann may have died in 1908.

Mary Jane Cook(e) had her son Thomas, born about 1847, on board. Though he wasn't admitted to the QOS he must have gone to the infant school. She married twice in VDL: to Thomas Mapes in 1852 and to George Gibbs in 1866 when Thomas Cook was a witness.

Mary Ann Lynch married William Clarke in 1851 and her son, like Thomas Cook, and of a similar age, was not admitted to QOS. But in 1874 his mother was a witness at his marriage. Mary Ann had another 8 children most of whom survived to adulthood, marrying with children. Mary Ann Clark died in 1896. William Clarke was the informant for at least one of his grandchildren, implying that the family kept in touch with each other. Thomas Cook possibly died in 1914 in NZ so close contact was lost.

Susannah Owens, who had her own unnamed child on board, named as Owens or McKenzie, also adopted the child of Sarah Prosser who had died during the voyage. No trace has been found of either of these children, even though Susannah Owens went on to have 7 more children with John Daley. Neither of these children have been traced in the Orphan School.

Mary Bowron's child aged about 14 did not go to the Orphan School: she was probably old enough to be sent out to work immediately.

Now for the Tasmanian-born. Jemima Gowan's daughter, Jane Whiteman born 1851, was admitted to the OS during her mother's imprisonment in 1855 and was released back to her mother in 1857. Maria Whiteman, born 1854, was admitted in 1861 from the Infant School where she had been since

1856, and re-admitted in 1869 for 6 weeks. She was apprenticed in Evandale and doesn't appear to have returned to her mother. She married Charles Reid in 1870 and lived in Campbell Town. Jane married twice and had children in Hobart, so possibly had contact with her mother. Jemima had 9 children in VDL with several husbands, and died in 1877 of brain disease; Jane died in 1915 and Maria in 1937.

Maria Jones was said to be 21 on 1849 arrival, but married John Charles Lindsay in 1857 as a minor! They had 6 children. The then oldest children, Maria Louise, born 1859, Edward (1861) and Thomas William (1863) were admitted to the OS in 1865 because their parents were imprisoned for 2 years, for an "out-of-character" crime. There's no discharge details but John Charles Lindsay witnessed his daughter's marriages. Maria Jones, convict, died in 1922 aged 85 so she was much younger than stated on arrival.

An application was made in 1866 for admission of Ann Pickett's son, Robert Edward, aged 10, after his father (Joseph Blackston) deserted the family, and because Robert was getting out of control. The application appears to have been unsuccessful, but we have no further firm links between mother and son. Robert probably died in Hobart in 1925. There were other children who stayed with their mother.

Mary Ann Robertson, transported for 10 years, had 19 conduct offences. She had 4 children here, none with a named father. Edith was admitted in 1856 and discharged in 1858, her mother now free. Applications, probably unsuccessful, were made for the three surviving children in 1860 when mother was re-convicted but they probably remained in the House of Correction, Launceston. I was only able to trace Erastus, the youngest, to adulthood and death in Shepparton district, Victoria in 1920.

Mary Ann Benson married George Waller in 1853 and they had 6 children. The oldest, Mary Ann was admitted to the Girls Industrial School in 1865 and discharged to her parents in 1867. An 1868 newspaper article about her conviction for gross indecency, stated she had been at the reformatory for 3 years. A letter to the editor corrected the impression that newspaper article implied. Her mother, as Mary Ann Sykes from 1869, was a witness at her wedding in 1871.

Hannah Brown, daughter of Eliza, born 1850, was admitted first in 1852, released to her mother in 1854 and returned when her mother was admitted to hospital in 1866. Eliza died in August 1866 but Hannah's records state that she was also admitted July 1866 and discharged December 1867. This suggests a close relationship between mother and daughter. But then there's no firm trace of Hannah.

Thomas Reibey from Entally applied to have Isabella Hodgetts, nee Buckley's older two children Maria and George, admitted because the family was destitute but it is not clear if the application was successful. Within the information is a comment that the father had left his wife but promised to return and the woman was "a bad character". There was also a younger daughter. Maria died in 1862 and George probably in 1883 but Isabella herself in 1887, after a range of offences from 1876 onwards: idle and disorderly and vagrancy.

Isabella Burkett married Edward Williams in 1854 and they had 6 children before he died in 1863. The 3 middle children were admitted in October when Isabella found herself unable to support them all on the money she was able to earn. Frederick James, 5 when admitted was apprenticed in 1873 to Gatenby at Macquarie River and then in 1875 to Brooks Launceston. Amelia Caroline, 6 in 1863 was discharged in 1871 to James Carter, and then in 1873 to her step-father, so family contact. Emma Jane, then 8, doesn't have an OS record so probably wasn't admitted. Their older brother

stayed with his mother who had every intention of getting the children back as soon as she could, though it didn't seem to happen. The youngest child, Frank was admitted on Imperial Funds in October 1864 and stayed till 1872. Emma Jane died in 1870 but the others married and had children.

It has been an interesting journey tracing all these mothers and children, linked together by the *Cadet*.

#### *Bibliography*

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