

George Hodges

England to Sydney Cove

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Nothing is known of George prior to his conviction except that he was a chimney sweep¹ living in Essex, England².

As a result of the British Industrial Revolution in the 1800's, many displaced workers were forced into a life of crime in order to survive. The penalties for committing even petty crimes in England were harsh. Convicted criminals would be sent to prisons within England or they would be transported to other countries.

In 1826 George committed the crime of burglary, perhaps he hoped to join his wife Hannah and their two children who were awaiting transportation to the colony of new South Wales.

In a letter later written for him by Henry Dangar³, he stated that he married Hannah in 1822 in Essex.

George was tried 10th July 1826 in Essex for burglary⁴ and received the sentence of death⁵, this was later commuted to a life sentence in the Colony of New South Wales. His detailed Convict Indents state that he was 22 years of age, 5'5" in height, ruddy to fair complexion, brown hair, blue eyes, that he had scar on his upper lip and that his eyebrows meet. His native place was Essex and that he was a farmer by trade. They also state that his religion was Protestant and that he could read and that he was married with two children.

George waited eight months before he set sail to Australia on the *Marquis of Hastings*. During this time he would have been taken to a hulk to await transportation. A hulk was an old war ship used as a makeshift prison to house convicts. The ships were converted by having the passageways sealed, new decks installed and prison bars erected at vital points. They were dark, cramped and wet inside as well as vile smelling. Convicts were issued with canvas trousers, a grey jacket and shoes. Possibly, George went to work in the Government dockyard with a fourteen pound iron riveted to his ankle to discourage "swimmers". He would have been taken off the hulk at dawn and rowed back to it at dusk where he would have been placed below decks, well guarded and with the hatches battened.

On the 31st March 1827 the *Marquis of Hastings* sailed from Plymouth taking the route of Teneriffe with 168 male convicts on board. The *Marquis of Hastings* was registered as a ship, class A1. It was built at London in 1819 and was 452 tons. The master was Drake⁶ and the surgeon, Charles Linton⁷.

George would have been issued new clothes and the old 'hulk chains' would have been removed and replaced with new irons as a precaution against escape during departure and for the first few days of the voyage. The prisoners were allotted a number and divided into messes, usually six to a mess. They were issued with bedding, cooking and eating utensils including two wooden bowls. Each man received a bed and pillow and a single blanket.

Two rows of sleeping berths, one above the other extended on each side between decks, each 6 feet square, and calculated to hold four convicts, allowing 18 inches of space to sleep in.

Each morning the convict had to roll his bedding and secure it with two pieces of sennit⁸.

The food ration was bread, salt beef, sugar, pork, pease, hard biscuit, suet, raisins and oatmeal butter.

On most voyages disease, scurvy – and certainly seasickness were considered to be inevitable. In stormy weather it was necessary to keep the air scuttles closed which caused conditions to become unbearable below decks.

The greatest horror on the voyage out to Australia was passing through the tropics.

Ships would frequently become becalmed causing conditions below deck to become offensive and humid. Waves of vermin such as rats, bedbugs, lice, cockroaches and fleas would creep out of each vessel's woodwork and up from the bilges. When tropical rainstorms lashed, the convicts – who had no change of dry clothes – could not exercise on deck. They stayed below under battened

hatches, and conditions in their breathless, stinking holds were profound.

The *Marquis of Hastings* reached Sydney Cove on the 31 July 1827, the journey taking 116 days. No convict deaths occurred on the voyage.

Assignment and Re-Offences

A day or two after George's arrival in Sydney Cove the Colonial Secretary, the Principal Superintendent of Convicts, and other officers came on board to muster the newly arrived prisoners. They were each called separately into the cabin, asked their names, ages, religions, native places; trades and a host of other interrogatories, the replies to which were taken down and a personal description of each convict added.

In about a fortnight from their arrival the prisoners on board were again mustered before going ashore. Each received a new suit of clothing, consisting of a coarse woollen jacket, a waistcoat of yellow or grey cloth, a pair of duck trousers, two cotton or linen shirts, worsted⁹ stockings, a pair of shoes, a handkerchief, and a woollen cap or hat.

They were then placed in boats, by divisions, and rowed to a spot of land near Fort Macquarie¹⁰. After being landed they waited until all had arrived and then proceeded through a part of the public promenade known as the Domain, up to the Prisoner's Barracks, where they were placed in a back yard by themselves, and shortly afterwards again paraded.

The convicts were then "assigned" to the service of private individuals, by tens, fours, threes, or single individuals, according to the priority of application or degree of interest possessed by the masters. Most of these men were employed at the trades and occupations at which they had been brought up or accustomed to, except those who had been used to trades which were not then in existence in NSW. They were assigned as labourers and sent into the interior.

George was assigned to Henry Dangar¹¹² at Dart Brook, Segenhoe¹³ as a watchman¹⁴. Segenhoe, was a Parish of New South Wales. It was situated 168 miles from Sydney, on the west bank of the Hunter River.

Henry Dangar was a farmer with 1300 acres of cleared and cultivated land, 2 horses, 270 cattle and 1997 sheep. On the 11th October 1827, almost three months after George's arrival, William Dangar wrote a letter¹⁵ to Lieutenant Darling on George's behalf stating that:

"George Hodges a prisoner of the Crown, per Marquis of Hastings, informed me he has a lawful wife, Hannah Hodges a prisoner in the Factory at Parramatta who arrived per ship Granada".

Henry Dangar was willing to allow George sufficient rations and the necessary clothing for Hannah's maintenance. The letter, though very difficult to read, also states, that George married Hannah on the 5th day of February 1822 in the County of Essex. The letter continues with notes written by the Colonial Secretary:

"Hannah Hodge [sic] ship Granada 2, was married and that she had two children on board and that she was tried at Chelmsford on the 18th July 1825".

Also that;

*"George Hodges ship Marquis of Hastings 2, married has 2 **male** children. Tried Essex 10th July 1826".*

Further notes by the Colonial Secretary states:

"It appears to me by records of the Factory that Hannah Hodges per Granada is a widow with two children and was assigned to G. Innes Esquire – Bathurst" – 10th November 1827.

On the 13th November, William Dangar was informed that Hannah was appointed to G. Innes Esq. Bathurst, and that she explained herself as a widow. The authorities had doubts about Hannah's claim of being a widow, as shown by a note, which stated:

"Perhaps she has said that she was a widow in order to marry again".

The authorities suspected that Hannah already had a lawful husband in Australia, which possibly explains why Hannah never married her future partner Henry Warren

Hannah and her two children, George and possibly William, arrived on the *Granada* in 1827. George jnr. went on to partner Mary Ann Keens. It is interesting to note that William choose to use his stepfather's surname of Warren whilst George used both Warren and Hodges.

Nothing else is known of George until 28th February 1833 when he received 40 lashes for '*surlance*'¹⁶ (this could possibly mean insolence). The cat o' nine tails would have been used, it was six feet long made out of a long line of a ship; nine knots were in each tail and nine tails shipped at each end, with wax end.¹⁷ George would have been stripped and tied to the triangle. A scourger and a surgeon would have been present, as well as a drummer to count the beats.

A prisoner had to be sentenced to flogging by a magistrate. For the first 50 years in the colony of New South Wales, the lash was the primary form of punishment because it was easy and inexpensive to administer. Often floggings were carried out in public to act as a warning to other convicts not to commit the same offence. Most convicts bore the lash with sullen silence – occasionally even with apparent indifference. These men were known as 'a pebble' because they took their flogging like a stone. Other prisoners regarded them with admiration, for it showed courage as well as contempt for the officials administering the punishment. The scarred back became an emblem of rank amongst the convicts. If a man shouted out in pain he was looked upon as a crawler or a sandstone (Sandstone is rock and crumbles easily).

Even 25 lashes (known as a *tester* or *Botany Bay Dozen*) was a draconic form of torture, able to skin a man's back and leave it a tangled web of crisscrossed knotted scars. The psychological damage inflicted by the lash was worse than the physical damage, and its traces were equally permanent.

Unfortunately, as a matter of policy in the late 1800s, most of the records from the country Benches were destroyed to protect the reputation of the convicts' descendants.

George finally received his Ticket of Leave on the 3rd November 1836¹⁸. He was allowed to remain in the district of Invermein. (Invermein is situated in the County of Brisbane, NSW., on the Dartbrook). His Ticket of Leave gave him permission to employ himself for his own benefit, and to acquire property, on condition of residing within the district specified. He wasn't allowed to move to another district without express sanction of the Government entered on the face of his ticket.

It is possible that George re-offended, as another Ticket of Leave was issued on the 28th October 1840¹⁹. This gave him permission to remain in the district of Scone, which is also in the area of the Dartbrook.

His freedom was short lived. He lost this Ticket of Leave on the 19th June 1841 for committing an assault²⁰. During this time George was sent to Patrick's Plains²¹. His Ticket of Leave was restored on the 28th February 1842 it states that he was allowed to remain in the district of Patrick's Plains. This Ticket of Leave was altered on the 27th March 1844 and this gave George permission to reside in Cassilis.

George managed to keep out of trouble for almost four years. But yet again his Ticket of Leave was cancelled on the 18th April 1848. This time he was charged with a violent assault. He was sentenced to 6 months in irons and sent to Cockatoo Island.

He was to be sent to the Hell of the Pacific, a place dominated by death and despair – *Norfolk Island*.

Cockatoo Island — Norfolk Island - Goulburn

Cockatoo Island, Sydney Harbours largest Island was described as a sandstone knoll of 16.2 hectares covered in scrubs and redgum. White cockatoos gathered there for nesting and were undisturbed by human habitation until 1838.

The penal establishment on Cockatoo Island was used as a prison for the worst class of male prisoners, it had the reputation of turning men into beast. The prison buildings consisted of two enclosed quadrangles – one for the prisoners and one the guards, with special cells in a wing running down to the shark infested water. All the buildings were not erected at once. As late as 1851 nearly 200 prisoners were lodged at night in one wing consisting of two lofty rooms, with double tiers of beds without partitions. A covered shed without walls, running at right angles, served as a refectory²². George arrived on Cockatoo Island on 26th June 1848.

George's time would have been spent working in the island's stone quarries or the sheds or workshops connected with the government dock.

Most prisoners spent 12 hours daily locked in the grossly overcrowded dormitories.

The heat of summer and the lack of ventilation and the stench coming from the few sanitary tubs made every night torture.

On the 1st July 1848 George was under orders for Norfolk Island. In August a notation on his Convict Record states, '*the residence of his sentence in irons remitted*²³', having two months taken off the time he was to spend in them. George was also placed on probation for 14 months from the 18th October.

Fifteen hundred miles off the coast of New South Wales was the most brutal ? of the convict period – Norfolk Island. George was there during the Second Settlement of the Island. It was turned into a penitentiary to send the worse felons from New South Wales and Tasmania who had no hope of reform. Conditions were harsh and inhumane, and for many convicts death was welcome. Punishments were varied for petty crime, lashings were common, dumb-cells were constructed to exclude light and sound, solitary confinement, increased workloads and decreased rations.

George was sent to Norfolk Island on the 8th January 1849 and arrived on the 26th January.

He would have spent time in the 'New Gaol' at Kingston, which was completed in 1847.

It was built with the aim of reform by isolation, and contained a central pentagonal three story building of 84 cells, two lockup rooms, ten turnkey's rooms and ten yards. Each cell had stone walls and a timber ceiling and were 6ft long, 5ft wide and almost 11ft ceilings. The cells were occupied by up to 3 prisoners. The complex also contained another 40-cell block, two service buildings and 12 solitary confinement apartments.

Civil Commandant Price was in charge of Norfolk Island while George was there.

George received an extra month on top of his original sentence for 'Disobedience of orders', unfortunately his punishment on his conduct papers is illegible. Another notation says that he was 'well conducted'.

George was returned to Sydney from Norfolk Island on the 25th March 1850.

On the 18th May 1850²⁴ George received his Ticket of Leave and was 'allowed to remain in the district of Goulburn'.

One wonders if George was able to reside there for compassionate reasons. His wife Hannah was settled into a new life with Henry Warren in 1850 at Goulburn along with her children.

The Keens family were also residing there in 1850. Was this the beginning of the Hodges – Keens connection?

Note: At the time of writing this I have been unable to find any more information on George snr. Much searching has been done and I have been unable to find his death.

Hannah Hodges nee O'Neil

Hannah was one of many women of 18th century England who were led to a life of crime by choice or circumstance. Whatever their various tragedies, their past history dissolved in the thousands of miles of ocean separating penal colony from homeland. In an age when most women were regarded as chattels²⁵, convict women rated even lower in the scale - mere objects to do a man's bidding, cook his food, and share his bed when required. This was the fate of most convict women.

Hannah Hodge [sic] 19 years of age and the wife of George was committed on the 22nd February 1825 by Sir J. Tyrell, Bart Baronet and T. Brooksby, clerk.

Hannah was charged on the oaths of John Hunt and others on suspicion of having stolen one crown and six half crowns, of silver coin and a red leather purse²⁶, the property of the said John Hunt, at Chelmsford²⁷.

A point of law having arisen at this Assizes had Hannah detained in gaol until the 18th of July 1825 when she was again put before the court where she was convicted of felony.

Her sentence was seven years transportation to the colony New South Wales but Hannah was to spend a further fourteen months in prison before she was to set sail on the convict ship Granada with her children. Due to the exceptionally long stay in gaol and the time it took to transport her it's possible Hannah may have been pregnant.

Hannah's Convict Indents state that she was 26 years of age and that she was married and had two children on board the ship with her. She was uneducated and a Protestant. She had no prior convictions and her native place was Colchester²⁸. Her occupation was basket weaver and servant and she was described as 5' 1" in height with a dark ruddy complexion, black hair and hazel eyes.

The Grenada (4) sailed from Downs on the 8th September 1826 and took 118 days to reach Sydney arriving on 23 January 1827. It embarked with 88 females and arrived with 84, four deaths occurring on the voyage.

The Grenada (4) was registered as a ship, class E1 and was built at Hull in 1810. The master was John Tracy and the surgeon being Alex Nisbet²⁹.

Upon arrival Hannah would have been lined up either on board or at Sydney Cove to be selected as a 'servant' and was disposed to John Weiss of Sydney³⁰. John was the Superintendent of Small Craft in Sydney. The government stores would have issued her with a heavy brown serge dress and possibly a petticoat.

Assigned female convicts usually didn't fare well, they complained of "bad masters and cruel mistresses and that while in service they were treated like dogs, and seldom spoken to without an oath". On the 10th February 1827 Hannah was returned to the Government for not being able to perform her duties she was assigned for and was sent to the first class of the Female Factory at Parramatta³¹. Women returned from assignment were treated as failures by the administration.

The Female Factory had a three class system, those in the 1st Class were employed there and/ or awaiting assignment. Also for those who were homeless and those who had been *returned from assignment 'without complaint'* and who were eligible for immediate reassignment. Some female convicts would commit any small crime when assigned just to be returned to the factory to get away from the unwanted attention of the over abundance of males.

In 1819 Governor Macquarie had his ex-convict architect Francis Greenway design a new Female Factory, a pretty three-story

Georgian structure of white stone, complete with clock and cupola³², it was surrounded by a 12 foot wall and was built on a low sandy plain near Parramatta.

Prisoners in the factory were usually engaged in spinning woollen yarn and weaving it by hand into thousands of yards of coarse cloth which was sold to help pay for their upkeep.

Hannah would have been able to keep her children with her whilst at the Factory until they reached the age of 4 years when they would have been sent to an orphanage. George jnr. was admitted to the male orphanage on the 5th March 1827. No record of the other child that arrived with Hannah is mentioned in the orphanage records, which leads me to believe that he was a younger child. It's possible that if Hannah was well behaved at the Factory, George would have been able to visit her from time to time.

The daily rations in the better behaved 'First Class' and 'Second Class' consisted of 12 oz of beef, 8oz of vegetables, 10oz of wheaten bread, 10oz of maize or barley bread, 6oz of maize meal, and a little tea, sugar, salt and soap.

Hannah was issued with special Sunday clothes consisting of one white cap; a long dress with a muslin frill; one red calico jacket; two cotton check handkerchiefs; one blue gurrah petticoat; one under-petticoat of factory flannel; one white calico apron; two shifts; one pair of grey stockings; one pair of shoes; one straw bonnet; and a clothes bag to hold all the articles. For weekdays Hannah would have received two calico caps, one drab³³ serge³⁴ petticoat; one drab serge jacket and one apron of factory linen. Presumably, some Sunday items did double service on weekdays.

As previously mentioned in George's story Hannah was assigned in November 1827 to George Innes Esquire at Bathurst. George Innes had arrived free in 1822 and was a substantial landholder at Bathurst.

In the *1828 Census of New South Wales* Hannah was assigned as a servant to William Cox, a publican at Parramatta.

Hannah appears again in the Darlinghurst Gaol Entrance books on the 10th May 1829. This time she was given up by her master and again sent to the first class at the Parramatta Female Factory. Unfortunately the Darlinghurst Gaol Entrance book doesn't state who Hannah was assigned to when she was returned to the Factory.

Hannah was to spend a very short time at the Factory as she was issued with a ticket of leave³⁵ on the 19th May 1829 after serving only just over four years of her original seven year sentence. His Excellency the Governor brought in regulations allowing female convicts to be issued with tickets of leave if they had uninterrupted good conduct in service after a period of 2 years. Even though Hannah was returned to the factory the Governor stated that, *"women returned to the first class of the factory will not be considered as having forfeited their claim to a ticket of leave, as a return to this class implies that the individual has not been guilty of any fault"*.

Hannah was permitted to remain in the district of Parramatta, and she would have sought employment there even though employment opportunities for females in receipt of a ticket of leave were sparse. Shortly after Hannah was released she began a relationship³⁶ with Henry Warren, as their first child Sarah was born at Cobbitty Narrellan on the 26th April 1830.

Henry Warren

Henry was born circa 1801 at Bath, Sommerset England, and the son of Henry Warren and Elizabeth nee King.

Henry was charged at the Somerset Assizes on the 30th March 1822 for shop lifting and received a seven-year sentence. He arrived at Sydney Cove on the 9th March 1823 on the Princess Royal.

Henry was described as 5' 8 ½", with a fair to ruddy pockmarked complexion, sandy hair and hazel eyes. He had a scar over his right eyebrow and he also had a scar on the little finger of his left hand.

After arrival Henry was forwarded to Parramatta for distribution. The process of selection was made by landowners who took convicts as assigned servants and by government officers who require them for work on government farms or to labour on public works. These convicts were housed in barracks until they could be sent to work. Henry was selected by the Government to work at Emu Plains. Located 55 km from Sydney and 30 metres above sea level, on the edge of the Blue Mountains, Emu Plains was named after the large numbers of emus which once roamed these flat lands to the immediate east of the Blue Mountains.

In 1813, the famous explorers, Wentworth, Blaxland and Lawson explored and blazed a trail westward across the Blue Mountains to Bathurst. Governor Macquarie ordered a road be built following their route and it became known as 'The Great Western Road.'

Convict gangs in their distinct 'slops' worked hard carting and breaking stone for building and maintaining the roads, pavements, retaining walls and drains. Timber had to be logged and sawed into planks to form culverts and bridges.

A traveller on the road between Sydney and Emu Plains in 1827 would have passed a total of nine convict road gangs,³⁷ many of them with their legs shackled in chains. Henry was assigned to a road party to help pave the way over the mountains.

In 1819, Governor Lachlan Macquarie established a farm at Emu Plains and it was the setting for one of Sydney's most infamous penal stations

Henry was discharged from the establishment at Emu Plains on the 30th April 1823 and sent to the Penrith Bench.³⁸

Henry was returned to Emu Plains for a further two years³⁹.

On the 27th June 1827⁴⁰ after serving just over five years of his original sentence Henry received his Ticket of Leave and was allowed to remain in the district of Evan.⁴¹

If convicts were well behaved they were not usually required to serve their full terms and usually received their Ticket of Leave after 4-5 years⁴².

In the *1828 Census of New South Wales* Henry was 28 years of age and a shoemaker residing at Springwood, Evan. Henry employed Henry Christian also a shoemaker who arrived on the 'Isabella' and John Brailley a labourer who arrived on 'Earl Cornwallis'.

Henry and Hannah

Hannah was fortunate to have met Henry. Even though they were unable to marry he was willing to provide for her and the two children from her marriage to George Hodges.

On the 15th May 1832 Henry received his Certificate of Freedom.⁴³ This made Henry a free man and allowed him to live where he wished.

In 1832 Henry wrote Memorials in order to obtain George jnr. out of the Male Orphan School.

August 25th 1832

Being desirous of obtaining my son in law (George Hodges) out of the Male Orphan School as an apprentice, I would be thankful if you would make the same known and in case of consent being obtained to require me to what time I may attend.

*I am your most obedient humble servant*⁴⁴

Henry Warren

George was permitted to remain at the Orphan School until he reached the age of 10 years of age when he would have been apprenticed out. This is possibly the reason that Henry and Hannah decided to make the application.

A Memorial from Samuel Blackman states;

I certify that Henry Warren (a freeman) is at present in my employ as shoemaker and that he is able to maintain and instruct an apprentice in his [trustings]?

*Samuel Blackman*⁴⁵

Also two Memorials were written by Thomas Hassall who was a clergyman at Cooke. They state;

I have reason to believe the above to be correct to that the Petitioner is able to provide for and instruct him in the trade of shoemaker.

The Petitioner has good testimonial of character and for the period he has been in this district I have heard nothing detrimental to his former character.

Thomas Hassall

The application to obtain George was successful and he was released to his mother Hannah on the 17th December 1832.

Another letter was found in the records after George was released which was addressed to Charles Cowper Esq.

*Denleigh District of Cook
24 Dec 1832*

Dear Sir.

The bearer Henry Warren who applied to get his wife's child out of the orphan school calls with this to show you that certificate he may have; so far as I have been able to judge he is a steady man.

*Yours very truly
Tho Hassall*

By the time George jnr. was reunited with Hannah she would have given birth to her second child to Henry. Jane Warren was born on the 6th October 1832, again at Cobbitty Narellan. Henry was still working as a shoemaker.⁴⁶

Other children born at Cobbitty Narellan were:- Hannah circa 1833; Christina 20th May 1834 and Henry circa 1836.

It was sometime after the birth of Henry jnr. that Hannah and Henry along with their family moved to Goulburn. It's possible Henry was still associated with Samuel Blackman his previous employer. Samuel had land at Goulburn Plains and had a number of people working for him there.

Again the family grew with the birth of Matilda circa 1838; Louisa circa 1840; Elizabeth circa 1843; Rachel circa 1844; Susan 1845 and finally Edward circa 1850.

In 1841 Henry was to spend 12 months in Gaol at Berrima,⁴⁷ his crime is unknown at the time of writing this. It would have been a difficult time for Hannah and the children although her two eldest boys, George and William would have been at an age to help her.

Henry was a licensed hawker in April 1849 and was found guilty of concealing nine bottles of rum stowed away in a case and a half keg full of rum hidden in his cart. Even though Henry appealed he was fined £5 and cost⁴⁸.

Another interesting article appearing in the Goulburn Herald in June 1849 states;

BUSHRANGERS AGAIN – On Wednesday evening as Warren the licensed hawker, was returning to town by the Crookwell, he was bailed up by two bushrangers, wearing crape over their faces, and was robbed of £1, which unfortunately was all the cash he had about him. A female who was in his company was robbed of two pounds. The thieves were well armed.

When Hannah and Henry's daughter Louisa married Hugh Ritchie at Saint Saviours Goulburn in 1856 she stated that she resided at Tuena and her father was a gold digger. She also stated her mother's maiden name was Hodges. On Louise's death certificate she stated her mother's maiden name as O'Neal⁴⁹.

It appears by the records that Henry's occupations were hawker and goldminer but his principal occupation was shoemaker.

Nothing further is known of Hannah and Henry until Henry died on the 23 June 1876 in Goulburn. An inquest was held on the body of Henry;

INQUEST

The District Coroner, A. M. Betts, Esq. held and inquest at the Coach and Horses Inn, Grafton Street, yesterday afternoon, on view of the body of a shoemaker named Henry Warren who died very suddenly that morning.

From the evidence of Mrs Hannah Warren, wife of deceased, it appeared that her husband, who was 75 years of age, generally enjoyed good health and a few minutes before his death was singing or humming a song; at noon while taking a boot off a last, he suddenly exclaimed; "O, my God, Hannah!" and dropped on the floor and never spoke or moved again; she ran next door to Michael McAnulty who came in and assisted her to raise the deceased gave three sighs and expired. Dr. Davidson deposed that deceased suffered from valvular disease of the heart; and from this fact, from the suddenness of the attack, and from examination of the body, he was satisfied that death resulted from syncope¹¹ or fainting of the heart. The jury returned a verdict in accordance with the medical testimony.

The following was an announcement in the Goulburn Herald;

Funeral: I hereby request the friends of Mr Henry Warren to attend his funeral, tomorrow, Sunday at 4 o'clock. M. McAnulty.

Henry was buried on the 25 June 1876. Rev. Willay of the Church of England conducted the service.

The coroner gave the details for Henry's death certificate and no children are listed. Yet again Hannah's maiden name is recorded as O'Neil [sic]

Some time after Henry's death Hannah went to reside with her daughter Elizabeth and her husband John Clucas at Currajong Parkes. It was here that Hannah passed away on the 14th August 1891 from senile decay.

She is buried in an unmarked grave in the Church of England portion on the Parkes Cemetery.

The informant on her death certificate was her son-in-law John Clucas. The interesting information on her death certificate is that her father's name is recorded as *George Hodges* and her mother Hannah O'Neil. There is no doubt that George was known to the Warren family. For John to use this name even if the relationship to Hannah was incorrect must have heard this name mentioned or had known him. I feel that George snr. would have had some contact with the family at some stage. Another interesting thing is the order of the children of Hannah. The eldest two are George 64 and William 62.

Note: Since writing this Hannah's grave no has a Memorial plaque.

Death Certificate of Hannah



NSW DEATH REGISTRATION		REF NO 1891/1891
NAME –	HANNAH WARREN	
DATE OF DEATH –	14/8/1891	
PLACE –	CURRAJONG PARKES NSW	
OCCUPATION –	WIDOW OF HENRY WARREN	
SEX –	FEMALE	
AGE –	92	
CONJUGAL STATUS –	MARRIED	
PLACE OF BIRTH –	CHELMSFORD ESSEX, ENGLAND	
TIME IN AUSTRALIA –	67 YEARS NSW	
COLONIES		
FATHER –	GEORGE HODGES	
OCCUPATION –	BOOTMAKER	
MOTHER –	HANNAH O'NEIL	
PLACE OF MARRIAGE -	SYDNEY	
AGE AT MARRIAGE -	25 YEARS	
NAME OF SPOUSE –	HENRY WARREN	
CHILDREN OF MARRIAGE –	GEORGE 64, WILLIAM 62, SARAH 60, JANE 59, HANNAH 57, HENRY 55, MATILDA 52, ELIZABETH 51, LOUISA 49, RACHEL 47, SUSAN 45, EDWARD CHARLES 41	
INFORMANT -	JOHN CLUCAS SON IN LAW CURRAJONG PARKES	
CAUSE OF DEATH –	SENILE DECAY 2 DAYS	
LENGTH OF ILLNESS -		
MEDICAL ATTENDANT –	NO DOCTOR, BURIED BY ORDER OF CORONER.	
DATE LAST SEEN –		
DATE OF BURIAL -	15/8/1891	
PLACE OF BURIAL -	CHURCH OF ENGLAND CEMETERY PARKES	
MINISTER AND RELIGION –	REV. NEILD? CHURCH OF ENGLAND	
UNDERTAKER –	GEORGE HANSEN	
WITNESSES –	ARTHUR TAYLOR AND JOHN NICHOLS	
CREMATION DATE –		
CREMATION PLACE –		
INFORMANT –		
CREMATION RELIGION –		
CREMATION WITNESSES –		
PARTICULARS OF REGISTRATION -JAMES MILLER 15 AUGUST 1891 PARKES		

George Hodges jnr. and Mary Ann Keens

BAPTISMS solemnised in the Parish of Chelmsford						
In the County of Essex						
		Parents Names				
When Baptised	Child's Christian Name	Christian	Surname	Abode	Quality Trade Or Profession	By whom Ceremony preformed
Aug 22 1826 Born Nov 1821 No 1899	George Son of	George and Hannah	Hodges	Barrack Lane	Chimney Sweep	H S Majondie? Curate

George was born in November 1821 and baptised in the parish of Chelmsford on the 22nd August 1826 just 17 days before he was to set sail with his mother on the convict ship 'Granada'. George's abode at the time of his baptism was Barrack Lane, Chelmsford. Apparently he was in the care of his aunt and uncle, Mary and William.

The children of transported convict women under sentences of confinement at the Parramatta Female Factory were taken from them when they reached the age of four and taken to the Government Orphan Schools. Here they remained until the boys were apprenticed at 10 years of age, or the girls found work or married. He would have spent time with his mother Hannah at the Parramatta Female Factory as John Weiss returned Hannah to the Factory on the 10th February 1827. George was admitted into the Male Orphan School on the 5th March 1827.

He next appears in the 1828 Census on New South Wales as being 5 years of age and at the Male Orphan Institution at Cabramatta. By this time George would have been 7 years of age so it's possible he was small for his age.

As previously mentioned George was released to his mother on the 17th December 1832.

Nothing is known of George until he is in Albury and he meets up with his future partner and the mother of his children, Mary Ann Keens.

Mary Ann was born 13th March 1840 in the Penrith/Castlereagh district. The daughter of Joseph Keens and Susannah Shons. She married Thomas Price of Beechworth on 19th September 1853 at Albury, shortly after she arrived there with her family. A daughter Susannah was born on the 16th July 1854 at Albury and it's possible that a son Thomas Jnr. was born about a year later although no baptism has been found. Susannah accidentally drowned at Wagga on 16th February 1863, at nine years of age. It is not known what happened to Thomas Price Snr., but Mary Ann met up with her lifetime partner, George Warren (Hodges) around 1856.

Their first son Henry was presumably born at Albury in 1857 and again no record can be found. George at this time was using the surname of Warren as he appears on a petition published in the Border Post relating to the conviction of William Bird Evans, former manager of Mate's Store.

George and Mary Ann moved to Tumut around 1860. Mary Ann's sister Susannah and her husband Henry Napthali were living in the Talbingo/Blowering district, which is close to Tumut when they arrived.

Their second son George was born there in 1860 and George's occupation was labourer. Another son, James was also born at Tumut in October 1861, this time George was a carrier. Mary Ann was always the informant on the birth certificates of their children and she stated that George was born at various places around Sydney, maybe she didn't know that he was born in England or she hid the fact to hide his parents convict origins.

George and Mary Ann returned to Albury around 1863 and were at the Black Range, now

known as Lavington where gold had been found and a crushing mill set up. The yield wasn't as profitable as expected and the miners gradually drifted off to richer diggings.

Around 1869 George and Mary Ann took their family to Gundagai and times must have been difficult for them. Mary Ann was expecting her 6th child to George and they were having trouble finding the money to pay the rent to Mary Reardon. Mary Reardon was known in the District Court as she often had to make an appearance for allowing her children and pigs to run wild in the streets, she was also known as being exceptionally dirty, so one can imagine that the house that George and Mary Ann were living in was of a very poor standard.

*Gundagai Times
September 11 1869
Courts of Request*

Before the Police Magistrate, and J. Crowe, Esq, J.P.

Mary Reardon V. George Hodges £3 4s. for 16 weeks rent of cottage at 4s. a week.

Plaintiff stated defendant had engaged her house, in West Street, at the above weekly rate, had remained its occupant from April 21st until August 11th, and had paid no rent.

Defendant said his family were all sick, and that he could not leave the place, and gave a very unfavourable account of the residence; he denied that he engaged to pay the rent valued.

Judgment for the plaintiff for £3 9s., to be paid in two months time.

By 1870 the increasing family were in Wagga where George was a carrier and from 1872 to 1877 they were at Lesters Gully near Albury.

1878 to mid 1879 they were at Duvil Creek then the family moved to Hay. It was at Hay that tragedy struck, Mary Ann died on the 4th November 1879 of gastro enteritis at the age of 39. She is buried in an unmarked grave at the Hay Cemetery.

George returned to Lesters Gully from 1881 to 1882 and then finally returned to Wagga where some of his family lived. He died there on the 13 May 1890 from cancer of the face said to be aged 64 and is buried in an unmarked grave in the Wagga Cemetery.

Death Certificates of Mary Ann and George



NSW DEATH REGISTRATION	
NAME -	MARY ANN HODGES
DATE OF DEATH -	4 NOVEMBER 1879
PLACE -	HAY NSW
OCCUPATION -	CARRIER'S WIFE
SEX -	FEMALE
AGE -	43 YRS
PLACE OF BIRTH -	COBARBY SYDNEY
TIME IN AUSTRALIA -	43 YRS
COLONIES	
FATHER -	JOSEPH KEANS
OCCUPATION -	FARMER
MOTHER -	
PLACE OF MARRIAGE -	ALBURY
AGE AT MARRIAGE -	17 YEARS
NAME OF SPOUSE -	GEORGE HODGES
CHILDREN OF MARRIAGE -	MALES LIVING 5 DECEASED 1 FEMALES LIVING 5 DECEASED 1
INFORMANT -	GEORGE HODGES HUSBAND HAY
CAUSE OF DEATH -	INFLAMMATION OF BOWELS
LENGTH OF ILLNESS -	ONE WEEK
MEDICAL ATTENDANT -	D LANG
DATE LAST SEEN -	3 NOVEMBER 1879
DATE OF BURIAL -	5 NOVEMBER 1879
PLACE OF BURIAL -	
MINISTER AND RELIGION -	REV. HAMILTON
UNDERTAKER -	R W DUNCAN
WITNESSES -	MRS MILLS

NSW DEATH REGISTRATION	
NAME -	GEORGE HODGES
DATE OF DEATH -	13 MAY 1890
PLACE -	NORTH WAGGA
OCCUPATION -	LABOURER
SEX -	MALE
AGE -	64 YEARS
PLACE OF BIRTH -	PARRAMATTA NSW
TIME IN AUSTRALIAN -	
COLONIES	
FATHER -	UNKNOWN
OCCUPATION -	UNKNOWN
MOTHER -	UNKNOWN
PLACE OF MARRIAGE -	ALBURY NSW
AGE AT MARRIAGE -	NOT KNOWN
NAME OF SPOUSE -	MARY KEENE
CHILDREN OF MARRIAGE -	HENRY 32, GEORGE 30, JAMES 28, JOHN 25, MARY ANN 24, SARAH 22, ANNIE 20, PHOEBE 16 1 MALE DECEASED
INFORMANT -	HENRY HODGES SON OF DECEASED WAGGA
CAUSE OF DEATH -	CANCER OF THE FACE
LENGTH OF ILLNESS -	2 YEARS
MEDICAL ATTENDANT -	T HILLAS
DATE LAST SEEN -	2 ND APRIL 1890
DATE OF BURIAL -	14 TH MAY 1890
PLACE OF BURIAL -	WAGGA WAGGA
MINISTER AND RELIGION -	W H POUNALL CHURCH OF ENGLAND
UNDERTAKER -	JOHN MACINTOSH
WITNESSES -	C BAUMER? A MENNEKE

With Compliments

Jenny Hodges
144 Lambie St Tumut.

jennihodges@hotmail.com

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- ¹ Someone who removed the soot from chimneys by sweeping them.
- ² Baptism certificate of George Jnr.
- ³ Also known as William Danger
- ⁴ Convict Indents. Fiche 665-page 155
- ⁵ AJCP
- ⁶ Convict Indents.
- ⁷ Convict Ships by Charles Bateson
- ⁸ A kind of flat, braided cordage used on shipboard, formed by plaiting strands of rope or other fibre.
- ⁹ Made of woollen yarn, spun from wool.
- ¹⁰ Located on the tip of Bennelong Point (where the Sydney Opera House now stands).
- ¹¹ Henry Dangar arrived free on the ship 'Jessie' in 1821. He became the assistant Surveyor; of Hunter Valley
- ¹² Sometimes spelt Danger
- ¹³ Convict Indents.
- ¹⁴ 1828 Census of NSW
- ¹⁵ Letter 27/9635
- ¹⁶ Conduct Record Tasmania – Records from Norfolk Island were sent to Tasmania.
- ¹⁷ Transported In Place of Death – Convicts in Australia by Christopher Sweeny
- ¹⁸ No. 36/1784
- ¹⁹ 40/2294
- ²⁰ Court of Petty Sessions. Scone.
- ²¹ Scone, Invermain, Patricks Plains (west of Singleton) are all in basically the same area.
- ²² A room for meals
- ²³ Notation on Conduct Record
- ²⁴ Ticket of Leave 50/74
- ²⁵ Movable property
- ²⁶ P.R.O. Chancery Lane Essex – Lent Assizes
- ²⁷ Essex
- ²⁸ Essex
- ²⁹ The Convict Ships by Charles Bateson
- ³⁰ Convict Indents
- ³¹ Sydney and Darlinghurst Gaol: Entrance book 10th Feb. 1827 SRNSW ref. 4/6430 p. 145 Reel 851
- ³² Dome.
- ³³ Dull, a dingy brown colour.
- ³⁴ Strong hard-wearing twilled, worsted fabric.
- ³⁵ Number 29/153
- ³⁶ If the records showed that a convict had declared that they were married, on arrival, then permission would not be granted.
- ³⁷ Road Gang – A gang of convicts employed in road building and usually kept in irons.
- ³⁸ Colonial Secretaries Correspondence.
- ³⁹ General Muster List NSW 1823,1824,1825 Warren Henry Convict 44283
- ⁴⁰ Princess Royal 1823 Gov. Emp. Emu Plains.
- ⁴¹ 27/337
- ⁴² Evan was near Penrith NSW
- ⁴³ Tracing your family history in Australia – Nick Vine Hall.
- ⁴⁴ 32/482
- ⁴⁵ Reel 2776/2777
- ⁴⁶ Samuel Blackman was a farmer at Frognel, Cooke. He also owned land at Goulburn Plains.
- ⁴⁷ Birth Transcription
- ⁴⁸ Certificate of Freedom notation.
- ⁴⁹ Goulburn Herald
- ⁴⁹ Hannah's maiden name is also recorded as O'Neill on the death certificate of her daughter Susan.