



Mary Ann Caffry

Date of Trial:	18 September 1816
Where Tried:	Old Bailey, London
Crime:	Larceny from a person
Sentence:	7 years
Est YOB:	c1794
Stated Age on Arrival:	24
Native Place:	Ireland?
Occupation:	Silk Winder, Servant
Alias/AKA:	Mary Ann Caffra(e)y, Mary Ann Sutter (m), ("Dublin Poll" at trial)
Marital Status (UK):	
Children on Board:	
Surgeon's Remarks:	A thief, prostitute and blasphemous wretch
Assigned NSW or VDL	VDL

By the time she was brought up before the bench of the Old Bailey on 18 September 1816 Mary Ann would have been 'quite at home'. This was, in fact, her third charge in the space of a year. Her first appearance had been on 25 October 1815 when she was indicted for stealing 'four Bank notes, for the payment of one pound each, the property of John Cogan, from his person' on the 12 October. Mr Cogan, was a carpenter who lived at No. 2 King Street in the Borough. He testified as follows.

I went to see a female acquaintance of mine, at Mrs. M'Cartey's; it is a house of ill fame; I was not drunk. I fell asleep. I lost my notes out of my breeches pocket; the prisoner was in the room. I had her and several others taken into custody; I have never found my notes.¹

One James Mullins apprehended the prisoner but for some reason did not search her. With no evidence to substantiate Cogan's accusation the jury could do nothing but find Mary Ann 'Not Guilty'.

She was equally 'lucky' for the second charge, heard at the Old Bailey on 3 April 1816. This time she was indicted for stealing a watch, valued at £3, the property of Hugh Nouris, in the dwelling-house of James Barrett. The jury was not called upon to reach a verdict as Mary Ann was deemed not guilty by default – the prosecutor did not turn up for the trial.²

But the luck of the 23 year old woman known as "Dublin Poll" ran out when, on one night in August 1816, she lured a sailor to her lodgings and, when he was asleep, picked his pockets.

ROGER KAYNE. I have been a sailor on board the Northumberland. On the 16th of August, at night, I fell in with the prisoner; I went with her to her lodgings; I agreed to pay her three shillings for the bed and herself; I went to bed; she sat up for three or four minutes; I told her to put out the candle, and lock the door, and come to bed, and she did so. I had a twenty pound note and a five pound note in the pocket of my trowsers; I put my trowsers underneath my head, and about two o'clock in the morning; I missed her, and the notes. Two men came up to the room to send me out, and told me I should not sleep there.

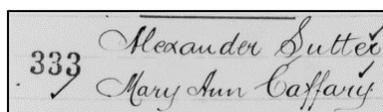
GEORGE BASEY. Hearing of this, I apprehended the prisoner at the bar, according to the description I received; she is called Dublin Poll. She was committed for re-examination; understanding the prosecutor had received the notes at Sheerness; I wrote down a letter, and a letter was sent up. In consequence of information, we stopped the notes at the Bank, and they are in Court.³

Mr. Hoale, a clerk at the Bank of England produced the notes, and stated that the £20 note had been paid in by a Mr. I. Jones of Smithfield who was able to confirm that he took the note from a man who cohabited with the prisoner. Although Roger Kayne was not able to swear to the note the jury was sufficiently convinced that Mary Ann Caffry was guilty, and she was sentenced to transportation for seven years.

She was taken back to Newgate to await the day when, nine months or so later, she was to embark on the convict transport *Friendship* which departed England on 3 July 1817 and finally arrived at Port Jackson on 14 January

1818.⁴ She was another of the female convicts who caused Surgeon Cosgreave such anguish, being described as 'A thief, prostitute and blasphemous wretch'.⁵ Free passenger and missionary John Gyles, in his report to the Newgate Ladies Committee on the convicts sent from Newgate, was generally less acerbic in his assessment. However, he observed that Mary Ann Caffray had been 'disorderly'.⁶ This unruly woman was one of the 53 who were sent on to Van Diemen's Land on the *Duke of Wellington*, where her final destination was Port Dalrymple. Aged 24, previously 'on the town' and a servant and/or silk winder by trade, she was now a world away from her Irish roots and the familiarity of her London haunts.⁷

It was not long before she found a partner. Her marriage at Port Dalrymple to Alexander Sutter was conducted sometime in 1819 by the Reverend John Youl, and was probably one of the forty-one marriages conducted during the three weeks that he spent at Port Dalrymple from December 1818 and January 1819 on a tour of inspection of his new parish. These rushed events were subsequently entered up in the parish register of Launceston's St. John's Church of England.⁸



Mary Ann was mustered in 1820 and 1821 as being at Port Dalrymple, assigned to her husband.⁹ According to her conduct record she committed no offence, or at least nothing meriting a mention.¹⁰ By September 1823 she was free by servitude and a certificate of freedom was issued to Mary Ann Caffrey [sic] at Port Dalrymple in March 1824, as announced in the *Hobart Town Gazette and Van Diemen's Land Advertiser*.¹¹

What happened to Mary Ann thereafter is a mystery. She was not the Mary Caffrey who was found guilty on 7 December 1825 by the Hobart Supreme Court of stealing glass decanters and sentenced to seven years transportation. This Mary Ann had been tried at Dublin in 1810, sentenced to seven years transportation, and arrived at Sydney on the *Archduke Charles* in 1812 and then, per *Kangaroo*, at Hobart in 1814. Under the name Mary Dockerty, on 21 October 1821 she married fellow Irish man Michael Caffrey, and it was under her married name that she appeared before the Supreme Court in 1825.¹² It was also as Mary Caffrey, prisoner, that her burial on 20 October 1827 was registered at Launceston.¹³

Generally it is easier to find information about the husbands/partners of the *Friendship* women, and Mary Ann's husband Alexander is a case in point. On 8 October 1814 (Despatch "No 14 of 1814" per ship *Seringapatam*) Governor Macquarie wrote to Earl Bathurst as follows.

My Lord,

I do myself the honor to transmit Your Lordship herewith with An Attested Copy of the Proceedings of a Court of Criminal Jurisdiction, lately assembled here, on the trial of Michael Hoolaghan and Alexander Suttar on an Indictment for Murder.

The Evidence adduced on this Occasion appearing to the Court perfectly clear and conclusive of their Guilt, the Prisoners were found Guilty and Sentenced to be hanged.

Notwithstanding this Sentence, the impression was so strong on the Public Mind that they were not Murderers, that I yielded so far to the earnest Solicitations made to me in their behalf by some Persons of respectability, as to defer the execution of the Sentence from time to time in the hope that some Circumstances would come to light to Settle every doubt on the Subject.

Most Providentially for these Apparently Ill fated Men this Suspension of their Sentence took place, for their innocence has at length been most clearly and satisfactorily established by the Voluntary Confession of one of the Real Murders, Named John White.

In consequence of this Confession John White was arrested and fully Convicted on the Clearest testimony, independent of his Own Confession, and suffered the Sentence of the Law on the 22nd of July last.

The evidence on this conviction having fully exonerated Hoolaghan and Suttar, I have respited them for the Sentence passed on them, and admitted them to Bail, until His Majesty's Pleasure shall be known thereon.



I have now to request that Your Lordship will be Pleased to lay the Proceedings of Our Criminal Court, on this extraordinary Occasion, before His Royal Highness to extend His Majesty's Free Pardon to the said Michael Houlaghan and Alexander Sutter.¹⁴

There was the inevitable time-lapse before Governor Macquarie received a response upon which he could act. Although Earl Bathurst acknowledged the despatch on 17 August 1815, it was not until 20 June 1816 that Governor Macquarie was able to advise that by the 'Warrant under the Sign Manual of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent for and on behalf of His Majesty', a free pardon was granted and Michael Houlaghan and Alexander Sutter were to be discharged from custody and 'henceforth released from all pains and penalties'.¹⁵

The crime for which the two men had been arrested was the murder at the Parramatta toll-house on 28 May 1814 of Rowland Edwards.¹⁶ At the time Houlaghan and Sutter, also from Parramatta, were labourers employed on the construction of the Liverpool road, and who were living in temporary huts about two and a half miles from the turnpike. The case for the prosecution depended heavily on the deposition of Edward Mayne, the turnpike keeper. His account of the attack and description of the attackers was supported by a number of witnesses, who were called upon to identify, and attest the provenance and ownership of handkerchiefs that the attackers had tied around their faces to disguise themselves, and which were left behind at the scene. A hat, also left behind at the scene, was produced in Court. It was apparently quite distinctive and was, according to one of the witnesses, one which Alexander Sutter had worn on the night of the murder. This same witness had referred to 'his having worn a piece of lead in his ear' and on examination by direction of the Court, Sutter's left ear was examined and found to have been pierced. Edward Mayne was almost certain that one of the attacker was Houlaghan, and somewhat sure that his accomplice had been Sutter. However, during the hearing, it became apparent that there was bad blood between Mayne and Houlaghan and that the latter had apparently threatened to kill Mayne. Notwithstanding the circumstantial nature of the prosecution evidence, the presentation of a document purporting to prove the prisoners' innocence, and, in Sutter's case, a character reference from witness, Joseph Thompson, Master of the brig *Trial*, who stated that Suttar [sic] had served under him in from November 1813 to February 1814, and he considered him 'a very peaceable man during that time' and was 'much astonished' when he heard of the arrest, the pair was found guilty. On hearing the verdict Alexander Sutter violently affirmed his innocence, to which the Judge Advocate, Ellis Bent, proceeded to respond.

The Evidence on your trial has been dispassionately weighed, and most impartially investigated by the Court, which has uniformly kept in view that benevolent maxim grounded on His Majesty's Coronation Oath, that the exercise of judgment shall be tempered with mercy; and this Court, bound equally by its Oath and by the ties of Conscience, have pronounced upon your Case and found you Guilty. – This I repeat in answer to the appeal may by the prisoner *Alexander Suitar*, and shall thence proceed minutely to apprise you both of the grounds on which this verdict has been framed.

Having 'minutely' done so, the Judge Advocate, concluded, in awful and foreboding terms.

Prisoners at the bar, every effort has been made by this Court to come at the truth of all that has been said by the various evidences; and I have now lastly to repeat to you, that the law has found you guilty of the crime wherewith you severally stood charged: - A crime at which Mankind in all ages have shuddered; and which had been doomed to death by all Laws, Human and Divine. It now becomes your duty; as you set a value on your everlasting peace, to pray daily and constantly to an offended God ... Repentance now becomes your only duty, and that alone can promise future comfort to your fleeting souls. You are now placed upon the awful verge of a precipice, & the hour of your destiny draws nigh. Implore forgiveness steadfastly, and so endeavour to make peace with offended God, who alone can judge the hearts of men, whose actions are but fallible ...¹⁷

And, as it turned out in this case, it was the members of the Court whose actions were found to be 'fallible', a point not lost on the Judge Advocate in passing sentence at the conclusion of the trial on 20 July 1814 of self-confessed murderer John White.

Two fellow creatures [Rowland Edwards and William Jenkins] had been deprived of existence in the dead hour of the night ... and two others had been convicted of the fact, upon testimony which to the Court appeared to be

incontestable, while from the present day's trial their innocence had as uncontestedly been made apparent.

At the conclusion of the trial of John White, Michael Hoolaghan and Alexander Sutter were recalled to the bar, as a necessary preliminary to their liberation from confinement, 'as their total innocence of the dreadful crime of which they had been convicted had been thoroughly established'. Before being released on bail, pending their case being presented for consideration of a Royal Sanction, they were required to enter into recognizances, themselves in £50, and two sureties in £25 each, to 'render themselves up to the Law, at any time hereafter, if required'. The formalities completed 'the two fellow creatures were thus restored to Society, from a peril scarcely to be exempld'.¹⁸

One of the witnesses at the trial of Hoolaghan and Sutter, Thomas Wolly [Thomas Woolley], testified that that he knew one of prisoners because they came out on the same ship – 'he went by the name of Alick Scott then; I believe he calls himself Sutter now ... The Prisoner came out to this Country in the Gambier as a Sailor; I came in the same ship'. In 1811 the *Admiral Gambier* made the second of its two commissions as a convict transport. With 200 convicts on board the vessel left England on 12 May and, three convicts having died during the voyage, arrived at Sydney on 29 September where 197 convicts were disembarked.¹⁹ Having arrived as a crewman on the *Admiral Gambier* (perhaps under the name of Alexander Scott) and having spent some years in the colony, for a short period of which he was in custody, Alexander Sutter moved to Van Diemen's Land, possibly shortly after he was reprieved.

The Port Dalrymple 1819 General Muster of Civil Servants and Freemen, conducted between 11-15 October, lists Alexander Sutter as having come free and off rations. At the same time, the General Muster of Proprietors and Stock shows that Alexander Suiter [sic] was working seventeen acres, all of which were under wheat; he had nine cattle and a hundred sheep. He, his wife [Mary Ann] and a general servant were all off rations.²⁰ He was sufficiently established as a farmer settler by 1822 to have successfully tendered to supply the Commissariat stores at Port Dalrymple with thirty bushels of wheat, to be delivered in late March.²¹

The Biographical Database of Australia offers 129 soundex matches for the surname Sutter. Some seem to be wildly obscure but, for instance, in addition to the variations of his surname noted above, for the NSW 1814 General Muster, 'our man' is transcribed as Alexander Suetar, arrived per Admiral Gambier, Convict, Seaman of 'John Palmer', mustered at Sydney. It is with this capricious spelling in mind, the following information is proffered.

A marriage between Alexander Suter and Mary Williams was registered at Longford on 10 June 1833. The groom was a widower, but no status was given for the bride, and the ages of both were also not recorded. However, the marriage went ahead 'with the consent of the Government'. Both were 'of the parish of Longford' in the Norfolk Plains district. Alexander was able to sign his name but Mary made her mark. W.D. Keating and Richard Harrison, both of Longford, were the witnesses.²²

No. 46	Alexander Suter, Widower of the Parish of Longford, N. Plains	and
2353	Mary Williams of the Parish of Longford, N. Plains	were
married in this Church by Banns with the consent of the Government		
this 10 th day of June.	In the year 1833.	
By me		R.R. Davies Chaplain.
This Marriage was solemnized between us	Alexander Suter Mary ^{his} Williams _{mark}	
In the Presence of	W.D. Keating of Norfolk Plains Rich ^d Harrison of Norfolk Plains	

In December 1836 Alexander Suter advised the public that he was now in business as a carrier, providing a service to and from Launceston.²³

ADVERTISEMENT.

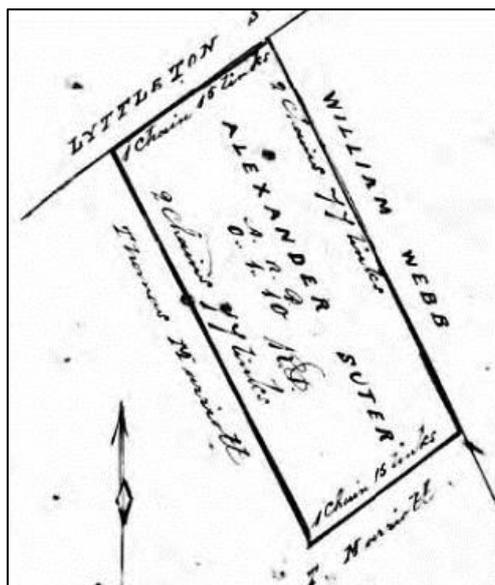
ALEXANDER SUTER, begs to inform the Public, that he has arranged the business of Carrier between Longford, Norfolk Plains, and Launceston. His drays will leave Longford early on Tuesday and Friday mornings, and return from the Plough land Launceston, about two o'clock of the afternoon of each day. Parcels and goods of any description must be left at the places of starting on the days previous; and goods from Launceston will be taken care of at the residence of A. S., until sent for.

A. SUTER.

Longford, 10th Nov., 1834.

While the goods and/or services were not stipulated, the 1839 financial statements of the Benevolent Society list him as one of their creditors.²⁴ Alexander Suter plus wife and an assigned male servant comprised a family unit for the 1842 census. Home was a wooden residence in Wellington Street, Longford.²⁵

In July 1843 Alexander Suter was called as a witness at a break-and-enter trial. He stated that he was a baker and resided at Longford in a house adjoining that of the prosecutor.²⁶ Whether in addition to his transport business, or having started up a new venture as a baker is not clear. By Deed of Land Grant executed in January 1845, and for a quit rent of one farthing per year, Alexander Suter acquired a block of land at Longford, one rood and ten perches, fronting onto Lyttleton Street and neighbouring Thomas Marriott and William Webb.²⁷



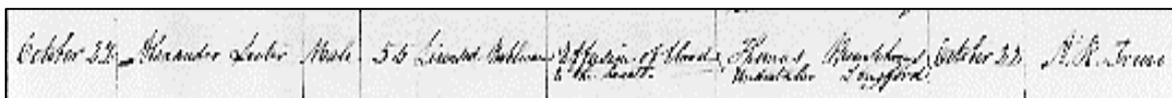
December 1845 heralded a new business venture for Alexander when he was granted a licence to retail wines, spirits, etc. under the sign of 'The Lass O'Gowrie', which opened its doors in 1846.²⁸ The building still stands in Lyttleton Street and now serves as a private residence.

Alexander operated the public house for just short of two years, during which time he suffered a severe accident in December 1846 when he fell from a ladder and seriously injured his shoulder.²⁹ Between February and August 1847 he was brought before the licensing authorities on charges of opening on a Sunday, for which he was fined £5 plus costs, and 'wilfully delaying admittance to the Chief District Council to the licensed premises', which case was not proven.³⁰



'Lass O'Gowrie'³¹

At the age of 55 Alexander Suter died rather suddenly, after a short illness, from 'effusion of blood to the heart' (pericardial effusion), on 22 October, 1847, and was buried at the Longford Christ Church Pioneer Cemetery. His passing was briefly noted in the local press.³²



At the Lass o' Gowrie, Longford, on Friday, 22nd instant, Mr. Alexander Suter.

He also died intestate. Administration of his estate was granted to his wife, but this person was not, as might have been expected, Mary Suter. What happened to the Mary Williams who had married Alexander Suter in 1833 is a mystery, as is where, when and if Alexander married (if indeed they had actually married) a woman by the name of Jane.³³ It would have been before June 1843 when both Alexander and Jane Suter were included in a list of Longford subscribers donating towards the support of the widow of murdered District Constable Ward.³⁴

Letters of Administration were issued to Jane Suter of Longford, widow of Alexander Suter, on 9 October 1848 subject to her providing a true and complete inventory of the goods and chattels of the deceased, and fully documenting and accounting for all transactions undertaken as Administrator. Her bond to so do was countersigned by William Duncan, Licensed Victualler, and Samuel Cox, Farmer, both of Longford. It was recorded that Jane Suter believed that the value of the goods, chattels, and effects of her deceased husband did not exceed £150.³⁵ Probably the greatest asset was the licence of 'The Lass O'Gowrie' and Jane Suter managed to hold on to this, albeit it with a break in 1848-49 when the licensee was William Matthews.³⁶ In December 1849 she announced that she was now operating the establishment in her own right. She particularly hoped that the public would avail themselves of her hospitality during the annual January Longford Races.³⁷

LASS O' GOWRIE.
MRS. RUSSELL (late Mrs. Suter) begs to intimate to her friends and the public generally, that having re-taken the above inn, she respectfully solicits their patronage and support.
 Wines, Ale, and Spirits, of a first-rate quality.
 It is hoped that at the ensuing races, "Auld friends winna forget the lass O'Gowrie."
 December 11. (m)

It was as Mrs. Russell that Jane placed the advertisement in the paper, and it was on 16 November 1848 that she acquired a new husband when she married John Wood Russell in Launceston. Describing themselves as Gentleman and Lady, both parties were of full age and both were able to sign their names. The witnesses were

James Lille and Joseph Russell.³⁸

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.
186.	16th November 1848 Trinity Church Liverpool.	John Wood Russell Jane Suter	Full age Full age	Spelmanian Livery	John Wood Russell Jane Suter	The Rev. Mr. John Yorker	16th November 1848	John Yorker
<p>MARRIED in the <i>Trinity Church</i> according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the <i>Anglican Church of England</i> by <i>John Yorker</i> Minister.</p> <p>This Marriage was solemnized between us } <i>John Wood Russell</i> <i>Jane Suter</i> } (In the Presence of us } <i>James Lille</i> <i>Joseph Russell</i></p>								

The short announcement placed in *The Cornwall Chronicle* has an incorrect date, but advises that the groom was 'of Liverpool'.³⁹

MARRIED—On the 17th instant, at Trinity Church, by the Rev. John Yorker, B.A., Mr. John Wood Russell, of Liverpool, to Jane, widow of the late Mr. Alexander Suter, of Longford.

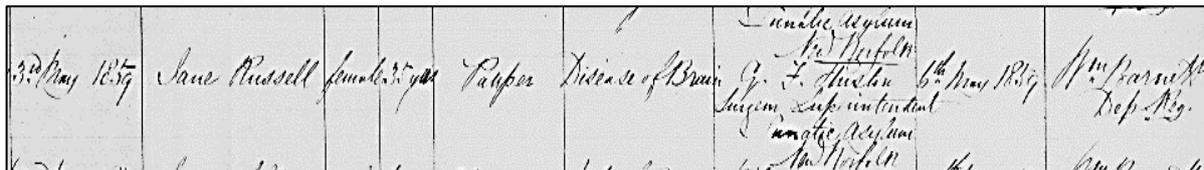
In August 1850 *The Courier* notified its readers of a number of transfers of publicans' licences that had been approved. In a direct swap, the licence for the Cressy Hotel, held by Ann Brumby, was transferred to John Wood Russell and that for the Lass O'Gowrie was transferred to Ann Brumby.⁴⁰ That same month John Russell was open for business.

JOHN WOOD RUSSELL
ANNOUNCES to his friends and the public that he has entered upon
"THE CRESSY HOTEL,"
 which he has fitted up with every regard to the convenience of his guests.
 Respectable families en route—travellers—commercial gentlemen—pleasure and shooting parties, &c., &c., will find here all the comforts and cleanliness of an English Road Inn, and at charges accommodated to the times. His Wines, Spirits, Ales, and Porter will be found of first-rate quality.
 Very superior Stabling, Carriage accommodation, &c.
 Cressy Hotel, near Longford.
 August 7. 45 (1 mo.)

Twelve months later, at the November 1851 Quarterly Meeting of Justices, the licence issued to John Wood Russell was transferred to a James Miller.⁴¹ He, in turn, advised the public accordingly.⁴²

CRESSY HOTEL.
JAMES MILLER
HAVING succeeded Mr. John Wood Russell in the proprietorship of the above establishment, begs to solicit a continuance of that support so liberally bestowed upon his predecessors, and which it will be his strenuous endeavour to merit. His stock of
Wines, Spirits, &c.,
 are of the most excellent description, and he supplies Dinner, &c., to large or small parties upon the shortest notice.
 * * * GOOD STABLING AND COACH HOUSES.
 Apartments for Pleasure Parties and Weddings.
 November 17.

This is the last Tasmanian reference to John Wood Russell, and so far nothing further has been found for his wife Jane Russell (and the second(?) wife of Alexander Suter) unless she was the Jane Russell who died in the New Norfolk Lunatic Asylum in May 1859.⁴³



Postscript – John Wood Russell

While of no direct relevance to Mary Ann Caffry and only obliquely to Alexander Suter as the deceased husband of his wife, John Wood Russell was an interesting if somewhat elusive man who merits further research. Meanwhile the following are some notes on his life.

The reference to him being 'of Liverpool' did not refer to Liverpool, New South Wales, but Liverpool, England. Whether or not he was actually born there is not known; indeed no confirmed birth/baptism record has been found for him at this stage. During his working life in England he entered into various business partnerships from which by 1837 he was in the process of extricating himself, as recorded in the following excerpts from the *London Gazette*.⁴⁴

NOTICE is hereby given, that the Copartnership heretofore subsisting between us the undersigned, Richard Nicholson, Henry Whittle, and John Wood Russell, of Liverpool, in the county of Lancaster, Provision-Dealers, under the style or firm of Nicholson and Co., was this day dissolved by mutual consent: As witness our hands this 30th day of May 1837.

*Richd. Nicholson.
Henry Whittle.
John Wood Russell.*

NOTICE.

THE Partnership heretofore subsisting between the undersigned, Joseph Russell, John Wood Russell, Joseph Breerton, and Roger Lyon Jones, carrying on business under the firm of Joseph Russell, Son, and Co. as Shipwrights, &c. is this day dissolved by mutual consent.—Witness our hands this 30th June 1837.

*Joseph Russell.
John Wood Russell.
Joseph Breerton.
Roger Lyon Jones.*

James Rae, formerly of No. 90, Waterloo-road, Liverpool, in partnership with John Wood Russell, as Shipwrights, Boat Builders, Joiners, and Shipsmiths, under the firm of Russell, Rae, and Company, afterwards in same business on his own account at No 90, Waterloo-road, under the name of James Rae and Company, then out of business, since Bookkeeper, and during the whole time lodging at No. 5, Chesterfield-street, Liverpool.

It was as a Ship Builder that he was initiated into the Mariners Lodge at Liverpool on 7 February 1839, but he did not pay his dues for subsequent years.⁴⁵ Another 1839 'milestone' in John Wood Russell's career was the declaration on 23 July of his bankruptcy. In the citation he was referred to as a 'ship carpenter'⁴⁶. Four months

later the following notice was published in the *Liverpool Mail*.⁴⁷

THE commissioners in a fiat in bankruptcy, bearing date, 17th Day of July, 1839, awarded and issued forth against **JOHN WOOD RUSSELL**, of Liverpool, in the county of Lancaster, ship carpenter, dealer and chapman, intend to meet on the **EIGHTEENTH** Day of December next, at One o'clock in the afternoon, at the Clarendon Rooms, in Liverpool, in the said county, in order to make a dividend of the estate and effects of the said bankrupt; when and where the creditors, who have not already proved their debts are to come prepared to prove the same, or they will be excluded the benefit of the said dividend, and all claims not then proved will be disallowed.
BOOKER, Solicitor.

By the end of the year John Wood Russell was able to put the bankruptcy business behind him. Mr Booker, Solicitor, placed the following notice in the 21 December issue of the *Liverpool Mail*.⁴⁸

IN RE JOHN WOOD RUSSELL, A BANKRUPT. 11
DIVIDEND.
THE creditors who have proved their debts, under a fiat in bankruptcy, against **JOHN WOOD RUSSELL**, of Liverpool, in the county of Lancaster, ship-carpenter, dealer, and chapman, may receive a *first* dividend, of Twelve Shillings in the Pound, on their respective debts, in application to Mr. **WHINNERAH**, Accountant, No. 2, Lord-street, Liverpool, between the hours of Eleven o'clock in the Forenoon, and One o'clock in the Afternoon, on and after the 25th day of December, 1839.
BOOKER, Solicitor.

The year 1839 was also notable on the personal front because, in the midst of the divestment and bankruptcy proceedings, John found a wife. He obtained a licence on 27 November and on 28 November he and Margaret Doolan were married at St John, Liverpool. Both groom and bride were of full age and both of Greek Street. He was a bachelor, and a ship builder by trade; she was a spinster, and unable to sign her name. The respective fathers were Joseph Russell, Ship Builder, and Thomas Doolan, Chandler. The witnesses were Rebecca Bowman and William Richardson.⁴⁹

1839. Marriage solemnized at *St John's Church* in the Parish of *Liverpool* in the County of *Lancaster*

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the Time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
226	<i>Nov 28th</i>	<i>John Wood Russell</i> <i>Margaret Doolan</i>	<i>full age</i> <i>full age</i>	<i>single</i> <i>spinster</i>	<i>Ship Builder</i> <i>—</i>	<i>Greek St</i> <i>Greek St</i>	<i>Joseph Russell</i> <i>Thos Doolan</i>	<i>Ship Builder</i> <i>Chandler</i>
Married in the <i>Church of St John</i> according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the <i>Established Church</i> by <i>License</i> by me, <i>Thos. Stinger</i> Curate								
This Marriage was solemnized between us,		<i>John Wood Russell</i> <i>Margaret Doolan & her mark</i>			in the Presence of us,		<i>Rebecca Bowman</i> <i>Wm Richardson</i>	

This couple was included in the 1841 census, living at Bedford Street, Toxteth Park, Liverpool. Noting that for this census ages for adults were often rounded up or down, the age given for both was 25. John had been born in Lancashire and his bride hailed from Ireland. John's occupation was listed as ship builder.⁵⁰ But all was not well with their relationship because, a couple months after they were listed together in the census, husband John placed the following notice in the *Liverpool Mail*.⁵¹

NOTICE.
I, the undersigned, **JOHN WOOD RUSSELL**, hereby give **PUBLIC NOTICE** that I will not be responsible for any Debts that my Wife **MARGARET** may Contract.
JOHN W. RUSSELL.
Witness, JOHN HUNTER.

When John Wood Russell left England has not yet been established, but it would have been sometime between

1841 and 1848. It can be assumed that his wife Margaret did not accompany him and so he arrived in the Colony to start a new life as an unencumbered, self-styled Gentleman. And, as noted above, it was as such that he married Jane Suter.

What, then, was his reason for leaving Tasmania for Victoria sometime after late 1851? We know from the *Victorian Government Gazette* that he was there by 31 March 1852, at which date there were three letters addressed to J.W. Russell of Longford, and one letter addressed to John Russell Wood of Launceston, lying unclaimed at the General Post Office.⁵² In 1866, through the Heathcote Land Office, he acquired a grant of 320 acres in the district of Waranga, North Murchison. This was mining country, and John was no doubt one of those hopeful of making his fortune. Indeed, as reported in the *Leader* in January 1869 he made a find.⁵³

The following official report of the finding of payable gold in the neighbourhood of Whroo has been received by the hon. the Minister of Mines : "Rushworth, 31st December 1868. –Sir. – I have the honor to report that John Woods [sic] Russell has discovered payable gold, on the Nine-Mile Creek, near Mr. George Thompson's farm. The locality is about five miles westward from Whroo, near to the McIvor-road ... H.B. Nicholas, Mining Manger".

It is uncertain whether John Russell himself made any money from working this find. But, somewhat belatedly, he did receive a finder's reward. In December 1870 the *Weekly Times*, under the heading 'Rewards for the Discovery of New Goldfields' reported that a board appointed to inquire into such claims had recommended that £50 be awarded to John Wood Russell for the discovery of the Nine-Mile Creek Goldfield.⁵⁴

The establishment of the Ovens Benevolent Society on Warner Road, Beechworth, was first mooted in 1861 when a public meeting was held on 22 July to consider the proposal. The function of this Asylum was to provide, *inter alia*, accommodation and care for gold miners who were destitute or permanently injured.⁵⁵ Each applicant was assessed for eligibility and thus, at the meeting of the Board in February 1881, Mr. Dawborn moved, and Mr. Fletcher seconded, and the motion was carried that the first vacancy on the male side be given to John Wood Russell.⁵⁶ How long might John Wood Russell have had to wait and, indeed, did he ever take up the offer? Regardless, By December 1881 he had found haven at the Castlemaine Asylum, but not with the approval of all Board members.⁵⁷

CORRESPONDENCE —From A. Rigg, to the Secretary, inquiring if he can admit J. W. Russell for a few weeks. He is entirely destitute, aged 67. The Secretary stated he admitted Russell temporarily. Mr Baker mentioned that the Committee had investigated the case and concluded that Russell was a fit subject for admittance. Mr Williams confirmed this view, and added that the old man was a miner and wanderer in destitute circumstances. Mr Baker moved that he be admitted as an inmate. The man had tried the Hospital but was not admitted there as he was not in ill health. Mr Rigg supported the motion. Mr Mitchell moved an amendment that he be not received as an inmate, as they should not admit every person who came to Castlemaine. Mr Graham thought they should know something more about the man who had dropped into Castlemaine from the skies as it were. Mr Reid did not approve of how this inmate was temporarily admitted. Mr Baker did not think the Committee erred in being sympathetic. The Superintendent said Russell was a great blackguard. The motion for his admittance was carried.—From A. Lowen-

This 'blow-in' stayed at the Asylum past the anticipated few weeks. He was still an inmate in September 1883 but

by this time it became apparent that he was not completely destitute.⁵⁸

An inmate of the Asylum named Russell was requested to assign the receipts of money he obtained from England according to agreement, but as he declined to do this he is to be informed that unless he complies with the terms of his admission he will be expelled. He is a stranger to the district.

By the time of the next meeting of the board John Russell Wood had reviewed his response. 'The inmate J.W. Russell, promised to sign a document conveying to the hospital monies he may receive'.⁵⁹ Did he really have access to money from England? And, if so, what was the source and how much did he, and the Asylum, anticipate receiving? Whatever donation he had agreed to make, the arrangement presumably lasted only while John was alive. A death record has been located for a John William [sic] Russell, born about 1815, age 69 when he died at the Castlemaine Asylum in 1884.⁶⁰ A further record states that John Wood Russell was 70 when he died. He was buried at Campbells Creek Cemetery, Castlemaine.⁶¹ These two records, created at the end of his life, indicate that John Wood Russell was born about 1815-1816. From his marriage record to Margaret Doolan we know that John's father was Joseph Russell, a ship builder, as was John. No parents were referred to in the marriage record for John Russell and Jane Sutter. However one of the witnesses was Joseph Russell. This Joseph Russell died in July 1860 and the newspaper notice marking his passing noted that, like John Wood Russell, Joseph was 'late of Liverpool, Britain'.⁶²

On the 18th instant, at his late residence, William-street, aged 56 years, Joseph Russell, Block and Pump maker, late of Liverpool, Britain.

Joseph had fallen victim to Influenza which was particularly prevalent at the time.⁶³ The familial relationship (if indeed they were related) between the two ex-Liverpudlians has not yet been established.⁶⁴

NOTES

- ¹ *Old Bailey Proceedings Online* (www.oldbaileyonline.org, version 8.0, 01 August 2018), October 1815, trial of MARY ANN CAFFRAY (t18151025-84).
- ² *Old Bailey Proceedings Online* (www.oldbaileyonline.org, version 8.0, 01 August 2018), April 1816, trial of MARY ANN CAFFRAY (t18160403-109).
- ³ *Old Bailey Proceedings Online* (www.oldbaileyonline.org, version 8.0, 01 August 2018), September 1816, trial of MARY ANN CAFFRAY (t18160918-82).
- ⁴ Ancestry, England & Wales, Criminal Registers, 1791-1892, England, Middlesex, 1816.
- ⁵ Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia, Colonial Secretary's Papers, 1788-1856.
- ⁶ Cited in Free Settler or Felon? Convict Ship Friendship 1818, https://www.jenwilletts.com/convict_ship_friendship_1818.htm.
- ⁷ Tasmanian Archives and Heritage Office (TAHO), Assignment List, CON/13/1/1 p.139.
- ⁸ TAHO, Launceston marriages 1819, RGD36/1/1 no 33. G. H. Stancombe, 'Youl, John (1773-1827)', Australian Dictionary of Biography, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/youl-john-2827/text4055>, published first in hardcopy 1967, accessed online 2 August 2018.
- ⁹ Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia, Settler and Convict Lists, 1787-1834, New South Wales, Female, 1820 and 1821.
- ¹⁰ TAHO, Conduct Register, CON 40/1/1 p.31.
- ¹¹ *The Hobart Town Gazette and Van Diemen's Land Advertiser*, 12 Mar 1824, p.1.
- ¹² TAHO, Convicts, CON 13/1/1 p.36. Female Convicts Research Centre Inc (FCRC), Female Convicts in Van Diemen's Land database, Convict ID 3581. Biographical Database of Australia (BDA), Biographical record for Mary Kavanagh. TAHO, Hobart marriages 1821, RGD 36/1/1 no 493 – Mary Dockerty and Michael Cattree
- ¹³ TAHO, Launceston deaths 1827, RGD34/1/1 no 1605.
- ¹⁴ Historical Records of Australia (HRA), The Library Committee of the Commonwealth Parliament, 1916, Series I, Vol V111, pp.356-357. The full account of the proceedings was appended, pp.357-367.
- ¹⁵ *The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser*, 29 Jun 1816, p.1. Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia, Convict Registers of Conditional and Absolute Pardons, 1788-1870.



¹⁶ In fact there were two men murdered during this incident at the Parramatta Toll Gate. Apart from Rowland Evans, a settler of Hawkesbury, William Jenkins, a dealer of Sydney, was also shot dead – *The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser*, 4 Jun 1814, p.2. In this account Alexander was referred to as Alexander Sutar.

¹⁷ *The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser*, 29 Jun 1814, p.2.

¹⁸ *The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser*, 30 Jul 1814, p.2. This news item drew attention to a number of apparent coincidences concerning evidence given at the Donovan/White and Hoolaghan/Sutter trials. At the first of these trials witness Sarah Burnett stated that Dennis Donovan had been introduced to her by the name of Alexander Scott. In the second trial Mrs. Barrow, in swearing to the identity of Sutter, described him as wearing a piece of lead in his left ear, which was found to be pierced, as was the left ear of John White. Sutter's hat was described as being made of straw and tarred – so also was John White's, found at the toll-gate. And the unusual but distinctive handkerchief which Mayne tore from the face of Donovan was identical to one owned by Hoolaghan.

¹⁹ Free Settler or Felon? Convict Ship Admiral Gambier 1811, https://jenwillets.com/convict_ship_admiral_gambier_1811.htm. Charles Bateson, *The Convict Ships*, Library of Australian History, North Sydney, 1988.

²⁰ Irene Schaffer, *Land Musters, Stock Returns and Lists Van Diemen's Land 1803-1822*, St David's Park Publishing, Hobart, 1991, General Muster of Civil Settlers, Free, Men taken at Port Dalrymple, List 9:6; General Muster of Proprietors of Land and Stock at Port Dalrymple, List 9:3.

²¹ *The Hobart Town Gazette and Van Diemen's Land Advertiser*, 23 Mar 1822, p.1.

²² TAHO, Longford marriages 1833, RGD36/1/2 no 2353.

²³ *The Cornwall Chronicle*, 3 Dec 1836, p.4.

²⁴ *Launceston Advertiser*, 2 Apr 1840, p.2.

²⁵ TAHO, Census 1842, CEN1/1/30 p.121.

²⁶ *Launceston Examiner*, 8 Jul 1843, p.4. John Mee, Henry Scroop, Benjamin Dalton and Samuel Green were indicted for breaking and entering, and stealing items belonging to Simeon Forster.

²⁷ Ancestry, Tasmania, Australia, Deeds of Land Grants, 1804-1935.

²⁸ *The Cornwall Chronicle*, 6 Dec 1845, p.402.

²⁹ *The Cornwall Chronicle*, 2 Jan 1847, p.4.

³⁰ *The Cornwall Chronicle*, 6 Feb 1847, p.104; *The Cornwall Chronicle*, 7 Aug 1847, p.2; *The Cornwall Chronicle*, 21 Aug 1847, p.2.

³¹ Our Tasmania, Longford Heritage Walk, <http://www.ourtasmania.com.au/launceston/longford-walk.html>. 'Lass O'Gowrie' in Lyttleton Street, was formerly the Lass O'Gowrie, built in 1846 by Alex Suter. Now a private residence, it has also been a girls' school run by the Misses Boyd.

³² TAHO, Longford deaths 1847, RGD35/1/19 no 114. Headstones from Cemeteries of Tasmania, <http://www.ozgenonline.com/~riacaroline/>. *Launceston Examiner*, 17 Oct 1847, p.6.

³³ One possibility is that Mary changed her name to Jane, but note that when she married Mary was unable to sign her name.

³⁴ *The Courier*, 9 Jun 1843, p.3.

³⁵ TAHO, Will, AD961/1/s File No 223 p.113.

³⁶ *The Cornwall Chronicle*, 13 Oct 1849, p.931.

³⁷ *The Cornwall Chronicle*, 19 Dec 1849, p.1089.

³⁸ TAHO, Launceston marriages 1848, RGD37/1/7 no 2021.

³⁹ *The Cornwall Chronicle*, 18 Nov, p.173. Liverpool, England, not Liverpool, Sydney.

⁴⁰ *The Courier*, 14 Aug 1850, p.2. The Cressy Hotel, built in 1845 by William Brumby, was the first hotel in Cressy, and possibly its first building – Cressy, Tas, <http://www.aussietowns.com.au/town/cressy-tas#>.

⁴¹ *The Cornwall Chronicle*, 22 Nov 1851, p.750.

⁴² *The Cornwall Chronicle*, 22 Nov 1851, p.743.

⁴³ TAHO, New Norfolk deaths 1859, RGD35/1/28 no 623.

⁴⁴ *The London Gazette*, <https://www.thegazette.co.uk/London/issue/19525/page/1930>;

<https://www.thegazette.co.uk/London/issue/19502/page/1440>; <https://www.thegazette.co.uk/London/issue/20075/page/560>.

⁴⁵ Ancestry, England, United Grand Lodge of England Freemason Membership Registers, 1751-1921, United Grand Lodge of England, 1827-1862.

⁴⁶ FMP, Bankrupt Directory, 1820-1843, p. 357.

⁴⁷ *Liverpool Mail*, 23 Nov 1839, p.1.

⁴⁸ *Liverpool Mail*, 21 Dec 1839, p.1

⁴⁹ Ancestry, Liverpool, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1754-1932, Liverpool, St John, 1837-1842.

⁵⁰ 1841 England Census, Class: HO107; Piece: 568; Book: 19; Civil Parish: Liverpool; County: Lancashire; Enumeration District: 73; Folio: 27; Page: 15; Line: 22; GSU roll: 438720.

⁵¹ *Liverpool Mail*, 14 Aug 1841, p.1.

⁵² *Victorian Government Gazette*, 28 Apr 1852, p.388.

⁵³ *Leader* (Melbourne), 9 Jan 1969, p.19.

⁵⁴ *Weekly Times*, 3 Dec 1870, p.1.

⁵⁵ Beechworth Health Service, Our History, http://beechworthhealthservice.com.au/our-history/Ovens_

⁵⁶ *Ovens and Murray Advertiser*, 12 Feb 1881, p.8,



⁵⁷ *Mount Alexander Mail*, 9 Dec 1881, p.2.

⁵⁸ *Mount Alexander Mail*, 14 Sep 1883, p.2.

⁵⁹ *Mount Alexander Mail*, 12 Oct 1883, p.2.

⁶⁰ Ancestry, Australia, Death Index, 1787-1895, 1884/654.

⁶¹ Ancestry, Australia Cemetery Index, 1808-2007; Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies (AIGS). Ref, M203.

⁶² *The Cornwall Chronicle*, 21 Jul 1860, p.4.

⁶³ TAHO, Launceston deaths 1860, RGD35/1/29 no 168.

⁶⁴ As for John Russell Wood, no record has yet been located to show when Joseph Russell arrived in Tasmania. Neither he nor John are recorded in the 1841 and 1848 census records, which might help to narrow the 'window' of arrival?



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