Entries for the Croker Prize for Biography in 2018

Theme: A woman of influence

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CROKER PRIZE FOR BIOGRAPHY
2018

1801
A DOUBLE-EDGED SWORD
Frank Butler walked out of the Randwick Army Barracks on 22nd August 1914 a very happy man. The final hurdle, his all-important medical examination, had just been passed with flying colours. He was exactly the sort of fellow the army was looking for – young, athletic and well-built, with four years’ experience as a lieutenant in the army cadets to his credit. He’d heard that some people were saying the war would be over by Christmas, but as Frank strode purposefully down High Street towards the tram stop he fervently prayed that they were wrong.

He had only started his job as a shoe salesman with Edward Fay’s Sydney store a year earlier, but Frank was confident Fay’s would understand. Breaking the news to Mother and Father inTamworth would be another matter. Father was a fiercely patriotic Englishman and would be supportive, but Mother was Irish and not so easily convinced that her 19-year-old son should have anything to do with this war in Europe.

Two months later Sergeant Frank Butler was heading down the east coast of Australia aboard Transport A19 Afric, feeling anything but heroic as he succumbed to the sea sickness that overwhelmed most of his compatriots. He was relieved when their troopship finally reached the sheltered waters of King George’s Sound near Albany, and his morale was further boosted by the magnificent spectacle of dozens of ships anchored in the Sound, all ‘packed to the gunnels’ with Australian and New Zealand troops, horses and equipment. On 1st November the Afric was part of the first convoy of 38 vessels to leave Albany bound for the Middle East.

By the time the fleet reached the Egyptian port of Alexandria, Frank was well and truly ready to disembark. Further training ensued, and by April 1915 he had been promoted to corporal and reassigned to B Company, 1st Battalion 1st Infantry Brigade. The opportunity to engage in some action finally came when Frank and his company were part of a fleet of 200 ships gathered at Mudros Bay, on the Greek island of Lemnos, about 60 kilometres from the Gallipoli peninsula. The armada left the island on the evening of 24th April 1915 and arrived at dawn for the Gallipoli landings.

As Frank later recounted, when the Australians first charged and the Turks ran, he thought they were going to chase them all the way to Constantinople. It was nothing more than a trap however, and when they got to the ridge at Quinn’s Post they found the Turks were well prepared, with their machine guns just shaving the crown of the ridge. Casualties at this point were very heavy, particularly amongst the officers who often exposed themselves in a reckless manner to try to get a better idea of the lie of the land. Frank’s own company lost three officers within five minutes of landing.

Frank survived the initial onslaught unscathed and he continued to fight through the night, but at 8.45 on the morning of the second day he was seriously wounded by a machine gun bullet that shattered his left knee. He said it felt as though someone had swung a crowbar round with both arms and bashed him across the knee. Then his leg went numb for a while, but when feeling returned the pain was severe. Unable to move, he lay in Shrapnel Gully for eleven hours until he was able to be evacuated to the beach under cover of darkness.

What followed was an uncomfortable voyage back to Alexandria on a ship so crowded with casualties that it was almost impossible to find a place to lie down. Frank was initially
admitted to the Australian General Hospital in Alexandria for treatment. He was transferred
to a convalescent camp at Helouan, 25 kilometres from Cairo, at the end of July, and two
weeks later he was medically discharged to Australia. After a couple of days attending to
army formalities in Sydney, Frank boarded the train to Tamworth.

Much to his embarrassment, Frank was met at the station by the Tamworth Town Band, of
which he had once been a member, and a large gathering of well-wishers. He was then
driven from the station to his parents’ home in a cavalcade consisting of the band members,
several other cars, and members of the public on foot. Heartly cheers were given for him, his
mother, and his father, and the band played ‘Home Sweet Home’. Frank stood in the car and
expressed his surprise and gratification at the welcome he was given.

In the ensuing days, Frank was given another enthusiastic reception by the members of the
Tamworth Catholic Club and a civic reception in the Theatre Royal. The hall was packed
to capacity to witness the Mayor of Tamworth present Frank with an inscribed silver wrist
watch “as a token of their esteem” and “in recognition of his sacrifice and devotion to duty”. Frank was one of the first
local lads to return from the Dardanelles and everyone in Tamworth was anxious to hear his firsthand account. He told
them sadly that, as far as he knew, there were now only three men, including himself, alive out of his original section.

Frank underwent a fourth operation on his knee in the following months but the outcome was not what he was
hoping for. In December 1915, soon after his 21st birthday, he was told that his leg would always be stiff and he was to be
discharged from the army as permanently unfit. It was a terrible blow for Frank, who made no secret of the fact that he
had hoped to recover sufficiently to return to active service. Frank felt he was unlucky to have received such a serious
injury to his leg, but on the other hand he knew he was very fortunate to be alive. There is no doubt that for Corporal
Frank Butler the events of 25th April 1915 were a double-edged sword that would change his life forever.

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4 National Anzac Centre 2018, Francis William Butler, accessed 19 April 2018,
5 Department of Veterans’ Affairs 2015, Journey to Albany, accessed 19 April 2018,
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8 Galinovic, M 2015, ‘Faces of Anzac: Island paradise of Lemnos led straight to Gallipoli hell’, St George &
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CROKER PRIZE FOR BIOGRAPHY
2018

1802
OPERATION PIED PIPER
Operation Pied Piper – ‘A life-changing experience’

The evacuation of Britain’s cities at the start of WW2 was the biggest and most concentrated mass movement of people in Britain’s history.¹

Twenty-one years after WW1, England was bracing for air raids from the German Luftwaffe.² Fear that aerial bombing would cause mass civilian deaths prompted the government to evacuate children, and mothers with infants from British towns and cities during WW2.³

It took place in several stages and was codenamed Operation Pied Piper,⁴ after the famous rat catcher of Hamblin.⁵ The first wave came on the 1st September 1939, the same day Germany invaded Poland and two days before the British declaration of war. Over the course of three days, 1.5 million evacuees were sent to rural locations considered to be safe.⁶ It was a life-changing experience, never to be forgotten.

Rita Gill⁷ was born in November 1932 at the Elephant and Castle, a poor inner London area.⁸ In September 1940, ‘The Elephant’ as it was known, sustained one of the first air raids of the war, damaging homes, including Rita’s, and marking the start of the Blitz.⁹ In 1941, Rita lost what was left of her house in a devastating bombing raid. On that dreadful night, Londoners struggled to put out over two thousand fires. They battled against all odds to contain a giant fireball that killed many hundreds of people and left tens of thousands without essential services.¹⁰

In 1939, her father Frederick Arthur Gill¹¹ was already serving in the R.A.F., leaving her mother Emily¹² struggling to bring up two children in a mansion block with the ever-present threat of bombs. Articles in the newspapers and on the wireless urged everyone to prepare for the evacuation at short notice.¹³

One of Rita’s earliest memories of that time was… ‘excited, very excited,’ she said… ‘Being inner London, we never knew when we were leaving, we just had to be ready every morning.

¹ David Prest, Evacuees in World War Two - the True Story. BBC On line, last updated 2011-02-17. Assessed 5 December 2017
going to school... with our sandwiches. We had a packet of sandwiches, a change of clothes 14 ... gas masks and a little label with our names and address on. We were one of the first schools to go... ' 15

People seemed prepared and were just waiting for the order. To the relief of many, it came at 11.07am on Thursday 31st August 1939. The message went out - ‘Evacuate forthwith.’ 16 The scenes at the railway and coach stations were chaotic. Rita remembers … ‘It was packed, yes. Buses were coming in and dumping children off, and nobody knew what was going to happen. It was just screaming, shouting. Some kids were crying and some mothers… There were more tears when we left… ’ 17

Rita, at the age of seven, was sent to William and Annie Rice, New Street, in the village of Chagford near Okehampton in Devon. 18 I asked her what her first impression of Chagford was, she replied... ‘It looked like a toy town. It was a big green. I realise now it was the village green.’ 19 Weeks later, Rita was joined by her mother and younger sister Freda. 20

Evacuees and their hosts were often astonished to see how each other lived. Some evacuees flourished in their new surroundings. Others endured a miserable time away from home. Many evacuees from inner-city areas had never seen farm animals before or eaten vegetables. Rita was one of these children. 21 ‘…I’d never tasted a cabbage,’ she says ‘…or seen a parsnip, turnip or even swede. Potatoes yes, we ate a lot of them.’ 22

Apart from the alien surroundings, some of the evacuees still talk about the process and the traumatic effect it had on them. 23 Rita’s memory is as clear and precise now as it was then. She says … ‘We went straight into the school, which was next to the church, which was around the green, and we were told to sit on the floor, on the wooden parquet floor. Adults came in, grownups, men, women, and they walked around … and just chose us. “I’ll take that one. I’ll take that one,” and so on and so on… and they could if they wanted, take one of a

14 George: An Evacuee’s Story - List of Items - Children and Teenagers ... virtual-library.culturalservices.net/webingres/.../vlib/0.../ww2_george_list_items.htm, Accessed, 5 December 2017.
15 Rita Bessell, interview with author, digital recording, Hobart, 6 April 2018, in author’s possession.
17 Rita Bessell, interview with author.
19 Rita Bessell, interview with author.
21 Imperial War Museums, ‘The Evacuated Children of The Second World War’,
22 Rita Bessell, interview with author.
23 D. Foster, S. Davies & H. Steele, The evacuation of British children during World War II: A preliminary investigation into the long-term psychological effects’ Published online: 09 Jun 2010, pp 398-408.
pair, if there were two brothers, two sisters, sister and brother, “No. I can’t take two. I’ll take one…” 24

In a five-year period, Rita was evacuated eight times to varying degrees of success. However, when her sister Freda was with her, she refused to be parted from her, a story the siblings still talk about today. As Freda says, ‘I just remember, my sister Reet wouldn’t leave me…she just stood her ground … I was frightened and clung to her…’ 25

One of the fondest memories Rita has was the last evacuation to Liverpool. She says… ‘This time, I was with my sister Freda. I was twelve at that time. Freda was seven, and we were taken by a couple, Bill, and Ada Evans, and it was literally, exactly like ‘Coronation Street,’ 26 the house we were taken to, and the first night we were picked, we went home, and I call it home because that’s how it felt. It was lovely absolutely, lovely…’ 27

In 1955 28 Rita married Thomas Henry Ingledew Bessell. 29 A year later they had a child Lee Thomas. 30 Sadly after more than fifty years of marriage, Rita’s husband Tom passed away. 31

In 2009, Rita sold the family home in Surrey, England and settled in Tasmania to be with her son.

Rita Bessell, née Gill, is now eighty-five years old. During the six years of WW2, Rita lost her home, was evacuated eight times and attended twelve different schools. Despite this, she became a wife, and mother, a teacher, later a psychologist and finally in her late seventies, she emigrated.

Reflecting on her experiences during those years, she says, ‘I lost my home, we were eventually rehoused outside London. I didn’t make friends because as children we were constantly on the move… On the whole, though I was lucky. I had a fairly positive experience as an evacuee, but I know many, many that didn’t… life changing? I’ll say.’ 32
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1803
OUT OF IRELAND – A BIOGRAPHY: THE CHANGING LIFE OF MAGY GALLAGHER
8 July 2008
The Clan Chief, Adrian Gallagher takes a back road, skirting Donegal’s Glenveagh National Park. This sparsely populated country is where my great-grandmother Magy Gallagher was born circa 1840, five years before the Great Potato Famine. Although records indicate Magy’s husband James Levingstone was also born in Glasgow, I hadn’t found a shred of evidence to follow. But after years of research I knew for certain Magy was from Tullaghobegley Irish in Cloughaneely, an area known in the middle of the nineteenth century as one of the poorest in Ireland, and indeed Europe.

This romantic region was inhabited by a hospitable people, frugal, hardy, inured to toil. They eked out a poor existence, less by their little farm plots than by rearing on the mountains young stock which at suitable times they sold to their more prosperous neighbours.²

It’s hard to imagine Errigal or Muckish mountains providing adequate grazing, but towards the late 1850s landlords such as Lord George Hill, Rev. Alexander Brown Nixon, and Wybrants Olphert withdrew their tenants’ right to graze their stock there, instead leasing the land to Scottish sheep farmers. At the same time rentals on their remaining arable land was doubled and trebled and taxes imposed on the cutting of turf for personal use—the selling of turf that had provided a little income towards the rent was no longer allowed. The collection of seaweed used for food and fertiliser was heavily taxed and the burning of lime for personal use was forbidden by Nixon, with his tenants required to pay a fee to use his kiln. If rent was not paid, the families were evicted, and so began the sheep and land wars.³

But what spirit or heart could those poor peasants, toiling on that wild waste of granite rock and soddened morass, have—crushed by poverty and destitution, with the wail of their poor shivering little ones in their ears, and the frown of the landlord before their eyes.⁴

The situation was exacerbated between 1852 and 1857 when potato crops partially failed in the area. Appeals made by Fr Doherty of Gweedore to the Lord Lieutenant for relief were ignored.
In 1854, Fr Doherty and Fr Hugh McFadden of Cloughaneely got £1500 worth of meal on credit from Mr Henry Moffitt Grain Merchant, Dunfanaghy, and had it distributed among 1400 families in Gweedore and Cloughaneely, who were on the verge of starvation.

On 18 January 1858 a meeting, chaired by Rev. Hugh McFadden the parish priest and vicar-forane of the united parishes of Tullagobegley and Raymuntenrondy, was held in Dunfanaghy. It resulted in a public appeal for food and clothing signed by ten Catholic priests including Hugh McFadden and his young nephew, curate James McFadden.

In the wilds of Donegal, down in the bogs of Gweedore and Cloughaneely, thousands upon thousands of human beings, made after the image and likeness of God, are perishing, or next to perishing, amidst squalidness and in misery, for want of food and clothing, far away from human aid and pity... There are thousands of youths, of both sexes, verging on the age of puberty, who are so partially and scantily clothed that modesty forbids one to look at them—they are only objects for the eye of charity.

The appeal reached Australia and resulted in a public meeting on 31 May 1858 convened by the founder of the Freeman’s Journal, the Venerable Archdeacon John McEncroe. Over 800 people attended and unanimously passed the formation of the Donegal Relief Fund (DRF) to enable people from Cloughaneely and Gweedore to migrate to Australia.

The families parted at Droichead na nDeor (the Bridge of Tears), leaving their loved ones to walk across the bridge alone. In 1859 nineteen-year-old Magy said goodbye to her widowed mother Susan, then walked thirty miles to Derry with almost 300 other destitute souls to catch a boat to Birkenhead where they waited for the departure of the Sapphire, the first boat to bring immigrants sponsored by the Donegal Relief Fund to Botany Bay.

I follow her trail back to Sydney. The Sapphire passenger records indicate Magy could neither read nor write, and was described as a ‘domestic, never in service’. I visit the Hyde Park Barracks then walk along Macquarie street, imagining the young Magy walking from Sydney Cove with the other immigrants, their sea chests carried on drays. Coming from the wilds of Donegal, what would she have made of the harbour, the buildings? Magy’s walk was different to the thousands of others who went before, as the Sapphire arrived on Sunday 24 May 1859, the eve of Queen Victoria’s fortieth birthday.

Nearly all the business establishments were closed from morning til night, whilst from many of the houses, especially in the leading thorough (sic) areas, streamed forth in graceful profusion the flags and colours of the various leading powers, in some instances stretching across the entire street. The ships in the harbour were similarly decorated, and in the bright sunshine, which seemed to impart life and vigour to things inanimate, as well as animate the spectacle, was one of the most beautiful that any person could desire to witness.

Within five days of the Sapphire’s arrival Magy has been assigned as a general house servant for three months to Mrs Hopkins at Windsor at the rate of £16 per annum, to be paid at the conclusion of the agreement.
From here the deception began.

1 View from Muckish Mountain towards Cloughaneely Donegal, photographed by Adrian Gallagher, 17 September 2017, copy in personal collection of the author.
5 McLaughlin Cloughaneely Myth and Fact, p. 129.
9 List of immigrants, Ships papers NRS 5328: Sapphire from Liverpool 3 February 1859 to Sydney 24 May 1859, NSW State Archives, Kingswood.
11 Female Servants Agreement: Mary Gallagher per Sapphire to Mrs Hopkins Windsor, Ships papers 9/6278.2: Sapphire from Liverpool 3 February 1859 to Sydney 24 May 1859, NSW State Archives, Kingswood.
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1804
THE DISAPPEARING BOOTS
Jim Kessey stared at the boots standing beside the front door of his pub; deep in thought. It was 1AM on 19 May 1914 and he was about to spring the trap. His wife thought he was spending the night at Burrara, seven miles away. Stealthily he crossed the verandah, grabbed the boots and hid them.

He moved around the building and stopped outside his bedroom window. He gripped the window frame, then shook it violently while calling out “Mary Jane! I can’t get in. Open the back door.”

“That has put the cat amongst the pigeons”, he thought, as he hurried silently around to the front door, ready for action. Walter Martin burst out wearing a shirt but with his trousers under his arm. In the dark, Walter felt desperately for his boots. As he processed the mystery of their disappearance, Jim rushed up and hit him really hard. Walter stumbled slightly but, quickly gathering his wits, turned and scooted to the road. Jim gave chase, but the younger man had a head start.

Jim yelled, “Come back here, Martin, you mongrel!” but Walter had disappeared into the blackness.

Jim returned home angrily but Mary Jane refused to let him in. With his blood up, he forced the back door.

“What do you mean having Oily Martin in your room?” he hissed, glaring at his wife.

“I don’t know what you mean”, she said fiercely. Mary Jane rarely took a backward step in an argument.

“Oh, fiffle!”, he shot back. “I’ve just tackled him out the front with no pants on. And I’ve got his bloody boots! I’ve been up in the roof watching you since 8 o’clock, so don’t bother denying it.”

Mary Jane was taken aback. “You’re a crawling sneak!” she shot back and took a breath to say more. Thinking better of it she held her tongue for once in her life. Turning on her heel, she retreated to the bedroom and shut the door firmly.

Thus humiliated, Mary Jane left their home in the little mining village of Mount David before dawn and went to live with her sisters in nearby Bathurst.

This dramatic scene caused major upheaval for the whole family and ultimately changed their lives. Within weeks Jim had sued for divorce, sold the pub and moved his family into alternative accommodation.

The upheaval was exacerbated because the Kessey’s oldest daughter (Grace) was married to Walter Martin’s oldest son (Garnet). Furthermore, second daughter Beatrice was due to marry Martin’s second son (Harold) within weeks.

Divorce was very rare in 1914. The divorce rate was just 1% of the marriage rate, much less than today’s 50% - see graph. The appellant had to prove adultery and husbands could obtain punitive damages against the wife’s partner in adultery: the co-respondent. Jim Kessey (probably motivated by both revenge and greed) sought a thousand pounds in damages from Walter Martin.

Submitted by Jim Fleming
Croker Prize for Biography 2018 - Society of Australian Genealogists
Mary Jane, immediately wrote imploringly to her husband.²

“I am writing not for my own sake But for the sake of our own family not to let this terrible trouble case go into court ... dear Husband, if you will only take me Back to look after the children I will never cause you trouble again ... Take me, if not as a wife, as a slave ... You know how the two families are mixed up ... Oh Jim, consider your children if not me.”

But Jim was too distracted to fully consider his wife’s entreaties. He was busily sprucing up the pub for sale; had a large family to manage without his wife’s practical support; had to find witnesses and gather evidence for the divorce trial; and was organizing Beatrice’s wedding ceremony.⁷ Sadly, he barred Mary Jane from the wedding.⁸ Beatrice was livid.

When the case came to court, Mary Jane’s worst fears were realised. She and Jim endured the unwanted attention of the press as the lurid details were prominently reported in all the newspapers. Gleefully they recounted details of how Jim spied from the roof “like a sweet little cherub up aloft” and how the captured boots were produced “as trophies” before Judge Gordon.¹

Despite this notoriety, the younger children were successfully protected from the scandal. For example, Halvar (aged 8) never knew that his parents were divorced. The secret was kept from him for 67 years, even after both his parents had died.
This remarkable level of secrecy was made possible because Jim and Mary Jane did not stay divorced! They were living together again in Orange by late 1916.Mary Jane had managed to get Jim to forgive her and to put the family first. Eventually they remarried at Dubbo (away from the prying eyes of neighbours). It was a civil ceremony because, in the eyes of their Catholic church, they had remained married the whole time. Their feisty relationship then continued for many more years until Jim’s death in 1944.

Jim progressed from a small village publican to become a local entrepreneur with interests in hotels, butcheries, rental houses, a movie hall and more. He served as Mayor of Bourke (NSW) on several occasions.

Mary Jane was also a force to be reckoned with. On one occasion, she went to Jim’s watering hole and ordered him home.

“Don’t you be following me about, Mary Jane”, he complained as they trudged homeward.

“Old man”, she replied, “it has only just begun”.

When Mary Jane died in 1951, Beatrice’s old anxiety, that stemmed from the disruption of her wedding plans in 1914 and so long suppressed, resurfaced. She became so upset during her mother’s funeral that she died before it was over. They are buried in adjoining graves in Wollongong cemetery. For Beatrice, the night of the disappearing boots had precipitated an experience that was both life-changing and, ultimately, life-ending.

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2. Letter Mary Jane Kessey to James Kessey, 207 Piper St Bathurst, 12 June 1914; filed as Exhibit E, Divorce Papers Series 13495 13-12809 298-1914, NSW State Records
3. Affidavit by James Kessey, 5 June 1914, Divorce Papers Series 13495 13-12809 298-1914, NSW State Records
4. Bankruptcy File 10-23735 Item 20011, NSW State Records
5. Marriage Certificate 1913/14017, Rockley, NSW Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages
7. Marriage Certificate 1914/10851, Rockley, NSW Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages
8. *Rockley weddings, National Advocate* newspaper, Bathurst, 26 June 1914, p1
9. *A Story About a Partnership, Leader* newspaper, Orange NSW, 6 Sep 1916, p4
10. Marriage Certificate 1923/3952, Dubbo, NSW Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages
11. Death Certificate 1944/15270, Bourke, NSW Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages
12. Oral History from Mary Jane Kessey’s grand-daughter, Carmel Hull (nee Kessey)
13. Death Certificate 1951/7084, Wollongong, NSW Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages
14. *Died at Mother’s funeral, Illawarra Mercury* newspaper, Wollongong, 7 March 1951, p1
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Submitted by Jim Fleming
Croker Prize for Biography 2018 - Society of Australian Genealogists
CROKER PRIZE FOR BIOGRAPHY 2018

1805 TRANSPORTED TO NEW SOUTH WALES – A NEW LIFE FOR DANIEL LEWELLYN
Transported to New South Wales – a New Life for Daniel Lewellyn

The 1827 Lent session of the Lancaster Assizes opened on 10 March. Among the prisoners to be tried were Daniel Llewellyn, 25, and two co-accused charged ‘with having uttered at Westleigh, a forged Bank of England note, for the payment of one pound’. All three were found guilty and sentenced to death, but they did not hang. Instead, some ten weeks later at Kirkdale Sessions in late May 1827, their capital sentences were commuted to transportation for life.

Daniel’s new life began in the Retribution Hulk at Sheerness – a short stay, as his record there is marked ‘New South Wales 1 June 1827’ and the *Prince Regent* sailed from Deal a week later, arriving in Sydney on 27 September 1827.

Did Daniel tell his daughters about his early life in England, how he felt during his trial and imprisonment, his reasons for attempting to use a counterfeit bank note and what his journey to Australia was like? I think not. The story of his former life that was passed down to later generations of his family was that Daniel had been an army officer, Captain Llewellyn, who had served with Colonel Henry Dumaresq in the Napoleonic Wars. Henry Dumaresq, brother-in-law of Governor Darling, came to Australia in 1825 and, it was said, Daniel came at the same time. It was only in 1983 that his descendants learned otherwise when my aunt and uncle visited Mrs Nancy Gray in Scone and were shown information about Daniel in both official records and material held by the Scone and Upper Hunter Historical Society.

The only skerrick of truth in the family story was that Daniel had a slight connection to Henry Dumaresq and, more particularly, to his brother William. The muster of the *Prince Regent* on 3 October 1827 shows Daniel assigned to ‘W Dumaresq St Heliers’. The property St Heliers, near Muswellbrook, was owned by Henry Dumaresq but Henry went to England in June 1827 and did not return until 1829. In his absence it seems that his brother inspected incoming convicts and selected ones he thought suitable for St Heliers, which was being managed at the time by Archibald Bell. In the 1828 Census of New South Wales Archibald Bell was described as ‘tenant and overseer to Captain Dumaresq’, with a land holding of 10,000 acres, which probably accounts for Daniel Llewelling, ploughman, being shown as assigned to Archibald Bell, rather than William Dumaresq.

William Dumaresq was to play a significant role in the transformation of Daniel from a convict ploughman into the manager of St Aubins, William Dumaresq’s large station property near Scone, and an important member of the Scone community. By 1840 he had become the Superintendent at St Aubins, while he was still a convict, albeit with a Ticket of Leave. He received a Conditional Pardon on 1 July 1841, recommended by William Dumaresq. By 1848 he was on the New South Wales Electoral Roll and was one of 21 electors who petitioned William Dumaresq to re-nominate for the Legislative Council in July of that year.

Daniel remained in the Upper Hunter Valley until early to mid-1856. By then some of the big squatter runs in more outlying parts of New South Wales were being broken up as towns were established and settlers purchased blocks for farming. Land for the town of Armidale
was taken from William Dumaresq’s squatter run, Tilbuster, from 1839 and farming blocks were also sold near Armidale. Daniel Lewellyn became a farmer with five portions of land just east of Armidale with frontage to Tilbuster Ponds. Items in the local newspaper show that he encountered the ups and downs of rural life. He offered rewards for the return of lost horses and threatened to impound about a hundred head of cattle which were ‘infesting’ his farm, unless they were claimed by their owner. He received praise for the quality of his potatoes, with the comment ‘in fact we think they are about as good as any New England, or even the Green Isle itself, could be expected to produce’. His ploughing skills were acknowledged in 1860 when he and four others were nominated for a committee to arrange and judge a ploughing match in Armidale.

The last mention of Daniel in the newspapers was on 2 June 1866. It was his death notice – ‘At Tara, Bendemeer, the residence of his son in law, Mr. Robert Scholes, on the 29th May, M. R. DANIEL L. EWELLYN, aged 66 years’. He had been in New South Wales for nearly forty years (not 5 minutes as recorded on his death certificate!). He had prospered, married and had two daughters. His wife died when the girls were in their mid-teens but he lived to see them become the wives of graziers, Robert and John Woolner Scholes, the eldest sons of Joseph Scholes, a leading citizen of Armidale. He has no descendants with the Lewellyn surname, but his name has been carried on as the given name Llewellyn (spelt with double ‘L’), used at least once in each generation, for both boys and girls.

While being dispatched to the other side of the world for the rest of his life probably appalled him at the time, it is unlikely that, had he stayed in England, Daniel would ever have become an estate manager, owned land and been able to vote. The pronouncement of ‘transportation for life’ was a truly life-changing event.

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1 Daniel’s surname appears in many variations – Lewellyn, Llewellyn, Llewellin, Llewellen, Lewelling. Lewellyn is the spelling he used.
2 Report on the Lancaster Assizes, Lancaster Gazette, 10 March 1827, p. 3, accessed online through Findmypast, 12 May 2018
3 Report on the Lancaster Assizes, Lancaster Gazette, 17 March 1827, p.3, accessed online through Findmypast, 12 May 2018
4 Report on Kirkdale Sessions, Liverpool Mercury, 25 May 1827, p. 6, accessed online through Findmypast, 12 May 2018
5 England & Wales, Crime, Prisons & Punishment 1770–1935, HO8 Home Office, Convict Hulks, Quarterly Return of Convicts under Sentence of Transportation on Board the Retribution Hulk at Sheerness ... for the Home Department from 1st April to 30th June 1827 both inclusive, accessed online through Findmypast, 12 May 2018
7 Unpublished letter dated 7 April 1983 from my aunt to my mother, now in my possession
8 Society of Australian Genealogists, Microfilm Reel 7010, Muste Roll of 180 Male Convicts arrived in Sydney Cove on the 27th September 1827 on board the transport ship Prince Regent the 4th ... Muster held on board the said ship 3rd October 1827 by Alex’ McLeay Esquire Colonial Secretary
9 Archibald Bell Jnr (1804–1883), best known for his crossing of the Blue Mountains now known as Bells Line of Road
Address and occupation shown in the baptism record of his elder daughter, Ann, at St Luke’s, Scone, on 31 May 1840 – handwritten extract from the baptism records provided to my aunt by Mrs Nancy Gray, Scone and Upper Hunter Historical Society, April 1983, and now in my possession

\footnote{http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article12911043, Sydney Morning Herald, 11 July 1848, p. 3}

\footnote{John Ferry, Colonial Armidale, University of Queensland Press, 1999, p. 149}

\footnote{County of Sandon, Parish of Armidale (sheets 2 and 3) (Parish Regional Charting Maps)/ Rev: 26 Sep 2007: http://hlrv.nswlrs.com.au, shows Daniel Lewellyn’s portions 122–126}


\footnote{http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article189959072, Armidale Express and New England General Advertiser, 8 August 1857, p. 3}

\footnote{http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article189959064, Armidale Express and New England General Advertiser, 8 August 1857, p. 3}

\footnote{http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article188961411, Armidale Express and New England General Advertiser, 24 March 1860, p. 3}

\footnote{http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article187929725, Armidale Express and New England General Advertiser, 2 June 1866, p. 3}

\footnote{NSW Registry of Births Deaths and Marriages, death of Daniel Lewellyn 2741/1866}

\footnote{NSW Registry of Births Deaths and Marriages, death of Anne Lewellyn 1994/1857}

\footnote{NSW Registry of Births Deaths and Marriages, marriage of Ann Lewellyn and Robert Scholes 1234/1858; marriage of Jane Llewellyn and John Woolner Scholes, 1138/1861}
CROKER PRIZE FOR BIOGRAPHY
2018

1806
THE WORST CHRISTMAS
The Worst Christmas

“I dropped a lamp. When it fell the deck caught fire, and it was all over. I took off my clothes and put them on the fire to put it out. The fire burnt my clothes. When I sat on it – I got burnt. I went down the gangway to pump. The sparks came over me while pumping and I jumped overboard. I swam about until I was picked up.”

Those were the words I stammered to the coroner over seventy years ago, having accidentally set fire to the training-ship Goliath. It happened just before Christmas in 1875 and still, on restless nights I feel those flames and hear those high-pitched screams in a never-ending nightmare. It was a day that would change my life forever.

That week my job was to collect and extinguish the 12 paraffin nightlights and return them to the lamp room. I was only twelve at the time and there were nearly five hundred other boys like me on board, all sent from London workhouses to train for a seaman's life.

As the flames spread, the alarm was rung and the lads all jumped to action stations, some manning the pumps, others bringing blankets to smother the fire but the wind made a mockery of our efforts. Many boys jumped overboard, others were lowered into boats as officers and staff responded to the conflagration. Some twenty souls perished and I was to blame despite the jury's verdict of accidental death.

Robert Searle Albert Loeber was the name on my birth certificate. I don't remember my mother Annie, who died from consumption when I was a baby, nor my father Albert Searle, a soldier who had also perished. Grandma Hannah Loeber said they never married but I treasure the photo of the three of us taken a few months before my mother's death. I lived with Grandma, and five other families, in a very noisy house in Soho, near Piccadilly Circus, an area notorious for London lads seeking ladies of the night.

Although Grandma loved me she was getting old and really struggled to make ends meet with her dressmaking. I was supposed to attend school but often wagged it, wandering the streets mucking about and pinching food if nobody was looking. One September day when I was eight, the School Board Inspector caught me and dragged me off to the Westminster workhouse. The Superintendent maintained Grandma had neglected me, so being destitute and an orphan, they sent me to their Industrial School at Tooting. Funnily enough I liked it there. The meals were plain but regular and filling and I even had a bed all to myself. Naturally there were lots of rules to obey, chores to do and lessons to learn but also time to play with my new friends in the spacious grounds.

At ten we could either learn a trade or choose to undergo training for the navy. Seeing the world sounded far more exciting than being a shoemaker, so with six schoolmates we were taken down the Thames to where the ship Goliath was moored offshore at Grays in Essex. I was kitted out in a sailor's uniform and taught to swim, march, climb the rigging, as well as mastering the basic practical skills needed for life at sea. For nearly three years I was a very happy sailor boy- until that dreadful day in December.

After the fire I just wanted to disappear but was still at the mercy of the Westminster Guardians. With the Goliath gutted, our maritime schooling continued onshore and every day I saw that wreck I was reminded of my folly. Six months later I was indentured for four years to the shipowner Mr Harland, of Whitby in Yorkshire. Before their first indentures all boys from the old Goliath were given a sovereign in a leather purse donated by an Indian
Ironically it was for bravery. I kept the money but threw the purse away, needing no souvenir of that event.

My first and only ship, the *Isis*, was a collier plying the east coast of England. With few crew members the work was relentless, cold and wet. Worse still was my constant coughing up coal dust. As the anniversary of that fatal fire approached my heart started to hammer and I became increasingly anxious. It was so bad that when the *Isis* reached London a few days later, I bolted, leaving the ship, the river and the sea far behind.

Although Grandma was delighted to see me, I lay low fearing arrest. I dropped my surname Loeber, a rare name, synonymous with the burning of the *Goliath* and published in hundreds of newspapers the previous Christmas. So as Robert Albert Searle, and nearly fourteen, I resolved to be master of my own destiny finding work where I could.

In 1889 I married my dear Mary Ann moving to suburban Willesden where the houses were bigger, the rents just affordable and the environment healthier for our growing family. I opened a greengrocery shop in 1901 but wasn’t good at running a business. An opening came up with the Willesden Council as a road-man, lowly but necessary and more importantly, permanent work. The wages were meagre but just enough to allow us to rent a seven-room house in Brett Street where we have lived for the last forty years.

Of our twelve children, Robert died after his smallpox vaccination, Thomas at birth, little Emily at eight and our beloved Mary at twenty-six, the others have thrived, married and given us many grandchildren.

Now in my eighties with my wife by my side, I occasionally reflect on those early days. Had that fire never happened would I have been happier sailing the seven seas. I doubt it.
THE BURNING OF THE GOLIATH.


The Goliath was built as a wooden man-of-war for the Royal Navy in 1835, converted to a steamer during the Crimean War then outfitted as the first ship of a new program to train poor law children for careers in the Royal Navy and Mercantile Marine.

In all the newspaper reports, including the coroner’s inquest, Robert’s age was incorrectly stated as fourteen.

Training ships. 1875 House of Commons Sessional Papers.


Birth Certificate. Robert Searle Albert Loeber, 27 Feb 1863 at Westminster Workhouse to Annie Loeber. General Register Office (GRO), St James Westminster No. 331


No record of Albert Searle’s death or Army Service has yet been discovered.

A photograph in the possession of a descendant of Robert Loeber.


“Two Centuries of Soho, its Institutions, Firms and Amusements” by the Clergy of St Anne’s, Soho (1898). www.archive.org/stream/twocenturiesofso00cardiala#page104/mode/2up.

In 1871 St James Industrial School Tooting was set in 20 acres of land with playing fields and gardens.


Religious Creed Register Westminster Union Workhouse. Admitted 22 Sep 1871 and sent to the Industrial School 29 Sep 1871. Ancestry.com

Kentish Independent 15 April 1876 pg 8. British Newspaper Archives (BNA).

120 of the 500 boys were kept at Sherfield House, Grays, the rest sent back to their Poor Unions.


Hampshire Telegraph and Sussex Chronicle 12 August 1876 pg 5. Findmypast.com.au


Daily Gazette For Middlesbrough, 21 Aug. 1876, p.4. BLN. Also various newspapers BNA.

Five days after Robert Loeber deserted, the Isis nearly sank off Hartlepool during a terrible storm.

1881 census. The crew consisted of the master and two apprentices. Ancestry.com


Marriage Certificate. op. cit. 8


Kilburn Times 21 March 1902 pg 7 BNA.

GRO Birth and Death indexes.
CROKER PRIZE FOR BIOGRAPHY
2018

1807
A LOVE OF WORDS
In 1955 in a school in Saskatoon Canada, the vice-principal looks in as a Grade 6 Art Class display their work for a parent teacher meeting. He sees a young girl hanging an excellent watercolour, he comes to take closer look, the young artist looking on expectantly. “If you can paint with a brush then you can paint with words, I will see you in my English class next year.”\(^1\) Roberta Joan Anderson did spend the next year in his English Class and on her first album in 1968 “Song to a Seagull” Joni Mitchell, as she became known, wrote - “This album is dedicated to Mr Kratzmann who taught me to love words.”\(^2\) This was the beginning of two very different but brilliant careers. In 2001 Arthur Kratzmann was asked to present Joni with an award for ‘creative genius’, almost 50 years after they had last met. Joni acknowledged, after all those years, the impact that Arthur had on her artistic life and career.

Arthur’s story began in Murgon Queensland on 10 September 1925. The second of four sons born to Wilhelm (Bill) Kratzmann and Elizabeth Mary nee Johnston.\(^3\) Bill made a modest living as a diary sharefarmer in the often drought stricken Kingaroy district. The Depression years of the 1930’s were difficult for the family but Arthur had many happy memories from his childhood - “What a thrill it was to go to the movies at Sweet’s Theatre and watch the silent films while a pianist created live mood music.”\(^4\)

Arthur attended numerous tiny schools in the district but when he was the only pupil in Grade 7 at Boogie Primary, it was arranged for him to attend the larger St. Mary’s Catholic School at Kingaroy. The only drawback being the 14 kilometres bareback ride to and from school each day over the Boogie Range.\(^5\) Arthur excelled at St Mary’s and his parents were urged by the local priest Fr. Troy, who saw his academic potential, to send Arthur on to higher education. This was a luxury the family simply could not afford. Not to be deterred Fr. Troy convinced Bill to let Arthur sit the state scholarship examination in 1939. He achieved one of the highest Year 7 scores which qualified him for a scholarship to Nudgee Secondary College in Brisbane. If Arthur achieved the required results, he would then receive a further scholarship to Teachers Training College. In 1942, only 17 years old, Arthur was a qualified teacher posted to a tiny school at Thallon in outback Queensland.\(^6\)

However, as soon as old enough, Arthur put his teaching career on hold to follow his brothers into the war and was accepted for Air Crew Training with the RAAF in Nov 1943.\(^7\) He took the opportunity to complete his pilot training in Saskatchewan Canada, where he met Mary Field, the squadron’s postmistress. After a whirlwind courtship the couple married on 23 December 1944 at the Dafoe Airforce base.\(^8\) By the time Arthur had completed his training the war was almost at an end; his recollection of his wartime service was - “I got a wonderful trip and a wonderful wife out of the deal.”\(^9\)

Arthur returned to Australia for discharge in 1945; Mary and their son David, born in Canada in late 1945, followed in April 1946. They settled in Kingaroy, where Arthur was teaching and in 1947 their son Terrance was born.\(^10\) It was a difficult transition for Mary, leaving her family, living in the outback and raising two small children in the most basic of teacher’s accommodation. Arthur was dissatisfied with his family’s situation and the teaching opportunities available, so he and Mary decided to return to Canada in 1949.
He secured a teaching position in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan and completed his Bachelor of Education (Saskatchewan) in 1954. By 1955, Arthur was vice-principal and Grade 7 English teacher at the Queen Elizabeth School at Saskatoon.\(^{11}\)

He obtained his Master's Degree in Education (Alberta) 1958 and Ph.D. in Education (Chicago) in 1963. In July 1968 he was appointed Professor of Education and Director of Teacher Education at the University of Victoria. From July 1970 to June 1972 he held the position of Associate Dean of the Faculty of Education. He left UVic and took up the position of Professor and Dean, Faculty of Education, University of Saskatchewan in 1972. He returned to UVic in July 1973 and was appointed to the Faculty of Education, Department of Communication and Social Foundations, acting as chair of the department from July 1974 to June 1977. He was granted tenure with UVic in 1976 and was Professor Emeritus upon his retirement in June 1986.\(^{12}\)

Arthur was widely published, spoke at seminars and served on many organisations and committees. Arthur was committed to improving the Canadian education system for both students and teachers. His proudest achievement was when appointed Assistant to the Commissioner and Senior Researcher on Governance and Administration for the British Columbia, Royal Commission on Education (1987-1988).\(^{13}\)

He began working with the Chinese Government on the East China Normal University English language project in 1983 until it was terminated after the events at Tiananmen Square in 1989.\(^{14}\)

Arthur never really retired, he just moved on to other projects. He served on the British Columbia Council of Education Leadership (2000-2009), when he and Mary were not travelling around the USA and Canada in their motorhome.\(^{15}\)

Arthur passed away on 29 September, 2015 in Victoria, Canada, aged 90 years, survived by Mary, his wife of 71 years, and their two sons.\(^{16}\)

In 2015 Arthur was posthumously awarded a Valued Elder Recognition Award (VERA), one of his nominees wrote -

"I have borne witness to many, many acts of kindness as he gently and respectfully supports and encourages others around him."\(^{17}\)

Arthur was a dedicated educator and his many memorials from past students are testament to the positive and lasting impact that a dedicated teacher can have on young lives and minds.

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\(^{17}\)\(^\text{In 2015 Arthur was posthumously awarded a Valued Elder Recognition Award (VERA), one of his nominees wrote - “I have borne witness to many, many acts of kindness as he gently and respectfully supports and encourages others around him.”}\)
3 Name Search Reference, Service Record of Arthur Kratzmann, A9300, National Archives of Australia.
6 Kratzmann to Author, personal family history research, email, 10 September 2017.
7 Name Search Reference, Service Record of Arthur Kratzmann.
10 Anon., ‘Letters to Home Lead to Altar’, The Courier Mail, 6 April 1946, p. 3; Kratzmann to Author, personal family history research, email, 10 September 2017.
12 University of Victoria to Author, Dr Arthur Kratzmann, email, 16 May 2018.
14 Kratzmann to Author, personal family history research, email, 10 September 2017.
15 University of Victoria to Author, Dr Arthur Kratzmann, email, 16 May 2018.
16 Kratzmann to Author, personal family history research, email, 10 September 2017.
17 University of Victoria to Author, Dr Arthur Kratzmann, email, 16 May 2018.
CROKER PRIZE FOR BIOGRAPHY 2018

1808
EXILED TO SUCCESS – THOMAS BLANDTHORN

Submitted by Michelle Watson
Croker Prize for Biography 2018 - Society of Australian Genealogists
Exiled to Success – Thomas Blandthorn

When the gavel came down at the Manchester Borough Sessions on the 1st of March 1844, the life of Thomas Blandthorn changed forever. Aged 16 Thomas was convicted of larceny and sentenced (as a repeat offender) to seven years transportation.

Thomas was baptized at St John the Baptist Church, Chester, Cheshire on 14 July 1826, his parents were John Blanthorn, a tailor and Elizabeth Gunney. By December 1839, the family were living in Ashley Lane, Manchester. It was there that Thomas’s mother, Elizabeth died aged 43 years.

Thomas’ early life reflected the increasingly common 19th century English experience of industrialization and urbanization resulting in poverty, overcrowding and unsanitary living conditions. This made diseases such as cholera, typhus and yellow fever both endemic and epidemic.

It was against this background of poverty and disease that young Thomas lived his early life. On 6 Jan 1840, Thomas Blanthorn, aged 11 years was convicted of house breaking at the Epiphany sitting of Salford Quarter Sessions and sentenced to two months imprisonment. This appears to be Thomas’ first serious encounter with the law.

In June 1841, Thomas Blandthorn living at 16 Ashley Lane, Manchester, Lancashire, England with his father, John Blanthorn, now aged 70, Ann Blandthorn (40), and siblings Margaret (10) and Sarah (5). John’s age reflected the 21 years he’d spent in the army (he didn’t marry Elizabeth until after his discharge, when he was 46 years old). John and Ann OGDEN weren’t formally married until 23 October 1841.

After his 1844 larceny conviction Thomas was shuffled through several prisons - from Salford Gaol on 18 Mar 1844, arriving at Millbank Prison on 26 Mar 1844. Then from Millbank on 4 May 1844 arriving at Parkhurst Prison on 15 May 1844.

The various prison registers which record these transfers provide a wealth of information about Thomas. He can’t read or write, and his occupation is listed as a piecer (put together broken threads of cotton in mills, generally a job for children or women). The most damning information (as far as the authorities were concerned) is the Gaoler’s report on his character: “Prior conviction for Felony & seven times vagrancy. Lived in crime for 5 years.” The seven vagrancy convictions have not been previously recorded but would indicate he was living in extreme poverty as a child and young adult. There is also a physical description of Thomas – 5 foot 3 or 4 inches tall, brown hair, florid complexion and brown eyes with smallpox marks.

Significantly, given the number and variations of spelling of his last name, we are provided a list of his aliases. He is listed in the register as Thomas Bladthall, alias Blanthorn, alias John Ogden (his step-mothers’ surname). This record is solid evidence that Thomas Bladthall and Thomas Blandthorn are the same person.

On 14 May 1847, the Home Secretary, Sir George Grey wrote to the Governor of Parkhurst Prison, ordering that a large number of prisoners, including Thomas Bladthall be transferred from the prison to the transportation ship, Joseph Somes, bound for Van Dieman’s Land.

Thomas was about to became part of the Exiles scheme, the last “convicts” to be sent to the east coast mainland colonies under the transportation system. On arrival in Van Dieman’s Land, Thomas and others on board the Joseph Somes were to be given a full...
pardon, on the condition that they not return to England during the remainder of their sentence\textsuperscript{16}.

After three years in prison, Thomas was off to the other side of the world when the \textit{Joseph Somes} departed Portsmouth, Hampshire, England on 2 June 1847\textsuperscript{17}. Following several months at sea, on 24 September 1847 Thomas Blanthorne arrived at Port Henry (Geelong) via Hobart. He, along with others from the ship were “sent ashore for having refused reasonable wages.”\textsuperscript{18} There is no information of regarding his immediate fate after his disembarkation.

Thomas Blandthorn married Sarah Ann Munro on 15 Nov 1852 in Collingwood, Victoria, at their local Wesleyan Methodist Church\textsuperscript{19}. By 1855, the family are in the Castlemaine area and in 1858 Thomas is prosecuting Mr Keeghan for non-payment for a dray and harness worth £16\textsuperscript{20}. Their daughter Elizabeth Ann\textsuperscript{21} is born in Castlemaine in June 1860, the first of their children to survive infancy (three children having previously died).

By 1862 the family have moved to New Zealand where the next four children - George Thomas (1862), Sarah Blanche (1865), Margaret (1868) and Emily Amelia (1870) were born in Dunedin, Otago. Between 1870 and 1876 Thomas Blandthorn is living in Frederick Street, Dunedin and registered to vote\textsuperscript{22}, reflecting an interest in politics\textsuperscript{23}. There is no information on why the family are in New Zealand, but the timing coincides with the Otago Gold Rushes.

The family returns to Australia sometime before 1872, when Thomas Blandthorn(e), begins paying rates on a property in Retreat Road, Bendigo. Initially, the property is owned by the Crown, but from 1874 onwards, Thomas is listed as the owner\textsuperscript{24}. Even though Thomas is working as only as a labourer, he was able to buy his own house, a major accomplishment for someone whose early life began in poverty. These rates payments are the only records we have of Thomas for the next 20 years, representing a period of uneventfulness that I think he would’ve appreciated.

In 1903, Thomas and Sarah Ann, both now old age pensioners, are still living at Retreat Rd, Bendigo\textsuperscript{25}. Thomas died 15 September 1907 at Bendigo Hospital, aged of 84 years old\textsuperscript{26} and was buried at Bendigo Cemetery on the following day\textsuperscript{27}. At the time of his death, 8 of his 9 adult children were still alive, raising their own families. His obituary only refers to him as a district pioneer, with no mention of the Exile past which in many ways contributed to his quietly successful life.

\textsuperscript{1} HO 27 England & Wales, Criminal Registers, 1791-1892 (Kew, Surrey, England, National Archives (UK)), The National Archives, UK, Piece: 73; Page: 88. Conviction of Thomas BLADTHAL for larceny. Sentenced to 7 years transportation.
\textsuperscript{2} Cheshire Diocese of Chester Parish Baptisms 1538-1911 (Chester, England, Cheshire Archives and Local Studies), Findmypast.com, Page: 129; No. 1027. St John the Baptist Church. Baptism for Thomas BLANTHORN.
\textsuperscript{3} Cheshire Diocese of Chester Parish Baptisms 1538-1911 (Chester, England, Cheshire Archives and Local Studies), Findmypast.com, Page: 129; No. 1027. St John the Baptist Church. Baptism for Thomas BLANTHORN.
\textsuperscript{4} Ancestry.com, Manchester, England, Deaths and Burials, 1813-1866 Collegiate Church of St Mary, St Denys and St George (Cathedral). Death of Elizabeth BLANTHORN buried 29 Dec, 1839.
6 HO 107 Census Returns of England and Wales, 1841 (Kew, Surrey, England, The National Archives, UK), The National Archives, UK, Piece: 574; Book: 12; Civil Parish: Manchester; County: Lancashire; Enumeration District: 22; Folio: 3; Page: 1; Line: 8; GSU roll: 438726.
8 HO 13 Home Office Correspondence and Warrants (Kew, Surry, England, The National Archives (UK)), Findmypast.com, Piece: 84; Page: 159. Order to High Sheriff of County of Lancaster to remove Thos BLADTHALL to Millbank Prison.
11 Ibid
12 Ibid.
13 Ibid.
14 HO 13 Home Office Correspondence and Warrants (Kew, Surry, England, The National Archives (UK)), Findmypast.com, Piece: 84; Page: 159. Order to High Sherriff of County of Lancaster to remove Thos BLADTHOLL to Millbank Prison. Order from Home Secretary, Sir George Grey to Governor of Parkhurst Prison to transfer Thos. BLADTHOLL to the Joseph Somes for transportation to Van Dieman's Land.
15 "Exiles [convicts] to Port Phillip [Victoria] were people serving their sentence in an English prison. For those who had served part of their sentence, been well-behaved, and were deemed to be suitable for settlement in Port Phillip, they were selected for learning a new trade which would aid their settlement. They were granted a conditional pardon on arrival and were required to stay in the colony for the remaining period of their sentence. They were prisoners from Pentonville, Parkhurst and Millbank prisons. The term Pentonvillain was coined by the local newspapers and referred to all exiles who arrived on the 9 voyages between 1844 and 1849 which part of this scheme. Victoria: Exiles and others on Pentonvillain ships 1844-49 database -- http://zades.com.au/gandd/index.php/databases/potpourri/ppindexes/463-ppvpent. For a detailed history of the scheme see Wood, Colleen. Great Britain's exiles sent to Port Phillip, Australia, 1844-1849: Lord Stanley's experiment. 2014. University of Melbourne, PhD dissertation. Minerva, http://hdl.handle.net/11343/51010
16 VPRS89 / PO unit 1, item Joseph Soames - Notifications of Pardons of Exiles 1844 -1849, Superintendent, Port Phillip District
18 VPRS 14 Register of Assisted Immigrants from the United Kingdom 1839 – 1871. p. 551; entry 136.
19 Marriage Certificate of Thomas BLANDTHORN and Sarah Ann MUNRO, Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages Victoria, Reg. Year: 1852; Reg. Number: 3764
21 Birth Certificate of Elizabeth Ann BLANDTHORN, Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages Victoria, Reg. Year: 1860; Reg. Number: 15966
26 Death Certificate of Thomas BLANDTHORN, Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages Victoria, Reg. Year: 1907; Reg. Number: 3764

Submitted by Michelle Watson
Croker Prize for Biography 2018 - Society of Australian Genealogists
CROKER PRIZE FOR BIOGRAPHY
2018

1809
A LITTLE CHAT WITH THEIR CHEMIST
A Little Chat With Their Chemist

This, according to the story Mum told me, was the beginning of the adoption process that her parents undertook to make her theirs. A local chap, who knew what was happening on his patch, their chemist told them of an upcoming birth where the child would be adopted out. He asked if they were interested and, after nearly 9 years of childlessness, they jumped at the opportunity. He’d let the appropriate people know of their interest and get back to them.

My grandparents never wanted to keep the truth from her so, when she was old enough, they started telling Mum things. Like the story about the chemist. Mum never made any attempt to find the names of her biological parents because, as she put it to me, that may have made her appear ungrateful. She did, however, reveal a sneaking suspicion that the chemist may have been her actual father. He often made a point of talking to her when she came to pick up something from his shop. But, of course, suspicions are not proof. Mum was born on 9th April, 1921, at Hopeleigh Maternity Home, Marrickville, NSW, which was run by the Salvation Army. She was given the names Amelia Phyllis, but was known to most people throughout her life as Phyllis.

The parents who welcomed her into their home were “Henry” and Amelia Luders. My grandfather’s official name was Gustav Adolph Luders and he was born in Salford, Lancashire, in 1880. He was one of 7 children born to German-born parents Heinrich Peter Johann Luders, a butcher, and Caroline Eliese Margarethe Theodore. At some point they met in Manchester, where they married in 1876. My grandmother, Amelia Cissie Gregory, was born in Bolton in 1887. The Gregory family had been silk weavers in Lowton but had been forced to re-locate to Bolton when the English silk industry went into decline. Amelia was one of 4 children born to parents Adam and yet another Amelia- this time Amelia Gregory, nee Ball. The family, like many others in Bolton, worked in cotton mills.

Second-born Henry had been born in Salford in 1880, one of five places the Luders family had lived before finally settling in Bolton. Most siblings worked in cotton mills but Henry was a labourer in a local colliery. He rose to become a Banksman, a better-paid, skilled, above-ground job. Around this time, he and Amelia Gregory met. She was a cotton winder in a mill and lived with her mother, having died in 1910.

Henry and Amelia married in a civil ceremony in Bolton in 1912 and remained there until leaving for Australia. Their ship, the Orient Line’s, Osterley, left London on 16th January, 1914. Their names appear in the ship’s passenger list, but Henry was listed as Harry. I could not find details for the years 1914-1917, but between 1918 and 1925 they lived in 2 addresses in Alexandria, NSW: 333 Belmont St; and 298 Lawrence St.

Apart from the sunshine, it was almost like the Bolton they had known before emigrating. Alexandria was a densely-populated area and had all the noise and pollution that goes with unchecked industrialisation. Settlement had started in the 1860s and market gardening was commenced around this time. But industry soon followed. The first industries to appear were grain mills and wool washing and by the
In Henry’s working life, Alexandria became known as ‘The Birmingham of Australia’ because “it boasted more than 550 factories employing 22,200 workers in an area of just 1,000 acres (4.0 km2). In 1926, the arrival of an H C Sleigh-chartered tanker, the Mexico, saw Botany Bay “gazetted as a port of entry for overseas vessels for the discharge of bulk motor-spirit.” And by 1930 he was a foreman- shades of his earlier rise from colliery labourer to Banksman back in Bolton. The depot, however, was an isolated place because of its potential for danger, and even disaster. Amelia and Phyllis did not get many visitors and learnt to live without much company from the outside world. Phyllis attended the nearby St Peters Public School between 1926 and 1933, the same school my sister and I would attend around 30 years later.

Phyllis married Gordon Leslie Parkins in 1940 and 2 children were born to them. Sadly, Amelia was not there to see her grandchildren, having died in 1938. But Henry survived and moved until his death in 1953.

Now, nearly 100 years later, Henry and Amelia Luders are the maternal ancestors of 4 generations: daughter; grandchildren; great-grandchildren; and a few great-great grandkids thrown in for good measure. And none of this would have happened without that little chat with their chemist. A real life-changing experience, don’t you think?
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CROKER PRIZE FOR BIOGRAPHY 2018

1810
THE ‘POOR MAN’S FRIEND’ MEETS A RICH MAN’S FOE
The ‘Poor Man’s Friend’ Meets a Rich Man’s Foe

Historians maintain that Australia’s gold rushes were seminal events that radically changed the social and political face of the nation. A parochial and class-divided Australia lurched towards multi-culturalism and egalitarianism, as hoards of hopeful locals and immigrants from all walks of life rushed to the goldfields. Class was no barrier to fame and fortune, but wealth and reputation could just as readily be lost. Grit and persistence were pitted against harsh conditions. New heroes and villains were born as camaraderie flourished alongside drunkenness and crime, fuelled by readily available cheap liquor.

Soon after the first announcements of payable gold finds in the Bathurst area of NSW in 1851, an enterprising butcher, Philip Skillicorn, joined the rush. Philip had arrived in Australia from the Isle of Man as a bounty immigrant with his family in 1840. He traded as a butcher in Auckland, New Zealand, and returned to NSW where he continued his butchering in Windsor, before heading to the gold town of Sofala in 1852. The cultural experience, and Philip’s subsequent meeting with his demon, changed his life in ways that mirrored Australia’s emerging paradigms of mateship, plucky heroism, and the boom and bust of fortune.

Meanwhile, the population of Bathurst was swelling far beyond its capacity to cater for people’s everyday needs. There were 61 hotels operating concurrently in the town at the height of the gold rush, so while alcohol was plentiful, food was in short supply as were people who could successfully operate businesses to support the more basic needs of the booming population. No man could have been more welcome than Philip Skillicorn when he set up his butcher shop in Bathurst in 1856.

Phil’s sausages, the first to be produced in Bathurst, were so good that they were remembered by journalist ‘Jovial Jacques’ more than 50 years later as the best he ever tasted. ‘Good old Skilly’ was generous to those in need, and became known as ‘The Poor Man’s Friend’. His son Thomas later recalled that ‘many a household has been saved from actual starvation, and many a poor but deserving family has been tided over the pinching times of poverty by the interposition of him who sought no public reward’. Despite his generosity, Philip built a thriving and lucrative business.

Unfortunately, Philip’s renowned conviviality came at a high cost. Alcohol had evidently begun to take hold from Philip’s time in Sofala, where among other incidents, he was robbed of about £300 while in a drunken state. In Bathurst, he was frequently involved in drunken episodes which caused him to be absent from his shop, robbed, and in trouble with the law. The drink problem become a very public affair after Philip shot to fame in 1860, following a £150 wager with publican Job Manning, who challenged Philip to ride his horse from Bathurst to Sydney in under a day.

Enthusiastic crowds gathered outside Manning’s pub at 1 am on a September morning as their local hero set off on his horse, also called ‘The Poor Man’s Friend’. It was a tough ride on slippery tracks in drizzlling rain, later inspiring an epic poem describing the towns, pubs and other landmarks along the way.

A great throng arrived to cheer Philip, celebrating his remarkable feat as he arrived in Sydney in just under 20 hours. But while the horse was in fine condition, Philip himself was
so inebriated from his ‘refreshment’ stops along the way, that he had to be held in the saddle by some friends. In a very unpopular move, Manning refused to pay up on the bet on account of Philip dismounting *en route* to lead his horse on foot from one side of a pub to a water trough on the other side.  

Philip’s dipsomania continued to land him in trouble in Bathurst until he was forced to leave the town, after which his drinking spiralled out of control. After a stint as a butcher in Mudgee, Philip struggled desperately to trade on his reputation as the Poor Man’s Friend in Newcastle, but his drunkenness led him to be both a victim and perpetrator of petty crime, with numerous short admissions to Maitland Gaol.

Philip ended up on the streets of inner Sydney, where he was repeatedly assaulted, robbed and stripped of his clothing, and left to be taken by police to dry out in prison. The trajectory of his tragic decline was charted in the Darlinghurst Gaol entrance books with increasingly frequent short periods of imprisonment for drunkenness, about 30 in all, until his demise in gaol at the age of 61 from alcohol-related liver disease.

Harsh criticism in the press followed Philip’s death, though there were some who remembered him at his best. A newspaper correspondent from Mudgee wrote an obituary in which he lamented Philip’s ‘mania for grog’, describing him as the ‘lion of the sporting world of Bathurst... a hale, bluff old fellow who used to boast that he could take his nobler like any other man’. The correspondent went on to say that ‘he took it too well and too often... He was rich and drink beggared him, strong and it enfeebled him; respectable and it humbled him’.

Philip’s son Thomas Skillicorn responded to criticism in the ‘Sydney Evening News’, with a letter in which he wrote of the family’s anguish, describing Philip as ‘a good and indulgent father, a true and liberal friend and enterprising citizen’, who in his ‘convivial relations... unfortunately surrendered himself to a habit which has only too often checked the career and brought sorrow and death to the brightest and best of God’s creatures’.

Fame and fortune may come and sadly go, but Philip Skillicorn’s generous spirit as the ‘Poor Man’s Friend’, has lived on through several generations.

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Submitted by Wendy Pryor
Croker Prize for Biography 2018 - Society of Australian Genealogists
CROKER PRIZE FOR BIOGRAPHY 2018

1811
HENRY BETTELEY
JEFFERSON’S ‘LIFE-CHANGING EXPERIENCE’

Submitted by Lynne Bagwell
Croker Prize for Biography 2018 - Society of Australian Genealogists
Henry Betteley Jefferson’s ‘Life-Changing Experience’.

When Henry Betteley Jefferson born 1856 (1), set off to Australia, he was not to know that he was on a collision course with Ned Kelly and his gang.

For the first few years, life, no doubt, would have been fairly routine. He worked in the Riverina office of lawyer George Gillott, who married his sister, Annie May, 1867(2); and was employed on a cattle station in the Wentworth area for 2 or 3 years, probably where he met his future wife.

He joined the NSW Postal Service on 28th November, 1873 (3); and was first appointed to Jerilderie, where 6 years later, fate changed his life dramatically with the invasion of Jerilderie by the Kelly gang.

On the night of the event Henry sent a telegram off the Sydney (4)

"Jerilderie, Monday, 9 p.m. February, 1879

" The Kelly gang stuck up the telegraph office here to-day, at 2 o'clock, cut the office connection, and also cut down several telegraph poles. Myself and assistant were covered by revolvers, and marched to the lockup, which they had previously stuck-up, and were there locked up, together with two constables. We were released at 7 p.m. They warned me not to touch the wire until the morning, but I have done so, fixing the wire along a fence, and restoring communication. The bushrangers afterwards stuck up the Bank of New South Wales. I have just heard (9 p.m.) that they are in the township again. —

H. JEFFERSON, stationmaster, Jerilderie."

In 1926 Henry was interviewed (5).

“After having lunch at the nearby Travellers Rest Hotel I returned to the Post and Telegraph Office to find Joe Byrne waiting for me. He was guarding my apprentice. Shortly after, Ned Kelly arrived. He smashed the insulators holding the telegraph wires with the butt of his pistol and took all my staff away from the Post Office and down the to Royal Hotel with the other prisoners.

Joe Byrne then set about reading all the telegrams to make sure that we had not been sending messages about them. While this was going on Ned Kelly broke all the wires and destroyed the insulators.
I was warned by Kelly not to try and communicate with the outside world for at least a day. I was also told that they intended to take me out in the bush and dump me but they did not follow up on that threat in the end.

Kelly and Byrne then escorted young Rankin and I across to the Royal Mail Hotel, and then to the police barracks. We were locked up with the constables. On our release I repaired the telegraph lines.

I was not prepared to bow to these fellows and managed to get a message out after they left town.”

Soon after he was advised that he would be relieved as the Kelly’s had threatened to return and shoot him if he fixed the wires before the next day. Henry, although reluctant to leave Jerilderie, requested Deniliquin, as his parents lived there. On 21 October, 1879. Henry married Sophia Ann Gunn at St. Pauls Church. But he didn’t stay in Deniliquin long, as their first child, Alfred G. was born in Balranald in 1881. Altogether Henry and Sophia had 8 children, 5 boys and 3 girls.

A keen sportsman, for some years he was Secretary of the Balranald Racing Club and also a member of the hospital Committee. In 1886 he was appointed in charge at Wagga Wagga and subsequently Inspector of the Riverina District. He was an excellent rifle shot and president and Secretary of the Wagga Rifle Club. And also in command of ‘G’ Company, 1st Infantry Regiment, retiring with the honorary rank of ‘Captain’ of the Officers’ Reserve. In 1903 he was gazetted as a Justice of the Peace.

In 1909 he transferred to Newcastle, the senior office in the State. He was also vice-president of the New South Wales branch, and president of the northern district sub-branch of Commonwealth Postmasters’ Association, and also, held the position of divisional returning officer for the Bland electorate during the first Commonwealth elections.

In 1918 he completed his 45th year with the postal service and on the 28th November, decided to retire. Apparently in August, 1917 he went on leave, owing to a nervous breakdown. He retired in January, 1919.

After retiring, Henry moved to Ashfield, where he lived until his death in 1926. He was 70 years old and had served the Postal Department for 45 years.

Henry Jefferson’s name will always be linked to the hold up of Jerilderie by the Kelly Gang, but he will also be known for ‘his punctual attendance to business, combined with his obliging manners, he has earned the name of the model postmaster, and well he deserves it…”

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CROKER PRIZE FOR BIOGRAPHY
2018

1812
MARY ANN PARKER – OUT OF THE SHADOWS

Submitted by Caroline Haigh
Croker Prize for Biography 2018 - Society of Australian Genealogists
MARY ANN PARKER - OUT OF THE SHADOWS

In 2007, I commenced my search for information regarding my great-great-grandmother, Mary Ann Parker. The family bible was long lost but a cousin’s notes from the 1970s, allegedly taken from the bible, stated that her parents were George Parker and Mary Ann Dixon. A subsequent search of Ancestry trees consistently found Mary recorded as deceased as a baby and George Parker’s death certificate in 1887 made no mention of Mary as a living or deceased child (her closest brother, Samuel, was the informant). Mary Ann Parker had seemingly disappeared from history – and her own family’s history.

Mary experienced many life-changing moments in her long and eventful life, notably the death of her mother, Mary Dixon, when she was a young girl. But rather than this event itself being of primary importance, it was her father’s response to his wife’s death that significantly impacted Mary’s life.

Mary’s parents came to Van Diemen’s Land as Assisted Immigrants from Norfolk, England in 1835. Their family grew to seven children, of whom five survived infancy, before a fever claimed Mary Dixon’s life at age 37 in 1851. At the time of her death, the children ranged in age from James who was 16 to Mary Ann, who was just 6.

George Parker was in an invidious position - he simply could not work and look after his young children. In April 1852, George made the extraordinary decision to abandon his family and try his luck in the Victorian goldfields. He was followed some months later by eldest son, James. Mary Ann must have been cared for by some person known to her father (her sister, Eliza?), as she was not admitted to the Queen’s Orphan School in Hobart. All Mary’s siblings eventually moved to Victoria - but Mary was left behind in Hobart. Why Mary’s father made the fateful decision to leave her behind will probably never be known. I want to believe that it was a decision made from love, with Mary’s best interests at heart.

Mary married my great-great-grandfather John Shelton in the Huon, south of Hobart, in 1861, aged just 16. But how did she end up in the Huon? The answer lies with the Queen’s Orphan School. In June 1857, a month before her 13th birthday and following the departure of her siblings to Victoria, Mary was admitted by persons unknown to the Orphan School, accepted ‘at the Colony’s expense’ as an orphan. Within three months, Mary was apprenticed as a domestic servant to George Green Sherwin of the Huon.

From this moment, Mary was on her own. Her future depended on her using her wits to survive. Too many girls in her position – young, illiterate and without family support – ended up participating in the seedier side of life and were often diminished by the effects of alcohol. But Mary was strong and avoided these pitfalls. Life dealt her blows, but she rose above them each time.

Mary was fortunate that George Green Sherwin’s family probably ensured that at just 16 years and pregnant, that Mary married her much older husband John Shelton. Yet just two years later, with two toddlers in tow, Mary was widowed.

Submitted by Caroline Haigh
Croker Prize for Biography 2018 - Society of Australian Genealogists
Circumstance and her father’s choices forever separated Mary from her birth family, but she appeared determined to never allow that to happen to her own children. Within eight months of her husband John’s death in 1863, she married James Widdowson. Mary had ensured her children were financially supported and were kept away from the Orphan School. Importantly, Mary had secured a roof over her head – of sorts - for her and her children. They lived in a hut in the Huon on 28 acres where there was room for animals and crops, but it would have been extremely cold in the winter. Unfortunately, it was an unhappy union and Mary eventually left Widdowson and headed for Longford in the state’s north-east.

Good marriage offered Mary and her children security, so Mary brazenly entered a bigamist marriage to brick-maker John Thomas Green in 1873, using the name Elizabeth Robinson. But it seems that true love finally got in the way of Mary’s plans for familial and financial security. In 1875, Mary crossed paths with absconded convict Walter Jones and she risked everything to run away with him the following year. Mary and Walter fled to the tin mines of north-eastern Tasmania, in the company of Mary’s youngest son William who was then 14 (her eldest, John, presumably working elsewhere). The authorities eventually tracked Mary down, after her jilted husband John Green laid charges of bigamy against her. A court conviction ensued, as did incarceration of fourteen days duration.

As an absconded convict, Walter Jones kept a low profile. No information exists regarding his time with Mary other than a one page documented oral history from a great-granddaughter written many years after his death. But much can be surmised from this document and from the marriage of Walter’s daughter Annie to Mary’s son William in 1883. Walter died in remote mining town Longreach, Tasmania in 1888 having never married (most likely to remain under the radar of the authorities) but the marriage of his daughter to Mary’s son indicates their families became close. Mary never married while Walter was alive, suggesting she may have been living with him up until his death.

Mary did eventually marry for the fourth time in 1891, three years after Walter’s death, to Englishman John Pritchard. In the early 1900s, Mary became a well-known character around the Ulverstone region of Tasmania, known by the moniker, ‘Granny Pritchard.’ An abandoned girl, forever separated from her father and siblings, Mary finally achieved a stable family life in her fifties and sixties as a grandmother to sixteen children.

In the era of DNA matching, Mary’s story has finally come to the fore. Importantly, her siblings’ descendants are now learning about Mary’s place in their family and her extraordinary life.
Mary Ann Parker (1 August 1844 - 14 November 1926)

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CROKER PRIZE FOR BIOGRAPHY
2018

1813
A PARKHURST LAD
A Parkhurst Lad

In the late 1830s a prison/reformatory was set up at Parkhurst, on the Isle of Wight, to provide education, and moral and practical training to equip young males sentenced to Transportation to be useful colonists.

The first annual report by the Visitors (committee supervising the operation of the prison) said it was an innovative project incorporating containing convicted boys, being a deterrent to them and others, and to provide moral and vocational training to reform their behaviour. This meant that establishing the system required experimentation by the Prison Governor. 1838.¹

In 1849 there were some serious problems in Parkhurst Prison, so some success stories were included in the 1850 Annual report. One was a transcript of a letter to the editor of the “Inquirer” (one of two papers published in the Swan River Colony (Perth, Western Australia) at the time) responding to an editorial critical of “young gentlemen” from Parkhurst (since the “Inquirer” declined to publish it, a copy was sent to the rival paper). The covering letter expressed surprise at the quality of the letter and having been reassured of its legitimacy by an Editorial note.²

As the first of the five signatories to the letter to the editor was Terence M’Grath, I assume that he was the main, if not sole, drafter of the letter.

Who was Terence M’Grath, why had he been sent to Parkhurst and how did being a Parkhurst Lad change him?

I have not been able to find a record of Terence’s birth, even ages given by him do not exactly agree and most official records believed to relate to him before he finished his time as a Parkhurst Lad give different spellings of his name than he used.

A family history booklet³ gives some details of Terence’s life including a transcript of his indictment as a Labourer for the theft of, “six handkerchiefs of the value of 14/-⁴, and a copy of a summary of Terence’s time at Parkhurst⁵, which describes him as a “Tailor”. Both these quotations spell Terence’s name as “Terence Magrath”. The entry in the 1841 Census believed to refer to Terence spells his name “Terrance McGrath”⁶, he was an inmate of Westminster Bridewell [in the County of Middlesex] and that he was born in the county of Middlesex⁷. Both it and the summary of Terence’s time at Parkhurst give his age as 12. For the years Terence was an inmate of Parkhurst Prison the annual report contained tables of information about all the inmates, identified by a registration number, which was reused as boys left the prison⁸. However, one of the tables includes columns for: “Parkhurst Prison Register Number”, “Period of Conviction”, “When Admitted to Parkhurst Prison” and “Character which accompanied Prisoner”. Comparing these with the details in the summary of Terence’s time at Parkhurst, I have identified Terence as having had Registration Number 279. When Terence married Anne Maria Barnard on 4 June 1857⁹, his age was listed as 30. Terence’s Marriage Registration lists his father as John McGrath, a Taylor. Neither Hugh

¹ Since he was in a remand prison at the time this is, at best, based upon what Terence remembered experiencing or hearing said about his origin.

Submitted by Stephen McGrath
Croker Prize for Biography 2018 - Society of Australian Genealogists
McGrath nor I have been able to find a John McGrath (or Magrath) in the 1841 or 1851 Censuses in the area where they were said to live. However, I have found there were marriages of one or two men named John McGrath in the Parish of St. Anne Westminster in 1822 and 1833. Neither states the husband's occupation nor his marital status. However, it does put a John McGrath in or near the Parish of St. Anne Westminster in the 1820s and at least early 1830s.

Tables relating to the boys in Parkhurst Prison published in the Annual Reports include one compiled by the Chaplain, who was responsible for the School. This provides some indication of previous schooling and competencies at the time of the report.

In these tables Terence is reported to have had 3 years 6 months schooling in "Monitorial and National" schools prior to his admission to Parkhurst and skills and knowledge at admission were described as:
Read – Tolerably; Write – Tolerably; Cipher – Addition; Knowledge of Catechism – Partly Forgotten.
In the report for 1844 his skills and knowledge were described as:
Reading – Very Good; Writing – Very Good; Arithmetic – Higher Rules; Scriptural and General Information: Much.

Another major element of the programme at Parkhurst was vocational training. Initially this was in tailoring or shoemaking. Not only did this provide training in a useful trade and an element of labour, it also had a commercial value in creating goods for use in Parkhurst and other Prisons. In 1842 bricklaying was added, enabling boys to build additions to the original repurposed Army Barracks buildings.

Since Terence’s Marriage Registration gives his occupation as Brick layer and this was one of the trades taught whilst he was as Parkhurst, it seems reasonable to assume that Terence learned brick laying at Parkhurst.

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* The Monitorial System, Madras System, or Lancastrian System was an education method that became popular on a global scale during the early 19th century. This method was also known as "mutual instruction" or the "Bell-Lancaster method" after the British educators Dr Andrew Bell and Joseph Lancaster who both independently developed it. The method was based on the abler pupils being used as 'helpers' to the teacher, passing on the information they had learned to other students.

A national school was a school founded in 19th century England and Wales by the National Society for Promoting Religious Education. These schools provided elementary education, in accordance with the teaching of the Church of England, to the children of the poor. Together with the less numerous British Schools of the education British and Foreign School Society, they provided the first near-universal system of elementary in England and Wales. The schools were eventually absorbed into the state system, either as fully state-run schools or as faith schools funded by the state.

The National Society was set up in 1811 to establish similar schools using the system of Dr Andrew Bell, but based on the teachings of the Church of England in contrast to the non-denominational Christian instruction of the Lancastrian schools. The aim of the National Society was to establish a national school in every parish of England and Wales. The schools were usually adjacent to the parish church, and named after it.
A second regular element of the labour at which the boys were regularly employed at Parkhurst was farming, growing oats and several vegetables. There was also a small amount of livestock.\textsuperscript{15}

In 1844 Terence was sent to the Swan River Colony to serve the remainder of his sentence. On his arrival, Terence was apprenticed to Henry and William Burgh. From the six monthly reports to Parkhurst\textsuperscript{16} Terence’s indenture was for four years, starting on 26 December 1844 and he was initially employed as a farm lad. For the rest of the reports he is listed as a shepherd. The twelfth report comments that from 1\textsuperscript{st} of June he had been working on his own account. The next report says “Paid off”.

In 1865 Terence took up the first 100 acre Conditional Purchase of Stock Hill Farm. By the year before he died he had 300 acres and was granted a Pastoral lease of 3000 acres.

Being a Parkhurst Lad changed Terence McGrath from a Tailor or Labourer from inner London to a brick laying farmer who wrote letters to the Newspaper Editors.

\textsuperscript{17} Many of the references in this essay are from Reports relating to Parkhurst Prison 1839-1850 in House of Commons Parliamentary Papers. A printed copy is believed to be available in the NLA (National Library of Australia), Canberra. It is understood that microfilm copies are available in various State Libraries. Quotes in this essay are from the electronic copy published by Proquest, with their permission, available online, even from home, to holders of State Library of New South Wales cards. Accessed by searching the catalogue for "Parkhurst Prison Annual Reports" (as an electronic resource). This brings up the reports with an individual
entry for the set of reports for each year. These records are also available through the National Library of Australia, again they can be accessed within the Library or registered members can access them from home, but they have to be accessed within the *House of Commons Parliamentary Papers* (i.e. search the catalogue for "House of Commons Parliamentary Papers") then once the House of Commons Parliamentary Papers site has been accessed, select "Browse 19th Century Subject Catalogue". Within this select the category "Law and Order" and within it select the subcategory "Crime and Punishment" and within it select the subcategory "Penal institutions" and then from the subsidiary list select "Prisons (Parkhurst)". Expanding it (clicking on the square with a plus sign in it next to the entry) lists the reports available by years published.

1 Yarborough [Charles Anderson-Pelham, 1st Earl of Yarborough (from Wikipedia entries for the first and second Earl of Yarborough)], J. Jebb, Wm. Crawford and J.P. Kay, Report of the Visitors to Parkhurst Prison 1839 in:
   Title: Reports relating to Parkhurst Prison, 1839.
   Document type: COMMAND PAPERS; REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS
   Collection name:
   Session: 1839
   Paper number: [197]
   Volume/page:
   CH Microfiche number: 42.155-156
   Subject: Law and order -- Crime and punishment -- Punishment -- Penal institutions -- Prisons (Parkhurst)
   Source: House of Commons Parliamentary Papers
   Copied with permission from *House of Commons Parliamentary Papers Online.*
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2 Anononius. Contains a transcription of a letter to the Editor of “the Inquirer” newspaper by Terence M’Grath, William Porter, George Woods, John Boulit and Henry Willson published in the “Perth Gazette” newspaper. Reported in Appendix to Title: Reports relating to Parkhurst Prison, 1850.
   Document type: COMMAND PAPERS; REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS
   Collection name:
   Session: 1850
   Subject: Law and order -- Crime and punishment -- Punishment -- Penal institutions -- Prisons (Parkhurst)
   Source: House of Commons Parliamentary Papers
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4 McGrath, page 4. The author had seen the document, but does not cite a reference. The London Metropolitan Archives have advised that they believe "that the indictment in question comes from a sessions roll of the Middlesex Sessions. The roll for April 1841 is MJ/SR/4543."

5 McGrath, page 5. Again no reference is cited, but research for an as yet unfinished revision of the booklet has found that these details are part of the summary of Terence’s time as Parkhurst boy in:
Gill, Andrew W., **Forced labour for the West: Parkhurst convicts "apprenticed" in Western Australia 1842-1851** compiled and edited by Andrew Gill. An image of the source documents accessed by Mr Gill has the notation "HO 24/15 p.16" which looks like a reference to page 16 in an item in the [British] National Archives that was created by the Home Office.

Maylands, W.A.: Blatellae Books, 1997. p144. At different times I have used different editions of this work some of which have slightly different titles.

7 Gill, Andrew W. Personal communication 22 Dec 2014. Mr. Gill also advised that working with an original hard copy in the National Library in Canberra he had been unable to line up the entries in facing pages. However, when only looking for details of one or two people using a digital copy, this did not seem to be a problem for me.
8 McGrath, page 11. Also, Western Australian Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages (Registration year: 1857; Registration Number 1074), which has his wife's name as “Anne Barnet” (but has her mark and no parental consent).
10 From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia.

Volume/page:
CH Microfiche number: 46.226-227
Subject: Law and order -- Crime and punishment -- Punishment -- Penal institutions -- Prisons (Parkhurst)
Source: House of Commons Parliamentary Papers


Volume/page:
CH Microfiche number: 48.227
Subject: Law and order -- Crime and punishment -- Punishment -- Penal institutions -- Prisons (Parkhurst)
Source: House of Commons Parliamentary Papers

13 Woollcombe, Robert, Governor Parkhurst Prison, Annual Report to the Principal Secretary of State for the Home Department in Title: Reports relating to Parkhurst Prison, 1843. Document type: COMMAND PAPERS; ACCOUNTS AND PAPERS Collection name: Session: 1843 Paper number: [582]

Volume/page:
CH Microfiche number: 48.227
Subject: Law and order -- Crime and punishment -- Punishment -- Penal institutions -- Prisons (Parkhurst)
Source: House of Commons Parliamentary Papers

Submitted by Stephen McGrath
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14 Woollcombe, Robert, Governor Parkhurst Prison, Annual Report to the Principal Secretary of State for the Home Department 1843, page 6
15 Woollcombe, Robert, Governor Parkhurst Prison, Annual Report to the Principal Secretary of State for the Home Department in Title: Reports relating to Parkhurst Prison, 1840, page 6.
16 Bi-annual tabular returns of the Guardian of Government Juvenile Immigrants (British National Archives ref CO 18/34-60) Reported in Gill.
17 Map extract "Courtesy State Records of WA: Cons4900 S03/2 - Tally No. 506442, 1889-1893"