



Martha Thatcher

Date of Trial:	16 April 1817
Where Tried:	Middlesex Gaol Delivery
Crime:	Having forged bank notes
Sentence:	14 years
Est YOB:	1782
Native Place:	
Occupation:	
Alias/AKA:	
Children on Board:	3
Surgeon's Remarks:	<i>Quiet woman. Dead</i>

The Newgate Prison Calendar records that on 10 April 1817 Martha Thatcher was remanded in custody to await her trial for an offence committed in league with another younger woman, Sarah Howell (alias Roberts).

191 *Sarah Howell, alias Roberts, 24* {
 Martha Thatcher, 35, {

committed by J. Gifford, Esq. charged on oath with having feloniously uttered and tendered in payment, divers forged and counterfeited notes, purporting to be a £2 and £1 notes, of the Governor and Company of the Bank of England with intent to cheat and defraud his Majesty's subjects. Dated 10th April 1817.¹

The *Public Ledger and Daily Advertiser* of 12 April provided some additional information about the pair.

Yesterday Mary Thatcher and Sarah Howell, alias Roberts, were fully committed, charged with uttering forged notes. The prisoners belonged to a gang which was broke up some time ago in consequence of three of them being apprehended in town, and also the man who supplied them with the notes (W. Stokes), at Birmingham. The latter was convicted at Warwick Assizes on Monday last, and ordered for execution. Thatcher's husband had been transported for a similar offence.²

Tried on 16 April for possessing forged notes, both Martha and Sarah were sentenced to 14 years transportation.

To this point I had found no records to provide details of Martha Thatcher's life prior to her being arrested, tried and convicted. But petitions she (and Sarah Howell) addressed to the Bank of England when they were imprisoned awaiting transportation, while being somewhat difficult to decipher, do throw some light on the family situation.³ From the following, sent under Sarah's name, and apparently delivered by her husband, it would seem that Martha and Sarah were sisters and that Sarah blamed her sister and brother-in-law for landing her in trouble. While Sarah pleads not to be sent out of the country, her sister wishes to make the journey, accompanied by her children. The original spelling has been retained in the following transcripts.⁴

256. [F25/4/29] *Sarah Howell, Newgate, May 1817*

Honoured Sir I humbly beg your pardon for the liberty I now take in righting to you but I ham in great distress for the want of a littell suport for in my situashon it is very hard to have nothing but the gale alouance and I have nothing hels for I have no one to send me a peney and it dos not lay in my husbands power to do haney thing for me for whilst he weas in confmment he lost hall his work and all his tools and he his now in want of bred honoured sir I hope you will take this our afull situashon into your considerashon as we are a unfortunat pair and inesent dron into this our afull situashon and I have the sentence for hit and I never knoad the mening of such a thing nor did I know what my sisters husband weas gon for till I hared you say when I came in the ofis and till then she tould me he weas gon for smugled guds and then I found the horror my sister had lindit me in and then I well knew my afull situashon but I putt my trust in the lord and I hope he will be my gide and I hope honoured Sir you will not send me hout of my cuntry but hit is my sisters wish to go and all her children as tha are here with her honoured Sir I hope you will pardon me for the liberty I now take in trubling you but my Distress is grat and my husband is the barer of this to you I ham your humbal servant Sarah Howel

In the same month Martha petitioned regarding allowances due to her, from which we learn that she had 3 children.



265. [F25/4/38-9] Martha Thatcher, Newgate 26 May 1817

Sir I hope you will Excuse me Soliciting you Sir I understand their is an allowance for all me Children and you Only gave me for One and I have three Children if your Dispute me word you may Refer to governer I have no person to give them a shilling only for your Benevolent Charity I do not know What would become of me and them Sir I hope will take me family into consideration and bestow a little more of your benevolent Charity on them by so doing your Humble Petioner is in Duty Bound to Pray for you Martha Tatcher

Four days later she again petitions, this time for some money to redeem her clothes from 'hock'.⁵

266. [F25/4/40] Martha Thatcher, Newgate, 30 May 1817

Sir I hope you will pardon the Liberty I take in troubling you but I am Ordered to get Ready to go to the Ship and the Other women have Received their 5 Pounds, and I am Distressed with three Children and have the best part of me Cloaths in Pledge, Sir I hope you will Consider me Distressed Situation and me Large family and bestow a little of your benevolent Charity to Enable me and me family to get me Cloaths, by so doing your Humble Petitioner is in Duty Bound to Pray Martha Tatcher

Annotated: Martha Thatcher to pay her £5.

In none of these pleadings does Martha Thatcher identify her husband but, as indicated by Sarah Howells, the reason she was prepared to readily accept her sentence of transportation was so that they could be reunited on her arrival at Port Jackson.⁶ But this was not to be. Just five weeks from her destination Martha Thatcher died at sea on 7 December 1817 from dysentery. Surgeon Cosgreave described her as 'quiet; the Reverend John Gyles was more expansive.

She appeared to be a pious woman, and to have died the death of the righteous, resigning her three children to Him who is the Father of the fatherless.⁷

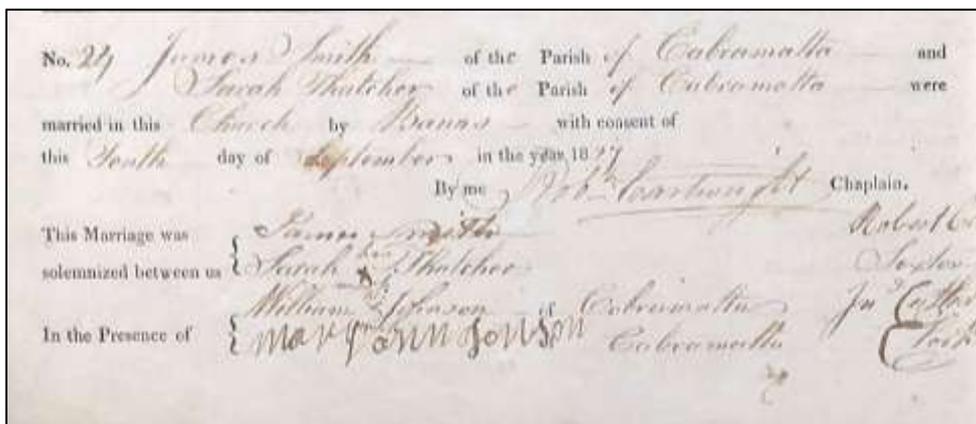
The names, gender, and ages of the three Thatcher children accompanying their mother are not recorded in the transportation documentation, but following their mother's burial at sea they were placed in the care of fellow passenger and Newgate inmate, Elizabeth Macginnes, for the remainder of the voyage.⁸

The Biographical Database of Australia (BDA) has two listings for Thatcher children. Do these listings refer to two people or were they one and the same?

Thatcher, Aged: child. Arrived per Friendship 13 01 1818; Arrival status: Convicts Child; AUS]; embarked from: London ENG], Other Remarks: mother Martha Thatcher, died during voyage; mother's occupation – convict.⁹

Sarah Thatcher per Friendship; Born: 1814, Died: 1903. Died at Fitzroy VIC AUS.¹⁰

Following up on the second BDA entry finds Sarah Elizabeth Thatcher who had been baptised at St Peter in Thanet, Kent, on 12 December 1813, the parents being listed as Samuel, a labourer, and Martha.¹¹ On 10 September 1827, at St Lukes Church of England, Liverpool, by banns, Sarah Thatcher and James Smith, both of Cabramatta, were married, Robert Cartwright officiating, with William and Ann Johnson also of Cabramatta witnessing the event. John signed his name and Sarah annotated the marriage register with 'X'.¹²



Noting Sarah's baptism date of December 1813, which puts her birth date earlier than the 1814 cited above, at the time of her marriage Sarah was an extraordinarily young bride. For the 1828 census Sarah Smith's age is listed as eighteen; she had come free, and was now the wife of James Smith, a constable, in the district of Cabramatta.¹³ Five children were born to James and Sarah between 1831 and 1839, the first in 1830 being a girl named Martha in honour of her maternal grandmother. James Smith, born in Cheshire around 1794, had arrived in the colony per the *Recovery* in 1819. A weaver by trade, he (together with John Smith) had been tried at Chester and found guilty of sacrilege and burglaries, for which both men were given a seven year transportation sentence. By 1819 he had earned a Ticket of Leave and by 1822 he was free by servitude.¹⁴ It was on 6 January 1839 that forty-nine year old James Smith died. He was buried at the Liverpool cemetery three days later. His occupation at the time of his death was pound-keeper.¹⁵

Sarah married again, her second husband being Henry Harren, born about 1810, a Wiltshire man who, according to his indent papers, was dually qualified as an upholsterer and footman and, apparently a coal dealer on the side.¹⁶ That he was able to read and write is evidenced by the crime he committed and for which he was arraigned in August 1832, just two months after his marriage at Devizes on 18 June to Eliza Bowles, to appear at the Wiltshire Assizes on 2 March 1833.¹⁷

At the Wilts Assizes, Henry Harren was indicted for feloniously sending to James Davis Horne, dealer in coals, a letter threatening to kill and murder him, and also to kill his cattle and burn and destroy his house, because he had purchased coals of strangers – The following letter, received by the prosecutor, was put in and read – it was signed SWING: "I am determined to do what I am going to tell you: me and 93 of my party are determined to have Reform, quietly if we can. You had better not buy coals of strangers. If we can't have reform quietly we shall have it by loss of a few lives. There is no harm in poisoning or shooting you and Tailor. Unless you leave off buying coals of strangers, your cattle will die, your houses will be on fire, and your lives will be lost." – The handwriting was clearly proved to be that of the prisoner, and the Jury found him Guilty – Transportation for life.

Two months later, as one of 230 convicts, he embarked on the *Captain Cook*, bound for New South Wales, where the ship weighed anchor on 26 August 1833, to the relief of all after a particularly awful voyage weatherwise.¹⁸ By 1841 Henry had been granted a conditional pardon.¹⁹

We have noted that Henry Harren was a married man when he left England. That was potentially a problem, but it is with the marriage records for him and Sarah Elizabeth Smith that things become confusing. We have also noted that, assuming James Smith was the correct candidate for her first husband, she would have become a widow in 1839. So how can we reconcile this with the New South Wales 1836 marriage registration between Henry Harren and Sarah E Smith which took place in the district of St James, Melbourne (VIC), at the time still part of New South Wales?²⁰ Three Harren children were born between 1840 and 1844. We then find a second marriage registration for Henry and Sarah, this time for the year 1846, registered in Victoria.²¹ Another child was born in 1847 (but who died in the same year).²² There is further confusion as to where and when Henry Harren died – according to the Clarke-Rimmer Ancestry Family Tree, he died on 12 September 1877 at Kyneton; the BDA suggests that he died in 1850. I have found no records to support either of these dates, or for any other relating to Henry Harren's demise. Only two newspaper references have been located for a Henry Harren – both relating to domestic violence, but neither actually giving the name of the assaulted wife. On 17 July 1847 Henry Harren was apprehended on a warrant for assaulting his "better half" on several occasions. On 3 August he was discharged upon a promise to behave in future.²³

We do however know when and where his widow Sarah died - on 14 November 1903, at the residence of her son-in-law Mr. A.E. Potts, Moor Street, Fitzroy, Melbourne – as announced briefly in *The Mount Barker Courier*.

Mrs. Sarah Harren, probably the oldest colonist in Australia, having arrived in Sydney 86 years ago, died in Melbourne on Saturday.²⁴

Other newspapers drew attention to the significance of her passing, including the *Australian Town and Country Journal* of 25 November.

Mrs Sarah Elizabeth Harran, probably the oldest colonist in Australia, having arrived in Sydney 86 years ago, died recently at Fitzroy (Vic). The deceased lady was born in Kent (England) in 1814. The following year her father, Mr. T. Thatcher, sailed for Sydney, having been appointed botanist on the staff of Major-General Macquarie, the Governor of New South Wales at that period. In March, 1817, Mrs. Thatcher, with her two sons and a daughter (the deceased), left England in the barque *The Friend* to join her husband in Sydney. The deceased was twice married She had 13 children, of whom two sons and four daughters are living, the eldest being 67 and the youngest 59 years of age. There are 30 grandchildren, 45 great grandchildren, and 8 great great grandchildren living.²⁵

The Dubbo Dispatch and Wellington Independent, headed up its obituary "A Link With Governor Macquarie. A Colonist for 86 Years".²⁶ As a follow up to its earlier obituary the *Australian Town and Country Journal*, on 2 December, included a photograph of Sarah and, added:

The cause of death was senile debility. Up to the day of her death, Mrs. Harran had excellent eyesight, and could read the smallest print, and never used spectacles. Her mental faculties also were sound and vigorous. Until five years ago she was postmistress at Wendouree, Ballarat, which position she had held for 30 years.²⁷



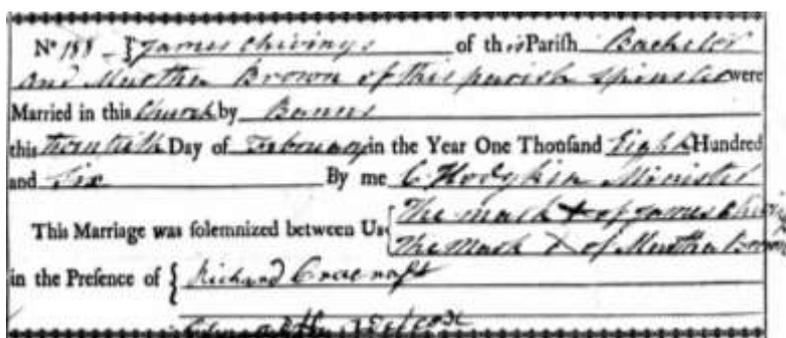
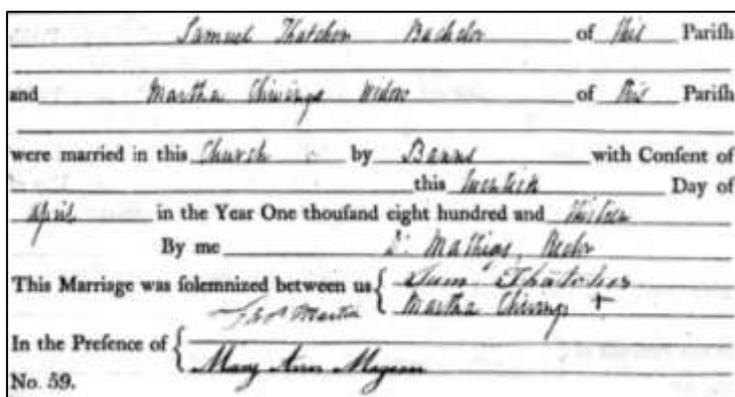
The Late Mrs. S. E. Harran.

Ironically, while her mother Martha Thatcher never set foot in the colony, daughter Sarah went on to become one of the oldest colonists! From the young girl who for her first marriage was unable to sign her name, Sarah went on to acquire the competencies required to manage a post office. The obituary makes no mention of her early married life in the Maneroo (now Monaro) district followed by time in Melbourne with her second husband, and the difficulties she faced at that time, including her marriage breakdown and a brief spell in gaol. On a more positive note, the obituary might have referred to her determination, as a single parent, to support her family by taking in laundry, operating a greengrocery business in Bourke Street, and subsequently a market garden at Brighton. In the early 1860s she moved to Ballarat, where she spent the rest of her life.²⁸

As was customary, and perpetuated through succeeding generations, the accounts of early settlers lives handed down privately through the family and often used as the source for obituaries for public consumption, were

consciously or otherwise, sanitised versions of actuality. In Sarah's case, while the stated dates are questionable, there is no denying that her father had departed for the colony some time before his wife Martha, daughter Sarah and two sons set out from England on their voyage to meet up with him in Sydney. But nothing is mentioned of the time Sarah spent on her arrival in the foster care of Mrs. Frazer at Parramatta. This Mrs Frazer was most certainly the wife of Charles Frazer then the Colonial Botanist, the role ascribed to T. Thatcher.²⁹ And if her father was T. Thatcher, why did her death registration record him as Samuel Thatcher, and her mother as Martha Hales?³⁰ This information called for some back-tracking.

A search of English marriages has proved inconclusive. No marriage record has been located for a Samuel Thatcher and a Martha Hales. A further search for marriages between a Samuel Thatcher and a woman with the first name Martha resulted in one, conducted at St Mary, Whitechapel. Samuel Thatcher, bachelor, of this parish and Martha Chivings, widow, also of this parish were married on 20 April 1813.³¹ A further search identified an earlier marriage between James Chivings, bachelor, and Martha Brown, spinster, celebrated on 20 February 1806 at St Thomas, Southwark.³² Two children, sons William James and Henry Joseph, were born to the couple, baptised respectively on 5 June 1807 and 22 May 1808, at St Thomas, Southwark, Surrey. James Chivings, a labourer, died aged twenty-eight and was buried at St Saviour, Southwark on 7 March 1809.³³ Without anything more convincing there is no justification for 'adopting' the Samuel and Martha above as 'ours' and/or the parents of Sarah Elizabeth Thatcher.



With the account of Sarah Elizabeth Thatcher we have identified one of the three children who accompanied their mother. But who were the other two. Noting that the colonial authorities identified people, convicts or free settlers, by the name of the ship on which they arrived, a search through the musters of possible candidates who would have been recorded as CF (came free) per *Friendship* brought up an interesting quartet for the 1822 muster.³⁴

Hoiles Samuel		Convict	Almorah	14	G.S. Lieut Kearnes	L'pool
Hoiles Mary	13	CF	Friendship		Emp ^d by N. Jones	D°---
Hoiles Sarah	9	CF	D°---		Emp ^d by Mrs Frazer	D°---
Hoiles James	7	CF	D°---		Emp ^d by M Burgess	D°---

Sarah Thatcher is here named as Sarah Hoiles and her father as Samuel Hoiles. There are also two Hoiles

siblings – Mary and James. The Hoiles are resident at Liverpool.

Three of the above group appear together for the 1825 muster, under a variant surname.³⁵

Hale Samuel	C	Almorah	1817	G.S. to R ^d Driver	L'pool
Hale James	cf	Friendship	1817	Son of Sam ^l Hale	D ^o ---
Hale Sarah	cf	D ^o ---	1817	Daughter of the above	D ^o ---

Samuel is an assigned servant to Richard Driver, a settler at 'Camberwell Farm', Cabramatta. James Hale, aged 13, is employed as a stockkeeper for Richard Driver.³⁶ No age or occupation is given for Sarah Hale.

Both Samuel and James appear in the 1828 census, but not together, and with differing surnames.³⁷

Hall Sam ^l	42	TL	Almorah	1817	14 yrs	Prot	Dairyman to Timothy Beard, Limestone Plains
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Hale, James	13	CF	Almorah [nb: incorrect]	1817		Prot	Stockkeeper to R ^d Driver, Cabramatta
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Samuel is now employed as a dairyman to Timothy Beard, a squatter at 'Quinbean' [now Queanbeyan] on the Limestone Plains.³⁸ James, incorrectly listed as having arrived on the Almorah, is still listed as employed by Richard Driver, and still listed as being 13 years old. For the 1828 census Sarah (now Mrs. Smith) was recorded as living at Cabramatta with her 34 year old Constable husband James.³⁹

The manifest for the convict ship *Almorah*, which left sailed In April 1817, included a Samuel Hale, (but not a Hoiles or a Hall) born about 1784, a labourer, who had been convicted at the Old Bailey in 1816 and sentenced to fourteen years transportation.⁴⁰ Samuel Hale was also the subject of a petition, dated 23 September 1823 and written on his behalf by his then employer Robert Turnbull of South Creek, seeking mitigation of Samuel's sentence.⁴¹

The bearer Samuel Hale has been with me since June last During Which Time he has Conducted himself as a Dutifull Servant, and has his Time agreeabel to His Excellency's The Governors Proclamation is Expired, I hope you will allow him a Ticket of Leave to assist in maintaining his Three Motherless Children. I am Sir, With the Greatest Respect, Your Most Obedt and Humble Servant, Rob^t Turnbull.

Robert Turnbull had also arrived on the *Almorah*, but as a free settler, and it was to him that Samuel Hale had been assigned. The request was not granted, but it seems nevertheless that Samuel was able to have his children with him. It was not until 8 December 1830 that Samuel was granted his certificate of freedom.⁴²

It has been clearly established that Samuel Hale was a widower with three young children in his care. Further, the reason he found himself in this predicament was that in November 1816 he had been committed for trial 'as a wholesale utterer of forged notes'.⁴³ He appeared at the Old Bailey on 4 December, pleaded guilty to having a forged Bank of England note in his possession, knowing it to be forged, and was sentenced to be transported for fourteen years.⁴⁴ Three months later, by then on board the hulk *Retribution* and shortly before he was due to embark on the *Almorah*, he petitioned the Bank of England.⁴⁵

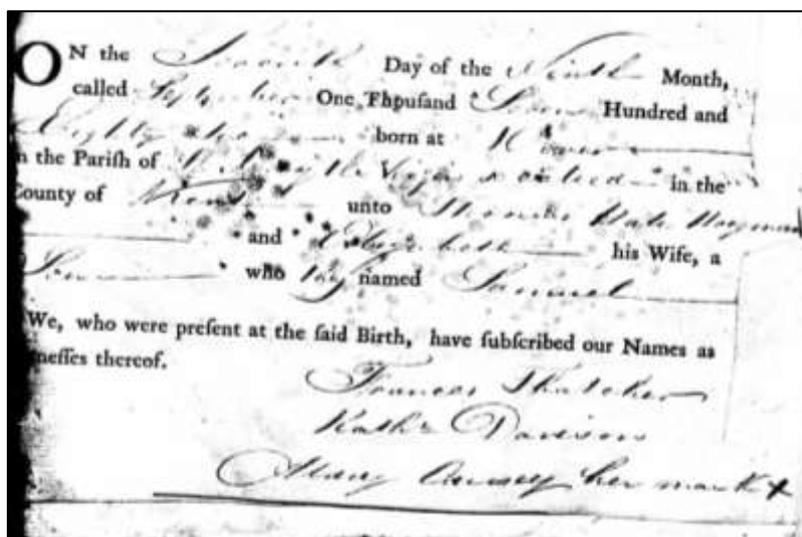
234. [F25/4/6] *Samuel Hale, Retribution hulk, Sheerness, 21 March 1817*

Honard Sir I hope You will pardon me with they Libertey I heave now teaking, In writing But As I am they man that you prossecuted, In December last for they notes I hope and Beg and pray of you Sir, that you will pleas to teake it in to Consideration to advance Me a Litle Money, so that I may Be able to get me a Few Cloathes, to teake with me as I shall Indeavour If please god, to meake myselef as a usfull as my employers May requier of me, and if you dont heave they goodness, I heave not a friend in they world to fley to, as my Pore Wife, with three small Children she [two words illegible under repair to letter] Obleige to goe to a parrish, unless you Goodness Would of thought proper for hur to of [illegible word(s) under repair] As its hur wish, and mine as well, if you could But Get that favour granted, I heave wrote to my Sister In toune and if You Will pleas to write hur to

call On Monday and Releve me with what you think proper As I heave understood you allways was kinde a nuf
 To releive others when they was sent away, we earspeket To goe every day, and I Heartley Beg you will pleas
 to releive Me As I shall Be for evour Bound to pray for Your Charratey
 Saml Hale aboard they Retribuation Hulke Sherness

As we know, within a couple of weeks, on 10 April his wife was herself remanded in custody.

There would appear to be a compelling argument that Samuel Thatcher and Samuel Hale were one and the same person. Martha Thatcher's husband had been transported before her, and for the same crime. In his petition to the Bank, Samuel Hale referred to his 'Pore Wife, with three small Children'. His employer, Robert Turnbull also drew attention to the 'three motherless children' for whom Samuel was solely responsible. But if this supposition is correct, why did he go by the two surnames – Hale and Thatcher? There is one possible clue – and it is found in a birth record recorded at one of the Quaker Quarterly Meetings of Kent. Samuel, son of Thomas and Elizabeth Hale, was born on 7 September 1786 in the parish of St Mary the Virgin, Kent, England, as witnessed by three women, one of whom was Frances Thatcher.⁴⁶



Some time after 1828 Samuel and his son James relocated to the Jindabine area of Maneroo, still in the employ of Timothy Beard, who had by now obtained depasturing licences there. James Thatcher also successfully applied for a depasturing licence which was granted on 25 May 1838, for land at 'Gendubern Point'. Licences cost £10 and were renewable annually.⁴⁷ Samuel is recorded in the 1841 census as the superintendent of 'Jindabine Round'. For the same census his son James was the supervisor for three runs – 'Bullum Bulong', 'Nimmo', and 'Genderbine'.⁴⁸

Where and when Samuel died has not been established. A death record has been located for a Samuel Thatcher registered at West Maitland, New South Wales, in 1866. However, the certificate is decidedly uninformative. It records that Samuel Thatcher, age 84, occupation unknown, died at the West Maitland Hospital on 31 March 1866, from general debility. The informant, the resident apothecary at the hospital, stated that the deceased had been born in England, but 'Unknown' was put against all the other information concerning his parents, marriage, spouse, children etc. This Samuel Thatcher was buried on 3 April at the Church of England burial ground, West Maitland.⁴⁹

The records relating to the Thatcher/Hale children are confusing. It has been assumed that there were two sons and one daughter. We have already 'dealt with' daughter Sarah Elizabeth. So, who was the Mary Hoiles listed with Samuel for the 1822 muster? We know that one of the boys was named James, but what was the name of the other son about whom we know nothing? Was 'Mary' a mistranscription, which should in fact have been a male name?

I have located a baptism record for a James Thatcher, son of Samuel and Martha, christened on 8 October 1815,

at St Peter in Thanet, Kent – the same church as Sarah Thatcher.⁵⁰ This date would tie in with the 1822 muster return which records James as a 7 year old and with the 1828 census return when his age was given as 13. On that basis the 1825 muster return for him, as 13, is incorrect. Note, however, that Tregear refers to James in 1838 as ‘a young man of twenty-eight’.⁵¹ The marriage between James Thatcher [transcribed as Thetcher] and Lucy Robinson was celebrated at Jerrabomberra on 9 January 1841 and registered at Queanbeyan. Both the groom and the bride were ‘of the Maneroo parish’ and the two witnesses, also of Maneroo, were Mary and Charles Lovell.⁵² Two children were born to James and Lucy – Frederick James, on 20 December 1842, and Mary Ann on 29 January 1845. Both children were baptised at Maneroo on 17 May 1845.⁵³ According to the postal directories, James Thatcher’s was resident at Maneroo on 11 January 1848 and September 1849.⁵⁴

The following notice, placed in *The Argus* in June 1852, records the death of one James Thatcher.

JAMES THATCHER, stockkeeper in the New Country, near Rivoli Bay, died last January, leaving behind him a large property. If his sister Sarah Thatcher, or his wife Mrs. Thatcher, or any of his relatives, will apply to A.H. Churnside, Esq, of Wannon, they may receive something very handsome. For further particulars apply to Catherine Burns at the Rose, Shamrock and Thistle Inn, Elizabeth-street.⁵⁵

Given the reference to his sister Sarah Thatcher, it would seem that the subject of this notice was ‘our’ James Thatcher. What was he doing ‘near Rivoli Bay’, and when precisely had he died. It is possible that he met his end while droving stock to Rivoli Bay in South Australia on behalf of pastoralist Andrew Chirnside, of Wannon, in the Port Phillip district. The notice only appeared in the Melbourne press, suggesting that the person who placed the notice understood that the deceased’s relatives were by then living in Victoria.⁵⁶ Nothing further has been located for his wife Lucy Thatcher.

Frederick James Thatcher married Julia Fendley on 12 August 1864 at Delvene, Stratford, Victoria. They had nine children, some of whom predeceased their father who died in 1916. It is interesting to note that his obituary perpetuated the myth about his paternal grandfather.⁵⁷

He leaves a wife, two sons, 51 grand-children, and 11 great-grand-children. In 1814, Mr. T. Thatcher, who was the grandfather of Mr. F. Thatcher, came out from England to fill the position of botanist of the staff of Major-General Macquarie, the Governor of New South Wales at that period.⁵⁸

Mary Ann Thatcher married Edward Rouse in 1863 at Tumut. They had seven children. Mary Ann, widowed in 1883, lived well into her 90s and died on 15 April 1940 at Bairnsdale.⁵⁹

Albeit it posthumously, through her children Sarah Elizabeth and James, and their descendants, Martha Thatcher could justifiably lay claim as the matriarch an extensive colonial dynasty.

NOTES

¹ Findmypast (FMP), England & Wales, Crime, Prisons & Punishment, 1770-1935, Newgate Prison Calendar.

² *Public Ledger and Daily Advertiser*, 12 Apr 1817, p.4. William Stokes, a gilt toy maker by trade, was found guilty of feloniously forging and uttering 54 Bank of England notes, and was executed on 25 April 1817, leaving a widow and six small children – *Northampton Mercury*, 3 May 1817, p.3.

³ "Letters, nos 201-300." *Prisoners' Letters to the Bank of England, 1781-1827*. Ed. Deirdre Palk. London: London Record Society, 2007. 65-92. British History Online. Web. 12 September 2017. <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/london-record-soc/vol42/pp65-92>.

⁴ Sarah Howell’s plea was heard – on 20 September she was removed to the House of Correction, FMP, England & Wales, Crime, Prisons & Punishment, 1770-1935.

⁵ From 1811 until 1821 the payments could be 5s. a week for childless women who were found to be in extreme distress, 7s. 6d. for women with one child and sometimes 10s. 6d. for women with more than one child. In addition to this surprising generosity, there was usually a payment of £5 (in a few cases rather more) to virtually all women as they embarked on the transport ships. This embarkation money would also be paid to women from prisons outside London if they applied, having met up with women from London and learnt what might be on offer (as was the case with a few of the *Friendship* women). It is worth remembering the high cost to the Bank of the prosecutions of these prisoners and the fact that they had faced charges of uttering notes of £1 or £2 value – *Prisoners' Letters to the Bank of England, 1781-1827*, Introduction, <https://www.british-history.ac.uk/london-record-soc/vol42/vii-xxv#h3-0006>.



- ⁶ Martha's husband has not been identified from the convicts with the surname Thatcher who had been transported prior to her trial. The Biographical Database of Australia (BDA) lists a George Thatcher, but he was only nineteen when transported, and for a period of only seven years. The Joshua Thatcher listed had been found guilty of stealing a pig in 1801 and sentenced for seven years. Of course, 'Thatcher' may not have been the surname of the errant husband.
- ⁷ Observations of female convicts from Newgate who arrived on the *Friendship* (for the information of the Committee of Ladies), cited in Free Settler or Felon? Convict Ship Friendship, http://www.jenwilletts.com/convict_ship_friendship_1818.htm.
- ⁸ Frank Sandwell, Community Contributions, Elizabeth Macginnis, Convict Records, <https://convictrecords.com.au/convicts/macginnis/elizabeth/68761>.
- ⁹ BDA, Biographical report for Thatcher. Free Passenger NSW Arrivals 1788-1825.
- ¹⁰ BDA, Biographical report for Sarah Thatcher. The 1990 Biographical Detail form is held by the Society of Australian Genealogists.
- ¹¹ FMP, Canterbury Baptisms, 1538-1912, Canterbury Cathedral Archives, Ref U3/120/1/5, 1813-1824.
- ¹² Ancestry, Sydney, Australia, Anglican Parish Registers, 1818-2011, Liverpool St Luke, Composite, 27 February 1826-23 September 1838.
- ¹³ BDA, Biographical report for Sarah Smith. Note: the census entry incorrectly states that she came by the ship *Friends*, 1817.
- ¹⁴ BDA, Biographical report for James Smith; *Chester Chronicle*, 30 Apr 1819, p.2 and *Chester Courant*, 27 Apr 1819, p.3.
- ¹⁵ Ancestry, Sydney, Australia, Anglican Parish Registers, 1818-2011.
- ¹⁶ BDA, Biographical report for Henry Harren.
- ¹⁷ *Bristol Mercury*, 25 Aug 1832, p.4; *Hampshire Telegraph*, 25 Mar 1833, p.3. This letter was written at a time when the Swing Riots were occurring across most of England. The tactics adopted by the 'rioters' included writing threatening letters to landholders, magistrates and rich tenant farmers, and others regarded as oppressing and dispossessing the poorer, mainly agricultural workers. 'Swing' was a mythical person, whose moniker was used to ensure an author's anonymity. Harren adopted the 'Swing' tactics to protect his coal dealership. Ancestry, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1754-1916, Marriages solemnized in the Parish of St. John the Baptist, Devizes, No.222.
- ¹⁸ Convict Records, Henry Harren, <https://convictrecords.com.au/convicts/harren/henry/25339>. Free Settler or Felon? Convict Ship Captain Cook, 1833, http://www.jenwilletts.com/convict_ship_captain_cook_1833.htm.
- ¹⁹ BDA, Biographical report for Henry Harren.
- ²⁰ NSW Registry of Births Death & Marriages (NSW BDM), Marriage registration 708/1836 V1836708 31C.
- ²¹ Births Deaths and Marriages of Victoria (VIC BDM), Marriage registration 5043/1846.
- ²² NSW BDM, Death registration 1340/1847 G18471340 32B.
- ²³ *Port Phillip Gazette and Settler's Journal*, 17 Jul 1847, p.2. *The Melbourne Argus*, 3 Aug 1847, p.4. It should be noted, however, that his surname is a tricky one for transcribers, just ripe for some creative alternative spellings.
- ²⁴ *The Mount Barker Courier*, 20 Nov 1903, p.3.
- ²⁵ *Australian Town and Country Journal*, 25 Nov 1903, p.15.
- ²⁶ *Dubbo Dispatch and Wellington Independent*, 21 Nov 1904, p.4.
- ²⁷ *Australian Town and Country Journal*, 2 Dec, p.34.
- ²⁸ Gail Annette Tregear, No Time for Toys, E-book, Xlibris Australia, July 2018. Chronicles the life of Sarah Elizabeth Thatcher.
- ²⁹ Charles Frazer held the position of Colonial Botanist until his death in December 1831 – *The Sydney Monitor*, 31 Dec 1831, p.3. It was perhaps his persona that became conflated with that of T. Thatcher.
- ³⁰ VIC BDM, Death registration, 1903/13367.
- ³¹ Ancestry, London, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1754-1921, Tower Hamlets, St Mary, Whitechapel, 1813, No.59.
- ³² Ancestry, London, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1754-1921, Southwark, St Thomas, Southwark, 1806, No.188.
- ³³ Ancestry, London, England, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1538-1812.
- ³⁴ Ancestry, New South Wales and Tasmania Australian Convict Musters, 1806-1849, 1922.
- ³⁵ Ancestry, New South Wales and Tasmania Australian Convict Musters, 1806-1849, 1925.
- ³⁶ BDA, Biographical report for James Hale.
- ³⁷ Ancestry, 1828 New South Wales, Australia Census (TNA Copy).
- ³⁸ Quinbean Journal, <https://queanbeyanmuseum.org.au/>.
- ³⁹ Ancestry, 1828 New South Wales, Australia Census (Australian Copy).
- ⁴⁰ Convict Records, <https://convictrecords.com.au/convicts/hale/samuel/49984>.
- ⁴¹ Robert Turnbull and his family had come out on the *Almorah* as free settlers. He was one of those to whom land was immediately granted on his arrival in the colony. Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia, Colonial Secretary's Papers, 1788-1856, (Special Bundles) (Petitions to the Governor From Convicts for Mitigations of Sentence).
- ⁴² Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia, Certificates of Freedom, 1810-1814, 1827-1867, Butts of Certificates of Freedom, 1830, December, 30/876.
- ⁴³ *Cambridge Chronicle and Journal*, 22 Nov 1816, p.2. This newspaper snippet also mentioned another person 'engaged in this dangerous traffic' who managed to swallow the forged note in his possession, thus escaping arrest. Samuel was not so quick-witted.
- ⁴⁴ *Old Bailey Proceedings Online* (www.oldbaileyonline.org, version 7.2, 14 September 2017), December 1816, trial of SAMUEL HALE (118161204-44).
- ⁴⁵ "Letters, nos 201-300." Prisoners' Letters to the Bank of England, 1781-1827. Ed. Deirdre Palk. London: London Record Society, 2007. 65-92. British History Online. Web. 14 September 2017. <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/london-record-soc/vol42/pp65-92>.



⁴⁶ Ancestry, England & Wales, Quaker Birth, Marriage, and Death Registers, 1578-1837, Kent, Piece 0932: Quarterly Meeting of Kent: Births (1770-1831).

⁴⁷ NSW State Archives and Records (NSW SAR), Depasturing Licenses, Item 4/91, Series NRS 14363.

⁴⁸ 1841 Census, Maneroo – cited in Tregear, No Time for Tears, Chapter 4.

⁴⁹ NSW BDM, Death registration transcription, 1866/4875.

⁵⁰ FMP, Canterbury Baptisms, 1538-1912, Canterbury Cathedral Archives, Ref U3/120/1/5, 1813-1824.

⁵¹ Tregear, No Time for Tears, Chapter 4.

⁵² NSW BDM, Marriage certificate, 494/1841 V1841494 25C.

⁵³ Ancestry, Australia, Births and Baptisms, 1792-1981.

⁵⁴ FMP, New South Wales Government Gazette Indexes 1832-1863.

⁵⁵ *The Argus*, 3 Jun 1852, p.5. The Rose, Thistle and Shamrock Hotel was located in Elizabeth Street, Melbourn.

⁵⁶ Coincidentally, there is a Victorian death registration (1856/3148) for a James Hale, born about 1816 and aged 40 on death. No information is provided for father and mother. At this stage I think this record can be discounted as being irrelevant.

⁵⁷ Ancestry, James online family tree, <https://www.ancestry.co.uk/family-tree/person/tree/26122962/person/27346516167/facts>.

⁵⁸ *Every Week* (Bairnsdale), 21 Dec 1918, p.8.

⁵⁹ Ancestry, James online family tree, <https://www.ancestry.co.uk/family-tree/person/tree/26122962/person/240147266471/facts>.



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