
Hester Wright

Date of Trial:	13 January 1817
Where Tried:	Bristol Quarter Session
Crime:	Larceny
Sentence:	7 years
Est YOB:	1796
Stated Age on Arrival:	22
Native Place:	
Occupation:	Servant
Alias/AKA:	Esther Wright, Hester/Esther Watts (m)
Marital Status (UK):	
Children on Board:	
Surgeon's Remarks:	A prostitute and mutinous
Assigned NSW or VDL	VDL

Hester was tried at the Bristol General Quarter Sessions, together with her partner in crime Elizabeth Patrick, on 13 January 1817. For the crime of stealing five yards of lace these two young women were sentenced to seven years transportation.¹ By the time Hester embarked on the convict ship *Friendship* on 3 July 1817 she had already been incarcerated in gaol for six months and may have been the Hester Wright who, during this time, was found guilty at the March Guildhall Sessions of the Peace of assaulting the Overseer of the Bishopsgate parish for which she served two months confinement.²

Where and when Hester was born is not known but from the records she would have been about 22 when she eventually reached Port Jackson, illiterate and a servant by calling, and one of the 53 *Friendship* women who, were transferred in January 1818 by the *Duke of Wellington* to Hobart.³ Peter Cosgreave, the surgeon on board the *Friendship*, labelled Hester 'A prostitute and mutinous', an opinion he perhaps justified by the fact that when she reached Hobart she was about seven months pregnant with a child conceived *en route*, father unknown.⁴ The child was born on 10 May 1818 and baptised as Eliza six months later by the Rev Knopwood, who diligently recorded in the 'Quality or Profession' column that the mother was unmarried.⁵

10 th October 1818	10 th May	Eliza daughter of	Esther	Wright	Hobart	Unmarried Knopwood
635 ✓						

The 1820 muster shows Hester to be 'With Eastwood, Hobart Town'.⁶ The man in question was Joseph Eastwood who, with John Eastwood (possibly his brother), had been convicted at Lancaster in March 1808 for being in possession of forged notes, and both sentenced to fourteen years transportation - [see also Postscript 1].⁷ The pair arrived at Sydney on 26 February 1810 on board the male convict ship *Anne*. John, aged 46, died at Parramatta in May 1811.⁸ Joseph was transferred to Hobart in 1816 on board the *Kangaroo*.⁹ By 1820 Hester was a mother of two girls and, from a subsequent record, it is apparent that Hester and Joseph may have become acquainted some time before the muster of that year – in fact, she had been assigned to him on her arrival at Hobart.¹⁰ Mary Wright was born on 10 September 1819 and baptised ten days later. Although his name did not appear on the baptism record, Joseph was probably the father, although for the 1822 Settler and Convict List there are no children ascribed to him.¹¹

20 th September 1819	10 th September	Mary daughter of	Esther	Wright	Hobart	Unmarried Knopwood
No. 745 ✓						

Joseph Eastwood was not a model convict. His charge sheet in the conduct register shows that he had been absent from muster in 1817, for which he was given extra labour for a week. In October 1818 he had embezzled

some beef for which he received 25 lashes and one month in the Gaol Gang. But more seriously, in June 1821, he was back to his old tricks.

Joseph Wilkes and Joseph Eastwood were found Guilty of forging two notes of hand, purporting to be drawn by Henry Creswell, of New Norfolk; one for the sum of 12/, the other for 10/ sterling; and were sentenced to be transported to Newcastle for the remainder of their original terms of transportation.¹²

What was to become of Hester without any 'man about the house' and with two babies to care for? At this time, even if she had been desperate enough to consider it, there was no Female Factory where she might have sought refuge and accommodation. Indeed Governor Macquarie was firmly opposed to any such establishment at Van Diemen's Land given the relatively small number of female convicts and the demand for them to take on roles as servants, partners and wives. But eventually Macquarie yielded to pressure and in mid-1821 directed that plans be drawn up for a female factory to be established.¹³ It was not until 1824, when George Arthur became Lieutenant-General, that consideration was given to the establishment of an orphan school.¹⁴

Hester did what so women in her situation did. Within two months of Joseph's departure, she had not only taken up with another man, she had actually married him. On 27 August 1821 Esther Wright, convict, age 25, and William Watts, convict, age 24, were married at Hobart Town in the presence of Sarah Scott, possibly the *Friendship* woman Sarah Gilbert now wife of James Scott, and George Northam. Neither groom nor bride could write their names, and their union was sealed by each making their mark.¹⁵ The 1822 muster records Hester as the wife of Wm. Watts and the mother of three daughters.¹⁶

William Watts	Convict	A. Endon	24 years	27 August	Banded	
Esther Wright	Convict	Friendship	25 years			485
Sarah Scott						
George Northam						

But who was the father of Hester's third child, Ann Wright, who had been born on 20 June 1821 and baptised on 17 July of the following month?¹⁷ Had the relationship between Hester and Joseph Eastwood, in whatever form it took, continued up to the time he was sent to Newcastle? At what stage had William Watts come into her life? I do not have the answers to these questions but, as we will see, William Watts was in Tasmania from late 1819.

17 July 1821	the	third	child of	Esther	Wright	Hobart	married	Phenomena
No. 1012								

William Watts, a native of Bristol, and recorded as both a horse-breaker and pipe maker, was one of 220 convicts transported on the *Lord Eldon* which arrived at Port Jackson in on 30 September 1817.¹⁸ During the six month voyage one prisoner escaped and swam ashore at Madeira and four others died during the passage, but those who did arrive were described by Governor Macquarie as being 'in good Health'.¹⁹ William had been tried and found guilty at the August 1816 Bristol Quarter Sessions for stealing muslin and sentenced to seven years transportation. Of interest is that Elizabeth Perkins, another of the "Bristol Girls" was on the case list for the same day, so it is likely that she and William Watts had at least a passing acquaintance prior to leaving their homeland.²⁰ Having spent two years consigned in New South Wales, on 18 November 1819 William was embarked on the *Admiral Cockburn* 'for the Public Service in Van Diemen's Land'.²¹ The 1820 muster records him having been sent to Mr. Carter.²² It was not too long before the first entry was made on William Watts' conduct sheet. On 20 May 1821 he had been absent from his lodgings at night and absent from Muster at Church (at which all convicts were required to present themselves). These two offences earned him 25 lashes. Three months after his marriage to Hester he escaped from the custody of the constables and, having been apprehended, was dealt out 50 lashes.²³ Only one month later the *Hobart Town Gazette* recorded that:

William Watts, convict, charged with having in his possession a canvas bag, the property of His Majesty, was found guilty, and sentenced to receive 25 lashes.²⁴

has not since been heard of, but in the beginning of March, prisoners arrived at Canton, in a boat, and stated that they had been wrecked. They were accordingly sent home in the East India Company's ships; and suspicion respecting them having been aroused, advices were sent to England to that effect. From the description given in the *Hue and Cry*, there is strong reason to believe that prisoners were concerned in the seizure of the *Cyprus*. They were remanded.³⁶

This account was overly dramatic – none of the guards was actually murdered, and some meagre provisions had been given to the castaways.

The four men were placed at the bar before Magistrate W. Ballantine, Esq. The prisoners had assumed false names but, fortuitously, two men who happened to be in London at this time were able to identify them – Thomas Capon, High Constable of Hobart Town, and ex-prisoner John Popjoy, who had been granted a pardon for saving the lives of the abandoned passengers and crew of the *Cyprus*. The latter's evidence was critical to the case.

Mr Ballantine now asked Popjoy if he could identify the prisoners.

Popjoy – I know them all well Sir. The first, (Williams) is William Watts, we used to call him Wattie on board. He left the chain gang, and turned bushranger – attempted to shoot one man and to stab another, for which he was sentenced to transportation. He has a scar on his upper lip, and the initials W.W. on his right arm.³⁷

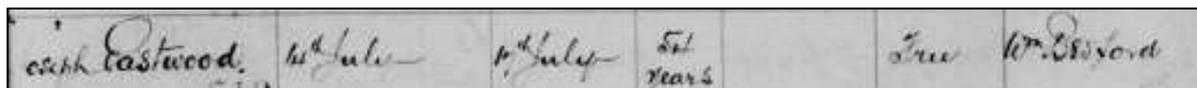
The other escapees were similarly identified. In addition to Popjoy's identification, William Watts' bible proved his undoing. The holy book, which he had taken with him to Macquarie Harbour, and still had in his possession, contained a list of family names by which he was readily identified.³⁸ They were tried at the Admiralty Sessions on 4 November and found guilty and sentenced to death. On the recommendation of the jury, mercy was shown to two of the condemned men. William Watts (together with George Davis) was executed on 16 December 1830.³⁹ They were the last men to be hanged at Execution Dock, Wapping, which, for more than 400 years, had been used for executing pirates, smugglers and mutineers who had been sentenced to death by Admiralty courts.⁴⁰ Like many deeds of derring-do, a convict ballad was composed to immortalise and romanticise the seizing of the *Cyprus*. I doubt if Hester would have joined in the chorus.

Hester must have rued the day that she met William Watts, particularly as it is possible that Joseph Eastwood might have proved to be a better prospect in the marriage stakes. In April 1822 Joseph petitioned His Excellency the Governor for a grant of land at the Derwent as follows.

That your Petitioner came to this Colony per Ship Hand [sic] in the year 1808 under sentence of the Law for 14 years.

That your Petitioner having obtained his Certificate and having a family at the Derwent and wishing to further his views in this Colony for the support of himself and his family, in the Agricultry persuits [sic] Most humbly prays Your Excellency [??] to His Humane Consideration granting him such Proportion of Land at the Derwent as is usual given to people of this Description in General.⁴¹

Also in April, in preparation for his return to the Derwent, Joseph Eastwood placed a notice in the *Sydney Gazette* advising that he was leaving New South Wales at the earliest opportunity for Van Diemen's Land.⁴² His departure was somewhat delayed. It seems that he did not return to Hobart until mid-1822. A notice, published on 22 June, placed by the agents for the brig *Glory*, which had arrived in Hobart on 31 May, advised the passenger by the name of Eastwood that if he did not pay his passage money his baggage and bedding would be sold to defray the expense.⁴³ He may also have been the Eastwood, referred to in the *Bunster v Eastwood* case of March 1823 in which Mr. Bunster advised that, by virtue of a writ of *feri facias*, he intended to sell by auction a brick dwelling house and allotment, situated at the corner of Melville and Harrington Streets.⁴⁴ Was the family referred to in Eastwood's petition Hester, Eliza, Mary and Ann? If so, he would have returned to find Hester now a married woman. In any case, any reunion would have been short-lived if the following 1823 record is for this Joseph Eastwood.⁴⁵



Within a space of ten years Hester Wright had given birth to three daughters and had formed relationships with at least two men who proved to be more trouble than they were worth. Despite her situation Hester had managed to keep out of trouble, or had at least avoided drawing attention to herself, and had received her certificate of freedom in June 1824. But by 1828 she was struggling and was forced to resort to the Queens Orphan School, as evidenced by three rather confusing records.⁴⁶

Number 5552:	Eliza/Elizabeth WATTS
Mother:	WRIGHT, Esther/Hester
Father:	WATTS, William
Mother's ship:	Friendship
Father's ship:	Lord Eden [sic]
Age when admitted:	10yrs
Date admitted:	9 Sep 1828
Date discharged	12 April 1832, 19 Sep 1836
Discharged to:	Thomas Forster, mother
Remarks:	Joseph Eastwood, convict to NSW
References	SWD24 p.379, 28, CSO5/86/1885

Number 5554:	Mary/Mary Ann WATTS
Mother:	WRIGHT, Esther/Hester
Father:	WATTS, William
Mother's ship:	Friendship
Father's ship:	Lord Eden [sic]
Age when admitted:	8yrs
Date admitted:	9 Sep 1828
Date discharged	8 Mar 1832
Discharged to:	[not recorded]
Remarks:	Child has been with Whiteburn
References	SWD24 p.233, 28, CSO5/86/1885

Number 5839:	Mary Ann WRIGHT
Mother:	WRIGHT, Esther/Hester
Father:	EASTWOOD, Joseph
Mother's ship:	Friendship & D Wellington
Father's ship:	[not recorded]
Age when admitted:	8yrs
Date admitted:	6 Sep 1828
Date discharged	[not recorded]
Discharged to:	[not recorded]
Remarks:	Recommended for Queens Orphan School – children illegitimate
References	SWD24 p.82, 28, CSO1/122

In September 1828 the ages of Hester's three daughters would have been Eliza 10, Mary 8, and Ann 7. The above records seem to relate only to the two older girls. This begs the question as to why daughter Ann was not registered. Perhaps, assuming that Ann was still alive, Hester had managed to keep her youngest child with her. However this child might have been the subject of an inquest reported in the *Hobart Town Gazette* in November 1825.

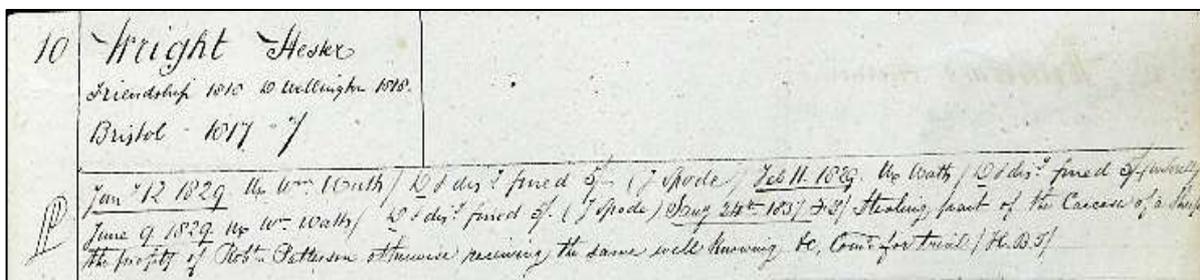
An Inquest was held last week at New Norfolk, before Mr. G. Brooks, Esq. Coroner, on the body of Ann Watt, a



child five years of age. Mrs. Watt [sic] having occasion to leave the house for a short period, shut the door, placing the child outside. It appeared that the unfortunate girl, being enticed by some article that was cooking, entered at the window, and in her attempt to obtain the object of her wishes, burned herself so dreadfully, as to live but a few hours.⁴⁷

Mary/Mary Ann Watts/Mary Ann Wright was apparently recorded twice, with a minor difference in the admittance date, and with alternative names for the father. As Mary/Mary Ann Watts she was discharged in 1832 [at age 12], but to whom is not recorded. The record for Eliza could be interpreted as her having been discharged in 1832 [at age 14] to Thomas Forster, returned, and again discharged in 1836 [at age 18], this time to her mother.

It was on 12 January 1829 that Hester's first colonial offence was recorded against her name in the convict conduct register. She was convicted of being drunk and disorderly and fined 5 shillings. She was fined twice more that year for the same offence on 11 February and 9 June. For each of these her status was given as 'Ux Watts'. It was as 'FS' (free by servitude) that, on 24 January 1837, she was committed for trial for her fourth and last offence – 'Stealing part of the Carcase of a Sheep, the property of Robt. Patterson otherwise receiving the same well knowing &c, Com^d for trial'. At the bottom of the conduct record is the notation '6.2.37. Goal'.⁴⁸



I have found no record of Hester's trial, but a case brought before the Supreme Court in Hobart on 7 March 1837 may be connected. In this matter Robert Patterson of Hamilton deposed that on 21 January 1837 he had seen two men (then prisoners) driving some of his sheep away from his property where they were subsequently found at the prisoner's hut.⁴⁹ If the two matters were linked it might suggest that by this time Hester was living in the Hamilton district.

Unless further information can be found, the 1837 notation on her conduct record brings to an end the documentary trail for Hester Wright. But while I have only found an unsubstantiated record for the death of Ann Watt, something more might have been found for the eldest daughter Eliza and her sibling Mary/Mary Ann.

Eliza

It was in the Hamilton district that, on 17 April 1850, an Eliza Watts married John Morgan by licence and according to the rites of the Catholic Church. The ceremony was witnessed by Joseph and Ellen Best who were able to sign their names, unlike the bride and groom who both made their mark.

1850 MARRIAGES in the District of Hamilton - Hobart								
Number	When married, and where.	Name and Residence.	Age.	Rank.	Signature and Description of Parties.	Name of Clergyman, Officiating Minister, or Deputy Registrar.	When registered.	Signature of Deputy Registrar or Officiating Minister.
1850 359	17 April 1850	John Morgan Eliza Watts	38 32	Farmer Servant	John Morgan Eliza Watts	John Morgan Eliza Watts	17 April 1850	

Married in the presence of the following witnesses: John Morgan, Eliza Watts, Joseph Best, Ellen Best.

According to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Holy Catholic Church by Licentiate [Signature] Minister.

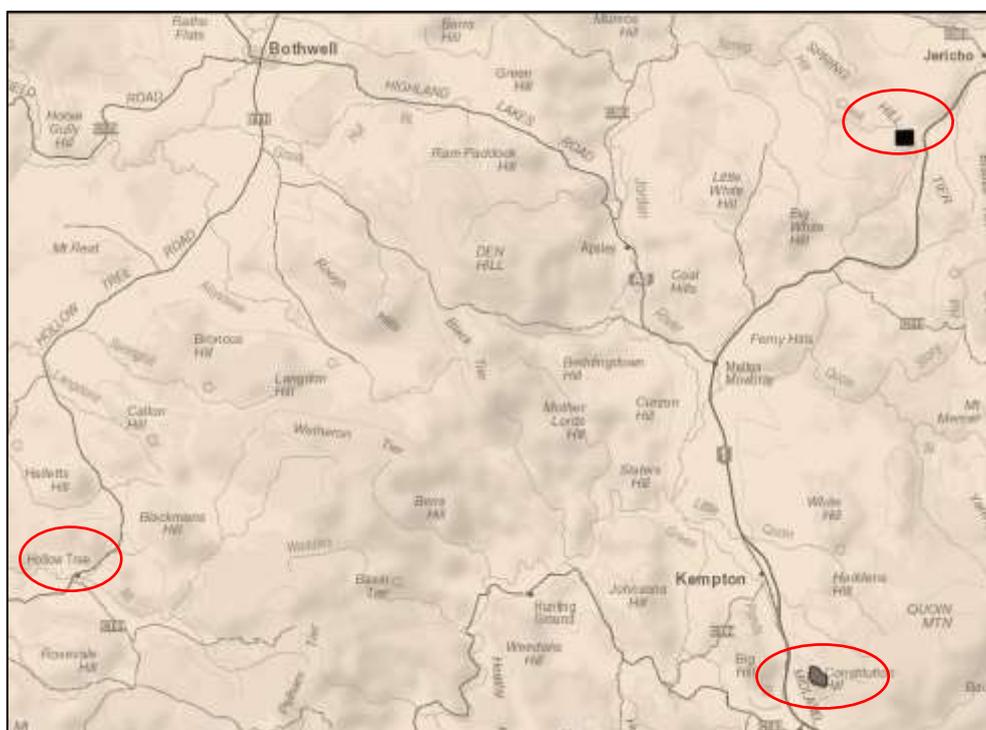
{ In the Presence of us } [Signatures]

The marriage took place at Hollow Tree, in the central highlands, not far from Hamilton and on the Hamilton-Bothwell road. It was then, and is now, good farming country. John Morgan, a bachelor, gave his age as 38 and occupation as farmer. Spinster Eliza, age 32, was a servant.⁵⁰



Hollow Tree environs
(Photograph, Mike Fretwell, March 2018)

John Morgan was probably the convict of that name, and one of the 186 convicts who arrived in Van Diemen's Land per the *Lord William Bentinck*, having sailed from Portsmouth on 7 May 1832 and arrived at Van Diemen's Land on 28 August. This young man had been tried at the 1832 Middlesex January Assizes for larceny, found guilty and sentenced to seven years transportation.⁵¹ According to the Appropriation List, he was a 17 year old tailor, and was initially assigned to a Mr. Joynes, a tailor of Murray Street, Hobart.⁵² His conduct sheet tells us that he was constantly in trouble – so frequently in fact that his misdemeanours fill the allotted half page, and are continued on a separate page, of tightly, and hard to read details. There is a litany of absences without leave, disobedience, neglect of duty, and drunkenness. Penalties included being put in the stocks, time on the tread-wheel, lashings and periods of hard labour and imprisonment in the Hulk Chain Gang, and with the Constitution Hill and Spring Hill road gangs. Despite his record, he was issued with his certificate of freedom on 10 February 1841.⁵³



It may be that Eliza had been employed by Joseph and Ellen (Eleanor) Best who themselves had been married in a Catholic ceremony in January 1848, Joseph being a farmer and his bride a farmer's daughter.⁵⁴ John Morgan's stated occupation - farmer - was aspirational rather than factual, because for the registrations of the births and deaths of his children he was variously recorded as 'labourer', 'splitter' and 'sawyer'. So he too may have been



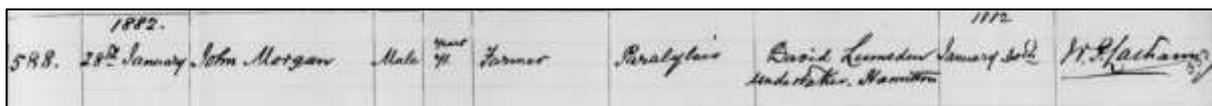
employed by the Bests.

Indeed, the Bests may have encouraged John and Eliza to legitimise their relationship and also the children who had been born prior to their marriage. Citing John Morgan as the father, on 16 January 1843 Eliza Watts of Hamilton had registered the birth, on 12 December 1842, of an unnamed son.⁵⁵ On the same day, she registered the death of this child, who only lived for one day. The death record is found under the surname Watts.⁵⁶ It was as Eliza Morgan, mother, that she registered the next birth, again an unnamed son of John Morgan, in January 1844.⁵⁷ The registrations of two daughters followed, Ann and Elizabeth, born in November 1847 and October 1849 respectively.⁵⁸ It has been mooted that Eliza had possibly given birth to three other children, for whom no birth registration has been found – Mary (1839), Hugh (1840), and Ellen (1846).⁵⁹ However death registrations have been located for Hugh and Ellen. Hugh Morgan's sudden death at the age of 14 on 11 December 1852 at Hollow Tree was the subject of an inquest. It was determined that death, from concussion of the brain, was accidental. It is interesting to note that at the time of his death, and for the previous six years, he had been living with a family named Hobbs.⁶⁰ Even more interesting is the fact that Mrs. Hobbs, prior to her marriage to William Hobbs had been Ellen Byrne/Burne, and prior to that was Ellen Simkin, another of the *Friendship* women. Scarlet fever was the cause of 8 year old Ellen Morgan's death in March 1854. Her mother, Eliza Morgan, registered the death at Bothwell.⁶¹

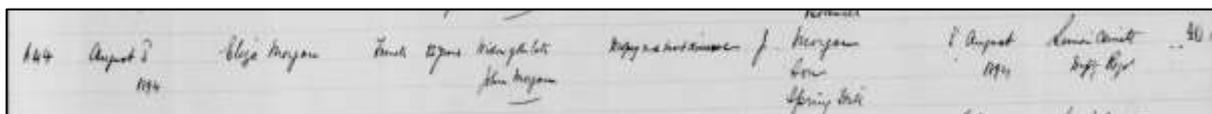
What can we make of this somewhat complicated family set up? The key to clarifying the situation is establishing when John Morgan and Eliza Watts 'became a couple'. If, as has been suggested, the unnamed child born in 1844 was the first one to be fathered by John Morgan, who fathered Eliza's earlier children?⁶² But even though the 1842 birth was registered in the name Watts, the purported father was John Morgan. Is there any significance in the fact that Hugh had lived away from home from about 1844? Without anything firmer to rely on there really is no answer to these questions and, regardless, all the children were known by the surname Morgan.

John and Eliza went on to have eight more children – Ann (1847), Elizabeth (1849), Thomas (1851-1911), Emma (1854-1916), Hugh (1856-1938), James (1859-1860), James (1862), and Easter (1864).⁶³ As 'Easter' is a variation of the names 'Esther' and 'Hester', could this perhaps indicate a familial link to Hester/Esther Watts (Wright)?

John Morgan died aged 71 at Hamilton on 28 January 1882. His occupation was again given as farmer and the cause of death was paralysis, a distressing way to end a life.⁶⁴



Eliza was 82 years old when she died on 3 August 1894. Her son, James Morgan, of Spring Hill was the informant and the cause of death was dropsy and heart disease.⁶⁵

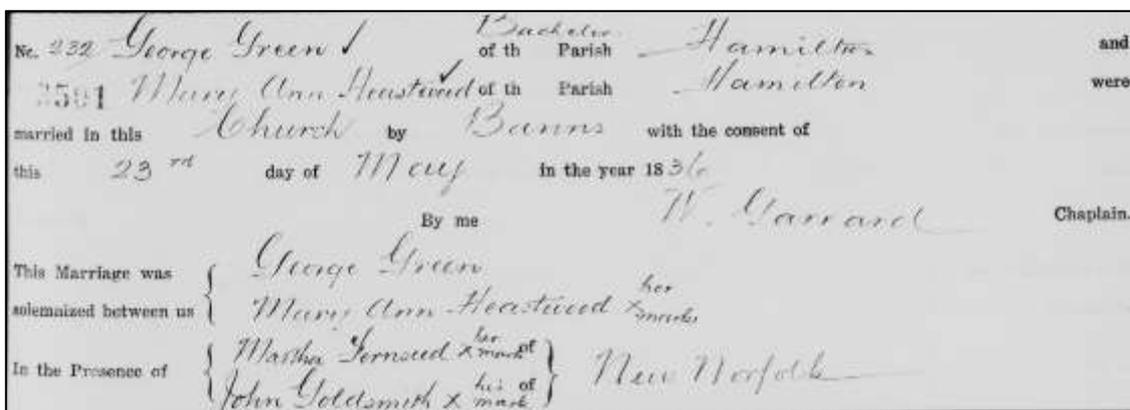


Mary Ann

The last 'sighting' of Hester's daughter Mary Ann was the rather confusing entries in the register of the Queen's Orphan School, one of which referred to a Mary/Mary Ann Watts, daughter of Hester Wright and William Watts, and the other to Mary Ann Wright, daughter of Hester Wright and Joseph Eastwood. For the first entry, the young girl in question had been admitted to the Orphan School on 9 September 1828 and discharged on 8 March 1832, but to whom is not recorded, although there was a notation that the 'Child has been with Whiteburn'.⁶⁶ The subject of the second entry had been admitted on 6 September 1828, but when and to whom she was released is not recorded. For both entries, on admission the child had been 8 years old.

It was through the detective work of another 'Hester' researcher that further information about Hester's daughter Mary Ann came to light.⁶⁷ It was as Mary Ann Heastwood that this young woman was married by banns

at Hamilton on 23 May 1836. Her husband was bachelor George Green, the only member of the wedding party who signed the register.⁶⁸



The entry provides no information as to George Green’s provenance and status – e.g. whether native born or by which ship he had arrived, and his occupation. No application for permission to marry has been found which suggests that, if George had arrived as a convict, he was a free man by 1836. No ages are recorded, but the bride would have been 16. Both Mary Ann and her husband were ‘of the parish of Hamilton’ which suggests that Mary Ann may have kept in touch with her sister Eliza and, if she was living in the same district, with her mother Hester.

The first of the Green children, a daughter named Mary Anne, was born on 16 October 1836, a month after her mother’s seventeenth birthday. Two years later, on 27 September 1838, a son named George was born. Both children were baptised at Hobart on 30 December 1838 and, from the register we learn that father George was a butcher by trade, and the family was living at New Town Road, Hobart.⁶⁹

30 th December / Dec ^r 1838	16 th Oct 1836	Mary Anne	George and Green	New Town Road	Butcher	Wm Bedford
No. 567	27 th Sept 1838	George	George and Green	New Town Road	Butcher	Wm Bedford

Another son, William, was born on 27 September 1841 but his parents, George Green and Mary Ann Heartwood [sic] of New Town Road, did not register the birth until May of the following year.⁷⁰

27 th September 1841	William	Mrs. George Green	Mary Ann Green	Butcher	George Green	27 th May 1842	Wm Bedford
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The next child and another son, Charles Henry, was born on 9 September 1843 and baptised the same year.⁷¹

15 th October 1843	9 th Sept 1843	Charles Henry	George and Mary Anne Green	Sealand Town	Butcher	Wm Bedford
No. 2054						

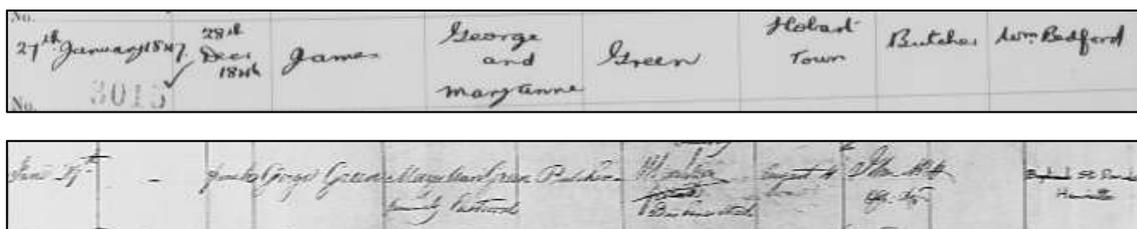
It was not until January 1844 that his father, now of Elizabeth Street, registered the birth.⁷²

23 rd Sept 1843	Charles Henry	George Green	Mary Ann Heartwood	Bachelor	George Green	23 rd January 1844	Wm Bedford
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Named for her grandmother, the next arrival was Agnes Esther Green, born on 23 July 1845.⁷³

23 rd July 1845	Agnes Esther	George Green	Mary Ann Green	Butcher	George Green	23 rd July 1845	Wm Bedford
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Two more children followed – James in December 1846 and another daughter, Henrietta, in June 1848.⁷⁴



The birth registrations show that the family was living at Elizabeth Street in 1844. In fact, Elizabeth Street had been the family address in 1843. And it was then that they suffered a financial set-back, as did so many businesses in the economic downturn of the early 1840s.⁷⁵

IN the matter of the Insolvency of George Green, of Elizabeth-street, Hobart Town, in Van Diemen's Land, Butcher.—Notice is hereby given, that Valentine Fleming, Esq., Commissioner of Insolvent Estates for Hobart Town, has appointed Wednesday, the 29th day of March instant, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon, for the First General Meeting of the Creditors of the above-named George Green, for the proof of debts, the examination of the Insolvent, and for otherwise proceeding in the matters of the insolvency.—Dated the 1st day of March, 1843.

THOMAS NICHOLSON,
Solicitor to the insolvency. (R)

However, George survived the bankruptcy crisis and was soon back on his financial feet. In April 1844 he called for tenders for a building project.⁷⁶

TO CARPENTERS, BRICKLAYERS, &c.—TENDERS for the Erection of a Building will be received by the undersigned until five o'clock on Monday afternoon next, where plans and specification, &c., may be seen, and at which time they will be opened.

69, Liverpool street, April 4. GEORGE GREEN.

It was also in April 1844 that he was delighted to announce that not only was he back in business but had moved to new premises.⁷⁷

To the Public.

THE UNDERSIGNED begs leave to return his grateful acknowledgments to his various Friends, and the Public in general, for the liberal support he has received since his commencement in business in Elizabeth-street; and having removed to those more eligible premises in Liverpool-street, lately the Meat Company's Establishment, trusts to merit by his close attention and the superior quality of Meat, the further continuance of their favours, assuring one and all, that his prices will be found equally as low as at any shop in town.

N.B.—Shipping supplied on the very lowest terms.

GEORGE GREEN, 69, Liverpool-st.
April 9, 1844. 552

However, it was from Liverpool Street that, in January 1846, George Green advised the public as follows.⁷⁸

MEAT BAZAAR,
69, Liverpool-street.

THE Undersigned begs to acquaint his numerous Customers and the Public, that he has disposed of the Business lately conducted by him as **WHOLESALE and RETAIL BUTCHER**, in *Liverpool-street*, to Mr. Martin Ladds, who will take possession of the same on **MONDAY NEXT**, the 19th instant; and upon withdrawing himself from the Trade, and the support of those who have hitherto kindly given him their patronage, takes this opportunity of returning them his sincere thanks, and of assuring them that he can with confidence recommend his successor for the same liberal support he has always experienced.

GEORGE GREEN.

69, Liverpool-street,
January 12, 1846.

At the same time, Messrs Lowes and Macmichael, Auctioneers, gave notice of a forthcoming sale of the 'Household Furniture and Effects, the property of Mr. George Green, retiring from business, on the premises at the corner of Liverpool and Murray-streets' to be held on Monday 19 January.⁷⁹

Had the business not been as successful as George and Mary Ann had hoped? It is hard to tell. But certainly it was not a spur of the moment decision to 'retire'. In September 1845 George had sought expressions of interest for the letting of his business and residential property.⁸⁰

**DESIRABLE SHOP AND PREMISES
TO BE LET.**

TO BE LET, the Shop, Dwelling-House, and Extensive Premises now in the occupation of the Undersigned (who is desirous of retiring from the business), for the remainder of the lease, $3\frac{1}{2}$ years from the 1st of October next. The whole of the buildings have been newly erected, and are in thorough repair; and the situation, for any business, is one of the best in the City.

Any person possessing a small capital, may here ensure a certain independence.

Further particulars may be learnt on application to the Undersigned.

GEORGE GREEN.

69, Liverpool-street, Sept. 19, 1845. 1441

According to an obituary for Mary Ann Green (see below), she and George with their family moved from Tasmania to Victoria around 1845, landing at Port Albert and then making their way to Flooding Creek (now Sale) in the Gippsland district. Disappointed with the primitive conditions, the family returned to Tasmania. From the births of their children they would have left Tasmania after the birth of James in December 1846 and returned before the birth of Henrietta in June 1848.

These dates fit in with a notice placed in the Colonial Times in January 1849, announcing that George Green once again had opened a 'Butchering Establishment'.⁸¹



**BUTCHERING ESTABLISHMENT,
No. 35,
ELIZABETH STREET.**

THE Undersigned begs leave most respectfully to return his sincere thanks to his friends and the public generally for the support he received for EIGHT YEARS while in business, and informs them that he has OPENED the SHOP next to Mr. HIXSON, Chemist, with a supply of the best Meat that can be procured in the colony, and invites an inspection of the same, and trusts, by keeping a first-rate article, combined with civility and attention, to merit a share of public patronage.

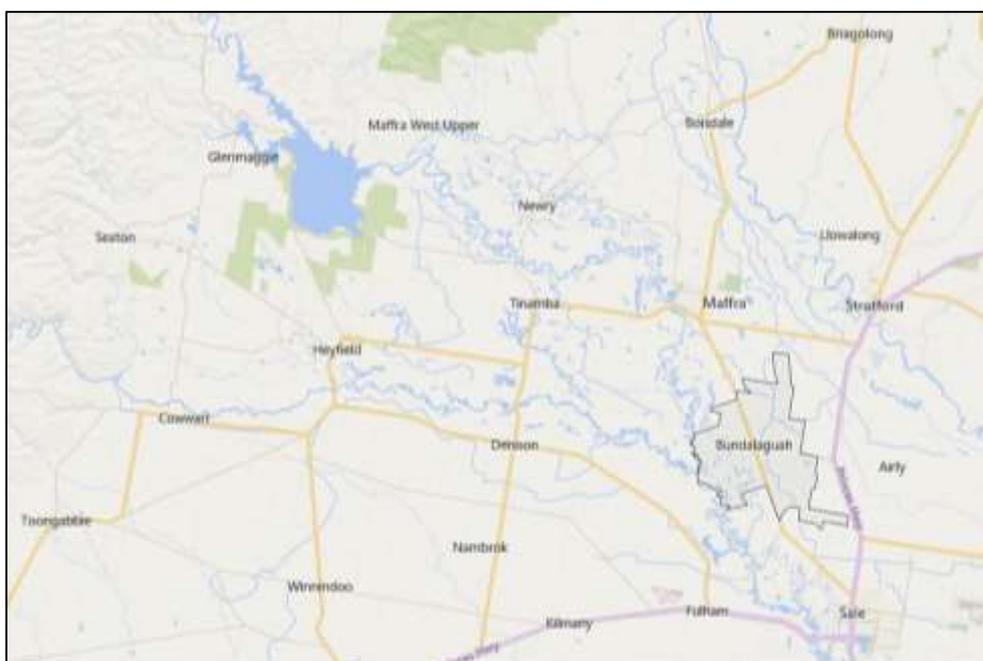
GEORGE GREEN.

January 16, 1848. 210

However, the Green family was back in Victoria by 1851 when the birth of their next child, Emily Jane Green, was registered. They went on to have a further seven children – Martha Alice (1854), Amelia Jane (1856), Annie Louisa (1860), Frances Ada (1861), Laura Matilda (1864), Edward (1866).⁸²

George and Mary Ann were away from home and staying with friends when George died on 4 April 1887. The circumstances were the subject of a coronial inquiry. The *Weekly Times* reported:

The body of an old and respected resident of Gippsland, named George Green, was discovered on Monday in a waterhole near the residence of Mr. Fritz Schroeder, Bundalaguah, near Sale, with whom he had been staying for a few days. This morning he appeared to be in his usual health, and went out for a walk and Mr. Schroeder's son, noticing his absence, went in search, and found him in the place named. He was known to have been suffering from an affection of the heart, and the occurrence is generally believed to have been accidental. The deceased was seventy-five years of age, and thirty years ago he was a butcher in Sale. Of late years he has resided at Glenmaggie. He leaves a wife and grown-up family.⁸³



The *Traralgon Record* echoed the sentiments at the loss of another of Gippsland's very old residents, George Green, who had been 75 years of age at his death, which sad occurrence 'is much regretted by the numerous friends which he had made during his 30 years residence in the district'.⁸⁴ Contrary to the finding of accidental death, it is likely, from the evidence given at the coronial inquiry, that George had committed suicide. Mary Ann testified that George had been under the care of Dr. McLean for the past three weeks. He had complained of

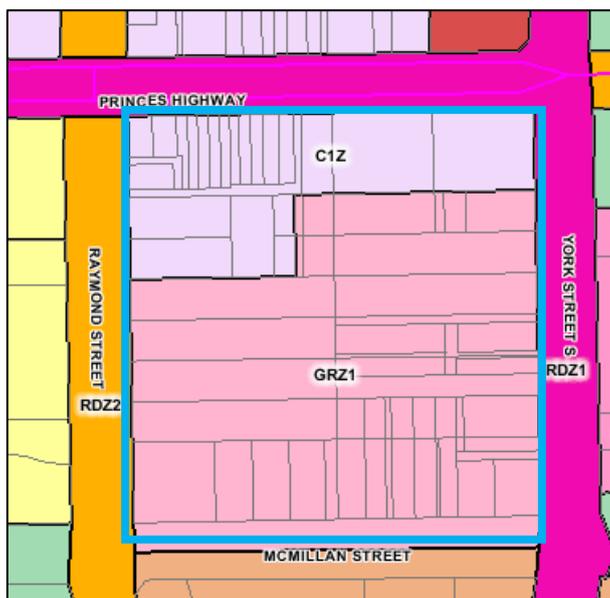


pains in his head and he had been very much troubled by family matters. Fritz Schroeder had observed that George had been ‘rather strange in his manner’, and his wife Caroline confirmed that George had seemed to be ‘in a delicate state of health’.

Mary Ann Green outlived her husband by just over twenty years. She died at Heyfield at the age of 89 on 22 February 1908. It is from an obituary published in the *Traralgon Record* that we gain an understanding of her life in Victoria, and an appreciation of her courage and resilience.

A GIPPSLAND PIONEER

The “Gippsland Mercury,” referring to the death of the late Mrs Green, of Heyfield, which was announced in our columns last week, writes: An interesting link with the early history of Gippsland was removed by the death at Heyfield, of Mrs Mary Ann, relict of the late Geo. Green, farmer, of Glenmaggie. It is tolerably certain that the late Mrs Green arrived in Sale, or Flooding Creek as it was then known, in the year 1845, having landed at Port Albert with her husband and family from Tasmania, her native place. Most people living in the district to-day have but a faint conception of the hardships encountered by the earl settlers, or the trouble involved in a journey from Port Albert northward to the interior. Mr. and Mrs Green experienced their full share of these, and apparently were not enamoured with the conditions of life in the new land, which was little better than a primitive wild, for they returned to Tasmania after a brief stay. However, their destiny soon brought them again to Gippsland, where they settled permanently to face the battles of pioneer life, and from thenceforth were prominently connected with the large district of which Sale is the head, except for a short sojourn on the goldfields at Bendigo. On Mrs Green’s return to Gippsland from that place she travelled the whole distance by bullock dray. Mrs. Green remembered the site of the town of Sale as a thick forest; the backwaters a swampy region, covered with thick dense thicket of ti-tree. Here the blacks were numerous, and often held high carnival, and the time of their corroborees was a fearsome one to the few women forming the sole white female population. Her recollections were vivid of the menacing and terrifying attitude of the aboriginals, emboldened by the absence of their husbands at the diggings. Previous to the separation of the colonies of Victoria and New South Wales, Mr and Mrs Green were in occupation of the block of land bounded by York, Foster, Raymond and McMillan-streets, and it was known as “Green’s paddock,” part of it being under crop and orchard. On separation taking place this, with other township blocks, was advertised for sale by auction, and the Government announcement described the place as “Sale.” The local people generally were misled by the description, and the place was known to them only as Flooding Creek, and many occupants had their blocks sold over their heads in Sydney before they were aware of it. The block mentioned was purchased by Messrs Turnbull and Howden. From them Mr Green bought a good sized piece, comprising allotments and the lower end of York and McMillan street, opposite the gas works. On the position facing York street he erected buildings, and about 1860 a butcher’s shop, which business he carried on for some time.



Green’s Paddock (Foster Street now Princes Highway)⁸⁵



Later on they selected land at Glenmaggie, and lived many years there. It may be interesting to some to learn that Mr. Green was the donor of the handsome pulpit and communion rail erected in the Sale Wesleyan Church, at a cost of £50. The material is of Huon pine, procured by Green himself from Tasmania. Since her husband's death in 1887 Mrs Green has lived principally at Seaton. She retained wonderful physical vigor right up to the time of the illness which attacked her a few weeks ago, and latterly much of her time was spent in visiting numerous friend and relatives in different parts of the district, and she was able to travel with little appearance of fatigue. Mrs Green was the mother of fifteen children, and eight survive her.⁸⁶

Mary Ann's death was also picked up by *The Age*.

HEYFIELD – Mrs. Mary Ann Green, one of the pioneers of Gippsland, died here on Saturday aged 90. Deceased, who was a native of Tasmania, arrived in Gippsland via Port Albert 63 years ago, and with exception of a short interval on the Bendigo diggings has ever since been identified with the Sale, Maffra and Glenmaggie districts. Mrs. Green was the mother of fifteen children, eight of whom are still living, including the eldest, who is 72. The grandchildren and great grandchildren numbered 134, of whom 120 survive.⁸⁷

The surviving children were eldest daughter Mary Ann, William, Charles Henry, Agnes Esther, James, Henrietta, Frances Ada and Laura Matilda.⁸⁸

Both George and Mary Ann Green were buried in the Sale Cemetery, laid to rest in Lot 59, Row A, Section 3. In the Cemetery index George is recorded as 'Son of George Osbaldeston Green [sic] and Ann Green'. Was the addition of the name 'Green' a mistake or an attempt to 'legitimise' Ann as a married woman (see below)? Mary Ann Green (née Eastwood) was merely recorded as 'Daughter of Unknown Eastwood'.⁸⁹



Headstone, George and Mary Ann Green⁹⁰



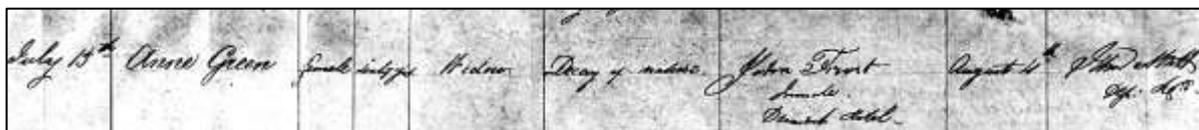
Mary Ann Eastwood⁹¹

While Eastwood and variations was the surname recorded for the mother in the various 'rite of passage' registrations of the Green children, there was one exception, which provides a direct link back to Hester Wright. With reference to the second of Mary Ann's obituaries, the 'eldest, who is 72' was the Green's eldest daughter also named Mary Ann. This daughter married Robert Geddes at Sale on 11 December 1857. On the marriage certificate the parents of the bride were listed as George Green, Butcher, and Mary Ann Wright.⁹²

Christened	28	Sale	Sale	Robert Geddes	Engineer
	.			Agnes Bryson	
	21	Sale	Sale	George Green	Butcher
				Mary Ann Wright	

Similarly, in the Sale Cemetery index, Mary Ann Geddes (née Green), who died on 8 February 1926, was recorded as 'Daughter of George Green and Mary Ann Wright'.⁹³

Mary Ann Green's death registration provides no information as to her parents' names or her place of birth.⁹⁴ On the other hand the death certificate for George Green is much more informative. He was born in Yorkshire, the son of George Osbaldeston and Anne Green. He had lived in Tasmania for 17 years and in Victoria for 41 years. He had been 26 when he married Mary Ann Eastwood.⁹⁵ Based on this information, he was born about 1810, and arrived in Tasmania around about 1829 at the age of about 19. But, under what circumstances had he arrived in the colony? In brief, George was born about 1812 in Yorkshire, the illegitimate outcome of a liaison between the rambunctious George Osbaldeston, scion of an old established Yorkshire family, and nicknamed 'The Squire of England', and Miss Anne Green, described by Squire George as 'a member of the frail sisterhood but not at all common'. Arrangements, and probably some financial provision, were made for Anne and her son, named George Osbaldeston Green, to be shipped off to Tasmania.⁹⁶ However, the date of their arrival has not been confirmed. Anne Green died in Hobart on 13 July 1846. She was 60 years old and the cause of death was given as decay of nature. The informant was John Frost, inmate of the Derwent Hotel.⁹⁷



Life for Hester Wright, an illiterate servant girl with an unfortunate choice of partners and few if any resources to fall back on, held out very little hope for happiness and good fortune. As just one of many female convicts who found themselves in Van Diemen's Land, Hester Wright was virtually unnoticed, her life of little significance. But within the microcosm of her own family she was eminently significant as the founding member of a small dynasty. Hopefully, if she lived long enough, and if Eliza Morgan and Mary Ann Eastwood were her daughters, she found fulfilment and some joy through her grandchildren. They certainly rewarded her with an enduring and extensive legacy.

Postscript 1 - The Eastwood Family

Further research confirms that John and Joseph Eastwood, who arrived together at Sydney in February 1810 on board the convict ship *Anne*, were indeed brothers. It also serves to illustrate that the two brothers could consider themselves fortunate to have arrived at all.

War with France and a series of poor harvests had resulted by 1795 in an alarming diminution of gold bullion stocks. To cover what was anticipated to be a short-term measure, the Bank Restriction Act was passed, by which the Bank of England was allowed to issue one and two pound notes, which it proceeded to do in great numbers. The forging of bank notes had been a capital crime since 1697, extended in 1725 to include uttering with intent to defraud. However, because the new lower denomination notes were so ridiculously easy to copy, from 1795 there was an almost inevitable and most alarming rise in counterfeit crime. And with so many people now prepared to take the risk of being caught the number of prosecutions, and subsequent hangings, increased exponentially. It was not until May 1801, with the Bank Restriction Act still in force, that a new law was introduced by which those capitally sentenced for forging and uttering might be allowed to plead guilty to 'possession of false notes' which, if accepted, would automatically incur the lesser sentence of fourteen years transportation.

The Eastwood boys may have escaped the gallows, but not so someone else with the same surname, probably a relative and possibly their sister.⁹⁸ *The Caledonian Mercury* of 11 May 1801 reported ⁹⁹

On Saturday se'ennight were executed at Lancaster, pursuant to their sentences, JOHN DONAGHY and HANNAH EASTWOOD, for uttering forged bank notes; and ROBERT SCOTT for uttering a forged bill of exchange.

Hannah Eastwood, who was hanged on Saturday 2 May 1801 for forging £1 notes at Manchester, was the first woman to be executed in the county since 1772. The first hangings at the Lancaster Castle took place in the Lent Assizes of 1800, with the usual day for such events being, as in Hannah's case, a Saturday, presumably 'to be sure of attracting the largest audience for the purpose of maximum deterrence'. The execution was carried out at "The Hanging Corner", a small round tower on the east side of the building. Hannah Eastwood would have been brought from the condemned cell to the "Drop Room" on the ground floor where she would have been pinioned and said her final prayers, before being led out through the French windows onto the balcony style gallows which would have been prepared the day before.¹⁰⁰ The timing for Hannah was most unfortunate. She had been tried at Manchester on 3 February 1801.¹⁰¹ If only she had been tried and sentenced a couple of months later, she might have been able to avoid the gallows.



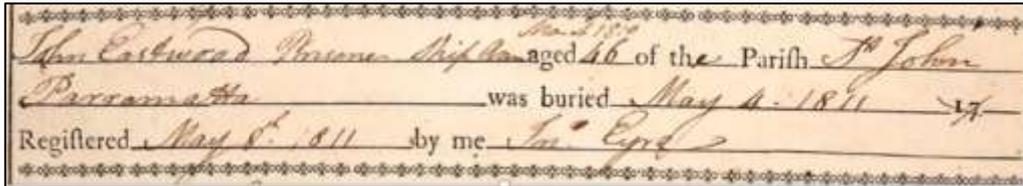
"Hanging Corner" - Lancaster Castle¹⁰²

Between the May 1801 hanging of Hannah and the March 1808 trial of Joseph (and John) Eastwood, the name Eastwood crops up in relation to other criminal matters. In August 1806 a John Eastwood of Highgate, near Royton, was committed by the Coroner to the Lancaster Castle, charged with the wilful murder of Nicholas Kershaw on the Preston Racecourse, on or about 15 July, but was subsequently acquitted.¹⁰³ On 5 March 1808 the *Lancaster Gazette* carried an item concerning John and Mary Eastwood having paid a forged banknote to Johnathon Meller, a shoemaker of Oldham.¹⁰⁴

On Wednesday se'nnight, at the New Bayley, Manchester, John and Mary Eastwood, of Royton, near Oldham, were committed to Lancaster Castle, by R. A. Farrington, Esq. for uttering forged Bank of England notes.

As we know, at the subsequent trial both John and Joseph Eastwood pleaded guilty to having Bank notes in their possession and were duly found guilty. However, Mary Eastwood, John's wife, was acquitted.¹⁰⁵ In fact, Joseph Eastwood was rather unfortunate, or somewhat careless. According to one account he was arrested when he was on his way to Lancaster to see his brother John. *En route* he passed a bad note at Bolton, and was also found with a large quantity of dud notes about his person. So the law got two Eastwoods for the price of one. And as we know, the two men were sentenced to the statutory 14 years transportation.¹⁰⁶ Over the next two years the Court was not so lenient - 13 men were hanged at Lancaster Castle for passing forged bank notes.¹⁰⁷

When John and Joseph Eastwood departed English shores they were, respectively, aged about 41 and 37, hardly in the flush of youth. While no mention has been made of any wives or family left behind, we know at least that John was a married man. John may not have been 'free' to marry when he arrived at Sydney in February 1810, but it was not long before he established a relationship with one Elizabeth Bayly [sic], a union which resulted in two children, probably twins – John and Elizabeth – recorded as being born on 25 October 1811 and baptised on 21 January 1812.¹⁰⁸ The indents show that Elizabeth Bailey, who was herself a married woman – ux George Bailey - had been sentenced to seven years transportation at Kingston-upon-Hull in April 1809 for larceny, and at the age of about 32 had arrived at Sydney on 10 September 1810 on board the *Canada*, the next ship to arrive after the *Anne*.¹⁰⁹ However, John did not live to see the birth of his two children. His death at the age of 46 in May 1811 and his burial on 4 May 1811 were registered in the Parramatta St. Johns Church of England register.¹¹⁰



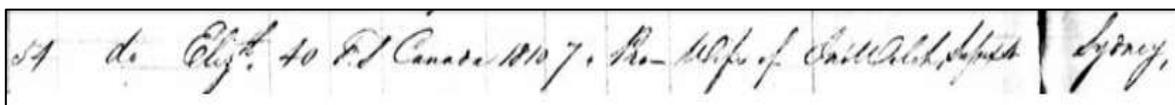
In 1814 Elizabeth Bayly was mustered at Sydney, now with three children, and living with a J. Welch.¹¹¹ The Mr. Welch in question was John Welch (aka Welsh) who had arrived per *Guildford* in 1812, who was a brickmaker by trade, and by whom Elizabeth had at least five children. As can be seen from the 1822 general muster (which incorrectly refers to her as E. Barclay) Elizabeth's children by John Eastwood were listed under the surname Welsh.¹¹²

Welsh John				14	Husband of E. Barclay
Welsh Elizabeth	11	130			Children of J. Welch
Welsh John	11	130			
Welsh Samuel	9	130			
Welsh William	6	130			
Welsh Jane	5	130			
Welsh Sarah	3	130			

Elizabeth and three children (with inaccurate ages recorded) appear in an 1825 general muster under the surname Bailey. Can it be assumed from this record that John Welch was not the father of Samuel?¹¹³

Bailey Elizabeth	7		Canada	1810	7	Housekeeper
Bailey Elizabeth	10					Daughter of Eliz. Barclay
Bailey John	11					do
Bailey Samuel	13					do

Elizabeth is still listed separately for the 1828 census, which confirms her *de facto* relationship with John Welch. He and the children with, since the 1822 listing, the omission of Samuel and addition of James, are found together at Sussex Street.¹¹⁴



577	Welch	John	64	St. Giles Street	1812	1819	pro	Southampton	
78	do	Elizabeth	17						
79	do	John	17						
880	do	William	12	St. B6			pro		Landing St Sydney
81	do	Jane	10						
82	do	Sarah	9						
83	do	Samuel	6						

With respect to the Eastwood family, the two children of particular interest are the twins John and Elizabeth. The last confirmed sighting for John is the 1828 census, when he was shown as a 17 year old young man in the Welch household. An earlier record for him indicates that times were often tough for his mother Elizabeth.

On 13 July 1818 the Colonial Secretary issued a circular addressed to 'the Clergymen and Magistrates throughout the Colony' advising that, with the female orphans being removed to the new school at Parramatta, it was the Governor's intention to establish a Male Orphan Institution in the now vacated premises. The intake would be restricted to fifty boys aged between the ages of 7 and 10, and whose parent/s were patently unable to support them. Accordingly, and by no later than 31 July, the clergymen and magistrates were to submit a list of boys who might be considered as deserving candidates.¹¹⁵ John Bailey, son of John Eastwood and Elizabeth Bailey, was number 13 in the list of 14 names submitted by William Cowper for the Sydney district, with the comment 'Father dead. Mother in Sydney but extremely poor'.¹¹⁶ I have not found any record to confirm that John Bailey was actually admitted into the Male Orphan Institution when it opened its doors on 1 January 1819.

13 John Bailey - [Wife John Eastwood & Elizabeth Bailey] Father dead, Mother in Sydney, but extremely poor.

Elizabeth Eastwood (aka Baillie or Welch/Welsh) was most likely the young woman who married George Ashton on 1 January 1830 at Sydney, the event being registered at the Scots Presbyterian Church.¹¹⁷

George Ashton, aged 29, Bachelor, Abode: Sydney [NSW AUS], Signed; & Elizabeth Eastwood or Elizabeth Baillie, aged 18, Spinster, Abode: Sydney [NSW AUS], Signed X; married 01 Jan 1830 Church [NSW AUS], registered Scots Church Presbyterian Sydney [NSW AUS] by Banns, with consent of Those concerned by John Dunmore Lang; Witness: John Williams, of Sydney [NSW AUS], Signed; Witness: Phoebe Clegg, Signed X [Biog Item No. 340230120]

George Ashton, whose provenance has not yet been ascertained, was a publican by trade. From 1830 to 1831 he was licensed to operate the "The Sperm Whale" in Market Street. In 1832 he was the licensee of "The Cheshire Cheese" on the Parramatta Road, and the following year was back at "The Sperm Whale". Two years later he was licensed to run "The Sawyers Arms" in Sussex Street, and in 1837 took over "The Jolly Miller", on the corner of Liverpool and Sussex Streets, the license being renewed for 1838 and 1839. By 1845 he was the licensee of the "White Hart" on the corner of King and Clarence Streets, and was still in harness there when he died in June 1846.¹¹⁸ He was buried on 29 June and on 6 July 1846 the following notice appeared in *The Sydney Morning Herald*.¹¹⁹

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF NEW SOUTH WALES.
ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION.
IN THE WILL OF GEORGE ASHTON, LATE OF THE CITY OF SYDNEY, IN THE COLONY OF NEW SOUTH WALES, LICENSED VICTUALLER, DECEASED.
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that Elizabeth Ashton, the Widow of the above named George Ashton, intends to apply to the Honorable Court, at the expiration of fourteen days from this date herein, that Letters of Administration, with the will annexed, be granted to her as the legatee under the said will.
 Dated the fourth day of July, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty-six.
ARCHIBALD LITTLE,
 Proctor for the said Elizabeth Ashton,
 810 808, Elizabeth-street.

No children have been identified as having been born to George and Elizabeth. Widow Elizabeth did not delay in remarrying, the following notice appearing in *The Sentinel* of 20 August 1846. Note, however, that the groom's name was actually Joseph and the bride's surname was Ashton.¹²⁰

MARRIED,
 This morning, by the Rev. Dr. M Garvie, Mr. James Spinks, late of the county Cavan, Ireland, to Mrs. Elizabeth Aston.

Joseph Spinks, had arrived in the colony as an assisted immigrant on 7 September 1841 on board the ship *United Kingdom*. He was then 24 years of age, a farm labourer by occupation who could read and write, and whose parents were both deceased. He had embarked at Liverpool, England, but was originally from Co. Cavan, Ireland.¹²¹ In 1844 he was issued with a stage coach license which, if he renewed it, would have been handy when he married Elizabeth because it was in his name that the license of the White Hart Inn was renewed in 1847.¹²²

At the age of 41, and just before their fifth wedding anniversary, Elizabeth Spinks died, on 30 July 1851. The friends of Mr. Joseph Spinks were requested to attend her funeral on 1 August, the procession to move from her late residence, the White Hart, corner of King and Clarence Streets.¹²³ Theirs was a childless marriage and so, with the death of Elizabeth, we come to the end of this branch of the Eastwood line. For the record, Joseph Spinks outlived his late wife by some twenty years, his death occurring at his residence, 188 Prince Street, on 20 November 1871.¹²⁴

Through Hester's *de facto* brother-in-law John Eastwood her daughters Eliza and Ann acquired two *de facto* cousins. It is possible that Hester, and perhaps also her daughters, were aware of these Sydney 'relatives' but it is very unlikely that their paths crossed.

Postscript 2 - The **Other** Hester Wright

This person has caused some 'difficulties' for a few researchers, including me. On 20 November 1848, by banns and in accordance with the rites and ceremonies of the Church of Scotland, Hester Wright, a 45 year old widow, married a much younger man, 27 year old bachelor Hancy O'Neill who, as Hance O'Neill, had arrived at Van Diemen's Land on 3 August 1842 on the *Isabella Watson*, having been sentenced in October 1841 at County Down to 7 years transportation.¹²⁵ His sentence having been served, he was granted his freedom in 1848.¹²⁶ The marriage ceremony was conducted at the house of the bride in the district of Morven. This Hester not only had property, but could also sign her own name, unlike the groom, who made his mark.¹²⁷

Number.	When married, and where.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Rank.	Signature and Description of Parties.	Name of Clergyman, Officiating Minister, or Deputy Registrar.	When registered.	Signature of Deputy Registrar or Officiating Minister.
62.	Bounded 20th Nov 1848	Haney O'Neill Hester Wright	27. 25.	Bachelor Widow.	<i>his</i> Haney O'Neill Hester Wright	Wm. Parkhill	20th Nov 1848	Wm. Parkhill Minster.
<p>Married in the <i>house of Hester Wright</i> according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Church of Scotland by <i>Wm. Parkhill</i> Minister.</p> <p>This Marriage was solemnized between <i>Haney O'Neill</i> and <i>Hester Wright</i> { In the Presence of us } <i>Alex. Stronach</i> and <i>Ann his Wife</i></p>								

Prior to this, it was as Hester Wright that she witnessed the marriage of her 18 year old daughter Susan to James Smith, on 15 February 1842 at the Independent Chapel, Tamar Street, Launceston.¹²⁸

The next record found for Hester O'Neill relates to her death. Under the heading 'Another Sudden Death' the Launceston *Weekly Examiner* reported that on 1 May 1874 an inquest was held at the O'Connell Inn 'touching the death of Hester O'Neill' who was found dead in her house in Wellington-street on the previous morning. It was the milkman who found her dead in her chair, and her daughter, Mrs. Susan Smith, who formally identified the body. According to Susan Smith, her mother lived alone, having been separated from her husband for twenty years. Dr. Miller gave evidence that her death would appear to have been from natural causes, and that was the verdict of the jury.¹²⁹ Her death entry described her as a 72 year old 'Gentlewoman' and gave the cause of death as disease of the heart. According to an entry in the England and Wales National Probate Calendar, on 13 May 1875:

Administration of the effects of Hester O'Neil [sic] late of Launceston in Tasmania Widow who died 30 April 1874 at Launceston was granted at the Principal Registry under the usual Limitations to Thomas Brightwell of Surrey-street Norwich in the County of Norfolk Gentleman the lawful Attorney of Susan Smith (Wife of James Smith) now residing at Carrick in Tasmania and William Wright and Thomas Wright both now residing in Victoria the Children and three Next of Kin. (Effects under £100).¹³⁰

The 'other' Hester Wright had been born Hester Salter, a daughter of William Salter and his wife Lucy (née Pyke). She was baptised privately at Whinbergh, Norwich, Norfolk, on 2 July 1797 and again on 13 January 1806 when, with three of her siblings, she was 'received into the church'. At the age of 18, she married 41 year old widower Garner Wright, of Knettishall, Suffolk, on 17 January 1815, also at Whinbergh, by licence and with the consent of her parents.¹³¹

In 1840 Hester Wright, together with children Susan, Thomas and Mary, arrived at Launceston on 16 March on the barque *Arab*, having sailed from London on 16 October 1839.¹³² According to a Launceston obituary for Susan Smith, the Wrights had come to the colony to take charge of the Danbury Park farm, in West Tamar, then owned by a Captain Freeman.¹³³ That may well have been the case, but another reason might have been that Garner Wright had been declared bankrupt, and in March 1838, his application for debtors prison discharge was scheduled to be heard.¹³⁴ He appeared in the 1841 census, but one year later he died. He was buried at Thetford, Norfolk, on 15 July 1842.¹³⁵

NOTES

- ¹ Bristol Mirror, 18 Jan 1817, p.3.
- ² Public Ledger and Daily Advertiser, 10 Mar 1817, p.3.
- ³ Friendship, Female Convict List Tasmania, <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~austas/friendship.htm>. Female Convict Research Centre (FCRC), Female Convicts in Van Diemen's Land database, Convict ID: 3631.
- ⁴ Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia, Colonial Secretary's Papers, 1788-1856.
- ⁵ TAHO Hobart marriages 1818, RGD32/1/1 no 635.
- ⁶ Philip Tardiff, *Notorious Strumpets and Dangerous Girls : convict women in Van Diemen's Land, 1803-1829*, Angus and Robertson, North Ryde, 1990.
- ⁷ *Lancaster Gazette*, 19 Mar 1808, p.3.



- ⁸ Biographical Database of Australia (BDA), Biographical reports for John Eastwood and Joseph Eastwood.
- ⁹ BDA, Biographical report for Joseph Eastwood. Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia, Colonial Secretary's Papers, 1788-1856, list of persons sent to the Derwent in HM Brig Kangaroo. Note, Joseph Eastwood's convict register states that he arrived in VDL per Pilot – TAHO, Conduct Register, CON31/1/9, p.1.
- ¹⁰ TAHO, Assignment List, CON13/1/1 image 111.
- ¹¹ TAHO, Hobart baptisms 1819, RGD32/1/1 no 746. Ancestry, New South Wales, Settler and Convict Lists, 1787-1834.
- ¹² TAHO, Convict Register, CON31-1-9, p.1. *The Hobart Town Gazette and Van Diemen's Land Advertiser*, 16 Jun 1821, p.2. He was transhipped to Newcastle per *Mermaid*.
- ¹³ Trudy Crowley, "Life in Van Diemen's Land Factories", <https://sites.google.com/site/convictfemalefactories/life-in-the-factories/life-in-van-diemen-s-land-factories>.
- ¹⁴ Lucy Frost, "Protecting the Children: Early Years of the King's Orphans Schools in Van Diemen's Land", Coolabah, No.10, Australian Studies Centre, Universitat de Barcelona, 2013.
- ¹⁵ TAHO, Hobart marriages 1821, RGD36/1/1 no 485. Sarah Gilbert married James Scott on 29 Jun 1818 – TAHO, Hobart marriages 1818, RGD36/1/1 no 280.
- ¹⁶ Ancestry, New South Wales, Settler and Convict Lists, 1787-1834.
- ¹⁷ TAHO, Hobart marriages 1821, RGD32/1/1 no 1019.
- ¹⁸ The International Centre for Convict Studies, <http://iccs.arts.utas.edu.au/convicts.html>.
- ¹⁹ Convict Records, <http://www.convictrecords.com.au/ships/lord-eldon/1817>. *The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser*, 4 Oct 1817, p.2. Lachlan & Elizabeth Macquarie Archive (LEMA), <http://www.mq.edu.au/macquarie-archive/lema/>.
- ²⁰ *Bristol Mirror*, 17 Aug 1816, p.3. Further, Rosemary Torvaldsen makes the following observation with respect to William Watts – 'I note he was a Bristol native and his transport conviction was for stealing Muslin. As Hester was tried in Bristol and for stealing lace and the timing of the convictions was similar plus their similar age, my theory is that they knew each other in Bristol. Maybe they were reunited when Watts was sent to Hobart?' – Email correspondence, 7 Jan 2019.
- ²¹ TAHO, Assignment Lists and Associated Papers, CON13/1/1 Page 336.
- ²² Ancestry, New South Wales and Tasmania, Australian Convict Musters, 1806-1849.
- ²³ TAHO, Conduct Register, CON31/1/45, p.51.
- ²⁴ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 24 Nov 1821, p.2.
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