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 Rosannah Euden

Date of Trial:	16 January 1816
Where Tried:	York, Kingston upon Hull Quarter Session
Crime:	Larceny
Sentence:	7 years
Est YOB:	1798
Stated Age on Arrival:	22
Native Place:	Hull
Occupation:	Servant, Stocking Weaver
Alias/AKA:	Rosannah Huden/Hewdon/Hewton
Marital Status (UK):	Married – Thomas Euden
Children on Board:	
Surgeon's Remarks:	<i>Prostitute, shameless and mutinous</i>
Assigned NSW or VDL	NSW

The *Bury and Norwich Post* of 24 January 1816 (among other newspapers) drew the attention of the reading public to the trial at the Kingston upon Hull Quarter Sessions of a surgeon and his two apprentices, who were found guilty of dis-interring the corpse of a young woman, earning themselves merely a one-month sentence and, more severely for the surgeon, a fine of 100/-. In comparison, the crime for which Rosannah Euden was tried at the same Sessions, and which merited the more savage sentence of seven years transportation, was apparently not deemed newsworthy. Further, in passing sentence the judge had noted that because the offence of body-snatching was so very rare in Hull, and that to impose a lengthy sentence would deprive the community of the surgeon's valuable services, leniency in this matter was in order. On that basis we can surmise, therefore, that Rosannah's crime of larceny was not only a very common occurrence but also that she had nothing of value to contribute to the community!<sup>1</sup>

The surname 'Euden' was a challenge to colonial record keepers, and subsequent transcribers. A strong Yorkshire accent probably did not help with the spelling. It was under the name Rosanna Euden that this young woman was held in gaol pending her removal to Deptford, and it was as Rosannah Huden that she was listed as one of the prisoners aboard the *Friendship* and who, as with so many others, had most decidedly not met with Surgeon Cosgreave's high standards of behaviour – being described as a shameless and mutinous prostitute.<sup>2</sup> The writing in the bound indentures is difficult to read, and in parts very faint, but the transcriber of this record has 'read' Rosannah's entry as Rosamund Dunn, a 22 year old married woman and a servant by calling.<sup>3</sup> Surprisingly, therefore, are two transcribed records for 1820 and 1821 that describe Rosanna Udders [sic] as a widow.<sup>4</sup>

The first of Rosannah's three illegitimate children was born on 9 September 1819 and baptised two months later on 7 November at St. Philip's Church, England. His parents were recorded as William Robinson and Rosannah. This baby boy died in infancy. Daughter Elizabeth Robinson was born on 9 November 1820 and was baptised at the same church as her brother on 10 January 1821. A second daughter, Ann, for whom no birth/baptism record has been found, followed about 1824 at Parramatta.<sup>5</sup>

Who was William Robinson? We know that he was one of the 200 or so convicts who had embarked on the transport ship *Lord Eldon*, which had departed from England on 9 April 1817 and arrived at Port Jackson on 30 September with 215 male prisoners, one of the 'missing' having swum ashore when the ship stopped at Madeira.<sup>6</sup> But which of the two men named William Robinson was the father of Rosanna's children? Anticipating the confusion that would arise from this situation, in some (but frustratingly not all) of the records the younger of the two is referred to as 'William Robinson the junior'.

The following comparative table, based on information extracted from the records, shows that apart from their ages, and place and date of respective trials, their lives ran very much in parallel, particularly for their earlier years in the colony.<sup>7</sup>

		<b>William Robinson the younger</b>	<b>William Robinson</b>
<b>Trial</b>	Place Date Crime Sentence	Kingston upon Hull, Yorkshire 18 July 1816 Larceny 7 years transportation	Chelmsford, Essex 11 March 1816 Larceny 7 years transportation
<b>Pre-transportation</b>	Hulk Reception Age	Justitia 26 September 1816 24	Perseus 11 March 1816 30
<b>Convict Indent</b>	Native Place Occupation Age Est YOB Description	Middlesex? Sail Maker 23 1794 5/6, fair-ruddy complexion, dark brown hair, hazel eyes	Romford Carter 35 1781 5/4¼, dark-ruddy complexion, dark brown hair, grey eyes
<b>Colonial Records</b>	Settler & Convict Lists Convict Musters  Census & Population Books	Town Gang, Sydney (1817) Govt Employment (1818) Servant to Dr. Harris (1820)  Road Gang, Liverpool (1822)	? Govt Employment (1818) Govt Labourer (1820) Labourer, Kings Stores, Sydney (1822) Cambridge St, Sydney (1822)
<b>Certificate of Freedom</b>	Issued	During week of 31 Jul 1823	During week of 20 Mar 1823
<b>Other Comments</b>	Newspaper accounts Possible aliases Application to marry	No account found of trial William Sanger Nil located	No account found of trial William Collins or Jones Nil located

In 1822 one of the men by the name of William Robinson submitted a petition to Frederick Goulburn, Colonial Secretary.

The Humble Petition of William Robinson

Most respectfully Sheweth

That your Honour's petitioner arrived in this Colony in the year 1817 per Ship Lord Eldon Lamb Master under sentence of Transportation for seven years.

That petitioner since his arrival in this Colony has been employed in the Commissariat Stores where he trusts with honesty and fidelity to the satisfaction of his Superiors.

That petitioner has about eleven months of his term of Transportation to serve, and has a wife and infant child to support.

Petitioner most humbly prays from his universal good conduct your Honor will be graciously pleased to grant petitioner the Indulgence of a Ticket of Leave.

And for which your petitioner as in duty bound will ever pray.

Thomas Walker, Deputy Assistant Commissary General, added the comment that petitioner had behaved himself extremely well in HM Stores and his application was deserving of consideration.<sup>8</sup>

The petition was undated, but referred to eleven months remaining of the original sentence of seven years – which could apply equally to the two Robinson men. However, the petitioner referred also to a wife and child, and also to his position at the Commissariat. As far as is known, it was the William Robinson, tried at Essex, who in 1822 had a 'wife' and child to support. Further, for the 1822 census and population return and the 1822 general muster this William Robinson is bracketed with Rosan<sup>h</sup> Euden and 2-year old child Elizabeth Robinson. Separately, Rosanna Uden [sic], convict, is recorded as the wife of W<sup>m</sup> Robinson.<sup>9</sup>

As noted in the table above, both Robinson men had obtained their certificates of freedom in 1823, and it was as

a free man that, on 16 September 1823, a convict was assigned to 'our' William of Cambridge St - Rosanna Hewdon [sic].<sup>10</sup>

Hewdon Rosanna Friendship Wm Robinson Cambridge St

And by early 1824 Rosannah had also gained her certificate, as announced in the *Sydney Gazette* of 29 January 1824, and which was replaced the following year.<sup>11</sup>

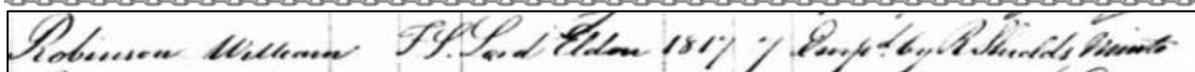
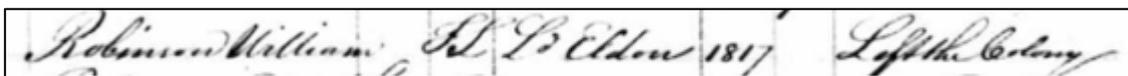
19/1776  
Rosannah ne Thomas  
Euden  
Friendship (3)  
1818  
York Is  
16 January 1817  
Seven years  
Hull  
Stocking weaver  
Height six  
5 feet 4 inches  
and ruddy & freckled  
light red  
light hazel  
22 January 1824

18/4122 in lieu of  
No 19/1776 returned  
Substituted than cell 2  
Rosannah ne Thomas  
Euden  
Friendship (3)  
1818  
York Is  
16 January 1817  
Seven years  
Hull  
Stocking weaver  
Height seven  
5 feet 11 inches  
and ruddy & freckled  
light red  
light hazel  
14 August 1825

It is interesting to note that, while she was listed as a servant girl on arrival in the colony, by now she was listed as a stocking weaver and her native place is stated to be Hull. She was 5' 4", tall with a ruddy and freckled complexion, light red hair and light hazel eyes. Her age given on the replacement ticket is 27.<sup>12</sup> Notably, the two Robinson men and Rosannah Euden all attained their certificates in the minimum time – seven years almost to the dates of their trials, indicating that all three managed to keep themselves out of trouble while serving their sentences.

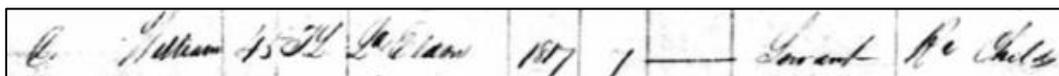
Before proceeding further, it should be noted that there was a further petition submitted in September 1824 by a William Robinson, written on his behalf, but to which he affixed his mark 'X'. The petitioner, who had arrived in 1817 per *Lord Eldon*, was now free by servitude, and declared that he wished to settle in the Colony. To that end, he humbly hoped that His Excellency would grant him 'such quantity of land as your Excellency may consider him deserving of from the recommendation of the undersigned.' It was the Rev. Robert Cartwright who stated that he knew of no prejudice to the petitioner's character.<sup>13</sup> Robert Carter was the chaplain at Liverpool and, as William Robinson the younger was located at Liverpool for 1822, the petition may have been written on his behalf.

Turning now to the 1825 general muster records. The now 'free by servitude' Rosannah is counted twice in the general muster of 1825 – as Rosanna Euden, housekeeper in Sydney, and as Rosannah Uden, wife of Wm Robinson, Sydney.<sup>14</sup> There are two entries for men by the name of William Robinson, free by servitude, who had arrived on the *Lord Eldon*.<sup>15</sup>

Noting that at this time Rosanna was listed as residing at Sydney, it can perhaps be assumed that she and her *de facto* were living apart – whether by choice or circumstance. But was ‘her’ William the man employed at Minto or the man who had apparently left the colony?

Only one of the two Williams has been located for the 1828 census – the William who was at Minto in 1825 and was still there in 1828 as a servant at Upper Minto. The age given in the census record suggests that it is more likely that this William was the one who had been tried at Chelmsford in 1816, although, as previously noted, the ‘Hull’ William had previously been located in the Liverpool district.<sup>16</sup>



For the record, the Minto employer (transcribed as R. Shields in 1825 and Rd Childs in 1828) was brickmaker Richard Cheal, who had been tried at the 1806 Maidstone, Kent, Summer Assizes for housebreaking and stealing property worth over 5/-, found guilty, and sentenced to death. His sentence was subsequently commuted to transportation for life, and he arrived in the colony in July 1807 per *Duke of Portland*. Initially employed as Overseer of Brick and Tile makers, as a ticket of leave holder he spent time in the Liverpool district and by 1824 was farming at Minto.<sup>17</sup>

One person who has not been located at all in the 1828 census is Rosannah Euden. Searches using various renditions of her first and surname, relevant dates, etc., have failed to find her. But, as we will now see, she would have been alive at the time.

On 13 August 1831 the Reverend Richard Hill, Assistant Chaplain, wrote to the Archdeacon, describing the plight of two young girls, and seeking their admission into the Female Orphan School. It makes for grim reading.

Reverend Sir

I beg leave to inform you that on Saturday last I found, in the burial ground, two little girls, who appeared to be in very deplorable circumstances, and on inquiring I learned that their mother, Rosanna Hewdon, died a few weeks since in the Hospital, and that their reputed father, a Seaman, could not take charge of them.

As they had been for some time without a home, and sleeping, as well as procuring their food, wherever they could, in order to take them out of such misery and danger, I procured a place for them to remain in till an arrangement could be made for their preservation from harm.

Noting that the children were illegitimate, and therefore the father could not be compelled to support them, Rev. Hill continued -

I have therefore seen the man, and while he declares his inability either to maintain them, or to keep them under control, he has consented to pay towards their maintenance at the Female Orphan School, five pounds per ann. for each, so long as he is able to do so.

I beg therefore to recommend their being admitted in the Female Orphan School, as they are really Orphans and destitute and I enclose the undertaking of Mr. Robinson, the reputed father, for the payment of the annual sum above named.

The Rev. Hill appended the names and ages of the girls – Elizabeth Hewdon, aged 10 years and Ann Hewdon, aged 8 years. William Robinson’s pledge, also dated 13 August 1831, read as follows.

I promise to pay to the Trustees of the Clergy and School Lands five pounds each per annum during the time Elizabeth and Ann, the orphan children of the late Rosanna Hewdon, are kept in the Female Orphan School.<sup>18</sup>

It was under the surname Hewton, and with a minor variation in ages, that the sisters were admitted in September 1831.<sup>19</sup>

Hewton	Ann	7	Sept	1831	} Wm Robinson Robinson
Hewton	Elizabeth	11	do	do	

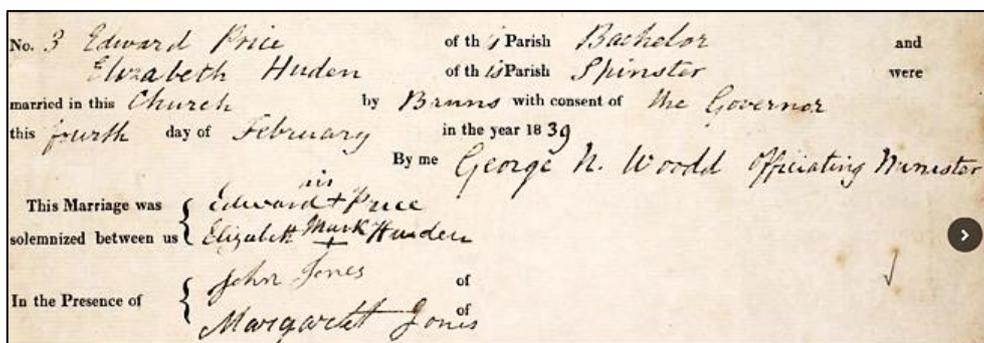
So, via the Rev. Cartwright, we learn that Rosannah died around July 1831 at the hospital.<sup>20</sup> She would have been in her early-mid thirties. How long she had been a patient, and the cause of her death are not known. But her circumstances must have been dire as nobody apparently had come forward to take care of her two motherless and homeless daughters. Certainly their father William Robinson was neither willing nor, according to him, in a position to assume responsibility for the two children although it is somewhat to his credit that he was prepared to contribute to their upkeep when in the Orphan School.

Some final words on the two William Robinsons – whose respective fates are unknown. The elder Robinson arrived at the colony as a carter; the younger was a sailmaker by trade. Logically, the latter would be better suited as a seaman. And, coincidentally, the younger Robinson was tried at Kingston upon Hull, the same place as Rosannah Euden. Could the William Robinson, who for the 1825 muster was recorded as having left the colony, have, in fact only left temporarily, as a crew member on board one of the colonial ships? And could, whichever of the two William Robinsons was the seaman, have been a crewman for Richard Buckle, a mariner, who had arrived free in the colony in 1823 on the *Brampton*, and who, for the 1828 census, was living in Cambridge Street, Sydney. Included in his household was a young girl – Elizabeth Robinson, aged 8, ‘with R<sup>d</sup>. Buckle’.<sup>21</sup>

#### Robinson/Hewton Children

According to the Orphan School records, Ann Hewton was the first of the sisters to leave the Institution, being apprenticed on 2 April 1838 to a Mrs. Betts of Paramatta, possibly Mrs. Martha Betts (née Marsden), daughter of Reverend Samuel Marsden, and later (1851-1875) Matron of the Orphan School. Elizabeth left on 4 February 1839, the day she married Edward Price.<sup>22</sup> At this point William Robinson was relieved of his annual payment for the girls’ support.

Looking first at Elizabeth, the elder of the two. It was in September 1838 that an application was lodged on behalf of Edward Price, aged 27, and Elizabeth Hurden [sic], aged 19, for banns to be read in anticipation of their marriage. At that time the application was held over, pending obtaining the consent of the prospective bride’s legal guardian. Two months later, on 10 November the application was granted. It was noted that Edward, a ticket-of-leave man, was then overseer to W. Yate, Esq, and that Elizabeth Huden [sic] was a servant at the Female Orphan School, and an orphan.<sup>23</sup> The couple married at St. John’s Church, Parramatta.<sup>24</sup>



Having embarked 250 male convicts, the convict transport *Hive* finally departed from Falmouth on 8 February 1834 and had arrived in the colony in June 1834. Edward Price was one of the 248 male convicts who had survived the journey.<sup>25</sup> Aged 24 (alternatively 23), he had been tried at the Shrewsbury Assizes on 16 March 1833 and found guilty of stealing some clothing. He was sentenced 7 years transportation and received on the hulk *Leviathan* on 3 April where he was to spend the next ten months before being discharged to the *Hive*. It was noted

that during his time on the hulk he was healthy and well behaved.<sup>26</sup> Some further information is provided by the bound indentures. This was the first offence for the man from Montgomery. He was a town servant by calling, stood at 5' 8½", had a ruddy complexion, brown hair and brown eyes, and sported a number of tattoos on his arms.<sup>27</sup> The 1837 general muster finds him as an employee of the Female Orphan School, an ideal situation for getting to know his future wife.<sup>28</sup> By July 1838 he had obtained a ticket of leave. Much of the indenture information was repeated on the butt, but his trade or calling was given as labourer and his native place as Birriew. He had grown marginally taller, at 5' 9¼" and the colour of his eyes were hazel.<sup>29</sup> On 6 November 1840 Edward Price gained his certificate of freedom.<sup>30</sup> Only one more definite record has been for Edward Price – on 18 April 1842 he spent a night in the cells at Parramatta Gaol – presumably to cool off after a drinking spree.<sup>31</sup>

After that, the trail for Edward and Elizabeth peters out. They may have had a daughter, Mary, born in 1855, but this seems to be unlikely given the time lapse between this date and their wedding in 1839.<sup>32</sup>

Ann Hewton would have been about 14 when she was discharged from the Orphan School in April 1838. Between this date and 7 July 1840 she had relocated to Hassan's Walls which is where and when she was married to one William Foley as registered at Bowenfels, Vale of Clwydd and certified by the Reverend Colin Stewart.<sup>33</sup>

I, Colin Stewart, of Hassan's Walls, Minister of the Vale of Clwyd, do hereby certify, that William Foley, Bachelor residing at Helvellin, and Ann Hewton, Spinster, of the same place, were joined together, in Wedlock by me, on the seventh day of July 1840, at Hassan's Walls.<sup>34</sup>

The bride would have been about 16 years old and the groom, somewhat older, at about 31. When he married Ann, William had been a free man for just under two months, his certificate of freedom, No. 40/899, having been issued on 26 May 1840. From the butt we learn that William Foley, an Irish man from Dublin, had been tried on 12 April 1832 at Dublin Gate, sentenced to 7 years transportation, and that he had arrived in the colony on board the vessel *Dunvegan Castle* on 16 October 1832. Born in 1808, and a hatter by trade, he was 5' 2½" tall, had a brown, slightly freckled complexion, brown hair and grey eyes. Distinguishing marks were a blue scar under the left eyebrow, a scar on the left side of his forehead, and a scar on his left shin. There is also annotation on the side of the butt indicating that William Foley was at Hartley<sup>35</sup> But the butt does not include the offence which had resulted in his exile. Further information about this man is found in the Indentures. His offence was recorded as picking pockets and this was his first offence. He could both read and write, was a Roman Catholic and a single man. For this earlier record his complexion is given as 'brown, a little pockpitted'.<sup>36</sup>

I cannot find any reference to William Foley in the newspapers of the day but, as an aside, did come across an interesting snippet regarding the convict transport *Dunvegan Castle* which, in June 1832, was preparing for the voyage to New South Wales. It was scheduled to take on board a less than willing human cargo of about 250 convicted men. At least two other young men were prepared voluntarily to work their ticket to get to Sydney. To this end that had each paid £10 to a man named Samuels, described alternatively as a 'Jew shopkeeper' and a 'respectable watch manufacturer and working jeweller ... an honorable and fair dealing tradesman', for which they expected to enjoy a relative degree of comfort during the voyage. However, on boarding the vessel they found that they were rated as seamen, not passengers and, as neither had any useful seagoing skills, they were removed from the vessel, hopes dashed and £10 the poorer.<sup>37</sup>

On arrival at Port Jackson, and the muster procedures having been completed, William Foley was assigned to Reuben Uther who had been born in Southwark, London, on 27 March 1791 to John William Uther, skin dresser and seal skin sorter. In September 1806 young Reuben was indentured in London to emancipist and wealth merchant Simeon Lord and he arrived at Sydney in June 1807 to take up a position as a clerk/manager to Lord. In 1811, in partnership with Lord and Francis Williams, Reuben established a hat factory and in 1815 set up his own hat-making business, first in Hunter Street and later moving to Pitt Street. By the time William Foley arrived Reuben's thriving business had expanded. His skills as a hatter would be just what Reuben would be looking for in an assigned convict.<sup>38</sup> At what point he left Reuben's hat manufactory is no known but by 26 May 1840 William

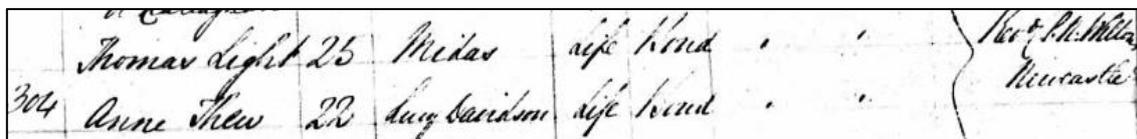
Foley was a free man, and as noted above, by July 1840 he was in the Hartley district of the Blue Mountains

CERTIFICATE OF FREEDOM.	
No.	40/899
Date,	26 May 1840
Prisoner's No .....	32/2609
Name .....	William Foley
Ship .....	Dunmore Castle 2
Master .....	Duff
Year.....	1812
Native Place .....	Dublin
Trade or Calling..	Hatter
Offence.....	
Place of Trial .....	Dublin City
Date of Trial .....	12 April 1832
Sentence .....	Seven years
Year of Birth .....	1823
Height .....	5 feet two 1/2 inches
Complexion .....	Brown & little freckles
Hair.....	Brown
Eyes.....	Grey
General Remarks.	Scar near under left eye - near Year left side of forehead I am left hand

It is thought that William and Ann remained in the Lithgow area until around 1843 during which time two daughters were born – Catherine, date not yet established, and Ann Elizabeth, on 23 June 1843 at Hartley. Son Edward was born on 11 July 1847, with the birth registered at Patricks Plains, and he was followed by John, born 1 March 1850, registered at Singleton.<sup>39</sup> One line of research indicates that around this time William Foley went ‘missing in action’. (However, his wife Ann’s life becomes rather complicated if, as mooted, she and William had a son named William J., whose birth was registered in 1858 in Sydney.<sup>40</sup>) The same research thread suggests that, around 1853, Ann Foley, now resident at Tamworth, commenced a relationship with a man named Thomas Light.

At the age of 20, on 27 January 1826, Thomas had appeared before the Berkshire Assizes on a charge of having ‘at the parish of St. Lawrence, in the borough of Reading, feloniously stolen a bay mare, the property of George Grant’. Jacob Grant, son of George of Winterbourn Stoke, deposed that the prisoner had arrived in the village in early December 1825, stayed for a short time, and when he left it was discovered that the bay mare was missing. Reading horse-dealer, James Shelley, stated that he had bought a bay mare from the prisoner on 10 December on fair-day, Thomas telling Shelley that he came from Salisbury but lived at Oakingham [now known as Wokingham]. Other witnesses were able to refute Thomas’ story and, shown to be a liar, he offered no defence. However, he called upon his brother William Light to testify to his good character and honesty – but to no avail. Thomas was found guilty and sentenced to death.<sup>41</sup> This sentence was subsequently commuted to transportation for life.<sup>42</sup> Along with 147 other convicts, Thomas was embarked on the convict transport *Midas* which, after a voyage of 122 days, during which three of the convicts died, arrived at Port Jackson in February 1827, its arrival being somewhat dramatic as she nearly ran over the pilot boat and the port’s entrance. A muster was held on 19 February, after which the convicts were landed on 1 March 1827 duly assigned. Most of the men were labourers, including shepherds, which was Thomas’ calling. He was assigned to James Bowman, who had, mainly with convict labour, established a sheep run at his Hunter Valley estate “Ravensworth”.<sup>43</sup>

In October 1831, under the auspices of Rev. Wilton of Newcastle, an application was successfully lodged for Thomas Light and Ann Thew to marry. Wasting no time, their marriage on 12 November was registered at Hexham, Newcastle in 1831.<sup>44</sup>



It was as Ann Thew that Thomas' wife had been tried at the Old Bailey on 9 April 1829, charged with having, on 13 February, stolen 1 cloak, value 7s.; 1 gown, value 1s. 6d., and 1 pair of shoes, value 1s. 6d. from her employer, schoolmaster William Martin, in whose service she had been for about two months. She was found guilty and sentenced to seven years transportation.<sup>45</sup> Three months later she was embarked on the *Lucy Davidson* which, on its only voyage as a convict ship, departed from England on 20 July and arrived at Sydney Cove on 29 November, having lost only two of its 101 female convicts *en route*, which was surprising considering that there had been an outbreak of whooping cough on board. Following a short time in quarantine, the women were mustered on 3 December and finally landed six days later.<sup>46</sup> According to the bound indentures Anne Thew was a single woman, aged 20, a 'lifer' but with no previous 'form'. She was a Catholic, a native of Liverpool [other records state Bristol] and, although she had no education, she could offer services as a servant of all work. She stood at 4' 11", had a ruddy freckled complexion, light brown hair and hazel eyes, and sported some distinguishing marks such as a small mole on her left cheek and a tattoo on her right shoulder. Like many of her shipmates, she was assigned on arrival, her employer being John Gurner, Chief Clerk of the Supreme Court.<sup>47</sup>

It was not long before the newspapers of the day were bewailing the behaviour of the women from the *Lucy Davidson*. On 11 January 1830 *The Sydney Monitor* declared –

The women who were a few months since landed from the *Lucy Davidson*, are so very troublesome, being continually brought before the Police Office, that the Magistrates are of the opinion they are the most evil-disposed crew that may have been landed in the Colony for many a-day!<sup>48</sup>

In a similar vein, *The Australian* observed –

It is no less strange than true, that the greater portion of women by the *Lucy Davidson*, and who were pretty generally assigned from the ship, are now in the third class of the Factory, as incorrigible.<sup>49</sup>

Ann Thew was one of the troublesome women. In July 1830 she featured in the extensive list of 'missing' prisoners. She had absconded from her master John Gurner and, moreover, this was the second time she had done a runner.<sup>50</sup> On 28 July she was admitted to the Sydney Gaol and taken before the Bench where, for repeatedly being absent without leave (3<sup>rd</sup> offence) she was removed to the Female Factory on 1 August to serve 6 weeks in the 3<sup>rd</sup> class and to have her head shaved, after which, amazingly, she was to be returned to service to the long-suffering Mr. Gurner.<sup>51</sup> A further absconding in January 1831 earned her 14 days in the cells.<sup>52</sup> More spectacularly, in February 1831, she was one of the ringleaders of a riot in the Factory, the events of which, under the heading 'Female Insurrection at the Factory' were vividly reported in *The Sydney Monitor* of 5 February, an extract of which follows.

On Thursday last, the women confined in the third class, instead of attending to their usual occupation of wheeling and breaking stones, set about breaking through the strong walls which separated them from those of the second and third classes, with a view no doubt, of effecting an escape from their vigilant overseers and task masters. About 600 forced a passage from the limited allotted for their operations and sojournment; but ere they could demolish the strong walls and gates opposed to them, they were stopped by the constabulary, and finally secured by the military, who marched to the scene of action in double quick time, in their undress, led on by an officer ... The soldiers seemed highly delighted by their duty; their greatest dread being, that the Amazons would not effect their escape to the bush, where the heroes hoped to have a choice as well as a chase; but, ere the troops arrived, the constables had checked the attack on the outer gate.<sup>53</sup>

For her part in the affray Ann Frew was one of 'Amazons' sentenced to three years transportation at the Newcastle penal settlement, she being in the first group of 28 sent on 5 March. In fact, rather than being incarcerated, most of the rioters had been assigned to private service in Newcastle and Maitland by September. The Newcastle gaol records show that Ann Frew, whose behaviour was described as 'orderly', was 'disposed of' on 12 November 1831 - 'To be married to John [sic] Light by permission of the Acting Governor'.<sup>54</sup>

Three children were born to Thomas and Anne – Walter (1832), Caroline (1834) and George (1836) – most likely at Ravensworth where, for the baptism of Caroline in 1834, Thomas was recorded as an overseer for James Bowman.<sup>55</sup> He had received his ticket of leave in February 1834, subject to remaining in the Patrick Plains district. On 1 February 1841, fifteen years after he was convicted, Thomas Light was granted a conditional pardon – No. 42/37.<sup>56</sup> Now free from constraints as to where he could live and work, it seems that Thomas moved north to the Murrurundi area and Doughboy Hollow where he found work on a cattle station.<sup>57</sup> We know that he ended up in the Tamworth area, where he had purchased a small holding (2 roods) in 1852, established a carting business, and where he and Ann Foley set up house together.<sup>58</sup> But what happened to his wife Anne? No records have been found for her having been granted a ticket of leave or freedom, or pardon. It has been mooted that she died at Doughboy Hollow, but no record has been found to support this. However, one thing is certain – she was not, as has been incorrectly suggested by a number of Ancestry online family trees, the Ann Light who died at Tamworth in 1895.

Thomas Light and Ann Foley (formerly Hewton, second daughter of Rosannah Euden and William Robinson, and who assumed the surname Light) never married but they did have three children together, all born in Tamworth. James was born in 1854 but died from accidental burning in May 1858. Joseph was born in 1856, never married, and died aged 85 at Tamworth. Youngest child Jemima was born in 1859, married John Neal in 1877, and died at Tamworth in 1937.<sup>59</sup>

Following Thomas Light's death on 15 March 1881, the following notice appeared in the Government Gazette.<sup>60</sup>

**In the Supreme Court of New South Wales.  
ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION.  
In the will of Thomas Light, late of Tamworth, in the Colony  
of New South Wales, waterman, deceased.  
NOTICE is hereby given, that after the expiration of fourteen  
days from the publication hereof, application will be made to  
the above Court, that probate of the last will and testament of  
the abovenamed deceased may be granted to Joseph Light, of  
Tamworth, in the Colony aforesaid, labourer, son of the above-  
named deceased, sole executor in the said will named and  
appointed.—Dated this 20th day of April, 1881.  
JOHN PATTERSON,  
Proctor for the Executor,  
Tamworth.**

There was reference in the will to only one member of Thomas' family – his son Joseph – to whom Thomas bequeathed all his property whatsoever and wheresoever situated – 'to hold the same unto and to the use of my son the said Joseph Light his heirs and assigns for ever absolutely'. While there would not be a great deal to share around – the estate being valued at under £157 – it is surprising that his life partner or his other children, by either relationship, were not mentioned at all.<sup>61</sup>

Ann Light outlived Thomas by nearly fifteen years. The death certificate shows that she died at Tamworth on 12 October 1895 at the age of 76, from senile decay, and was buried on 13 October at the Church of England, Tamworth. According to the informant, Ann's grandson George Neal of Tamworth, her parents had been William Robinson a seaman and Rosanna Hewton. Ann had been born in Sydney and spent all her life in New South Wales. She had married for the first time at Parramatta to a William Foley (date or duration unknown) and her second marriage, of 16 years, was said to have been held at Tamworth [although no such ceremony took place].

George was able to give the names Ann's first batch of children – Catherine, William, Anne, Edward, John – all still living, but ages not known. He was better able to cite the children of the second 'marriage' – Joseph, nearly 38, and George's mother Jemima, aged 36, both of whom were still living. He also knew that one male child was deceased – and this was James.<sup>62</sup>

When Rosannah Euden died in 1831 her two daughters were quite young – Elizabeth about 11 and Ann about 7. How well did they remember their mother? I am not sure whether Elizabeth kept her mother's memory alive, but it is obvious that Ann had not forgotten her roots and had, perhaps, talked to her own children about her parents and her early life. While Ann's grandson may have been a little unclear on some family details, he had no problem recording those relating to his great-grandparents.

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#### NOTES

- <sup>1</sup> *Bury and Norwich Post*, 24 Jan 1816 p.4. *Hull Packet*, 16 Jan 1816, p.3.
- <sup>2</sup> Ancestry, England & Wales, Criminal Registers, 1791-1892, England, Yorkshire-East Riding, 1817. Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia, Colonial Secretary's Papers, 1788-1856, Series: *NRS 897; Reels 6041-6064, 6071-6072*, p.61.
- <sup>3</sup> Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia, Convict Indents, 1788-1842, Bound Indentures, 1814-1818.
- <sup>4</sup> Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia, Settler and Convict Lists, 1787-1834, New South Wales, Female, 1820 and 1821.
- <sup>5</sup> Ancestry, Australia, Births and Baptisms, FHL Film Number 993949. Ancestry, Australia, Birth Index, 1788-1922, V18205332 1B. Biographical Database of Australia (BDA), Biographical Report for Rossannah Euden. Ancestry, 2012 Bennell, Foley online family tree, <https://www.ancestry.com.au/family-tree/person/tree/70919514/person/38221622015/facts>.
- <sup>6</sup> Free Settler or Felon? Convict Ship Lord Eldon 1817, [https://jenwilletts.com/convict\\_ship\\_lord\\_eldon\\_1817.htm](https://jenwilletts.com/convict_ship_lord_eldon_1817.htm).
- <sup>7</sup> Ancestry, England & Wales, Criminal Registers, 1791-1892. Ancestry, UK, Prison Hulk Registers and Letter Books, 1802-1849. Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia, Convict Indents, 1788-1842. Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia, Settler and Convict Musters, 1806-1849. Ancestry, New South Wales, Census and Population Books, 1811-1825.
- <sup>8</sup> Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia, Colonial Secretary's Papers, 1788-1856, Series: *NRS 900; Fiche 3163-3253*, p.41.
- <sup>9</sup> Ancestry, New South Wales and Tasmania, Convict Musters, 1806-1949, New South Wales, General muster, 1822.
- <sup>10</sup> Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia, Colonial Secretary's Papers, 1788-1856, Series: *NRS 898; Reels 6020-6040*, p.56.
- <sup>11</sup> *The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser*, 29 Jan 1824, p.1.
- <sup>12</sup> Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia, Certificates of Freedom, 1810-1814, 1827-1867, (NRS 12208) Registers of Certificates of Freedom, 1 Dec 1823-Apr 1827.
- <sup>13</sup> Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia, Colonial Secretary's Papers, 1788-1856, Series: *NRS 899; Fiche 3001-3162*, pp.435-8.
- <sup>14</sup> Ancestry, New South Wales and Tasmania, Australia Convict Musters, 1806-1849, New South Wales, General muster A-L and M-Z, 1825.
- <sup>15</sup> Ancestry, New South Wales and Tasmania, Australia Convict Musters, 1806-1849, New South Wales, General muster M-Z, 1825.
- <sup>16</sup> Ancestry, 1828 New South Wales and Tasmania, Australia Census (TNA Copy), New South Wales, Census R-S, 1828.
- <sup>17</sup> *Kentish Weekly Post or Canterbury Journal*, 1 Aug 1806, p.4 and 22 Aug 1806, p.4. BDA, Biographical report for Richard Cheal.
- <sup>18</sup> Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia, Applications and Admissions to Orphan Schools, 1817-1833, Applications for Admission, 1831
- <sup>19</sup> Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia, Applications and Admissions to Orphan Schools, 1817-1833, Female Admission Books, 1831.
- <sup>20</sup> According to a Euden researcher Christine Neal Morrison, Rosannah died on 25 July – email correspondence, 9 Aug 2017.
- <sup>21</sup> Ancestry, 1828 New South Wales, Australia Census (TNA Copy), New South Wales, Census R-S, 1828.
- <sup>22</sup> Orphan School Admission Books. Whitlam Institute & Western Sydney University, Female Orphan School, website text with footnotes, [https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0007/926188/FOS\\_Website\\_text\\_with\\_footnotes\\_UPDATED\\_19\\_Aug\\_15.pdf](https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0007/926188/FOS_Website_text_with_footnotes_UPDATED_19_Aug_15.pdf).
- <sup>23</sup> Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia, Convict Applications for the Publication of Banns, 1828-1830, 1838-1839.
- <sup>24</sup> Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia, St. John's Parramatta, Marriages, 1790-1966, Vol 04, 1839-1966 (No1-345).
- <sup>25</sup> Free Settler or Felon? Convict Ship Hive 1834, [https://jenwilletts.com/convict\\_ship\\_hive\\_1834.htm](https://jenwilletts.com/convict_ship_hive_1834.htm).
- <sup>26</sup> Ancestry, UK, Prison Hulk Registers and Letter Books, 1802-1849, Leviathan, Register, 1801-1836. Findmypast (FMP), England & Wales, Crime, Prisons & Punishment, 1770-1935, Home Office: Convict Hulks, Convict Prisons and Criminal Lunatic Asylums: Quarterly Returns of Prisoners, HO8/39.
- <sup>27</sup> Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia, Convict Indents, 1788-1842, Bound Indentures, 1833-1835.
- <sup>28</sup> Ancestry, New South Wales and Tasmania, Australia Convict Musters, 1806-1849, New South Wales, General muster L-Q, 1837.
- <sup>29</sup> Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia, Tickets of Leave, 1810-1869, (NRS 12202), Ticket of leave butts, May 1838-Sep 1838. Berriew (Welsh: Aberriw) is a village, community and electoral ward in Montgomeryshire, Powys, Wales, on the Montgomeryshire Canal and the Afon Rhiw near the confluence with the River Severn 79 miles (128 km) from Cardiff and 151 miles (243 km) from London – Wikipedia, Berriew, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Berriew>.
- <sup>30</sup> Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia, Certificates of Freedom, 1810-1814, 1827-1867, (NRS 12210) Butts of Certificates of Freedom, 1840, November, All records.
- <sup>31</sup> Ancestry, Australia, Gaol Description and Entrance Books, 1818-1930, Entrance Book, Parramatta, 1840-1843.



- <sup>32</sup> According to Christine Neal Morrison, a daughter Mary was born at Sofala. See also NSW BDM, Birth registration, 1176 1855 V18551176 42A.
- <sup>33</sup> Ancestry, Australia, Marriage Index, 1788-1850. With the opening of the route across the Blue Mountains, the area around Lithgow was becoming settled in the early 1820s, with Bowenfels being founded in the 1830s following the opening of the Victoria Pass. Hassan's Walls is today a major tourist drawcard, being the highest lookout point in the Blue Mountains. The Presbyterian Reverend Colin Stewart had arrived free in the colony in 1839, having served as the Minister on the emigrant vessel *Boyne*, and was sent to minister in the district of Hartley. He died at Sydney in 1886 – BDA, Biographical report for Colin Stewart.
- <sup>34</sup> Ann Hewton, Media Gallery, 2012 Bennell, Foley Ancestry online family tree, <https://www.ancestry.com.au/family-tree/person/tree/70919514/person/38221622009/gallery>.
- <sup>35</sup> Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia, Certificates of Freedom, 1819-1814, 1827-1867, (NRS 12210) Butts of Certificates of Freedom, 1840, May, All Records.
- <sup>36</sup> Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia, Convict Indents, 1788-1842, Annotated Printed Indentures, 1832.
- <sup>37</sup> *Morning Chronicle*, 5 Jun 1832, p.4. *Public Ledger and Daily Advertiser*, 11 Jun 1832, p.3.
- <sup>38</sup> BDA, Biographical report for Reuben Uther. David S. Macmillan, 'Uther, Reuben (1791–1880)', Australian Dictionary of Biography, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/uther-reuben-2753/text3899>, published first in hardcopy 1967, accessed online 20 August 2019.
- <sup>39</sup> 2012 Bennell, Foley Ancestry online family tree, <https://www.ancestry.com.au/family-tree/person/tree/70919514/person/38221622009/>. New South Wales Registry of Births Deaths & Marriages (NSW BDM), Ancestry, Australia, Birth Index 1788-1922.
- <sup>40</sup> Ancestry, Australia, Birth Index, 1788-1922, V18582981 142A.
- <sup>41</sup> *Berkshire Chronicle*, 4 Mar 1826, p.2.
- <sup>42</sup> Ancestry, England & Wales, Criminal Registers, 1791-1892, England, Berkshire, 1826.
- <sup>43</sup> Free Settler or Felon? Convict Ship Midas 1827, [https://www.jenwilletts.com/convict\\_ship\\_midas\\_1827.htm](https://www.jenwilletts.com/convict_ship_midas_1827.htm). Ancestry, 1828 New South Wales, Australia Census (TNA Copy), New South Wales, Census I-M, 1828.
- <sup>44</sup> Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia, Registers of Convicts' Applications to Marry, 1826-1851, Granted, 1831. Ancestry, Australia, Marriage Index, 1788-1950.
- <sup>45</sup> Old Bailey Proceedings Online ([www.oldbaileyonline.org](http://www.oldbaileyonline.org), version 8.0, 21 August 2019), April 1829, trial of ANN THEW (t18290409-315). Note, her sentence was recorded as Life in the colonial records and, while her age at trial was stated to be 15 (with estimated YoB as 1814) subsequent records show that her YoB to be c1809).
- <sup>46</sup> Free Settler or Felon? Convict Ship Lucy Davidson 1829, [https://www.jenwilletts.com/convict\\_ship\\_lucy\\_davidson\\_1829.htm](https://www.jenwilletts.com/convict_ship_lucy_davidson_1829.htm).
- <sup>47</sup> Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia, Convict Indents, 1788-1842, Bound Indentures, 1829. BDA, Biographical report for Ann Thew.
- <sup>48</sup> *The Sydney Monitor*, 11 Jan 1830, p.3.
- <sup>49</sup> *The Australian*, 27 Jan 1830, p.3.
- <sup>50</sup> *The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser*, 3 Aug 1830, p.3.
- <sup>51</sup> It seems that Lucy was also assigned for a period to John Jones, Erskine Street – correspondence between Frederick Hely, Principal Superintendent of convicts, and the Colonial Secretary, cited in Convict Records, Community Contributions, <https://convictrecords.com.au/convicts/thew/ann/57378>.
- <sup>52</sup> Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia, Gaol Description and Entrance Books, 1818-1930, Entrance Book, Sydney, 1825-1832.
- <sup>53</sup> *The Sydney Monitor*, 5 Feb 1831, p.3.
- <sup>54</sup> Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia, Gaol Description and Entrance Books, 1818-1930, Description Book, Newcastle, 1832-1833 and Entrance and Description Book, Newcastle, 1829-1833. Free Settler or Felon? Newcastle Female Factory, [https://www.jenwilletts.com/female\\_factory\\_newcastle.htm#rioting](https://www.jenwilletts.com/female_factory_newcastle.htm#rioting).
- <sup>55</sup> NSW BDM, Birth registrations, V1832724 16, V1834899 18. No birth registration has been found for the second son, George. Convict Records, Community Contributions, <https://convictrecords.com.au/convicts/thew/ann/57378>.
- <sup>56</sup> Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia, Convict Registers of Conditional and Absolute Pardons, 1788-1870.
- <sup>57</sup> Convict Records, Community Contributions, <https://convictrecords.com.au/convicts/thew/ann/57378>.
- <sup>58</sup> Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia, Returns of the Colony, 1822-1857, 1852.
- <sup>59</sup> 2012 Bennell, Foley Ancestry online family tree, <https://www.ancestry.com.au/family-tree/person/tree/70919514/person/38221622009/facts>.
- <sup>60</sup> *New South Wales Government Gazette*, 26 Apr 1881 [Issue No.172] p.2389.
- <sup>61</sup> FMP, New South Wales Will Books, 1800-1952, Will No. 5590.
- <sup>62</sup> NSW BMD, Certified copy of death registration, 14361/1895.



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 Morning Chronicle  
 Public Ledger and Daily Advertiser

#### TROVE

New South Wales Government Gazette  
 The Australian  
 The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser  
 The Sydney Monitor

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