History of the Taylor Family

Research by Peter Hale

On 24 December 1802, while serving in Gibraltar, Englishman James Taylor of the 25 Foot Regiment was involved in a mutiny. At the resulting court martial, he was condemned to death however, this was commuted to a life sentence to be served in the Colonies.

On 27 April 1803, James, along with a consignment of convicts, their wives, a few children of the convicts, a detachment of Royal Marines, and civil staff and officers, sailed from Portsmouth, England on the vessel "Calcutta" accompanied by the supply ship "Ocean".

This voyage had a specific task and that was to establishing a settlement at Port Phillip Bay. On the 12 October 1803, "Calcutta" entered Port Phillip Bay followed by the "Ocean" a few days later. Both the convicts and their supplies were landed at an area now known as Sullivan's Bay on the Mornington Peninsula. This site was deemed unsuitable by the expedition leader Lieutenant Governor David Collins due to a lack of water and poor soil and so, on 30 January 1804, the settlement was relocated to Sullivan's Cove in Van Diemen's Land[1].

> Note: Although the first European settlement was established further up the Derwent River at Risdon Cove by John Bowen a year earlier, that settlement was abandoned and relocated to join the Sullivan's Cove settlers.

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It appears that James did not mend his ways in Van Diemen's Land because, in January 1807, he and a number of other convicts seized a vessel, the "Marcia", and its crew, from the Hobart wharves[2] with the intention of sailing to Bass Strait. During this voyage, James and his accomplices reached Oyster Bay – near Freycinet – and fell in with two other convicts who had turned their hand to bushranging. James and his mates were so appalled with of the atrocities carried out by the bushrangers that they tied them to a tree and continued on their journey. The bushrangers were captured by the police and James was eventually apprehended and charged with piracy. He was taken to Sydney and appeared before a Vice Admiralty Court in February 1808 on a charge of piracy. Once again the death sentence was imposed but, because the offenders had shown compassion to the Marcia

[1] From an article "First Settlement 1803" published by the Nepean Historical Society

[2] From http://www.discovermorningtonpeninsula.com.au/fascinatingfacts/collins-settlement-convicts

crew, they were given a reprieve. The confrontation with the bushrangers at Oyster Bay was also mentioned at the trial and may have contributed to James' rehabilitation and early conditional pardon which he received on 31 January 1815[3].

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On 12 July 1809, Mary Ann Drake was indicted and convicted of an offence[4] at the Suffolk Quarter Sessions and sentenced to a seven year term beyond the seas. She left England in March 1810 on board the "Canada" and arrived in the Colony of New South Wales on 8 September 1810.

James Taylor went on to married Mary Ann Drake on 9 April 1811 in Sydney[5]. James and Mary Ann lived in Pitt Street and had four children:

- James – born Sydney in 1811[6]
- George – born Sydney in 1813[7]
- John – born Sydney in approximately December 1813 or January 1814[8] [9]
- William – born Sydney in 1818[10]

James senior died in Sydney on 13 September 1820[11]. Following his death, Mary Ann sought permission to have three of her boys admitted to the Male Orphan School, these events occurring as follows:

- James – admitted on 18 September 1820[12]
- George – admitted on 25 September 1820[13], and
- John – admitted on 11 April 1822[14]

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[3] Tipping, Marjorie *Convicts Unbound: the story of the Calcutta convicts and their settlement in Australia*. Ringwood, Victoria, Viking O'Neil, 1988
[4] The nature of Mary Ann's offence has not been established
[5] From NSW BDM records: 2947/1822 V18222947 3B and 219/1822 V1822219 8
[6] Estimated from NSW State Archives, Child Care and Protection, NRS 796 [1]; Reel 2777; 1477, Page 002 and Page 003
[7] Estimated from NSW State Archives, Child Care and Protection Index: NRS 796 [1]; Reel 2777; 1477, Page 002 and Page 003
[8] Estimated from NSW State Archives, Child Care and Protection Index: NRS 796 [1]; Reel 2777; 1477, Page 003
[9] From NSW State Archives, Child Care and Protection Index: NRS 783 [1]; Reel 2776, Page 041-042, 055-056
[10] From NSW BDM Index: 174/1818 V1818174 6
[11] From NSW BDM Index: 4808/1820 V18204808 2B
[12] NSW State Archives, Child Care and Protection Index: NRS 796 [1]; Reel 2777; 1477, Page 002 and Page 003
[13] Ibid

On 24 June 1822, Mary Ann married John Green at St Phillip's Church of England, Sydney[15]. At this time, she was still living in Pitt Street and John Green had been assigned to her as convict labour.

On 29 May 1826, Mary Ann (now known as Mary Ann or Ann Green) submitted a request to the Governor for her boys to take up an apprenticeship with Henry Cooper, architect and builder[16]. It would appear that James and George were bound over as apprentices but John was not successful for, according to a New South Wales State Archive record dated 23 February 1827, Mary Ann requested that her son, John (now 12 ½ years of age[17]), be returned to her custody[18].

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A census taken in November 1828 shows the whereabouts and change of names with respect to this family:

- John Green – aged 28, convict and bricklayer. Residing at Kent Street
- Mary Ann Green – aged 42, free person. Residing at Kent Street
- John Green (aka John Taylor) – age given as 13. Residing at Kent Street
- William Taylor – aged 10, lodger with John Green. Residing at Kent Street
- James Taylor – aged 17, apprenticed to Henry Cooper. Residing at Darling Harbour
- George Taylor – aged 15, apprenticed to Mr Hunt. Residing at George Street, Sydney

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Sometime after the boys were admitted to the Orphan School, Mary Ann and John Green relocated to a residence in Kent Street. It was here that

[14] NSW State Archives, Child Care and Protection Index: NRS 796 [1]; Reel 2777; 1477, Page 002 and Page 003
[15] From NSW BDM Index: 2947/1822 V18222947 3B
[16] From NSW State Archives, Child Care and Protection Index: NRS 783 [1]; Reel 2776, Page 041-042, 055-056
[17] This information from the NSW State Archives narrows down John's birth to either December 1813 or January 1814
[18] From NSW State Archives, Child Care and Protection Index: NRS 783 [1]; Reel 2776, Page 219-220

Mary Ann died at her house in Kent Street on 9 January 1837. The coroner recorded death by intoxication[19].

In 1839, Mary's son James was involved in a legal battle over ownership of the property in Kent Street. James took the matter to the Supreme Court and won his case.

> Note: It is uncertain if John Green was still alive at this time as there are registry records showing the death of a John Green but it has not been established if this is the same person.

There is little information about any of the brothers from this point onwards except to say that John re-emerged at the time of his marriage to Ann Tucker.

John Taylor and Anne Tucker

John Taylor married Anne Tucker[20] by special license at St Andrews Parish Church, Sydney on 2 March 1839[21]. Anne was only 18 at the time of the marriage.

According to the New South Wales State Archives, early colonial marriages were of two kinds, either by licence or by the publication of banns. Since license fees were comparatively high, £4/4/0, only the more affluent members of the community married by licence. The licence was granted by the Governor as there was no Bishop of the Church of England in the colony.

Most marriages followed the publication of the banns in a church on three successive Sundays. Convicts were married by banns having first obtained the Governor's permission.

Anne's age would explain why the license was a "special license".

The marriage record provides no indication of John's past. For example, there is no record of his parents' names, his age or his occupation. In general, there is nothing that would provide a clue to John Taylor's early days.

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[19] The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser (NSW : 1803 - 1842), Thursday 12 January 1837

[20] Refer to the section "Tucker Family History" for details on this family

[21] "Australia, Marriages, 1810-1980," index, *FamilySearch* (https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/XTCN-PZC : accessed 12 Sep 2014), John Taylor and Anne Tucker, 02 Mar 1839; citing New South Wales, Australia, reference ; FHL microfilm 993967.

What must be remembered is that these records are from early church accounts prior to the inception of a government registry in 1856 and, as such, there was no requirement to document the details as would be required today.

Anne was described as a spinster and a member of the Presbyterian Church of Scotland. For both John and Anne, their usual place of residence was shown as Sydney and Paterson's River. This would suggest that they may have travelled regularly between both locations.

Points of interest with respect to the marriage of John Taylor and Ann Tucker

The marriage certificate of John Taylor and Anne Tucker included a list of witnesses present at the wedding[22]. They were: Anne's mother Frances Tucker (nee Turner), Joseph Raphael and his wife Ann (nee Clements), James Peattie and Jane Brown. (Anne's father, John Tucker junior, had died in November 1838, approximately 3 to 4 months prior to the wedding).

Both Frances Turner and Ann Clements came out as convicts on the "Mary Ann", arriving at Port Jackson on 19 January 1816.

Joseph Raphael was a London Jew who was charged with committing highway robbery. He was despatched on the "Calcutta" in 1803, the same vessel as James Taylor. Joseph Raphael married Ann Clements at Christ Church, Newcastle on the 3 August 1818. Church records show John Tucker junior and Frances Turner also being married on the same day at Christ Church Newcastle in a special ceremony to mark the opening of the church.

Joseph, a merchant dealer, and his wife Ann lived in Pitt Street, Sydney. James and Mary Ann (nee Drake) and their children also resided in Pitt Street. It is possible that they would have known each other. Perhaps Frances and her daughter Ann visited the Raphael's and became acquainted with the Taylor family.

James Peattie married Frances Tucker on 30 August 1839.

[22] From John and Ann's Marriage Transcript Ref No – Vol 75 No 471

Although not verified, it is possible that the Jane Brown mentioned on the certificate may have been the daughter of Joseph and Ann Raphael who was born in 1819[23].

The Children of John Taylor and Anne Tucker

John Taylor and Anne Tucker had five children, these being:

- William Taylor, born 6 January 1841 in Melbourne[24]
- John Taylor, born 7 June 1842 in Melbourne[25]
- George James Taylor, born 26 February 1843 at Butterwick[26]
- James Taylor, born 24 July 1844 at Woodville[27], and
- Frances Taylor, born at Woodville in 1846

There is no early church record available to validate Frances' baptismal or birth date. However, there is ample proof of her existence and interaction with her brothers as described below:

- James Taylor's marriage certificate confirms the presence of Frances Taylor as a witness at his wedding to Mary Ann Newson, this event occurring on 4 October 1867 at Maitland.
- At Frances' marriage to William Mason, held at Albion Farm on 14 September 1886, Frances' brother William and her half-sister Matilda Barton were witnesses to the marriage.
- From William Taylor's funeral notice in 1812, the following article: "THE Friends of Mrs. Mason (Woollahra, Sydney), and James Taylor (Butterwick, Paterson), are respectfully invited to attend the FUNERAL of their Deceased BROTHER: To leave- his late Residence, Albion Farm, Woodville, on SUNDAY MORNING NEXT, at 11.30 o'clock."

Of John and Anne's children, Frances married William Mason at Albion Farm on 14 September 1886. There were no children from this marriage. Frances and William resided at 120 Queen Street, Woollahra in Sydney. Frances died at Woollahra on 23 December 1918. She is buried at the Waverley General

[23] Tipping, Marjorie *Convicts Unbound: the story of the Calcutta convicts and their settlement in Australia*. Ringwood, Victoria, Viking O'Neil, 1988
[24] From NSW BDM Registration No: 2790/1842
[25] "Australia, Births and Baptisms, 1792-1981," index, *FamilySearch* (https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/XTCN-5SH: accessed 13 Sep 2014), John Taylor in entry for John Taylor, 25 Sep 1842; citing; FHL microfilm 993954.
[26] From NSW BDM Registration No: 1996/1843
[27] From NSW BDM Registration No: 2502/1844

Cemetery, Sydney. William was born in England and immigrated to Australia where he worked as a painter. He was Honorary Secretary of the Master Painters, Decorators and Sign Writers Association.

William married Jane Young on 8 April 1882 at Christ Church, Newcastle. They had two boys, William Jonathan Young (b. 1883) and Winton (b. 1885). Jane died on 24 August 1904 at Albion Farm and is buried at the Hinton Pioneer Cemetery. William died on 9 August 1912 at Woodville and is buried with his wife. Their grave is adjacent to that of Anne and William Barton at the Hinton Pioneer Cemetery.

James married Mary Ann Newson on 4 October 1867 at Maitland. They had eight children who were;

- Ann S (1868 – 1868)
- George Edward (1869 – 1943)
- Mary Ann Frances (1871 -)
- James (1877 -)
- William Robert P (1880 -)
- Edith (1881 -)
- Edward John (1882 – 1923)
- John E (1884 -)

James died at Maitland on 19 October 1923. Mary Ann died on 31 October 1923 at Butterwick. Both are buried at the Hinton General Cemetery.

Their son, George Edward Taylor married Mary Kellner[28] on 10 October 1894 at Morpeth. They had 14 children. In February 1913, George and his family left their farming life at Glendon Brook near Singleton and relocated to a grazing property at Kaimkillenbun on the Darling Downs, Queensland.

Note: For more about Mary Kellner, refer to the History of the Kellner Family.

[28] Refer to the section "Kellner Family History" for details on this family

The later lives of John Taylor and Anne Tucker

It transpires that in September 1845, John Taylor committed armed robbery upon the person of Helen Augusta Arnold at her property at Old Banks just north of Albion Farm. John was tried at the Maitland Circuit Court on 12 March 1846 and found guilty of the offence. He was fortunate not to be executed; however, the judge took into account that, although armed, he did not physically threaten Helen Arnold. He was sentenced to 15 years "beyond the seas" which, as it turned out, happened to be Van Diemen's Land.

John Taylor arrived in Hobart on 26 April 1846 on the Louisa and was required to undertake a 21 month probation period at the Nicholl's Rivulet Probation Station. Following this term, the records indicate that much of his time was spent in the Huon River area. On 21 October 1848, he absconded from his employer on the Huon River.

The only other entry after this is an item dated 31 December 1853 stating that he was, "Struck off strength" although this was subsequently crossed out. It would seem that an audit of convict records was undertaken following the cessation of transportation to Tasmania in 1853. Similar comments can be found in other convict records where prisoners absconded or simply disappeared, never to be seen or heard of again.

As for Anne Taylor (nee Tucker), it is apparent that she had entered into a relationship with William Barton sometime prior to August 1847.

The lives of Anne Taylor and William Barton

As stated above, Anne Taylor had formed a relationship with William Barton at Albion Farm some time after the conviction and transportation of her husband John Taylor.

Anne gave birth to a boy, Thomas Barton, on 20 May 1848 and it is evident from this that Thomas' conception would have been around late August or early September 1847. Anne subsequently had two other children to William before they were married at Albion Farm on 24 October 1855.

Although divorces were unheard of in those days, Britain had produced a declaration stating that;

“. . . no charge for bigamy can be laid against anyone "Marrying a second time whose husband shall have been continually absent from such person for the space of Seven years then last past, and shall not have been known by any person to be living within that time."

This proclamation was produced to coincide with the least severe penalty of seven years transportation, since many families were left behind, never to see or hear from their convict spouses again.

This proclamation also applied within the colonies and most likely was the reason why Anne and William waited until 1855 to marry.

The Children of Anne and William Barton

Anne went on to have eight children with William Barton. They were;

- Thomas Barton – born 20 May 1848
- Joseph Barton – born 1849
- Mary Barton – born 1851
- Samuel Barton – born 1856
- Ann Barton – born 1858
- William Barton – born 1859
- Sarah Barton – born 1864
- Matilda Barton – born 1864

William Barton senior died at Albion Farm on 28 December 1879. He was buried at the Hinton Pioneer Cemetery. Anne died at Albion Farm on 8 March 1890 aged 69 and was buried beside William. Their grave is adjacent to Anne’s son William Taylor and some of his family.

Note: For more about Ann Barton (formerly Taylor, nee Tucker), refer to the History of the Tucker Family.

The Lives of George Edward Taylor and Mary Kellner

George Edward Taylor was born on 2 July 1869 in Oakhampton Road, West Maitland. He married Mary Kellner on 10 October 1894 at St John’s Church of England, Hinton in New South Wales. At the time of George’s birth, his father, James was described as a labourer who was born at Woodville.

Similarly, George's mother, Mary Ann (nee Newson) was also born at Woodville.

Although George Edward is shown as the oldest child, his birth certificate states that there was another child who was already deceased.

Mary Taylor (nee Kellner) was the daughter of Andrew Kellner and Annie Miller. She was born on 16 March 1876 at Welshman's Creek near Wallarobba in New South Wales.

George and Mary had fourteen children, these being:

- George Edward Taylor, 1895 – 1972
- Percival Clarence, 1897 – 1964
- James Harold, 1898 – 1933
- Eileen Florence, 1900 – 1985
- Mary Irene, 1901 – 1973
- Edward Charles, 1902 – 1973
- Margaret Ann, 1904 – 1970
- Vera May, 1906 – 1996
- William, 1907 – 1975
- Amy, 1908 – 1971
- Florence Eliza, 1910 – 1988
- John Clifford, 1911 – 1976
- Stanley Kenneth, 1915 – 1965
- Edna Veronica, 1918 – 1956

All of these children, except for Stanley and Edna, were born in the Hunter Region. Stanley and Edna were both born at Dalby in Queensland.

George's occupation was listed as a farmer and, after reviewing some of the children's birth certificates, it can be assumed that the family moved around to various localities in the Hunter Region.

For example, Eileen Florence was born at Woodville and one would assume that George was working at Albion Farm. The next daughter, Mary Irene, was born was at Wallarobba. This would suggest that George may have been working on one of the Kellner properties at the time. George was also farming at Glendon Brook, east of Singleton in 1913 and it was in that year that he moved his family to the Darling Downs. After a short stay in Toowoomba, he purchased a property near Kaimkillenbun north of Dalby.

Later, George and Mary (nee Kellner) moved to "Hill Side" at Bell in Queensland. They were residing at this property when Mary died on 15 October 1931. She was buried at the Bell Cemetery on 16 October 1931. George died in the Toowoomba Hospital on 21 September 1943 and was buried at the Bell Cemetery on 22 September 1943.

War Details for James Harold Taylor

James enlisted in the 30/2nd Light Horse at Dalby on 21 August 1917 at the age of eighteen years and nine months. He completed his training at Enoggera Army Barracks and embarked from Sydney on the SS Ulysses on 19 December 1917 bound for the Suez.

In order to serve overseas, Australian troops had to be nineteen years of age unless they obtained permission from their next of kin. Prior to James' embarkation, his parents had provided a letter allowing him to join active service overseas. A copy of the original letter is included in the appendices of this document. It has been signed by both George and Mary Taylor (nee Kellner) but has obviously been written by Mary.

James returned from Suez on 19 February 1919 on the HT Lancashire. During his service in the Middle East, he suffered a number of bouts of malaria. James died at Bell on 23 March 1933 at the age of 34.

War Details for Stanley Kenneth Taylor

Stan enlisted at Toowoomba on 14 July 1940 and served with the 105 General Transport Company. He departed from Sydney on 2 September 1941 bound for the Mediterranean. On arrival, their vessel was turned around and the troops sailed for Java. They disembarked at Batavia on 18 February 1942 but, within three weeks, Japanese forces had invaded the island and, according to Stan's army records dated 7 March 1942, he was listed as "missing, believed a POW".

Stan's records confirm that he was interned in a Thai prison camp, and that he was working on the Thai – Burma railway. He was finally reported as "alive" and was recovered from the Japanese in Siam on 20 August 1945 after having spent 3 ½ years as a prisoner of the Japanese.

There is a book titled “Behind Bamboo”[29] that describes the experiences of the Thai – Burma POWs. My father, Cyril, had talked to Stan about the book and Stan stated that everything written was true. According to my father, Stan rarely ever talked about his experiences.

Stanley Kenneth Taylor died on 2 June 1965 at Dalby aged 50.

[29] Rivett, Rohan H, “Behind Bamboo: An Inside Story of the Japanese Prison Camps”, Angus and Robertson, 1946