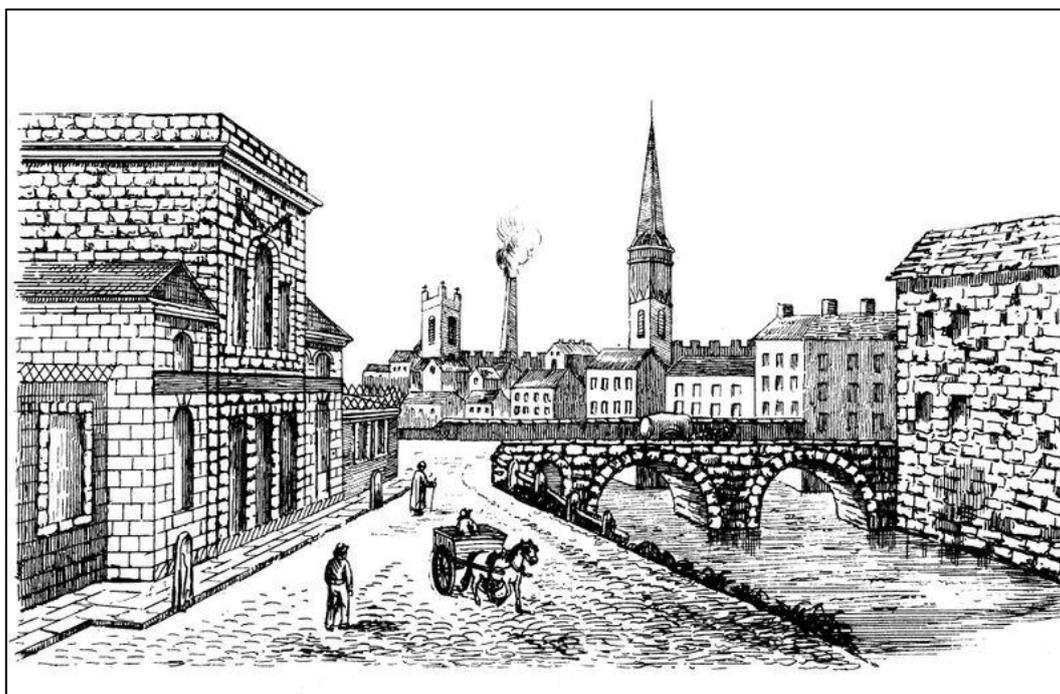

 Sarah Marshall

Date of Trial:	24 July 1816
Where Tried:	Lancaster Quarter Session (Salford)
Crime:	Larceny
Sentence:	7 years
Est YOB:	1794
Stated Age on Arrival:	24
Native Place:	Salford
Occupation:	Country Servant
Alias/AKA:	
Marital Status (UK):	
Children on Board:	
Surgeon's Remarks:	<i>Prostitute (not insolent or bad disposed), industrious</i>
Assigned NSW or VDL:	NSW

The report of the *Manchester Mercury* on the Midsummer Sessions held at the Salford New Bailey Court House afforded Sarah Marshall the briefest of mentions – to be transported for seven years for stealing wearing apparel from J. Oldham.¹ The outcome of her case was duly recorded in the Order Books.

Whereas Sarah Marshall late of Manchester in the said County Singlewoman hath at this Session been convicted of Felony This Court doth therefore order and adjudge that the said Sarah Marshall shall be sent and transported to some part beyond the Seas for the Term of Seven Years pursuant to the Statute in such cases made and provided.²

The expenses incurred, and reimbursed to George Smith for his services in prosecuting the case of John Oldham against Sarah Marshall, amounted to just over £10.³ The price of justice far outweighed the worth of the stolen goods – a petticoat, a bed gown, two caps, and one pair of silk stockings – total value 5 pence!⁴ Prior to her trial Sarah had been held at the New Bailey Prison, Salford, located alongside the River Irwell, and designed to house short-term prisoners. Built in 1787, the prison was extended in 1816 to cope with the increasing numbers of prisoners.⁵



*New Bailey - Salford*⁶

Once convicted Sarah was transferred to the Lancaster County Gaol where she was incarcerated for ten months before the Governor included her name in an Order of Transport for fifteen female prisoners which he forwarded

to the Secretary of State on 19 May 1817.

19 Sent to the Secretary of State, per Post, the orders of transportation for the following female convicts—

Oliver Simkin	Mary Ann
Sarah Marshall	Cath. Welch
Mary Bridge	Ann Atkinson
Sarah Gordon	North Guest
Sarah Wapell	Jane Jones
Sarah Robinson	Mary Ann Buckley
Ann Popp	Mary Jones
Mary Sharpe	

Eight days later, on 27 May, the Governor recorded in his journal that he had made arrangements for eleven of the women to be removed and sent on their way to Deptford, per Harrison and Donaldson. Sarah was one of this group now setting out on the journey to the other side of the world.⁷

May 27 Visited all the Blooms Ward V. attended locking up, visited the Manufactory.

Removal to Deptford the following female Transports— per Harrison & Donaldson—

Sarah Marshall	Mary Ann Buckley
Mary Bridge	Ann Popp
Sarah Gordon	Cath. Welch
Sarah Wapell	Mary Ann
Sarah Robinson	Mary Jones
Jane Jones	

It was to be another five weeks or so before the convict ship *Friendship* actually weighed anchor and set sail on 3 July 1817 for what was to be a troubled and protracted voyage of 195 days, endured by both crew and ‘cargo’. The ship’s Surgeon, Peter Cosgreave, gave Sarah Marshall an ambivalent reference. He described her as a prostitute, but not an insolent or badly disposed one, and she was industrious. The indent records Sarah Marshall as being aged 24, estimated year of birth 1792, and a country servant by occupation. As with so many of ‘our convict women (and men)’ Sarah’s age is problematic. Elsewhere her estimated year of birth/baptism is given variously as 1794; May 1796; and 1797.⁸ I have not located a definite birth/baptism for Sarah, but the suggestion that she was the Sarah Earnshaw Marshall, daughter of John and Sarah, baptised at Manchester on 1 April 1795, can be discounted as this baby girl was buried four months later.⁹

Sarah seems to have settled in quickly to her new life, the first few years being housed in the Female Factory at Parramatta during which time she may have assisted the staff as a nurse.¹⁰ Indeed, during this time she was also nursing at least one infant of her own, Lucy, born on 18 November 1818, ten months after Sarah had set foot on colonial soil. Lucy was baptised at Sydney on 4 April 1819, her parents being named as John Simpson and Sarah.¹¹ She was the first of their eight children.

Who was this John Simpson who had been taken with and had taken up with Sarah Marshall so soon after her arrival? As we will see, he too was very much a newcomer when he and Sarah became partners.

A contemporary newspaper reported that for each day of the March 1817 Derby Assizes the Court ‘was crowded to excess’ and on no occasion had there been ‘witnessed a larger assemblage of Magistrates and Gentlemen of the Town and Country’ in attendance. The star ‘attraction’ of the proceedings was the trial of Philip Potts and Hannah Valence, charged with menacing and robbing one Abraham Carcus, ‘an Hebrew Jew’.¹² In comparison

with the column inches devoted to this case the other listed cases received only cursory media attention, including that of John Simpson who, on 20 March, was sentenced to seven years transportation for stealing two bales of muslins and shawls at Hope.¹³ On 16 May John Simpson, aged 38, was received on the hulk *Justitia*, moored at Woolwich. Just over two months later he was 'disposed of' to the convict transport *Ocean* which sailed from Spithead on 21 August, called in at St. Helena on 31 October, and arrived at Port Jackson on 10 January 1818 – a voyage of 142 days.¹⁴ The indent confirms the trial date, place, and sentence for 38 year old John Simpson. It also informs us that his native place was Yarm, Yorkshire, that he was a tailor by trade, of average height at 5' 4¼", with a dark ruddy complexion, dark brown hair and dark eyes.¹⁵

On disembarkation a number of the *Ocean* convicts were sent out to Windsor, Liverpool and Parramatta for assignment.¹⁶ John Simpson was not one of these. His skills earned him a position in the Government Lumber Yard at the corner of George and Bridge Streets, Sydney where, by 1821, he was the Overseer of the tailors.¹⁷ By 1822, however, his circumstances had altered, as described in a memorial dated 26 June 1822.

The Humble Petition of John Simpson who arrived in this Colony per Ship Ocean (the 3rd) a Prisoner for 7 years Humbly Showeth,

That your Petitioner was employed in HM Lumber Yard as Overseer of the Taylors in which capacity he served 8 months without drawing any Emolument.

That your Petitioner on Friday last was taken before the Superintendent of Police and at the instigation of Mr. W. Hutchinson was [booked?] on the alledged charge of absence from the Shop when at the same time he was on Government business at Messrs Woolstonecroft & Burys. Mr. Hutchinson restored him to his same duty on last Sunday but [I] declined doing so if a man of the name of John Willis was there who had endeavoured by false reports made to Major Ovens to obtain my birth [sic] which occurred in consequence of my repeatedly having detected him in purloining Trowsers.

That the said John Willis has informed Mr. Hutchinson that he can cut more pair of Trowsers out of a piece of Parramatta Cloth than your Petitioner ever did when it will be evident on enquiry he has made two pair more than Willis ever did.

That in consequence of which Mr. Hutchinson had deemed it proper of his own account to send him [i.e. Simpson] up the Country thereby separating him from his Wife and three little infants whose sole dependence for a support rested to your Petitioner who many a night has sat up the whole at Work to obtain for them Bread – what is now to become of these three little babes is a heart rending reflection to your Petitioner.

Your Petitioner therefore with Sentiments of humble respect most ardently craves your protection so that he may be allowed to return to his Wife and children in the event of which your Petitioner will ever recollect an act of such benignity with the humblest gratitude. And Petitioner as in duty bound ever pray & - & - &

Signed / John Simpson

26th June 1822¹⁸

A letter dated 28 June from the Lumber Yard to the Colonial Secretary confirms that John Simpson was one of the convicts who had been sent to the Emu Plains Convict Farm for punishment.¹⁹ The original order dated 24 June 1822, from the Colonial Secretary to Peter Murdoch, recently appointed Superintendent at Emu Plains, referred to John Simpson as a mechanic, and made it very clear as to how John and his fellow prisoners were to be treated.²⁰

In forwarding to your Establishment the Mechanics named in the Margin, I am directed by His Exc^y, Sir Thomas Brisbane to acquaint you that these Men having misbehaved themselves in Sydney are to be allotted to the most laborious field employment under your superintendence, where they are to be detained subject to the interference of no one, but at the same time to be held in a constant state of readiness to be assigned as at a moment's warning by an order from this office.²¹

The Emu Plains Government Agricultural Establishment, with its strict discipline and punishment regime, would seem to be definitely fit for purpose, and more particularly so given its isolated location at the foot of the Blue Mountains, far from the temptations of Sydney and its satellite town settlements.



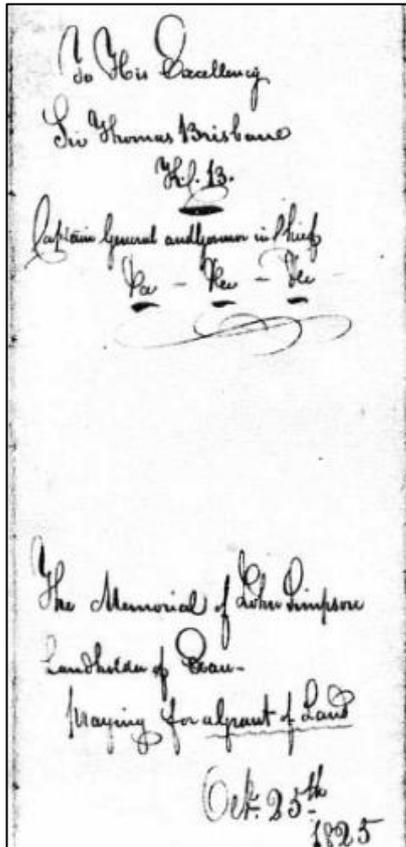
However, the following extract from the 1822 general muster return indicates that John was not separated from his wife and three children – they went with him to Emu Plains. Ignoring the second and third entries, and noting that the name ‘Lucy’ should read ‘Sarah’, we find John and Sarah as Government employees at Emu Plains and the three native born children he referred to in his petition.²²

Simpson John	C	Ocean	of Gov Employment
Simpson John	C	Shepherd	of Gov Employment
Simpson Judith	C	Atlas	Dealer Sydney
Simpson Lucy	C	Quindship	of Gov Employment
Simpson - -	130		} Children of do
Simpson - -	130		
Simpson - -	130		

Reflecting a blemish-free conduct record, and as reported in the *Sydney Gazette*, Sarah Marshall obtained her Certificate of Freedom in July 1823, exactly seven years after her trial.²³ Her *de facto* had to wait a further eight months before, on 25 March 1824, he too was granted his Certificate, his age then recorded at 46.²⁴ It was also during March 1824 that, as a free man, John Simpson was discharged from the Emu Plains establishment.²⁵ By the time the 1825 general muster was conducted John and his family were back in Sydney where he was earning his living as a tailor. Sarah was again listed as Lucy, wife of J^{no} Simpson. No ages are given for the adults but we find that John is now the father of four children – two daughters and two sons - whose ages range from 3 to 7.²⁶

Simpson Lucy	7	bc				Daught	bc	bc
Simpson John	6					Son	bc	bc
Simpson George	5						bc	bc
Simpson Elizabeth	3					Daught	bc	bc

Through a case heard at the Court House, Penrith, in July 1825, we learn that by then John Simpson and his family had relocated to the Penrith district. Brought before the bench was one Thomas Rosethorn, prisoner of the crown, who was charged with having received a piece of superfine cloth, knowing it to be stolen and then on-sold it to John Proctor, Gaoler at Penrith. One of the witnesses called was John Simpson to whom Proctor had shown the cloth and had sought his opinion of its value. Describing himself as John Simpson, Tailor of Evan, he confirmed Proctor's evidence.²⁷ It was from Evan in October 1825 that John Simpson once more sought the favourable consideration of the Governor.



The Memorial of John Simpson of Evan

Most Respectfully Sheweth

That Your Excellency's Memorialist is free by Servitude. That he is married, and has a family of Five children to support by his individual exertions in the pursuits of honest industry. That Memost is by trade a Tailor, and also rents a small farm in the cultivation of which he employs one Government Serv^t off the store. That having a large family to provide for, he is extremely anxious to obtain a Grant of Land through your Excellency's goodness whereon he could establish his family and being free from paying any rent would enable memost to provide more amply for his family and make some provision for the future exigencies of Life.

That being possessed of means to cultivate and improve a new Grant Memost most humbly implores your Excellency will be condescendingly pleased to consider him worthy to receive such indulgence.

Memorialist therefore most humbly and respectfully solicits your Excellency to take these circumstances into your benign consideration and be graciously pleased to confer on Memost the indulgence of a Grant of Land and your Memost as in duty bound will ever Pray.

John Simpson

Henry Fulton, JP, and John McHenry JP, endorsed the petition, stating that they believed the Memorialist was able to occupy a small farm. On the reverse of the page was the notation 'So soon as the lands now in the process of Survey are completed to be favourably considered'.²⁸ I am not sure if/when John's request was granted, but we do know that his family was still growing. The five children mentioned in the memorial have increased to six by the 1828 census.²⁹

65	L.	John	41	74	Acres	110	7	.	
66	L.	Isaac	31	74	Friendship	110	7	"	
67	L.	Lucy	10	BC				"	
68	L.	Arthur	9	BC				"	
69	L.	George	7	BC	BC			"	Staple
70	L.	Elizabeth	6	BC				"	
71	L.	Mary	4	BC				"	
72	L.	William	3	BC				"	



Also included in the household were two assigned servants – William Grainger a labourer and Thomas Collison, a tailor.

In the space of just under ten years Sarah Marshall had presented John Simpson with six children, and over the next two years she gave birth to two more boys, Benjamin and Henry. As yet I have not been able to locate all the birth/baptism records for these children, but tentatively, they are listed as follows.³⁰

	Birth	Birthplace	Baptism	Baptism Place
Lucy	18 Nov 1818	Sydney		
John	13 Dec 1819		10 Jan 1836	Castlereagh
George	c 1820			
Elizabeth	14 Oct 1821		10 Jan 1836	Castlereagh
Mary Ann	10 May 1823		21 Jun 1835	
William	c 1825			
Benjamin	13 Sep 1828		10 Jan 1836	Castlereagh
Henry	24 Jul 1830	Castlereagh	24 Mar 1839	Castlereagh

The belated baptism records for some of the children indicate that the family remained in the Castlereagh/Penrith district until at least 1839. Child bearing and rearing would have kept Sarah very busy. She also had to contend with her partner's wayward behaviour – he was admitted to the Sydney Gaol in May 1831 charged with receiving stolen goods, and again in late 1833 pending his case being heard on 20 January 1834 at which he was ordered to stand trial at Parramatta – crime and outcome not known. The 1833 gaol description records John as being 55 years old, almost an inch shorter (stooped?) than when he had arrived in 1818, and with hair now turned grey, and his dark eyes now blue.³¹ Was he also the John Simpson who appeared before the November 1835 Windsor Court of General Sessions, charged with having stolen two pieces of ham from John Purcell on 19 September? Purcell was the Pound-keeper at Windsor and this John Simpson was described as a labourer, late of Penrith.³² If so, what was he doing in Windsor, and had his circumstances taken a downward turn reducing him from tailor to labourer?

Unlike many of their contemporaries, John and Sarah did not proclaim the family's rites of passage through the columns of the local newspapers. Thus there is no Death Notice to mark Sarah's passing in December 1838. Since then, however, she has received some rather spectacular press coverage, an example being an item in the 18 March 2015 edition of Penrith's *Western Weekender* headed up 'History: Never forgetting Sarah Marshall'.

It's one of Penrith's oldest and greatest mysteries that still has people talking to this day.

It's the grave of Sarah Simpson (nee Marshall), which is located in an old bush cemetery at Castlereagh.

The story you're about to read could be fact, fiction or legend. No one really knows for sure what happened to Sarah or how she died nearly 180 years ago, but the most common theory is as follows ...

Legend suggests that on her way home, Sarah was set upon by a group of men who had been following her in the shadows.

"Sarah was brutally murdered in a fit of lust. Her remains were left near her home in Castlereagh, and the cowardly men raced off into the darkness," freelance journalist, Dane Millerd reported.

It's believed that when Sarah's battered and scarred body was later found, her partner John Simpson was utterly devastated. John was left a widower, a single father with eight children, trying to piece together what exactly happened to the love of his life.

Sarah Marshall, 42, was buried as Sarah Simpson as it's widely believed that John married her at her graveside to "allow her to pass without sin into the next life".

These days Sarah's Grave, as it's commonly known, is a hot spot for ghost hunters and history buffs in the local

area ... Legend suggests that Sarah continues to harass young men that lurk near her graveside while, at the same time, many young women claim to have seen her ghost in the branches above ... The origins of Sarah Marshall and her apparent brutal murder on that fateful December night will continue to remain a part of Penrith folklore.³³

The story may well qualify as 'fiction or legend' but it most definitely is not fact, and her death was mentioned in the newspapers, but as the subject of an inquest.³⁴ The Register of Coroners' Inquests records that she died on 10 December but the inquest was not held until twelve days later.³⁵

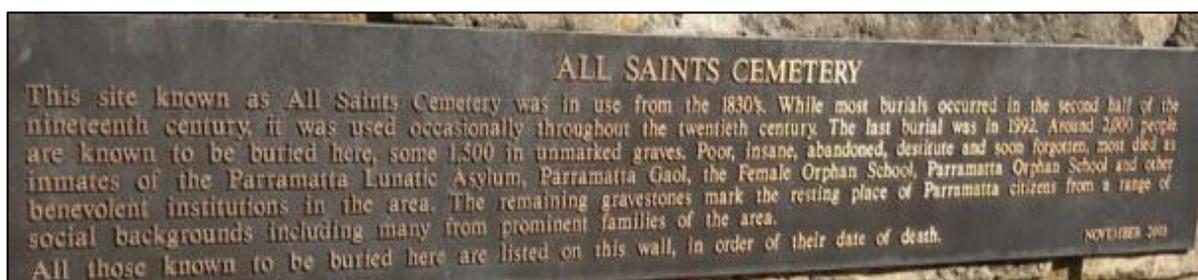
INQUESTS.—An inquest was held a few days ago by Mr. Coroner Sims, at the residence of the Chief Constable, on the body of Sarah Simpson, a free married woman, who it appeared died from the effects of influenza, having been eleven days previously ill, at the house of the said Chief Constable, and finally burst a blood vessel from the severity of the cough. Verdict, died by the visitation of God.

Sarah was only 42 when she died, after losing her battle with influenza. If there was any deathbed marriage ceremony no records have been located to confirm it. Notably she died at the residence of the Chief Constable – and it would be interesting to find out why. For instance, was it within the Chief Constable's remit to perform civil marriages under particular circumstances? The Chief Constable at the time was John Proctor who, before his appointment in 1831, had been the Gaoler for whom John Simpson had acted as witness in 1825. Sarah was buried at the Castlereagh Burial Ground in the name of Sarah Simpson and is commemorated by a simple but elegant headstone carrying the following inscription.³⁶

Sacred to the memory of
SARAH SIMPSON
died December 10th 1838
aged 42 years.
And am I born to die
To lay this body down
And must my trembling spirit fly
Into a world unknown
A land of deepest shade
Unpierc'd by human thought
The dreary regions of the dead
Where all things are forgot

John Simpson was 61 when Sarah died. The children for whom he was now responsible ranged in age from Lucy (20) to Henry (8). His was an unenviable task. How and for long did he manage? Did he have a circle of friends, and/or perhaps some relatives who could assist him or to whom he could 'farm' out the children?

By mid-1851 John Simpson was released from whatever commitments he may still have had under the arrangements made for the care for his offspring. He was an invalid at the Parramatta Lunatic Asylum when he died on 9 July of that year.³⁷ Again, there was no notice in the newspapers to mark his passing, but he is remembered in a memorial at the All Saints Cemetery, Parramatta.³⁸





Henry Spittal	19/7/1850	69
John Andrews	1/8/1850	42
Francis Rhoads	2/8/1850	68
Maria Snape	31/8/1850	46
Matilda Sarah Williams	9/9/1850	45
Charles Edward Macpherson	15/9/1850	5y 9m
Mary Ann Duffy	22/9/1850	3y 9m
Charles Tya	22/9/1850	41
Harriett Ballard	3/10/1850	65
George Pembec	3/10/1850	80
Martha King alias Brown	10/10/1850	-
Charles Grey	13/10/1850	50
John Connolly	15/10/1850	2y 6m
William Soames	15/10/1850	81
Maria Spencer	24/10/1850	18
Farrell Hurley	29/10/1850	36
William Spencer	31/10/1850	60
Moses Milton	1/11/1850	58
Maria Sharpe	2/11/1850	87
Alfred Wallace	11/11/1850	10
Male adult name unknown	20/11/1850	-
James Kennedy	20/11/1850	50
John Lunn	29/11/1850	60
Elizabeth Jones	13/12/1850	67
Hugh John Gresty	17/12/1850	10m
Benjamin Hughes	3/1/1851	-
Thomas Gowers	5/1/1851	-
Catherine Baldwin	11/1/1851	35
Thomas Baldwin	13/1/1851	10d
Elizabeth Mance	23/1/1851	1y 9m
Sarah Crane	25/1/1851	48
Margaret Mackarel	3/2/1851	52
Mary Palmer	16/2/1851	59
Mary Pusea	3/3/1851	-
George Hallatt	22/4/1851	47
Samuel Croome	9/5/1851	48
Daniel Lampost	1/6/1851	57
Jacob Mathews	8/6/1851	62
William Nelts	8/6/1851	89
James Campbell	17/6/1851	57
Mary Jane Marvel	17/6/1851	30
Joseph Gibbs	23/6/1851	44
Eliza McDonald	1/7/1851	30
John Simpson	9/7/1851	-
John Morgan	25/7/1851	46
Mary Jane Senior	24/8/1851	2y 8m
William Ardagh	28/8/1851	36
James Chambers	9/9/1851	30
Richard Morgan	28/9/1851	51
Alice Sophia Baittye	29/9/1851	13m
Mary Alice Mance	10/10/1851	16
Sarah Stafford	18/10/1851	-
Francis Jackson	28/10/1851	53
Susanna Howe	30/10/1851	13m
Eather Higga	30/10/1851	71
William Simpson	3/11/1851	abt 36
Eliza McRoberts	30/11/1851	22
Wainford Anne Catt	1/12/1851	37
Eliza Thomkins	6/1/1852	84
James Park	9/1/1852	60
Ann Simpkins	20/1/1852	73
John Sylvestet	31/1/1852	36
Samuel Paitman	5/2/1852	61
George Prosser	14/2/1852	58
John Swift	19/2/1852	30
Elizabeth Khsey	22/2/1852	58
Thomas Moon	27/2/1852	60
Matilda Noakes	11/3/1852	36
Joseph Marditt	12/3/1852	58



No age is recorded on the memorial, but John would have been about 75 based on a record for a John Simpson having been baptised on 20 April 1777 at Yarm, York, England.³⁹

All eight of the children born to Sarah Marshall and John Simpson survived to adulthood and married, introducing the surnames Delaney, Search, Russell, Simpson (not related), Frost, Ryan, Gray and Morrow to the family tree. Between them this second generation produced an impressive number of grandchildren.⁴⁰ Sarah Marshall only lived long enough to celebrate the births of three of them - the three eldest children born to Sarah's eldest child Lucy and her partner Thomas Delaney – Jane (1834-1834), John (1835) and Jane (1837).

While Sarah's memory might be kept alive through her alleged ghostly presence at the Castlereagh burial ground, it is the extensive and extended family network of descendants that stands as testament to a far more substantiated legacy.⁴¹



NOTES

- ¹ *Manchester Mercury*, 30 Jul 1816, p.4.
- ² Ancestry, Lancashire, England, Quarter Session Records and Petitions, 1648-1908, Lancashire, Order Books, 1816, Ref RB 287.
- ³ Ancestry, Lancashire, England, Quarter Session Records and Petitions, 1648-1908, Salford, Petitions, 1816 Midsummer, Ref QSP 2704/1-170.
- ⁴ Indictment Roll, Salford 1816 Midsummer Session, Ref QJI/1/190 Jul), cited in Serio/Simpson Ancestry online family tree, <https://www.ancestry.co.uk/family-tree/person/tree/73782868/person/46409861580/gallery>.
- ⁵ The New Bailey It was closed in 1868, and the prisoners moved to a new prison at Strangeways - ManchesterHistory.net, <http://manchesterhistory.net>.
- ⁶ Sketch courtesy of Chetham's Library, Manchester.
- ⁷ FindmyPast (FMP), England & Wales, Crime, Prisons & Punishment, 1770-1935, Prison Registers, Lancaster Gaol, Lancashire Governor's Journals, PCOM2/442.
- ⁸ Convict Records, <https://convictrecords.com.au/convicts/marshall/sarah/49479>; Ancestry online family Trees – e.g. Serio/Simpson Family and Milne Family; 1828 New South Wales Census.
- ⁹ Ancestry, Manchester, England, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1541-1812, Ref GB127.M403/6/1/2.
- ¹⁰ Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia, Settler and Convict Lists, New South Wales, 1787-1843, Female, 1820 and 1821.
- ¹¹ Ancestry, Australia, Births and Baptisms, 1792-1982, FHL Film Number 1483370.
- ¹² The Hannah in question was one of the women transported on the *Friendship* who, having arrived at Port Jackson, was trans-shipped to Van Diemen's Land. See Bond of Friendship, Profile-Hannah Vallance, <https://fretwelliana.files.wordpress.com/2019/03/profile-vallance-hannah-minimum.pdf>.
- ¹³ *Derby Mercury*, 27 Mar 1817, p.3. Hope is a village in the Derbyshire Peak District.
- ¹⁴ Ancestry, UK, Prison Hulk Registers and Letter Books, 1802-1849, Justitia, Register, 1803-1836. Free Settler or Felon? Convict Ship Ocean 1818, https://www.jenwillets.com/convict_ship_ocean_1818.htm. Convict Records, <https://convictrecords.com.au/ships/ocean/1817>.
- ¹⁵ Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia, Convict Indents, 1788-1842, Bound Indentures, 1814-1818.
- ¹⁶ Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia, Colonial Secretary's Papers, 1788-1856, Series NRS 937; Reel or Fiche Numbers: *Reels 6004-6016*, p.307.
- ¹⁷ Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia, Settler and Convict Lists, 1787-1834, New South Wales, Male K-Y, 1821. According to a list of Government Servants employed/supported between 1814 and 1824 by Sir John Jamison (who had property in the Emu Vale district), John Simpson was worked for Sir John between July 1818 to July 1823 - Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia, Colonial Secretary's Papers, 1788-1856, Series NRS 897; Reel or Fiche Numbers: *Reels 6041-6064, 6071-6072*, p.257b.
- ¹⁸ Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia, Colonial Secretary's Papers, 1788-1856, Series NRS 897; Reel or Fiche Numbers: *Reels 6041-6064, 6071-6072*, p.14.
- ¹⁹ Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia, Colonial Secretary's Papers, 1788-1856, Series NRS 897; Reel or Fiche Numbers: *Reels 6041-6064, 6071-6072*, p.388.
- ²⁰ The Emu Plains Convict Farm operated from September 1819 to August 1832. Lieutenant Peter Murdoch was appointed in April 1822 – Penrith City Local History, <https://penrithhistory.com/places/emu-plains-convict-farm/>.
- ²¹ Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia, Colonial Secretary's Papers, 1788-1856, Series NRS 937; Reel or Fiche Numbers: *Reels 6004-6016*, p.427.
- ²² Ancestry, New South Wales and Tasmania, Australia Convict Musters, 1806-1849, New South Wales, General muster, 1822.
- ²³ The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser, 31 Jul 1823, p.1.
- ²⁴ Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia, Certificates of Freedom, 1810-1814, 1827-1867, (NRS 12208, Register of Certificates of Freedom, 137/1994).
- ²⁵ Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia, Colonial Secretary's Papers, 1788-1856, Series NRS 898; Reel or Fiche Numbers: *Reels 6021-6040, 6070; Fiche 3260-3312*, p.187.
- ²⁶ Ancestry, New South Wales and Tasmania, Australia Convict Musters, 1806-1849, New South Wales, General Muster M-Z, 1825.
- ²⁷ Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia, Colonial Secretary's Papers, 1788-1856, Series NRS 897; Reel or Fiche Numbers: *Reels 6041-6064, 6071-6072*, p.22.
- ²⁸ Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia, Colonial Secretary's Papers, 1788-1856, Series NRS 899; Reel or Fiche Numbers: *Fiche 3001-3162, pp. 525-8*.



- ²⁹ Ancestry, 1828 New South Wales, Australia Census (TNA Copy), New South Wales, R-S, 1828.
- ³⁰ Sources for these births/baptisms include New South Wales Registry of Births, Deaths & Marriages (NSW BDM); Ancestry, Australia Births and Baptisms; Ancestry, 1792-1982, Australia Birth Index, 1788-1922; Ancestry Online Family Trees.
- ³¹ Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia, Gaol Description and Entrance Books, 1818-1930, Entrance and Description Book, Sydney 1831-1847 and 1834-1838.
- ³² Copy of writ, contributed by Judith Simpson to the Ancestry Serio/Simpson online family tree, https://www.ancestry.co.uk/family-tree/person/tree/73782868/person/46409861579/Gallery?_phtarg=SNP13337.
- ³³ The Western Weekender, 18 March 2015.
- ³⁴ Commercial Journal and Advertiser, 26 Dec 1838, p.4.
- ³⁵ Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia, Registers of Coroners' Inquests 1821-1937, Register of Coroners' Inquests and Magisterial Inquiries, 1834-1942, 1834-1859.
- ³⁶ Find A Grave (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 01 November 2019), memorial page for Sarah Marshall Simpson (1796–10 Dec 1838), Find A Grave Memorial no. 155583446, citing Castlereagh Burial Ground, Castlereagh, Penrith City, New South Wales, Australia Maintained by Sharon Rudd (contributor 48548691).
- ³⁷ NSW BDM Death Registration, 700/1851 V1851700 37B. A number of Ancestry online family trees record John Simpson as having died in 1854. There is no corresponding death record to substantiate this claim.
- ³⁸ Find A Grave, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 01 November 2019), memorial page for John Simpson (unknown–9 Jul 1851), Find A Grave Memorial no. 152869446, citing All Saints Cemetery, Parramatta, City of Parramatta Council, New South Wales, Australia ; Maintained by Find A Grave (contributor 8).
- ³⁹ Ancestry, England Select Births and Christenings, 1538-1975, FHL Film Number 919090.
- ⁴⁰ Serio/Simpson Ancestry online family tree, <https://www.ancestry.co.uk/family-tree/tree/73782868/family?cfpid=46422364071>.
- ⁴¹ Frances Owen's blog "A Rebel Hand" includes posts on Sarah Marshall and John Simpson which are recommended reading - <https://rebelhand.wordpress.com/>.



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