

# The Convicts of South Arm



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The following stories were researched using three main sources to identify South Arm convicts. The first of these sources were documents known as 'Appropriation Lists', which recorded details about a convict on his or her arrival in Van Diemen's Land, including to whom they were assigned. By searching through these lists, a number of convicts were identified who had been assigned to labour for William Gellibrand, the original grantee of the entire South Arm peninsula. The second source used were records of 'Probation Passholders' employed by private settlers. Amongst these records are a number of convicts employed by William Gellibrand's grandson, George. The third main source used was the 'Valuation Rolls' for the newly formed municipality of Clarence, which, by cross referencing to a range of different records, show a considerable number of ex-convicts who settled at South Arm in the second half of the nineteenth century.

The stories will grow over time and with research, adding more names and tales to the rich tapestry of those lives that helped to found South Arm. It is our hope that this project will endeavor to create cultural ties to the past and link the community to its own unique history and heritage.

Understanding this history encourages a greater appreciation of the past and ultimately it is presented in a way that tourists can also appreciate. Some of the names are still recognised as having links to local families, places such as Blatherwick rise and Musk road have been named after our convict forebears, and they established the origins of the community of South Arm.

**Gellibrand brief history:**

In 1824 William Gellibrand (1765-1840) and his son Joseph Tice Gellibrand (1786-1837) arrived in Van Diemen's Land aboard the *Hibernia*. William was a well-connected settler who was granted 2220 acres of land at South Arm and the use of ten convicts. Many convicts, both men and women, served under him. He was known for the care he showed his convict servants in providing them with a comfortable hut and clothing that did not distinguish them as prisoners. Some of these convicts William helped to establish a fresh start giving them the opportunity to raise families and contribute to founding the community of South Arm.

Shortly after his arrival William built a home on Arm End made of cedar with sandstone brick foundations. It was built in two parts consisting of nine rooms with stables located in the trees nearby. William also built his own tomb, confirmed in a letter by Miss Jane Mortimer, a regular visitor to the homestead. Miss Mortimer mentions that every morning after breakfast William went to dig the vault located just below the house at the top of the dunes beneath she-oaks, overlooking Mary Ann Bay. He must have had a strong sense of attachment to this place.

William Gellibrand was a significant figure in Colonial society; he was a merchant and exporter but also served as a Justice of the Peace. He died in 1840 aged 75 and was buried at the Vault. Arm End then passed to his grandson George Gellibrand who after leasing out some of the land placed it on the market in 1844 describing it as being studded with the tallest trees in the colony and having the very best vinery on the island, covering two acres of fertile ground with full bearing fruit. Fruit trees were grown up until quite recently, mulberries did very well here. George Gellibrand built the original schoolhouse "Mound Cottage" in 1854, on the Corner of Bezzants and South Arm roads. Mound Cottage was also used as a church until St. Barnabas was built in 1892. The oldest visible grave at St. Barnabas is of Convict Joseph Wilmore. Other known convict graves are; Joseph William Blatherwick and his wife Sarah Bennett and also Edmund Musk.

William Gellibrand and his descendants were active in Tasmanian social and government circles. Joseph Tice Gellibrand became Tasmania's first Attorney General. Three of Joseph's sons became politicians. Two of them are also

buried in the vault, Walter Angus Bethune (1832-1909) and Thomas Lloyd (1820-1874).

The Land at Arm End remained in the Gellibrand family with the lease controlled by George Henry Blake Gellibrand who lived at 'Terra Linna'. Christopher Calvert jnr. leased the land and lived in the house until he retired. There was an auction in 1914 of goods and chattels including animals. The homestead quickly fell into disrepair, was vandalised and eventually burnt down.



## **The Convicts Of South Arm:**

### **John Asgill**

#### **Convict ship: *Henry Porcher***

John Asgill was transported at 19 for stealing gowns and frocks. He arrived in Van Diemen's Land 15 November 1836. John was a labourer and shoemaker from Coventry. He worked well for William Gellibrand until 1841, when he absconded and was caught over the river at Sandy Bay pretending to be a free man. Whilst on the run, he married under the pseudonym 'James Charlton'. He was 22 when he applied to marry 20-year-old Scottish convict Janet Fulton on 3 May 1841. Janet was from Glasgow where she was employed as a steam loom weaver. Her surgeons report states; honesty questioned, disposition good and obliging. Her gaol report notes character and connections very bad and that she had been convicted before. They were married at Trinity Church Hobart on 28 June 1841. The honeymoon period would have been rather short lived as he was apprehended at Sandy Bay on 7 October 1841. It appears they may have been reunited and remarried at Bothwell in 1844 under his real name and had two daughters.

#### **References:**

Old Bailey Central Criminal Court: [www.Oldbaileyonline.org](http://www.Oldbaileyonline.org)

Tasmanian Archives & Heritage Office - Convict records, CON31/1/2 image 151, CON27/1/2/image 154, CON18/1/9 image 5.

## **Lydia Hines**

### **Convict Ship: *Providence***

Lydia spent just six months at South Arm as domestic servant to William Gellibrand before her exasperated master returned her to the Female Factory for 'insolence'. Lydia was continually in trouble for drunkenness, lewd behaviour and 'gross immorality'. She was murdered by her husband in 1858, aged 53.

Transported at the young age of 17 as a notorious little firebrand from Nottingham, Lydia was tried in London in April 1821 and sentenced to 14 years for felony. Her Gaol report describes her as being impudent, which seems to reflect her cheeky, insolent nature very well. Lydia stood 4 feet 11 and  $\frac{1}{4}$  inches in height, had brown hair and grey eyes. Lydia's life in and out of service reads like a character in a television drama, she did it all. She was assigned to Mr Gellibrand Esquire in 1825 but was sent back to the Female Factory after another bout of insolence to her mistress.

Lydia was often at large without leave or remaining absent until apprehended and on one occasion on 8 October 1825 she escaped from the female factory by means of a hole in the wall. An instant £2 reward was placed. Apprehended at Coal River in April 1826 she was sentenced to seven days in a cell on bread and water, had her hair cut off and had to wear an iron collar for those seven days. This cruel practice would have been incredibly uncomfortable and would have made it almost impossible to get any rest or sleep.

She did not become any more subdued and continued a career of riotous and disorderly behaviour. In 1827 her offences stated insolence, gross immorality of conduct and pilfering. She was most often drunk and disorderly. This resulted in plenty of gaol confinement and having her head shaved. None of the humiliation administered to her altered her behaviour in a positive

manner; in fact, she became worse. She was disobedient, used abusive language and in one instance her master had beaten and ill-treated her.

Lydia married Andrew James Gooding/Goodwin, a tall, middle-aged mild looking man on March 3<sup>rd</sup> 1834 at Campbell town. They had at least seven children. Andrew must have found her completely unmanageable and been driven to madness by her insolence and drunkenness. In May 1858 when she was 53 he murdered her in an outburst of anger. Andrew came home from a day at work to find Lydia intoxicated and had to get his own tea while she raved at him. His patience wore thin and he struck her on the side of the face, she fell to the floor dead. He received a manslaughter charge as he claimed it was unintended and accidental.

**References:**

Tasmanian Archives & Heritage Office, CON40-1-5

Female Convicts Research Group (Tasmania): Female Convicts in Van Diemen's Land Database :  
<http://wwwfemaleconvicts.org.au>

*Hobart Town Gazette* 22 October 1825, page 1, 2

*The Hobart Town Courier* 5 June 1830, page 2, 3

*Launceston Examiner* 3 July 1858, page 2

*The Courier* 1 July 1858, page 2, 3

*The Hobart Town Courier* 5 June 1830, page 2, 3

*Hobart Town Gazette* 22 October 1825.p1,2

*The Courier* 1 July 1858, p.2.

## **Edmund Musk**

### **Convict Ship: *Lotus***

Edmund Musk arrived in Van Diemen's Land on 16 May 1832, having been transported for stealing 'beans and barley'. Edmund was assigned to William Gellibrand, where his skills as a ploughman would no doubt have been prized. Having gained his ticket of leave he leased a farm from the Gellibrand's. By 1858 he was farming 120 acres at South Arm, and employing convicts himself. Edmund was 31, married with five children when he arrived in Van Diemen's Land. He was 5-foot 8 inches tall with a dark complexion, dark brown hair and dark grey eyes. He had a small scar on his right thumb. His hulk report stated good and gaol report that he belonged to a gang. Edmund's colonial offences list records only two instances, one for insolence and one for being out after hours in a public place.

Edmund and his wife Mary Hoggins had ten children at South Arm. Two of their children drowned, John the eldest son drowned in Ralphs Bay while loading their passage boat *Loura Louisa* in 1879. Their daughter Susannah drowned when a boat capsized at Rokeby. Following Edmund's death on 14 June 1866, Mary took over running the farm worked by their sons. They leased other farms, now known as Winspears and Blatherwicks, from the Gellibrands. When Mary died in 1897 the farm was split into four, shared by three sons and a daughter. Edmund Musk is buried at St Barnabas' at South Arm. Edward his son is also buried there.

#### **References:**

Tasmanian Archives & Heritage Office - CON 31/1/30 image 125, CON27/1/6 image 39, CON18/1/13 image 37, CON 23.

*The Mercury*, 4 March 1879, p 2.

*The Cornwall Chronicle* 23 June 1866, pp. 8, 9.

## **Thomas Kimble**

### **Convict Ship: *Maria Somes***

Thomas Kimble was transported in 1844 for highway robbery (value 1 ½ sovereigns). He received 15 years. Thomas, son of George and Elizabeth Kimble was 23 and could not read or write. After serving as a probationary convict at Maria Island, Kimble was employed at South Arm by George Gellibrand (William's Grandson) during the harvest time. His record lists him as a farm Labourer who could plough, a shepherd and a hop grower all useful traits to establish the new colony. Thomas was described as having a ruddy complexion with dark brown hair and hazel eyes; his hands were heavily tattooed with blue marks and dots. He had a tattoo of a Mermaid on his left arm, a woman with a glass in hand on his right arm and the bust of a woman on the back of his right hand. He received a ticket of leave on 30 March 1852. His conduct record states: on 24 July 1845 disorderly conduct and improper language for which he received 2 months hard labour. On 14 September 1847 he received 21 days imprisonment and hard labour for tippling in a public house while in private service at Richmond. Things continued on a downhill run for Thomas as he was sent to Tunbridge where he received one-month hard labour and imprisonment again on 24 August 1848 for beating his fellow servant. He copped another 2 months hard labour after being found drunk again on 2 July 1851. Scant record has been found for Thomas after he received his conditional pardon in 1854. On Tuesday 28 February 1860 one Catherine Prest was charged with stealing a silver watch, value 90s from the person of Thomas Kimble.

#### **References:**

Tasmanian Archives & Heritage Office - Convict records. CON33/1/57, (image 120) CON 27/1/10 (image 217), CON14/1/22 (image 162), CON18/1/42 (image 131).

Launceston Examiner, 28 February 1860, page 3

## **James Cumberland**

### **Convict Ship: *Louisa***

Originally transported from his native home of Walthamstow for stealing geese, James Cumberland was re transported from Sydney in 1846 for the manslaughter of his pregnant wife, Anne. James originally travelled to New South Wales aged 21 aboard the *Prince of Orange* with his brother John

Cumberland aged 22 on 2 October 1820. They were both tried on 17 July 1820 at Essex Assizes. He received a certificate of freedom in 1827. James was a butcher in Penrith and was described as having a dark complexion, grey hair, hazel eyes and very hairy arms. James was later charged with the manslaughter of Ann Connell his wife who was a regular in the courts for drunkenness. On one instance, 30 December 1844, she was found at 1 am in the street at Penrith by constables Cavanagh and White, under the influence of the "rosy god". When trying to take her in their charge she began abusing them with unseemly language. She had previously been before the court for the same charge on 18 December 1844! On the day before her death she was again brought before the bench and fined 30s for drunkenness. She paid the fine and returned to find husband James was not home so she went again to a public house and became intoxicated. A neighbour returned her home late in the evening, James, now home, was likewise under "spiritual influence". Ann was left under the veranda. A short time later James was seen to drag her inside and kick her. They had a reputation for quarrelling so no one interfered. A while later James went to the neighbours stating he thought Ann was dead. The neighbour returned to find a quantity of blood on the floor and Ann dead out the back. The surgeon who examined Ann found her to be six months pregnant, her womb ruptured by a kick or blow causing immediate death. James was found guilty of manslaughter by the jury and committed for trial. James was tried in Sydney on 10 October 1846 and received life.

His conduct record states his age to be 32 when he arrived in Van Diemen's Land in 1846, but it appears this is incorrect. After serving his probationary sentence, James worked for George Gellibrand at South Arm where he died from heart disease on 19 June 1853 aged 53.

**References:**

Tasmanian Archives & Heritage Office - Convict records: CON 37/1/3 00195 (Image 195) CON 16/1/3 00332 (image 332)

Port Jackson Convicts Anthology by Lesley Uebel CD ROM

*The Australian* 9 January 1845, page 3

*Bell's Life in Sydney and Sporting Reviewer* 10 October 1846, page 4



## William Johnson

### Convict Ship: *Waterloo* (ex *Cape Packet*)

William Johnson was one of 219 convicts aboard the convict transport *Waterloo* when she sank in rough seas off the Cape of Good Hope. 143 of Johnson's fellow transportees perished in the sea. Transported for stealing seven cartloads of sugar, Johnson later worked for George Gellibrand at South Arm. William arrived on the *Cape Packet* 24 November 1842. He was aged 23, single and a labourer. He had one other offense of drunkenness when sentenced for warehouse breaking. He was transported with Henry Green for the same offence. William was 23 with a fresh complexion, dark brown hair and brown eyes. His general conduct was stated as very good and specially recommended. His conduct sheet however tells a different story! Many entries state absent without leave or absconding which he received 50 lashes for. He was often drunk and received seven days solitary confinement for refusing to work and once made a false plea of sickness. William received a ticket of leave on 13 November 1849 but received 14 days hard labour in the house of correction on 25 August 1852 for refusal to obey command of his master. He received a certificate of freedom on 25 October 1852 and then received another 3 months hard labour for being idle and disorderly. William seems to have had a run of bad luck with wives. I have noted three so far. He applied to marry Ellen Williams of the *Hindustan* on 21 April 1845; this marriage was approved but not registered. Something must have gone wrong because he applied to marry Mary Ann Gillet 27 July 1846 and that marriage was registered on 15 August 1846 in Launceston. Mary was 24 and William 34. They had a son called Thomas. Perhaps something happened to Mary because there is another application to marry Christina McKay of a free William Johnson, of the same age, in April 1854. Christina died in service and an inquest was held on December 3<sup>rd</sup> 1867 stating natural causes. If this is the same William he wasn't having a good run. Ages often vary across the records depending on what may suit the circumstances in some cases. Going by his conduct record William would have been born about 1819. Colonial Tasmanian family links has two possible deaths for William Johnson, one born 1820 died at Green ponds Tasmania in 1887 aged 67 and one born 1818 who died in Launceston in 1888. Though they could be the same man, as the Launceston William had a wife,

Elizabeth who appears to be much older (could be misprint) but her William died before her in 1887.

#### **References:**

Convict Records: CON33/1/30 Image 112, CON14/1/18 Image 58-59, CON18/1/26 Image195.

Female Convicts Research Group (Tasmania) <http://wwwfemaleconvicts.org.au>

Wreck of the Waterloo: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waterloo\\_\(ship\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waterloo_(ship))

## **John Aitcheson**

### **Convict Ship: *Prince Regent***

At the age of 30, John Aitcheson, a Scottish domestic servant, was transported for stealing a waistcoat. Tried in Dumfries in 1830, John was 5 foot 4 with brown hair and grey eyes and stated that he could not read or write. In 1847, he was found guilty of housebreaking, and sentenced to twelve months hard labour. He was one of the many convicts employed by George Gellibrand of South Arm. His record is long and tenuous. John just could not toe the line but perhaps there was a reason for this. At the time of his transportation, John was employed as a 'Gentleman's Servant', a trade for which there was not much call in colonial Van Diemen's Land. He could have desired the respectability of higher position and the status that went with it, as he had a penchant for fancy attire! Somehow it all went pear shaped for John, he went from valet to road worker. He never managed to retrieve that lost ground and psychologically this must have been a harsh blow. His record sheet shows repeated charges of drunkenness, disobedience of orders and neglect of duties. In January 1835 he was up for stealing 2 shirts and 2 silk handkerchiefs, the property of David Morley. John received 25 lashes for drunkenness, six months hard labour for neglect of duty and insubordination and not allowed to work again in that district. He was working on the Bagdad road party. This must have been extremely difficult for a man like John, he would have found it humiliating and a type of work he had been ill accustomed to at home in Scotland. John received another six months hard labour in chains for absconding. At Christmas 1839 he copped six days in the cells for misconduct being out after hours on Christmas Eve and disorderly conduct. On another occasion in 1842 he was

given one month's hard labour for misconduct when he was found in a taproom after 11 o'clock at night. The list goes on and on with yet another charge of misconduct in remaining on the township all night. In 1843 he neglected to turn up for muster. Clearly this is a man who the system could not reform, and for whom no amount of punishment would mend his ways. He was now a broken man. John received a conditional pardon on 22 May 1846 and a ticket of leave August 1851 but this was revoked on 4 October 1853. He was assigned to George Gellibrand in 1851. He finally received a ticket of leave on 5 August 1857, after which he seems to disappear from the historical record.

#### **References:**

Tasmanian Archives & Heritage Office - Convict Records: CON31/1/1 Image 96, CON37/1/3p.900 Image 299, CON27/1/4 Image59-60, CON18/1/10p.388. Image201. CON23/1/1

## **William Lazenby**

### **Convict Ship: *Moffat***

Leaving behind his wife Mary and two children at York, William Lazenby was transported in 1834 for stealing a gamecock and hen. His convict records show that he was a 27 year old ploughman, with a fresh complexion, red hair and grey eyes. His Surgeon's report states behaved well, very good; there are not many offences on his record other than being in a public house after hours and not duly presenting himself at the police office. He received his certificate of freedom in 1840. Four years after his arrival, with no hope of seeing his family again, William married a fellow convict, Susan Gambrill. With the clergyman's approval they were married on 19 October 1838 at Hamilton. She was 23 when she arrived on the *Westmoreland* on 3 December 1836. She was 5 foot 1 with a fresh complexion, brown hair and Hazel eyes. Her face and hands were freckled. Susan was a house and nursemaid. She was sentenced to life for larceny, stealing a silver watch from a man. Her gaol report states her to be of bad character and had spent 12 months on the town. The surgeons report was very bad. Her prior convictions were once for vagrancy for which she received

one month and once for currents, another four months. Less than three years after her marriage to William, Susan died under sentence on 27 July 1841 at Penquite near Launceston. She is buried at St. John's Anglican Cemetery Launceston.

William's description record notes a scar under his chin and was heavily inked with a whole list of tattoos: Woman, child, 2 hares, 2 dogs, mermaid, man, on right arm. Woman, 3 cocks, W.L.M.C., dog, anchor, gun on left arm, Cock on left breast, pockpitted. On 5 May 1843 William applied to marry another fellow convict Eliza Hurst. There is no comment that this is registered on the records. They settled at Ralph's Bay as they are on the electoral, valuation and jury rolls as residents between 1856-61, with a large family of at least six children. William died at Ralph's Bay on 5 January 1883 aged 84.

#### References:

Tasmanian Archives & Heritage Office - Convict records: CON31/1/28 image 129, CON18/1/15 image 237, CON23/1/2 L819-839.

Female Convicts Research Group (Tasmania) <http://www.femaleconvicts.org.au>

## Eliza Hurst

### Convict Ship: *Emma Eugenia*

A nurse and needlewoman, Eliza Hurst was 18 when she was transported for pickpocketing £16. She had been reported as being on the town for a period of 13 months. She was put on the sick list on the *Emma Eugenia* on 25 January 1842 for three days with Ophthalmia (inflammation of the eyes). In 1843 she officially became the assigned servant of William Lazenby who applied to marry her. She must have been quite a handful, roughly 22 years younger than William, she still got into trouble occasionally, for being 'disorderly' and pretending to be free and then fined 5/- for drunkenness. Eliza received a ticket of leave in 1847 and her conditional pardon was approved in 1849, she was free by servitude 29 July 1855. Eliza and William settled down at Ralph's Bay. Eliza died of heart disease aged 67 on 8 July 1888 at Ralphs Bay five years after she lost her beloved William.

Female Convicts Research Group (Tasmania) <http://www.femaleconvicts.org.au>

## **George James Broomhead**

### **Convict Ship: *Marion***

George Broomhead was a 36-year-old horse dealer from Nottingham who was transported for stealing a horse, arriving in Van Diemen's Land in 1844. He was listed as a farm labourer, gardener and groom who could read and write. George was described as having a ruddy complexion with brown hair and hazel eyes. He was 5 foot 7 inches and had a tear on his left elbow. He had a mole on his right arm, a dent in his chest and a large mole on his breast. He received his ticket of leave 17 April 1849. He was fined £4/18/- and to pay costs after beating a horse on 17 August 1850. He was convicted of stealing £23, the property of Stephen Parkhouse on 14 October 1850, but was discharged. On the same date he was charged with resisting a constable in the execution of his duty and fined £1. After serving his time on a probation gang in the Victoria Valley, George married Sarah Lambert, a fellow convict, both protestant, in 1850. They lived at South Arm where George was listed as a resident farmer and dealer on the electoral, valuation and jury rolls 1856-1861. There are seven children recorded to George and Sarah, the second born, Frances, lived only a little over one month and died at South Arm.

His conditional pardon was approved 8 April 1851. George may have adopted the use of his second name James at some point as a likely death appears on the Colonial Links record in 1872 also from Nottingham Shire England, and as it happens Sarah re marries in August that same year. A hospital report confirms he died of diarrhoea at the age of 67 and was admitted 9 March dying 22 days later on 31 March 1872.

#### **References:**

Tasmanian Archives & Heritage Office - Convict Records: CON 33/1/53 Image34, CON27/1/10 Image 125, CON14/1/27 Image 16 and 17, CON18/1/39 Image 72, CON52-1-3 p.29.

Knopwood Lectures: The Knopwood historical lectures: a pioneer history of the Derwent's south eastern shore / a bicentennial project of the Rokeby High School.

George has a brick at Campbell Town: <http://thegardensfamily.com/cemeteries/CampbellTown/Bricks/>

## **Sarah Ellen Lambert**

### **Convict Ship: *Cadet***

Freckle faced housemaid Sarah Lambert was transported from Chelmsford in 1849 for stealing clothing- a cap from the workhouse. Aged 21, she already had a previous conviction for theft of ten shillings, larceny at age 18 which she received 2 months, plus one month for disorderly conduct. Her real name was listed on her record as Mary Meany though this could just be an alias. Sarah was listed on the 1841 census at age 12 being in the Dunmow Union workhouse in Essex. Sarah could read and write, she was single, 5 foot 4  $\frac{3}{4}$  tall with black hair, black eyebrows and hazel eyes. She received her ticket of leave on 27 January 1852 and was free by servitude on 19 October 1855. In 1850 she married George Broomhead, a fellow convict. The couple settled down at Ralph's Bay, and together had seven children. It appears they moved to Brighton as some of the children were born there. Sarah remarried Frederick Hagan 12 August 1872 at New Norfolk and they have two more children. Frederick died on 15 January 1904 and Sarah died on 26 April 1912 at Bushy Park. Both are buried at Red Hills cemetery.

#### **References:**

Convict records: Female Convicts Research Group (Tasmania) <http://www.femaleconvicts.org.au>

## **John Humphreys**

### **Convict Ship: *David Malcolm***

John Humphreys was transported for 'highway robbery with violence', and spent two years at Norfolk Island under the brutal regime of Commandant John Price. He arrived on Norfolk Island 25 August 1845 and then went on to Van Diemen's Land in 1847. He was aged 23 and fairly tall, 5-foot 7 inches, with brown hair and brown eyes. He had a scar on his breast and a mole on his right breast and initials tattooed onto his right arm. John was a painter by trade and a Roman Catholic who could read a little. His native place was London where he left behind his father Mathew, brother Thomas and sister Eliza. Along with

three others, Mathew Smith, Thomas Hall and Daniel Carroll, John was indicted for feloniously assaulting Robert Booth, putting him in fear, beating and striking him and stealing from his person a watch, watch-chain, 2 seals and 3 shillings. It was a rather cruel attack on Booth who had obviously had a drink or two and was an easy target for a group of young men aged 18 to 25. After tripping Booth with a cane they knocked him down, his mouth was bleeding and he probably had amnesia, as he was unwell for a few days with a bad head stating he was insensible. This was John Humphreys fifth conviction; he was sentenced to 15 years transportation.

After becoming a probationary pass holder in 1849 John worked for both Edmund Musk (himself a former convict) and George Gellibrand at South Arm. His charge sheet includes 3 months hard labour for smoking a pipe, not being under proper control and misconduct by being present at a prize -fight, for this he received seven days solitary confinement. He received a ticket of leave on 17 February 1852 but it was later revoked on 27 September 1853, as he was absent from muster. John married Maria Lewis in 1852. Maria is free by this date but was transported herself for shoplifting and stealing print, on 22 March 1845 aboard the *Tory*. She was described on the surgeons report as being quiet and industrious but judging by her conduct record she found it hard to remain so. Maria has an interesting record, she is listed as having a husband, John Lewis who was transported 4 ½ years before her and a brother, Edward also transported but there are no sign of them at this point in her life. She had one child left behind along with her mother Jane, and a sister. Sadly she had a stillborn child while working in the female factory.

**References:**

Convict Records: CON33/1/80 Image 94, CON14/1/29p286 Image 292-293

Central Criminal Court records: [www.Oldbailyonline.org](http://www.Oldbailyonline.org)



**Joseph Wilmore**

**Convict Ship: *Lord Melville***

Joseph Wilmore/Welmore/ Willmore arrived in Van Diemen's Land aboard the Lord Melville on 17 December 1818. He was indicted in Northampton for burglariously stealing goods from the dwelling of Charles Hill. He was tried with Joseph Gadsby who was up for the same crime. Wilmore was acquitted of the burglary but found guilty of stealing the goods, Gadsby was found guilty of feloniously receiving. Mr. Denman objected, stating that Gadsby could not be convicted if Wilmore had been acquitted of the burglary. On referral to the judges it was decided any person receiving goods knowing them to have been stolen will be transported for 14 years and any person found carrying implements for house breaking shall be deemed a rogue and a vagabond. The warrant of commitment for such offence must state that the implements were on the culprit at the time of his apprehension.

Joseph was born abt. 1790 in Bedfordshire his age was about 27 when he arrived. His trip over on the Lord Melville, mastered by Thackray Wetherell must have been reasonable as of the 148 male passengers that embarked only one male death was recorded. 147 passengers were recorded as arriving in Van Diemen's Land. His gaol report was listed as orderly and transported for stealing above 40/.

His appearance was described as being 5 foot 4 and one half inches tall with dark brown hair and hazel eyes his trade was a labourer and he did not state if he was married or single.

Joseph Wilmore of Muddy Plains was assaulted and robbed of goods and money by a labourer named Fosset who was armed with a hay knife. On Tuesday 19 September 1848 Joseph saw Fosset approach a hut belonging to labourers who were absent at the time. Joseph approached Fosset and asked who he was, Fosset replied that he was a boatman and he had a companion waiting, he requested a firestick. It was at that point the two men, Fosset and his companion, rushed upon Joseph and tied his hands behind his back with his own kerchief. The men then helped themselves to the goods in the hut breaking open a box belonging to a labourer and removing the apparel it contained. They went to Joseph's hut nearby and helped themselves to tea, sugar, clothing, bedding, a one-pound note and thirteen shillings in silver. They were now armed with an axe as well as Fosset's hay knife. One man left with the plunder to return later, while the other stayed behind. A neighbour named



Thomas Blake arrived on the scene and was quickly secured by the two men in a similar style to Joseph leaving both men in one room while they made their escape. Blake recognized Fosset as they had worked previously as fellow servants for a Mr. Lawson.

Joseph's death is recorded as 1859; he is buried at St Barnabas church South Arm.

#### References:

Tasmanian Archives & Heritage Office - Convict records: CON 31/1/45 Image 39, CON23/1/3,

Colonial Tasmanian Family Links Database.

*Colonial Times* 8 December 1848, page 2,3.

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article8763987>

*A Practise and Elementary abridgement of the cases argued and determined in the courts of Kings bench: Common pleas, Exchequer and at Nisi Prius...*Vol.4 p. 527. Charles Petorsdorf and Elisha Hammond. Publisher: NABU PR 01/07/2012.

Founders and survivors.org.

## James Hatherall and Ann Martin

### Convict ships: *Arab (2)* and *Atwick*

James Hatherall, a labourer from Bath was only twenty when he was sentenced to life and was transported for highway robbery alongside his older brother William, a skilled painter and glazier. James was described as a man of bad character who had previously been twice whipped when convicted of stealing shoes. He was a man of short stature, 5 foot 4, with dark brown hair, a low forehead and hazel eyes with a small dimpled chin. James was transported aboard the *Arab (2)* arriving in Van Diemen's Land 30<sup>th</sup> June 1834. His behaviour on board must have improved because the hulk report stated good and the surgeons report comments were also good plus he was recorded as being a diligent scholar.

James was ordered to be worked in the third class chain gang. In November 1837 he received 36 lashes for brutally ill-treating a calf belonging to his master. The calf subsequently died from the ill abuse and James was ordered not to be let out to service. By July 1842 his prospects improved and James was allowed a ticket of leave, his behaviour must have proved outstanding as he was given a conditional pardon within four months the following November. There was good reason for this. *The Colonial Times* reported on November 8 1842,

“The lieutenant -Governor has been pleased to approve of a Conditional Pardon being issued to James Hatherall per Arab 2, until Her Majesty’s pleasure be known, as a reward for his praiseworthy conduct in endeavouring to save the life of a person from drowning. By His Excellency’s Command G.T.W.Boyes.”

It must have taken some highly heroic actions to receive a pardon so soon after his ticket of leave. At the time James was in service to Mr James Kelly who had been a Harbour Master in Hobart from 1819-1829 and was a well-known sealer and whaler. He had a small farm on Bruny Island and a property in Battery Point. He also had a wife, Elizabeth Griffiths and ten children. A report in the *Examiner* on 22 October describes a dreadful accident on Tuesday 18 when a whaleboat owned by James Kelly was caught in a squall off Browns River on its way from Hobart to Bruny Island. There were four on board, Thomas Kelly, James’ third son, Thomas Raine, seaman, Son of the late Captain Thomas Raine of the *Surrey*, a respected gentleman who was well known in the Colony, William Campbell, seaman and James Hatherall, ticket of leave servant to Mr James Kelly. The boat overturned and the four men clung to its bottom for nearly three hours until the pilot, Mr Lucas spotted them after they had drifted almost three miles further downstream. Eventually Thomas Raine, tired and weak slipped off into the water and vanished and Thomas Kelly who was also very weak and close to death complained of cold and cramp. The pilot took the dying Kelly to his home on shore and tried to revive him but he died within a few minutes. Campbell and Hatherall were also taken ashore and treated kindly by Mr Lucas. The greatest praise was given to James Hatherall for assisting Campbell in saving not only their own lives but holding onto Thomas Kelly for three hours until rescued by Mr Lucas.

Now James was a hero and rewarded for his actions he was given not only an early pardon but also a position of paid employment with Mr James Kelly. In an article of agreement James Hatherall is contracted to work for James Kelly as a farm worker and Whaleboat man where he is paid 1.10.0 per month and 1.10.0 for every whale caught. James' job as a fisherman is probably what brought him to live at South Arm as he was recorded as a resident with his wife Ann Martin of the *Atwick* (On the electoral, valuation and jury rolls between 1856-61)

Though James and Ann were considered free settlers when they came to South Arm both arrived in Van Diemen's Land as convicts. Ann was notorious for her bad behaviour while incarcerated. This may have been their common thread as both were transported for robbery. Ann Martin was sentenced to seven years for Assault and robbery. She arrived from Scotland in January 1838 aged just 21, a housemaid and nursemaid who could wash and iron. Though who would want to leave a child in her care I don't know. To say she was unreliable would have been an understatement. Ann was often absent without leave at night, drunk on many occasions, fighting, caught using obscene language and representing herself to be free. Ann's record frequently refers to her as absconding, disorderly conduct and once being absent without leave taking her masters child. Ann must have driven them to distraction. Following a riot Ann spent four days in the cells on bread and water for insubordination on the 4<sup>th</sup> instance when she forcibly, violently and in a turbulent manner resisted Mr Hutchinson's (the superintendent) lawful commands. She was continually reprimanded for bad behaviour, and was no stranger to being sent to the cells on bread and water or being given hard labour such as work at the washtubs, to absolutely no avail.

Ann Martin was labelled one of the "Rebellious Hussies" very early in her career by the editor of the *Colonial Times*. If there was a riot she was sure to be in it. She was involved in the bread riot at the Cascades female factory on 4 May 1839. The prisoners were angry that their bread was made from peas and barley instead of wheat. At this time Ann had only been in the colony for just over fifteen months and in that time had been before the magistrates on ten separate charges.

At the age of twenty Ann had been taking care of her eleven-year-old sister on the streets of Edinburgh using her initiative to survive the best she could. She was a tough street woman and ran a small brothel off the High street servicing clients from Edinburgh Castle where soldiers were stationed. A man complained to police of being robbed and assaulted. Ann, her sister and two other *Atwick* convicts were arrested for tearing out the pocket of a client and taking four £5 notes and two £1 notes that were sewn into it. Robberies like this were a constant practice for Ann and her housemates. Ann's initiative soon ran her into trouble when a witness came forward to shed light on Ann's excessive criminal activities in Halkerston's Wynd.

It is quite likely that Ann Martin was a member of the notorious Flash Mob as she was often charged along side other members of this gang. On 20 July 1840 she was charged with disorderly conduct in the yard and ill-using Mary Ann Warren for this she received 10 days in the cells. Authorities struggled with women like Ann and her friends for them the system did not work. They were not reformed and all attempts to split them up by sending them to different factories failed. They were moved around so much they ended up back together eventually or just expanded their members.

On 29 September 1839 Thomas Jepson of the *Arab* sought permission to marry Ann Martin but was refused. Perhaps it was because of her obnoxious behaviour, earlier that year her sentence had been extended by a further 6 months. In December the following year she was punished with an extension of another 12 months then in March 1842 she received yet another extended sentence of 12 more months. Clearly by August 1846 they had really had enough of her so when James Hatherall, by now a free man, applied to marry her, permission was granted and on 10 September 1846 they married. Maybe she did settle down to life with a fisherman at South Arm.

#### References:

Tasmanian Archives & Heritage Office - Convict records: James: CON23/1/2 H1772-H1793, CON31/1/21 Image 66, CON18/1/3 Image 135. Ann CON40/1/7. CON52/1/2 p.377. CON52/1/2 p.89, CON 18-1-1\_00135\_L and CON 31-1-21\_00066\_L

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[http://www.utas.edu.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/004/64399/rs\\_99-james-kelly.pdf](http://www.utas.edu.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/004/64399/rs_99-james-kelly.pdf).

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Knopwood Lectures: The Knopwood historical lectures: a pioneer history of the Derwent's south eastern shore / a bicentennial project of the Rokeby High School.

Female Convicts Research Group (Tasmania) <<http://wwwfemaleconvicts.org.au>>

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## **Joseph William Blatherwick and Sarah Bennett**

### **Convict Ships: *Duncan* and *Tasmania***

Joseph Blatherwick was born in Nottinghamshire, England in 1817. He arrived in Van Diemen's Land aboard the *Duncan* on 18 April 1841. He was 23 and listed as a ploughman and farm labourer, his crime: stealing a horse from a Mr Fothergill. He had one prior for trespass, for which he had received one month in prison. This could be where he developed the "bad Habits" mentioned on his conduct record. He was described as a travelling thief. Joseph was sentenced on 10 March 1840 for 15 years transportation. Joseph was able to read and write. His description is of a man with a fresh complexion, brown hair, blue eyes with a dimpled chin. He sported many tattoos, some of women with flowers or anchors and many initials. Perhaps these told the story of an active love life advertising his conquests openly for the world to see. His conduct record lists a few offences, on 13 November 1841 he gets ten days solitary confinement for refusing to work, on 18 December 1841 he received 36 stripes on the breach for misconduct in having a pair of shoes improperly in his person. He receives another 12 stripes for misconduct in burning government property 19 December 1842. He received a conditional pardon on 30 July 1850. On 22 May 1848 Joseph married Sarah Bennett at Hamilton. At this point in his life he was a stock keeper.

Sarah Bennett was sentenced to death for robbery and wounding, striking a man with a knife. This was her first conviction and it was commuted to transportation, she was convicted 10 June 1844 at the Old Bailey. Sarah had black hair and blue eyes and stood 5 ¼ feet tall. Her trade was listed as a nursemaid. It was noted she had spent one year 'on the Town'. Sarah arrived in Van Diemen's Land 20 December 1844 aboard the *Tasmania*. There are only two offences on her record, absence without leave on 7 December 1846 for which she received 10 days in solitary confinement and another absconding offence a year later on 18 December 1847. Perhaps the sadness of the impending Christmas season so far away from her family just got a little too much for her. Sarah received a conditional pardon on 16 September 1856.

Joseph turned to farming at South Arm, leasing 120 acres from George Gellibrand. The hill where he once farmed, approaching Opossum Bay Township is named Blatherwick Rise in his honour. On 16 November 1864 Joseph walked into the Customs House Tavern for a drink around 1 o'clock when he collapsed and died of a heart attack. Constable Michael McCormack found 5 pounds on the deceased, which he handed over to the widow Sarah.

Sarah died aged 86 on Sunday 25 July 1909 at her son-in-law's residence, Mr F. Alomes. Her body was taken by special steamer leaving O'May's Wharf at 11 am on the morning of her funeral, proceeding to St Barnabas church at South Arm. Joseph and Sarah are both buried at St Barnabas Church graveyard at South Arm.

#### **References:**

Convict records: Female Convicts Research Group (Tasmania) <http://www.femaleconvicts.org.au>

Tasmanian Archives & Heritage Office - CON33/1/8 image 29, CON18/1/27 image 56, CON27/1/8 image 183, CON14/1/5 image 80-81

## **James Walker**

### **Convict Ship: *Lady East***

James Walker, a brown-eyed shepherd boy, aged 16 was transported with his father for felony. He had lost his left eye and was pock pitted. James was flogged on board the *Lady East* for making fun of the soldiers. His offence was

shoplifting, stealing shoes. He was acquitted of his first offence of highway robbery. James states he was a licensed hawker who travelled with his father. His gaol report at York comments 'very bad', but his hulk report says 'good' so perhaps he improved after the flogging he received. Though his conduct report tells a sorry tale of insolence, neglect of duties and stealing a watch, of which there appeared to be no proof. He received 7 days on the chain gang after being absent from service and found rambling the streets of Hobart Town. He was also charged with having a number of bullock yoke keys on his person supposed to be stolen. He received another 50 lashes and chain gang treatment for absconding from his service and remaining absent until he surrendered himself. James was later assigned to William Gellibrand as one of four convict servants in his employment in 1831. On 6 February 1832 he was accused of assaulting and beating Sarah Archer and charged with riotous behaviour on the Sabbath day.

James' father was Edward Walker (alias) his records appear under Enderby, Ederby and states Enderby to be his proper name. Edward received 14 years on 6 March 1824 for stealing a mare. His gaol report reveals he was an extensive trader in the business of horse stealing!

Convict records for James: CON31/1/45 image 210, CON14/1/1 image 32-33, CON23/1/3 W628-W657, CON69/1/1 Image 133.

Edward: CON31/1/9 Image 254, CON14/1/1 image 14-15, CON23/1/1, CON69/1/1



Where to start your convict research:

Female Convicts Research Group (Tasmania) <http://wwwfemaleconvicts.org.au>

Founders and survivors.org.

Convict bricks: <http://thegardensfamily.com/cemeteries/CampbellTown/Bricks/>

LINC: <http://www.linc.tas.gov.au/tasmaniasheritage/popular/convicts>

TROVE digital Newspapers: <http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/search?adv=y>

Convict ships to Tasmania:

[http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~austashs/convicts/conships\\_m.htm#Marion%20\(1\)](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~austashs/convicts/conships_m.htm#Marion%20(1))



### **Additional South Arm connected Convicts for future research:**

George Gellibrand Assigned:

Benjamin Howard

James Linley

Charles Harris

Thomas Brown

James Ratcliffe AKA Isaac Moon

William Buckler

William Coyle

William Gellibrand Assigned:

John Stringer

Ann Martin (2<sup>nd</sup>)

Sarah Kelliwell (Hallewell)

Gellibrand family in general includes J.T. Attorney General:

Isabella McCall

Ann Drake

Mary Singleton

Ann Burns

Sarah Barnes

Mary Young (AKA Gilchrist)



Maria Clarke  
Mary Singleton  
Sarah Sparrow  
Ann Burn  
Sarah Barnes  
Martha Williams  
Sarah Loundes  
Mary Collins  
Mary Price

**Convict Settlers to South Arm:**

George Barleyman  
Thomas Foreman  
Thomas Herbert and Mary Collett  
William Haynes and Jane Thompson  
William Jacques  
Samuel Partrige and Frances Jacques  
James Williams and Jane (Jean) Mc Dougal  
Richard Wright  
Henry Wilson  
William Townley  
William Langston and Mary Ann Brown  
Joseph Clarke and Mary Ann Doharty  
William Reason and Emma Murdock (Maddick)  
Thomas Sparks and Mary Ann Spriggs  
John Oxley and Cecilia Connor  
George Kain (drowned Ralphs Bay 1855)