

1840

THE MESKELL & MORGAN FAMILIES



Harriet Morgan

1849 – 1923

Granddaughter of John Meskell & Mary Caesar

Daughter of Joseph Morgan & Mary Meskell

Wife of Martin Maloney

2025 Edition 1

Neville Maloney

Preface 2025

The story was just about complete with a single sentence.

The family history is Maloney, Morgan, Meskell and Caesar.

This research started as an addition to the book *“From Shamrocks to Gumleaves – A History of the Maloney Family”*. Harriet Morgan (the photo on the front cover) is my great grandmother she is the wife of Martin Maloney. They are the great grandparents of all my Maloney cousins as well.

Charlie Maloney, my dad’s uncle, lived in Tyalgum and after a visit to him sometime in the 1960’s my dad, Jack Maloney, wrote on a piece of paper the 4 names Maloney, Morgan, Meskell and Caesar and put it in a draw. Sometime later I took it out and asked who they were. Dad knew that Harriet his grandmother was Harriet Morgan and he remembered visiting her just before she died in Murwillumbah in 1923, he would have been 5 years old.

The Meskell and Caesar names were a mystery. Since Morgan was the maiden name of his grandmother he assumed that Meskell was the maiden name of her mother and Caesar the maiden name of her mother.

Researching the Maloney family history the story of **Harriet Morgan** became fairly detailed but she was not Maloney history so I devoted a few pages to her and moved on. I had learnt that you can’t backtrack up every family line.

The last name on the list, from Charlie, was Caesar - and most amazingly of all her father seemed to be **Julius Caesar**. A Julius Caesar in Ireland in the 1800’s it all seemed a bit fanciful.

It all seemed a bit too much to sort out. I has hit a brick wall with research in Ireland with the Maloney family and assumed the same applied to the Morgan and Meskell families.

Over the years I have gathered information about Harriet and the Morgan family and came across Meskell family history. With online genealogy programs and the Australian National Library’s search tool, Trove, I have decided to put what I have gathered into another family history book. Most of the newspaper graphics in the book are sourced from the newspaper archive Trove.

Pete Meskell has been a major source of information, he has done extensive research and I have relied on his work to put a large part of this book together.

Lissa Cameron (Morgan), my second-cousin-once-removed, has provided a vast treasure Morgan Family descendants, documents and support.

1840. It is a really important year for the Meskell and Caesar families – they arrived in NSW then in 1844 Mary Meskell, the daughter of John Meskell and Mary Caesar, married Joseph Morgan and rest so they say is history.

So let’s begin

Neville Maloney – Paris May 2025
GGG Grandson of John Meskell & Mary Caesar
and David Morgan & Mary Lush
GG Grandson of Mary Meskell & Joseph Morgan
Great Grandson of Harriet Morgan and Martin Maloney
Grandson of John Maloney and Mary Waugh
Son of Jack Maloney and Ivy Bradfield



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Caesar, Morgan, Meskell and Maloney

The Caesar Family

Julius Caesar (Born about 1782 he lived & died in Ireland) His wife **Sarah MacHartel**.

His daughters

Mary Caesar 1807-1883 and her sister **Eliza Lydia Caesar 1803-1872**

*Mary & Eliza Lydia come from Crohane in county Tipperary
They arrive in Sydney in 1840*

Mary Caesar married **John Meskell**
and in 1840 they immigrate to NSW they
have 4 children with them.

Eliza Lydia is married to **James
(John) McKee** and in 1840 they
have 5 children with them.

The **McKee** family story is
told in *Research Note A*.

The Meskell Family

John Meskell's father **Edward Meskell** is barely known to us, he must have been born about 1780 and there is a record indicating he died in 1882. We will discuss that. John's mother was **Mary Murphy**. We can only speculate about John's family in Ireland.

John and Mary have 6 children, some of them we know very little about.

1. Unknown Child, born about 1827 and died before 1840
2. **Mary Meskell***, 28 Aug 1828 – 14 Feb 1900 married **Joseph Morgan**
3. Sarah Meskell, 1830 – 14 May 1841
4. Edward Meskell, 15 Apr 1834 – 27 Jul 1861
5. **John (Jnr) Meskell***, 10 Jun 1836 – 02 Oct 1894 married Eleanor Daley
6. William Meskell. 13 Apr 1841 – 20 Feb 1843

* Only 2 of their children have descendants Mary and John.

Mary Meskell marries
Joseph Morgan in
January 1844 she is 15
and Joseph is 33.

The Morgan Family

Joseph Morgan's parents are **David Morgan** and **Mary Lush** from Somerset in England.

Mary Meskell and **Joseph Morgan** have 15 children:

1. John Morgan, 19 Aug 1844
2. Sarah (Sally) Ada Morgan, b. 09 Apr 1846
3. David Morgan, b. 1847
4. **Harriet Morgan* b. 27 Mar 1849**
5. Mary Morgan, b. 19 Apr 1851
6. William Morgan, b. 02 Feb 1853
7. Joseph Jnr Morgan, b. 06 Oct 1856
8. Anne Morgan, b. 1857
9. Frances (Fanny) Morgan. 01 Oct 1858
10. Edward Owen Morgan b. 29 Sep 1860
11. Samuel Morgan, b. 14 Sep 1862
12. George Henry Morgan, b. 03 Dec 1864
13. Unnamed Morgan, b. 21 Apr 1867
14. Daniel James Morgan, b. 01 Sep 1868
15. Charles (Charlie) Morgan, b. 27 Aug 1870

***Harriet Morgan** married **Martin Maloney** in Grafton in 1867.

The Maloney Family

The Maloney family story is told in "From Shamrocks to Gumleaves" – A history of the Maloney Family. Martin Maloney arrived in NSW in 1860 from Ireland. Harriet's grandmother, Mary Caesar, arrived in 1840. The Caesar/Meskell family in Australia is a longer more complex and complicated story.

Who's Who

In Ireland

Julius Caesar - Born about 1782 a farmer in Crohane Tipperary Ireland – Father of *Mary and Eliza Lydia Caesar*.

Edward John Meskell – Born about 1780 a farmer in Cooldine Tipperary and his wife **Mary Murphy** are the parents of *John Meskell 1806-1866*

In England

David Morgan – 1757-1853 from Frome in Somerset, England and his wife **Mary Lush** are the parents of *Joseph Morgan 1811-1881*

The Migrants

Caesar Sisters – **Mary** 1807-1883 & **Eliza Lydia** 1803-1872. Both born in Ireland, immigrated in 1840 with their husbands and children. Mary is buried in Grafton & Lydia in Copmanhurst cemetery

James (John) McKee 1803-1872 - Also immigrated in 1840, married to Eliza Lydia Caesar

John Meskell 1806-1866 – Immigrated to NSW in 1840 with his wife Mary Caesar

Joseph Morgan 1811-1881 – The start of the Morgan family in Australia. Exactly who he was I am not sure. My reservations are explained later in the book. Born in Somerset England and buried in Grafton NSW.

Mary Meskell 1828-1900 – She was 11 when she arrived in Sydney in 1840 with her parents and three siblings; Sarah, Edward & **John (Jnr) Meskell** 1836-1894. (Mary and her brother John are the only Meskell ancestors in this line of the family.

In Australia

Harriet Morgan – the 4th child of **Mary Meskell** and **Joseph Morgan**, Harriet was born 27th March 1849 in Raymond Terrace NSW she married **Martin Maloney** on 15th August 1867 in Grafton and she died on 2nd December 1923 in Murwillumbah. Harriet is a central figure in this story. (Harriet is my great grandmother). I am spelling her name with one “t” because most of the official documents, birth & death certificates have that spelling but inconsistencies happen and the “tt” ending will occur in some places.

She has 14 siblings: **John, Sarah (Sally), David, Mary, William, Joseph, Anne, Fanny, Edward, Samuel, George, Daniel**, and **Charlie**. (And one died at birth and was unnamed)

Peter John (Pate) Meskell – Pete is my 4th cousin we have common great-great-great grandparents, they are John Meskell and Mary Caesar. Pete has provided a lot of information for this book

Six generations – Pete and I (Neville Maloney) share the same great-great-great grandparents

John Meskell 1805-1866 & Mary Caesar 1807-1883

Mary Meskell <i>m</i> Joseph Morgan <i>brother and sister</i>	John Meskell Jnr <i>m</i> Ellanor Daley
Harriet Morgan <i>m</i> Martin Maloney <i>1st cousins</i>	Henry Meskell <i>m</i> May Parkinson
John Maloney <i>m</i> Mary Waugh <i>2nd cousins</i>	Henry George Meskell <i>m</i> Jessie Purvis
Jack Maloney <i>m</i> Ivy Bradfield <i>3rd cousins</i>	George Rex Meskell <i>m</i> Mary Todkill
Neville Maloney <i>4th cousins</i>	Peter John (Pete) Meskill

1840

On the 16th of May 1840 the 409 ton fast sailing ship the “Thomas Lowry” had just arrived in Sydney from Liverpool and the passengers were disembarking, among them is **Mary Caesar** and her husband **John Meskell**. (*My great-great-great-grandparents*)

They arrived with 4 children, her sister Eliza Lydia Caesar and her husband, James McKee, and their 5 children were also on board. This was an exodus two families up and gone from Ireland, from Tipperary. 1840 was a new beginning and that day in May must have been exciting, tinged with terror and the unknown.

John and Mary’s daughter, Mary Meskell marries Joseph Morgan in 1844, less than 4 years after she arrives in NSW and their 4th child is Harriet Morgan (photo on the cover). Harriet is one of fifteen children and she marries Martin Maloney in 1867.

This is the story of Mary Caesar, and John Meskell - they travelled half way around the world in 1840 with their 4 kids - and I didn’t know, in the family the story has been forgotten - just a few words from their great grandson, Charles Maloney in the 1960’s, (who interestingly has a middle name of Graham the same name as the captain of the ship the Thomas Lowry), sparked enough interest to tell this story.

Back to 1840 and the trip to Australia.

The Meskell family arrive in Sydney on Saturday May 16th 1840 after an 18 week voyage.


Commercial Journal and Advertiser (Sydney, NSW : 1835 - 1840) / Wed 20 May 1840 / Page 2

ARRIVALS.
From Liverpool via Cape of Good Hope, on Saturday last, having left the former port the 7th January, and the latter the 29th March, the ship *Thomas Lowry*, Captain Graham, with 109 Bounty Emigrants and Merchandise.— Passengers, Captain and Mrs. Nagle and two children, Mrs. Miller, Mr. Mrs. and Miss Weston, Mr. Mrs. and Miss Bird, Mr. Benjamin, Mr. Evans, Mr. M Kenzie, Mr. Davis, Mr. Lubot, and Wilson Ramsay, Esq., Surgeon.

The ship the “Thomas Lowry” was a fairly new, built in 1835 and large at 409 tons. For many immigrants the ship they arrived on remained a significant influence on their lives; reunions and names of children and homes were influenced from the name of the ship. The following pages are about the “Thomas Lowry” the information gives us a picture and feeling of the time and the effect these sailing ships had on the migration that happened in the 1800s.

The Sydney Monitor and Commercial Advertiser (NSW : 1838 - 1841) / Mon 29 Jun 1840 / Page 2

For Freight or Charter,



THE fine fast-sailing Ship
Thomas Lowry.
409 tons register, J. GRAHAM, Commander. Apply to the commander on board; or, to
A. B. SMITH & CO.,
Harrington-street.

May 21, 1840.

The journey: 18 weeks in 1840

The Caesar sisters, Mary (Maria) and Eliza Lydia, their husbands and their children 9 in total boarded the "Thomas Lowry" in Liverpool at the Birkenhead wharves on the 7th of January in 1840 but before that they had to get to Liverpool and that would have involved a journey from Tipperary to the Irish east coast, probably Dublin and then a ship to Liverpool. The Caesars, Meskells and McKees came to Australia on the **Assisted Immigration Plan**; a sponsored and funded plan to alleviate overcrowding and poverty in England and Ireland. Industrialisation was just beginning and land reforms were causing pockets of poverty. America, Canada and New Zealand were screaming out for farm labours the result was a scheme to benefit everyone involved. Sailing ships proliferated, hundreds sailed the oceans criss-crossing paths with people and goods. Onboard the conditions for the mass the migrants was less than favourable. Below decks was a twilight land of sea sickness, often disease, poor and limited food and sometimes non-existent cooking possibilities. But on this voyage in 1840 all seems to have gone very well. The Captain received praise for this efforts and the Surgeon (the doctor) was a capable and sympathetic man.

The sailing ship not only bought people they bought two other valuable commodities goods and gossip – news from "home".

The Sydney Monitor and Commercial Advertiser (NSW: 1838 - 1841) / Fri 22 May 1840 /

Manifests.

"THOMAS LOWRY."—1 case cottons, Order : 1 cask Bath bricks, Thos. Smith ; 6 casks 2 cases hardware, 25 kegs 10 casks nails, A. B. Smith & Co. ; 6 cases 4 casks hardware, 21 pairs bellows, 36 plates, 60 kegs paints, 90 bundles iron, 2 cases 1 cask hardware, 273 bundles iron, 9 casks shot, Thos. Smith ; 1 bale 1 case stuffs, Cave & Co. ; 5 tins turpentine, 10 cases wine, 23 casks bottled beer, 3 casks palm oil, 1 case corals, 12 sheet-lead, 18 cases haberdashery, 500 bags salt, 22 boxes 3 bales cottons, 2 bales cotton wick, 200 boxes 600 half-boxes soap, 1 sheet lead, 1 cask paint, 51 quarter-casks wine, 50 barrels pork, 3 hogsheads hams, 43 barrels beer, 5 hogsheads brandy, 2 barrels zinc, 26 cases 4 casks 137 bolts copper, 24 casks shot, 4 bales 4 cases cottons, 3 trunks stuffs, 1 case hair seating, 9 barrels beer, 500 hams, 2 bundles bacon, 5 bales cloth, 52 bundles 4 cases steel, 12 casks 1 case hardware, 52 hogsheads 122 barrels ale, 120 deals, 3 iron boilers, 5 hogsheads soda ash, 30 barrels rosin, 100 firkins butter, 8 hogsheads 99 quarter-casks 2 cases wine, A. B. Smith & Co. ; 1 truss, 18 cases 13 bales haberdashery, 7 cases apparel, R. C. Gordon ; 3 boxes apparel, J. Coyle ; 3 bales cottons, Gilchrist & Co. ; 10 tons iron, Order ; 3 cases jewellery, S. Barnett. **Shipped** at the Cape of Good Hope, 38 boxes raisins, Capt. Graham.

The **100 firkins** of butter in the list above was 100 small barrels each about 25kg. So a total of 2500kg of butter

NSW: 1835 - 1840) / Wed 20 May 1840 /

ENGLISH NEWS.

ON the arrival of a ship from England, our readers doubtless look anxiously for news from the Mother-country, and we are therefore sorry to say that the *Thomas Lowry* has brought very little, if any. The latest papers (Liverpool), are of the 6th and 7th of January, and contain little more than speculations as to the day on which Her Majesty's nuptials would be solemnized and accounts of the trials of the Chartists. Some of the papers state that the 4th, some the 14th, and others the 16th of February, was to be the day. The near approach of this important event does not appear to have exercised any beneficial effect on Trade which was still dull to excess, and great distress everywhere prevailed. A large amount of property had been sacrificed by the operatives in some of the manufacturing districts. The leading politicians of the day were busy. WELLINGTON had summoned the Conservative peers to meet him at Apsley House before the opening of Parliament ; and PEEL had summoned the Commons of the same party, to meet him. It is rumoured that Lord NORMANBY was to be appointed Governor-General of India. A Board of Colonial Lands and Emigration Commissioners had been appointed by Lord JOHN RUSSELL. The members of the board are Colonel TORRENS, R. M., late Chairman of the South Australian Colonization Board, the Hon. E. VILLIERS, and Mr. ELLIOTT, Agent General of Emigration. Lord BROUGHAM's mother (aged eighty-seven) died on the 31st of December. The papers say nothing more of his Lordship's trip across the Atlantic.

The state of the money market has somewhat improved in consequence of the approaching issue of the dividends due in January, amounting to 7,000,000*l.* Public securities of all descriptions had improved in price. Exchequer Bills were at 2*s.* premium on the 4th of January.

Four months was an average time for the voyage. Interestingly the children probably had school lessons and a matron helped look after pregnant women and new mums.

I have mentioned the condition on this voyage because later in 1848 The "Thomas Lowry" under a different captain was the centre of an inquiry on a voyage to South Australia. The voyages were dependent on quite a few variables of which the weather was the most significant.

I think this voyage was one of the better ones because in a rare display of gratitude the 1st class passengers put notices in the Sydney Herald thanking both the Captain John Graham and the Surgeon Wilson Ramsay as well as AB & W Smith who chartered (sponsored) the voyage.

Mary Caesar and her husband John Meskell were 33 and 34 years old in 1840 and their children were:

Mary - 11
Sarah - 10
Edward - 6
John - 4

Interestingly John and the boys are listed as Catholics and Mary and the girls are Protestants.

Later John is buried with Mary in the Anglican section of the Grafton Cemetery. The religious divide was a major social issue in the 1800's playing out in Australia usually between English and Irish. In the case of the Meskells and Caesars it is within the family and when their daughter Mary marries the Englishman Joseph Morgan they have the potential for a lot of conflict. It seems to have been resolved by them all being Anglicans.

They were Assisted or Bounty Immigrants some aspects of this scheme are detailed on the next page.

TO MR. WILSON RAMSAY,
surgeon on board the emigrant ship
Thomas Lowry, arrived at Sydney, New South
Wales, May 16, 1840.

"SIR—We, the undersigned emigrants on board the above ship, do now present our grateful acknowledgements to you for the kindness with which we have been treated since our departure from Liverpool.

"We also compliment you for your attention to us, and for the skill displayed by you on those who have stood in need of your assistance; and although some of us have been afflicted in our families, we congratulate you (considering the state of other emigrant ships brought in here), and are bound to say that no other vessel ever reached this port in so perfect a state of health, not having a single unhealthy individual on board.

"We also congratulate you on our safe arrival, after being exposed to so much bad weather."

[Here follow forty signatures]

To Captain John Graham, commander of the ship
Thomas Lowry, arrived in Sydney with emigrants May 16, 1840.

"SIR—We, the undersigned emigrants on board the above ship, do now present our grateful acknowledgements to you for the kindness with which we have been treated, and your attention to our comfort since our departure from Liverpool.

"We also compliment you sir, for the nautical skill displayed by you, and rejoice with you on the general good state of health of all on board.

"We also congratulate you on our safe arrival here, and are thankful for our deliverance from the dangers we have been exposed to, in consequence of so much bad weather."

[Here follow forty signatures]

To Messrs. W. Smith and sons, charterers of the
emigrant ship *Thomas Lowry*, arrived in
Sydney May 16, 1840.

"GENTLEMEN—We, the undersigned free emigrants on board the above ship, beg to return our sincere thanks to you for the accommodation provided for us on board. The provisions have been good and liberally served out to us; the treatment has been kind and indulgent by the officers and crew; and every thing done that could in any way conduce to our comfort and convenience.

"In conclusion, we beg to congratulate you, and are thankful to Divine Providence for our safe arrival, and the general good health of all on board; and we sincerely hope that all your transactions may tend to increase your present prosperity and promote your future welfare."

[Here follow forty signatures]

"We, the undersigned caddy and second-cabin passengers on board the *Thomas Lowry*, return our grateful thanks to Captain John Graham and surgeon Wilson Ramsay for their kindness and attention to our comforts during our severe passage from Liverpool; also to Messrs. A. B. Smith and Co. for having laid in so superior and select a description of provisions and wines for our use."

[Here follow eleven signatures.]

The Assisted or Bounty Immigrants which meant that under the Emigration Regulation Act of 1835:

EMIGRATION REGULATIONS 1835 The commissioners give a free package to the colony, including provisions and every expense of the voyage to Agriculture labourers, shepherds, bakers, blacksmiths braziers, add tin-men, smiths, shipwrights, boat-builders, wheelwrights, sawyers, cabinet-makers, coopers, carriers, farriers, millwrights, harness-makers, boot and shoe-makers, tailors, tanners, brick-makers, lime burners, and all persons engaged in the erection of buildings. Applicants to give satisfactory references to show they are honest, sober and of general good character. Wives have free passage. To single women, free passage if they accompany parents or relatives. To children of emigrants, free passage if under one year old or fully 15 years of age or older. Children between one year and fifteen years of age £3.0.0 (three pounds) is charged.

Every male emigrant is allowed to take one half (1/2) of a ton OR twenty (20) cubic feet of luggage. An extra £2.1.0 (two pounds one shilling) is charged for every ton of extra weight. Emigrants are to provide own bedding. On arriving at the colony, they are met by an officer, who supplies their immediate wants, assists them to their destination and at all times gives them employment on government works at reduced wages if they cannot get work elsewhere Persons not eligible, if of good character, can accompany emigrants on payment of passage money. For an adult, about £20.0.0 (twenty Pounds) is charged. For children, the arrangement has to be made with the ship-owners, who charge about the rates as follows; under one year old- no charge; one to five years old-five £5.0.0 (five pounds), six years old £6.0.0 (six pounds) and so on up to £14.0.0 (fourteen pounds) for a person fourteen years of age. Persons in England purchasing land (In Australia) can nominate one labourer or emigrant for every £20(twenty pounds) spent. Below is a list of clothing that boys and girls over the age of twelve (12) years had to have before they were allowed to sail:

BOYS: 6 shirts, 2 flannel shirts, 2 pairs of string boots, 2 complete suits 4 towels 2 Pounds (weight) of marine soap

GIRLS: 2 shifts, 2 flannelette petticoats, 6 pairs of stockings, 2 pairs of string boots, 2 strong gowns (one of which must be warm), 4 towels, 2 Pounds (weight) of marine soap

Adults had to bring a little extra clothing other than what was stated for Boys and Girls.

The "shipping agent" or recruiter at the completion of the voyage furnished an acquital document showing to OWING TO HIM for re-imbursement by the COLONIAL SECRETARY

There are pages from the ship Thomas Lowry for John Meskell and Mary Caesar that mention character references and proof of age that were part of the Bounty Scheme requirements. After they arrived a Board set up by the Scheme would have examined their documents and the sponsor AB Smith & Co would have received a refund of the voyage fees.

The scheme apart from providing some provisions and a free voyage also guaranteed a job and this would have been a wonderful incentive in the economic and social issues in Ireland in the 1840's. Although the famine did not officially start until 1845, from 1830 the English were persecuting the Irish and land plots that were farmed by families for generations were amalgamated into English Lords land and the tenants told to leave. Laws and regulations made by the English Parliament, even when it tried to help made things worse. The Corn Laws were an attempt to protect farmers from cheap imported corn but because domestic crops failed it simply meant a dramatic increase in food prices. Tenant farmers lost the ability to grow their own food and they lost their residence, the result was poverty, the solution was emigration, a way out and it seems the Caesar sisters and their husbands took the opportunity in 1840.

1840 was the cusp of change in NSW, it was the last year that convicts were transported from England and free settlers were encouraged, 2821 people came from Ireland in 1840.

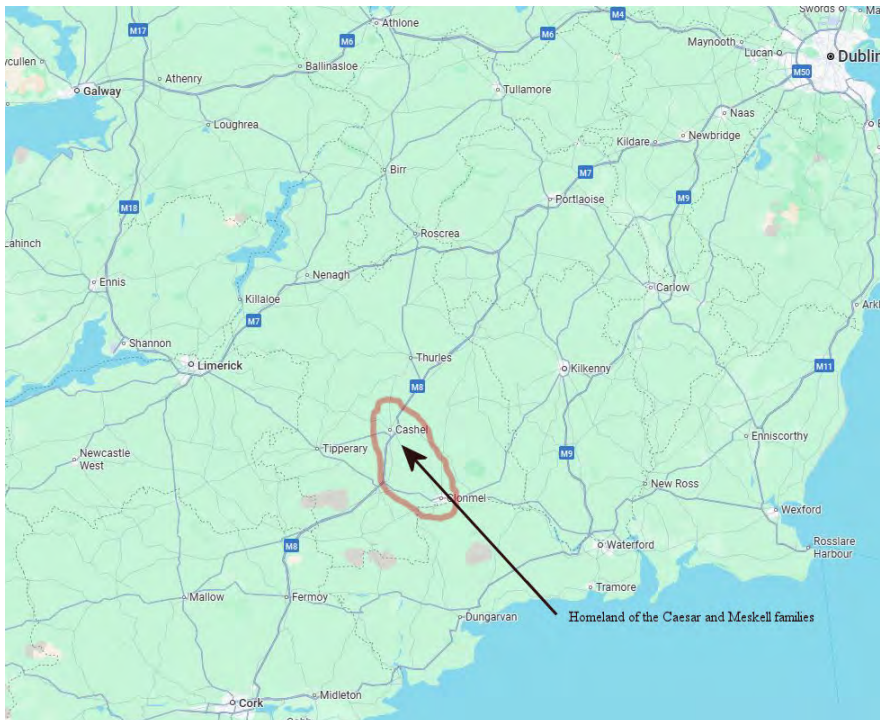
The Caesar sisters arrived in Australia just a terrible drought was breaking so things were looking fairly positive but before they started their trip to Sydney they had to get out of Tipperary.

Tipperary Ireland to New South Wales

Before we start the trip let's take note that there are two families: **Mary and John Meskell** and their 4 children and **Eliza and James McKee** and their 5 children and Eliza is 2 months pregnant (maybe just 2 months, maybe she doesn't know it yet). They are leaving their families and friends, they really have no idea about where they are going, what they do know is that they will never return. It's just after Christmas in 1839. They need to be in Liverpool by January 7th when the ship sails.

Cashel to Dublin

Today in 2025 it's a 170km 2 hour trip on highways in air conditioned cars and buses..... The last 40 years, 1800 to 1840, has seen a vast improvement in transport and road works in Ireland but the journey from Cashel to Dublin on muddy roads is closer to 97 Irish Miles, that's 124 English miles or 200 kilometres and on a coach pulled by 4 horses you might make the journey in 3 days. Hope it doesn't rain and the kids don't get sick. You will stop each night in an inn but the days are long sitting on an unsprung wagon and it's mid winter so the days and nights are cold.



Dublin to Liverpool

I expect that the Assisted Immigration program sorted some of the transportation arrangements. Most of the immigrants from Tipperary would never have been to Dublin or seen the ocean and let alone buy a ticket on the City of Dublin Steam Packet Company's ship to Liverpool. A night or two or maybe more in Dublin depending on the day you arrived, there was only a weekly steamer to Liverpool, the trip to England takes 12 hours on a good day and 24 hours if the weather is wild. This will be a good test to see who gets sea sick.

Ships left the Birkenhead wharves in Liverpool for America, Canada and Australia. The emigrants (they were emigrants when they left and immigrants when they arrived) were housed in tenements waiting for their ship to board. All the family packed into one room but no doubt more space than what was going to be offered onboard. The day before the ship sailed boarding began. You watched and waited, very carefully watching your possessions, thieves and pickpockets also crowded the wharves. On Tuesday January 7th 1840 the ship the "Thomas Lowry" inched out of the River Mercy channel with the tide bound for Sydney.

The Caesar Family

We can clearly identify the 2 sisters Mary and Eliza Lydia who arrived in Sydney in 1840

Mary married John Meskell and Eliza married James McKee. Eliza seems to have decided to use her middle name Lydia after she arrived in Australia. Her name Eliza is on the immigration/ship records however the name Lydia is on birth records of her children in Australia and her headstone has the name Lydia as well.

Mary and Eliza's father is named on Mary's death certificate as Julius Caesar, a farmer, and the mother as Sarah*. Both Mary and Eliza have daughters named Sarah and Eliza has a son names Julius and another with a middle name Caesar so we have good evidence for the names of their parents. The surname of their mother is listed by some on genealogy sites as MacHartel* or some similar spelling and I have included that as her name but the evidence is thin at the moment.

Julius Caesar

The father of Mary and Eliza Lydia Caesar, he may have spelt is name Julias and he may have been born in 1782, we don't know much about him. What we do now is that he was a farmer and he lived in Tipperary Ireland. His wife was most likely named Sarah, both daughters named one of their daughters Sarah and that name is on Mary's death certificate.

Julius Caesar b. abt 1782 in Ireland and died in Ireland, his wife was Sarah MacHartel

The Caesar sisters are listed as Protestants on the ship manifest in 1840 while the Meskell family are Catholics. This could indicate that the Caesar family migrated to Ireland from England or Scotland sometime after the mid 1600s.

Children (that we know of)

1. Mary Caesar b. 1807 in Ireland d. 15 May 1883 in Grafton NSW. She married John Meskell in 1826 in St John's Cathedral, Cashel, Tipperary
2. Eliza Lydia Caesar b. abt 1803 in Ireland d. 1872 in Grafton NSW. She married James JOHN McKee abt 1828 in Ireland (Both Eliza and James used their middle names Lydia and John after they arrived in Australia)

Both sisters immigrated to NSW in 1840.

Both families moved to the Hunter region near Maitland after 1840 and then in 1860 with their extended families – some of their children had children by then – they all moved to The Clarence around Grafton. Mary and her husband John Meskell moved to the Waterview/Eatonsville area on the south side of Grafton while Eliza (Lydia) and James (John) McKee moved to Copmanhurst/Swan Creek area just across the Clarence River from them.

Why they moved I don't know but James John McKee may have had a brother who lived at Copmanhurst and he encouraged them to move to what was an expanding new area. Many of the Meskell and McKee family quickly applied for land grants after arriving.

Research Note A - is about the McKee family. I have done limited research on this now distant line of the family and I quickly became tangled in a mess of names and confused by what I think is in fact two McKee families and that is why I have assumed John had a brother, William, already living at Copmanhurst.

*This page, **The Caesar Family**, as I mentioned in the preface, represents a search for who were the 4 names that **Charlie Maloney** gave my dad in the 1960s.*

*The **Maloney–Morgan–Meskell–Caesar** cryptic family name puzzle is now solved. For Charlie though, born in 1885, these people were alive or in very recent memory. Mary Caesar who died in 1883 just 2 years before Charlies was born she was his great grandmother.*

The Caesar family in Ireland

The further back you go either records don't exist, there are names and dates but you can't be sure they are the family you are searching for and sometimes, very rarely, you get a clear specific link. The Caesar family reliable data comes from the Australian records (see next page) but we do have tantalising possibilities.

We have Julius as the name of Mary and Eliza Lydia's father and Eliza was born in ????. Well here we go with records. On the ship records in 1840 Eliza lists her birthday as 16th April 1803 but the record in the same book where the passengers are listed her age is 30 – which would give a birth year of 1810 and then when she dies in 1872 her tombstone reads that she is 64 and therefore born in 1808. (I record the same confusion of dates for her sister Mary as well. It may have something to do with the rules for the immigration scheme or it may have just been that there were more important concerns in life than keeping tabs on the years as they went by.)

Based on the confusion of birth years of Mary and Eliza Lydia and that we don't know of any other siblings the date of Julius's birth is a guess. So 1772 is the guess but it could be within the range of 1760 to 1780.

There is no doubt about them coming from Tipperary and again the immigration records point to a village called Crohane (see the pages from the ship, the Thomas Lowry they arrived on in 1840 in following pages)

The entry below is from the 1830 tithe (tax) records of Crohane

No.	Townland and Owner.	Names of Occupiers.	Contents.			Annual value per Acre.	Annual Amt. Composition. for Tithe.	Total.
			A.	R.	P.			
		<i>Carried forward</i>	721	1	21			70 6 8
31		28 John Purdie	10			2 10	1 13 7½	
		"	2	1	10	15	2 3½	2 8 6½
		"	4	2	33	1	12 7½	
32		29 Thomas Purdie	10			2 5	1 10 3½	
		"	4	3	28	2	13 2½	2 5 9
		"	2	1	10	15	2 3½	
		<i>Total</i>	755	2	22			75 15 11½ 56 5 8¾
33	<i>Crohane, Sower</i>	30 Mr. Maurice Power	25			1 15	2 18 10	
	<i>Anthony Gay, Esq.</i>	"	9		7	1 5	15 7½	3 14 ½
34		31 James Morris	8			1 15	18 10	
		"	3	3	10	1	5 1½	1 3 1½
35		32 James Kinaghau	2		17	1 15	4 11½	4 11½
36		33 Julius Caesar	5			1 5	8 5	
		"	6	1	8	15	6 4	14 9

The story of the Caesar family in Tipperary has potential with some information from what may be strands of the family in Canada.

Below right: Is a grave of Thomas Caesar born in 1778, in Crohane. He may have been a brother of Julius.

Below: An index from the Crohane Graveyard lists; Alice, James, John, Sarah & Thomas Caesar (*The E indicates Erected by*)

CROHANE GRAVEYARD INDEX OF PERSONAL NAMES.		
NAME:	YEAR:	STONE NO.:
Barrett, Bride	1948	63.
Barrett, John	1901	63.
Barrett, John E.		63.
Barrett, Laurence		63.
Barrett, Mary	1938	63.
Barrett, William	1964	63.
Bibby, Eliza (See Martin)	1810	20.
Bibby, Katherine (See Sutcliffe)	1898	21.
Bibby, Nicholas	E.	20.
Boles, Charles	E.	28.
Boles, John	1840	28.
Bourke, Mary (See Shelly)	1776	16.
Bowles, John	1868	27.
Bowles, Susan	E.	27.
Bowles, William	1851	27.
Brennan, Anastia	E.	3.
Brennan, Joseph	1838	81.
Brennan, Mary (See Fogarty)	1852	81.
Brennan, Richard	1836	81.
Brennan, Richard	1863	81.
Brett, Johanna (See Simpson)	1944	4.
Caesar, Alice	1948	94.
Caesar, James	E.	94.
Caesar, James	1937	94.
Caesar, John	1880	94.
Caesar, Sarah (See Thompson)	E.	23.
Caesar, Thomas	1833	23.

Record Date: 19 September 2012

Graveyard: Crohane Lower (C of I Parish Church)



Exact wording of epitaph:

Erected by Sarah Caesar
memory of her husband
Thomas Caesar
Nov 1833 aged 55 yrs

Memorial Type: Headstone

▼ GRAVE LOCATION

County: Tipperary

Latitude: 52.561139722222

Longitude: -7.5910030555556

Mary Caesar's death certificate 1883 is informative but also presents us with some inconsistency in other known facts. Remember that the information in these certificates is only the information that is known by the informant usually a spouse or one of their children.

What's right and what's wrong? Her age 85 would have had her born in 1798 whereas other evidence suggests 1807. Her mother's name is listed as Mary but seems to be Sarah. Meskill is spelt Meskill. The Nara River I think is the Orara River. There is no Nara River anywhere in Australia but the Orara River runs through where the Meskells lived. These documents are good but not always right.

NEW SOUTH WALES					
BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES REGISTRATION ACT 1995					REGISTRATION NUMBER 1883/ 007925
DEATH CERTIFICATE					
Date and place of death	Name and occupation	Sex and age	Cause of Death Duration of last illness; medical attendant; when he last saw deceased	Name and occupation of father Name and maiden surname of mother	Informant
15 th May 1883 Nara River	Mary Meskill	Female 85 years	(1) old age (2) — (3) James Thomson M.D. (4) 8 th March 1883	(1) Julius Caesar (2) Farmer (3) Mary (4) Maiden Name (McKinnon)	Certified in writing by John X. Meskill Witness Charles Klaus Son Nara River
Particulars of registration	When and where buried; name of undertaker	Name and religion of Minister and names of witnesses of burial	Where born and how long in the Australasian Colonies or States	Place of marriage, age, and to whom	Children of marriage
(1) 15th May 1883 (2) 15 th May 1883 (3) Grafton	16 th May 1883 Grafton James Shea	Rev William Aglinton Church of England William Green Michael Bluffe	County Tipperary Ireland 43 years in New South Wales	(1) Ireland (2) 30 years (3) John Meskill	living Mary 50 years John 48 deceased Males 2 Females 2

Before accepting copies, sight unaltered original. The original has a coloured background.

REGISTRY OF BIRTHS DEATHS AND MARRIAGES
SYDNEY 04 Sep 2009

I hereby certify that this is a true copy of particulars recorded in a Register in the State of New South Wales, in the Commonwealth of Australia

Greg Cerny
Registrar

Crohane Ireland

Although some records have the Caesar and Meskell families coming from **Cashel** (John Meskell's death Certificate has Cashel as the place of marriage) it seems more likely that they came from the small villages of **Crohane** and **Cooldine** about 25 kilometres to the west. The document below is a page from the Tithe Records of 1830 and the last entry is that of **Julius Caesar** and he owes 14 shillings and 9 pence

No.	Townland and Owner.	Names of Occupiers.	Contents.			Annual value per Acre.	Annual Amt. Composition, for Tithe.	Total.
			A.	R.	P.			
		<i>Carried forward</i>	721	1	21			70 6 8
31		28 John Purdie	10			2 10	1 13 7½	
		"	2	1	10	15	2 3½	2 8 6½
		"	4	2	33	2	12 7½	
32		29 Thomas Purdie	10			2 5	1 10 3½	
		"	4	3	25	2	13 2½	2 5 9
		"	2	1	10	15	2 3½	
		<i>Total</i>	755	2	22			£ 75 15 11½ 56 5 8¾
33	<i>Crohane, Sower</i>	30 Mr. Maurice Piers	25			1 15	2 18 10	
	<i>Anthony Gay, Suther Esq.</i>	"	9	7		1 5	15 2½	3 14 ½
34		31 James Morris	5			1 15	18 10	
		"	3	3	10	1	5 1½	1 3 1½
35		32 James Kinaghaw	2		17	1 15	4 1½	4 1½
36		33 Julius Caesar	5			1 5	8 5	
		"	6	1	5	15	6 4	14 9

The Caesar and Meskell families may have lived near each other in Ireland (if we have the right records). On the next page is a tax valuation between 1847 and 1864 (maybe 1853) that lists **Edward and Mary Meskill** (slightly different spelling) at **Killenaule** and that is just a few kilometres from **Crohane**.

There are records of an Edward Meskell in the Cashel region of Tipperary but frustratingly we can't be sure they are our Edward

In 1850 Mary and Edward were living in **Cooldine** in the Parish of Killenaule. They would have been in their 70's and the Irish Famine was causing havoc.

64

PRIMARY VALUATION OF TENEMENTS.

PARISH OF KILLENAULE.

No. and Letters of Reference to Map.	Names.		Description of Tenement.	Content of Land.	Net Annual Value.		
	Townlands and Occupiers.	Immediate Lessors.			Land.	Buildings.	Total.
	COOLDINE. (Ord. S. 54.)			A. R. P.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1	Reps. John Lane, Esq.	In fee,	Bog,	77 3 18	0 10 0	—	0 10 0
-	a James Ryan,	Reps. John Lane, Esq.	House and garden,	0 1 0	0 1 0	0 5 0	0 6 0
2	a John Quirk,	Reps. John Lane, Esq.	House and land,	15 2 11	5 15 0	0 5 0	6 0 0
-	b Lawrence Croak,	John Quirk,	House,	—	—	0 5 0	0 5 0
3	a a n William Lane, Esq.	Reps. John Lane, Esq.	House, offices, and land,	143 2 32	124 15 0	1 15 0	126 10 0
-	A b Vacant,	Reps. John Lane, Esq.	Office,	—	—	0 5 0	0 5 0
4	a John Cantwell,	Reps. John Lane, Esq.	House and land,	63 3 10	65 0 0	1 10 0	66 10 0
-	b Mary Meskill,	John Cantwell,	House,	—	—	0 5 0	0 5 0
-	c Edward Meskill,	John Cantwell,	House and garden,	0 3 19	1 0 0	0 5 0	1 5 0
			Total,	302 0 10	197 1 0	4 15 0	201 16 0

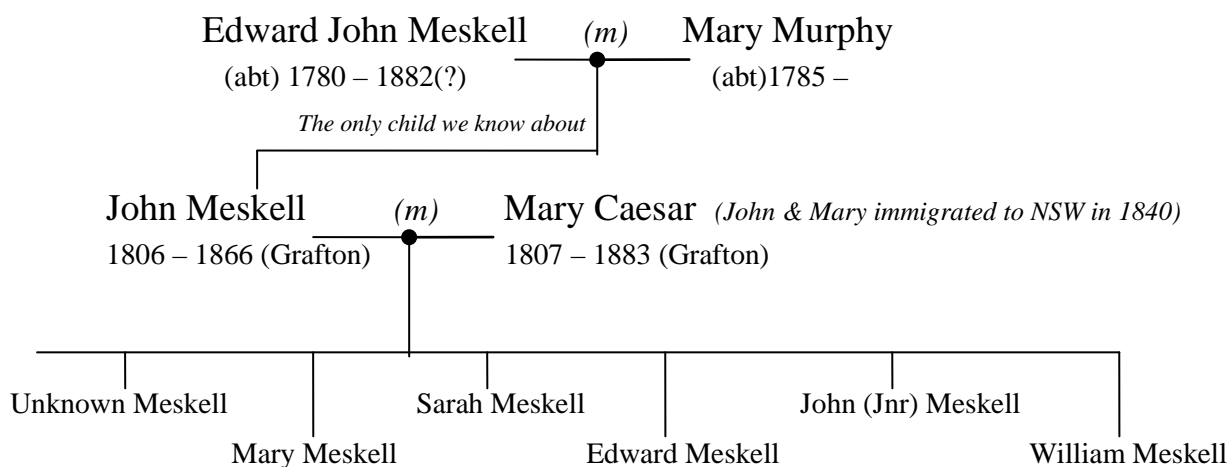
Part 1

The Meskell Family

John Meskell married Mary Caesar in 1826 in St John's Cathedral, Cashel, Tipperary, Ireland. Cashel as the original home seems to be consistent on documents and obituaries. Cashel and Nenagh are about 60 km apart in Tipperary, for the Maloney relatives this is of interest because Martin Maloney came from the region around Nenagh.

Frustratingly like the Maloney and Caesar line of the family the Meskell family tree is limited to just two names Edward Meskell and Mary Murphy and we know Edward is a farmer, they were both born most likely in the 1780s.

We are not sure if John Meskell had brothers or sisters. Peter Meskell (1959-) who has done extensive research of Irish records has a suggestion that **Edward Meskell** born in 1780 died in 1882 making him *102 years old*, it's a maybe from original records, but it could be his son or it could be another Edward Meskell. The Meskell name is not uncommon in Tipperary and a lot of Meskells immigrated to Australia as well so finding if they are related is a job not yet done.



The WILLS AND ADMINISTRATIONS 1882 document opposite lists the Will of Edward MESKILL on 8 August.

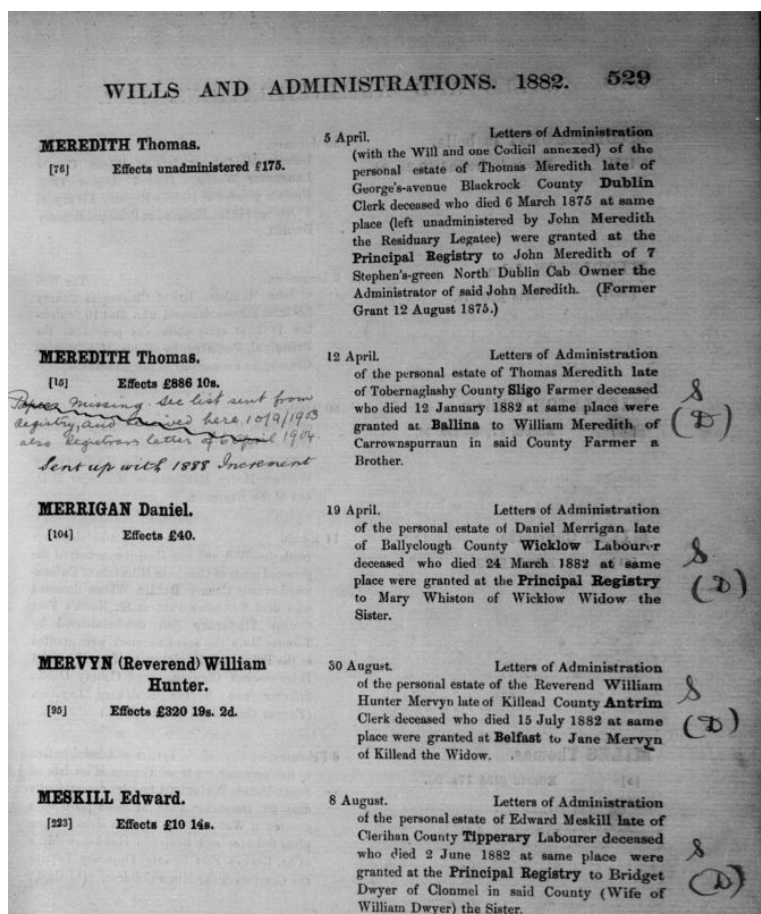
It reads:

MESKILL Edward.

Effects £10 14s

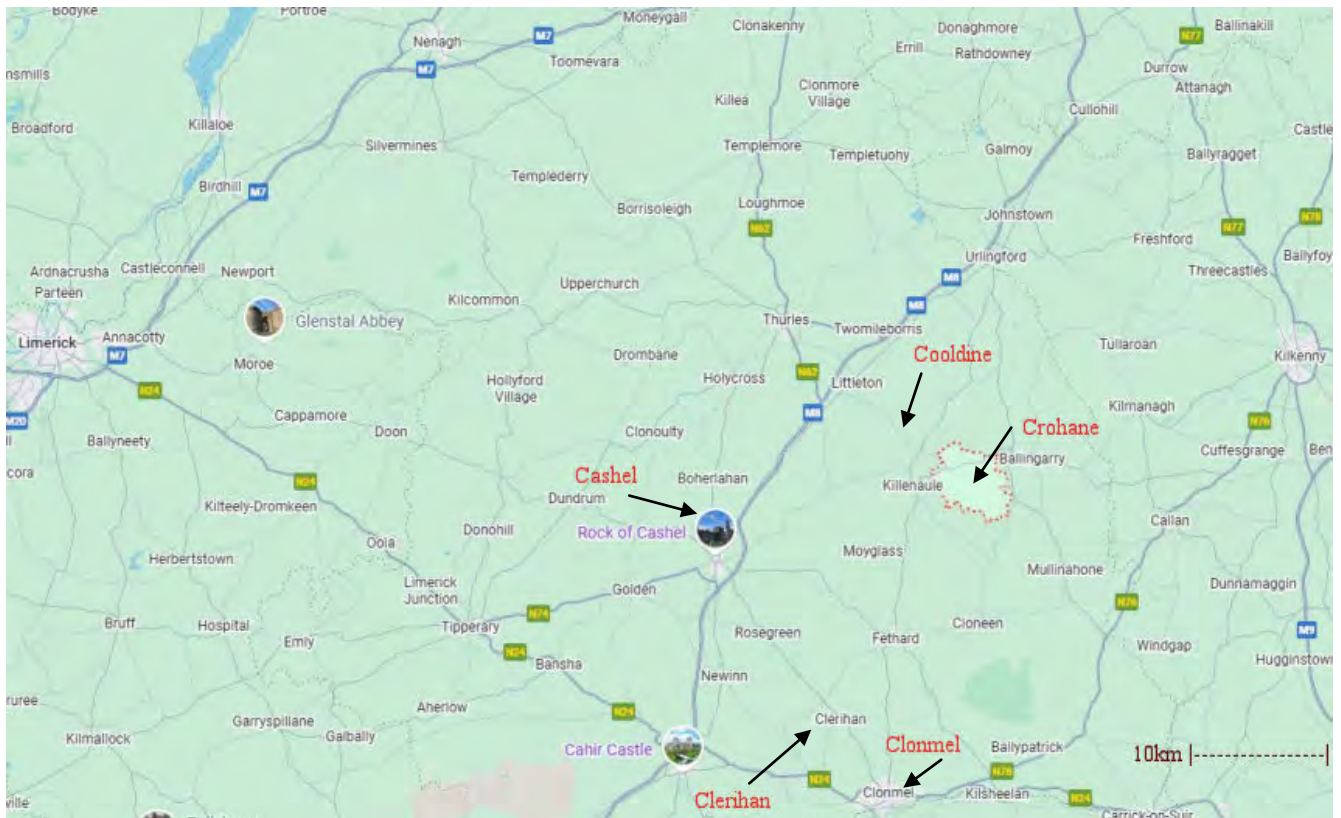
Letters of Administration of the personal estate of Edward Meskill of Clerihan County Tipperary Labourer deceased who died 2 June 1882 at same place were granted to the Principal Registry to Bridget Dwyer of Clonmel in said county (Wife of William Dwyer) the sister.

If this is Edward Meskell the father of John then he was possibly 102 when he died - we are not sure of his birth year, he could have been born as late as 1788.



Records suggest that the Caesar family lived in or near **Crohane** and the Meskell family were residents of **Cooldine**. On the map of Tipperary below the locations are only about 10 kilometres apart.

(For the Maloney family readers note that Nenagh (pronounced Neena) near where Martin Maloney came from is near the top of this map)



Edward Meskell (sometimes spelt Meskill) lived in Cooldine and we have a record of a Will from 1882 of an Edward Meskill having died in Clerihaan leaving his estate to his sister Bridget.

The death certificate of John Meskell in Australia in 1866 lists his place of marriage as Cashel – it also lists his father as Edward and his mother as Mary Murphy. When his daughter dies in 1900 her place of birth is listed as Clonmel in Ireland. This is quite specific information provided by her son Samuel Morgan. All of these places are near each other in Ireland. It seems like a lot of information about Ireland was retained within the family for a few generations. Clonmel (usually spelt with one “l” would only have been known to Samuel if he knew about the family history.

Meskills still live around the Cooldine, Crohane, Clerihaan, Clonmel and Cashel region but how they are related we are yet to sort out.

The name Meskell, Mascall, Meskill and its other spelling variations are an Anglicized form of the Irish Gaelic name Ó Meisceall, meaning "descendant of Meiscill". This suggests a long heritage of the Meskell family in Ireland.

The Caesar family on the other hand may have been immigrants from a Rhine River Valley known as the Palatinate an area of Germany that was besieged with war during the 1600's and finally in the late 1600's and early 1700's the English resettled some in Scotland and Ireland to increase the numbers of Protestants in those areas. Caesar is not a traditional Irish name. The evidence is limited however, remember when the Caesar/Meskell family arrived in Australia in 1840 the John Meskell and the boys were listed as Catholic and Mary (Maria) Caesar and the daughters were listed as Protestants. Seemingly a number of the Palatine families moved to America and Canada and that was the case with a number of the Caesar families from Ireland, we are yet to prove that link with our Caesar family.

The evidence against is that my DNA does not list any percentage for Germany it does have some for the Netherlands.

Houses in Townland of *Ballintogher*

Houses in Townland of Cooldrie

Name and Description.	Quality Letter.	Length.	Breadth.	Height.	Number of Measures.	Tare per Measure.	Amount.
							c c. d.
Edward Mastell House	3C	24. 14.6	5.0	39	2 1/4	0. 7. 3	
Piggery 6. 1/2 o. 12. 0		5 4	1.8	2			
John Cantwell old dwelling House	3C.	24.6	17.	6.0	58	2 1/2	0. 12. 1
Stable	3C.	18.0	17.	5.	32	1 1/2	0. 3. 1
Cow House	3C.	12.0	12.	4	13	1	0. 1. 1
Barn	26x	37.6	19	7	71	4	1. 3. 8
6-1/2 2 10 0							1. 19. 11
James Quirk No ³ belongs to Mr. Cantwell House, land ^d		15 15	6.8	22			
Piggery		10 6	2.0	6			
Quire Lot 4.							
Mary Mastell House,	3C.	24.0	16.0	5.0	33	2 1/4	0. 6. 2
6-1/4 7.6							
John Quirk House.	2C-	19.6	14.6	6.0	28	2	0. 4. 8
Stable	3C.	14.0	12.0	5.0	16	1 1/2	0. 1. 8
Piggery 6. 1/2 o. 8. 0		10. 12.4	5.8	15			0. 6. 4

[illegible]

Houses in Townland of Goodlime

No.	Name and Description.	Quality Lanes.	Length.	Breadth.	Height.	Number of Manures.	Rate per Manure.	Amount. £ s. d.
1	Edward Whelkell House Piggery	30	24.0	6.6	5.0	34	1 1/2	0.4.10 0.0.0 0.4.10
2	John Cantwell 1st Dwelling house Stable cow house Barn	30	34.6	11.0	6.6	3 1/2	1 1/2	0.16.7 0.4.6 0.0.7 1.6.7 2.5.7
3	James Quirk House Piggery	20	15.0	10.0	6.2	5	1/2	0.9.2 0.0.1 0.9.3
4	Mary Whelkell House	30	21.0	6.6	5.0	23	1 1/2	0.4.10
5	John Quirk House Stable Piggery Orchard & off back Horse	30	19.6	14.6	6.2	2 1/2	1 1/2	0.5.10 0.1.8 0.0.7 0.8.7 0.0.3 0.7.10

John Meskell 1816-1866 and Mary Caesar 1807-1883

John Meskell and Mary Caesar have 6 children born between 1827 and 1841 only 2 of them, Mary and John Jnr, have families. The Meskell family story here is about John and Mary and their children and a brief mention of **John Meskell Jnr**'s descendants who become quite numerous.

Their daughter **Mary Meskell** marries **Joseph Morgan** and we follow them in Part 2 of this book *The Morgan family*.

John Meskell and his wife Mary Caesar arrive in Sydney in May 1840 on the ship the *Thomas Lowry*.

John is listed as 34 giving a birth date of 1806 (his death certificate in 1866 has him 63 years having him born in 1803) I have gone with the 1806 date.

Mary is named "Maria" aged 33 and so born in 1807 her death certificate on the previous page has her 85 years old in 1883 suggesting a birth in 1798. Again I am going with a birth year based on the immigration record. Four Children are listed Edward 6, John 4, Mary ("Maria") 11 and Sarah 10. The children seem to be named after their parents and grandparents.

John is listed as a farm labourer and Mary a Farm Servant and as mentioned previously the males are listed as Roman Catholic and the females Protestant. Religion was a big deal at the time and a social issue in Australia with an Irish Catholic and English Protestant divide.

New South Wales, Australia, Assisted Immigrant Passenger Lists, 1828-1896 for John Maskall					
1840 > May > Thomas Lowry					
Meskell John	34	Farm Labourer	R Catholic	Reads	Co. Tipperary
Maria	33	Farm Servant	Protestant	Reads Carites	Co. Tipperary
Edward	6	Son	R Catholic		Co. Tipperary
John	4	Son	R Catholic		Co. Tipperary
Maria	11	Daughter	Protestant		Co. Tipperary
Sarah	10	Daughter	Protestant		Co. Tipperary

Mary's death certificate mentions 2 living and 4 deceased children. The assumption is the child listed was an "Unknown" Meskell born in 1827 who died before they left Ireland. There is no record of another child born after William in 1841 in Australia or a record of a Meskell born fitting that line of the family in Australia so the earlier birth in Ireland seems the most likely.

John Meskell and his wife Mary Caesar are buried together in the Protestant Anglican section of the Grafton Cemetery in northern NSW.

Directly above them is the family of Mary's sister Eliza Lydia, listed as Eliza. They are listed under the surname Meskell rather than McKee and this seems to be a clerical error because their names are listed correctly on the separate detailed pages earlier in the ships records. – See the section on the McKee family in Research Note A for more details.

[illegible]

John Meskell and Mary Caesar arrive in Australia – May 1840

The ship records, the passenger lists, of the *Thomas Lowry* are detailed with a page for each passenger male/female, married/single and on the married females pages children are included. The page below is **Mary Caesar** and it is curious that she is listed as Maria rather than Mary and as Caesar rather than Meskell.

What does it clearly say?

The ships name "**Thomas Lowry**".

The agent who sponsored their immigration; **Bought out by: A.B Smith & Co**

She is a native of **County Tipperary** a daughter of **Julius** a farmer and **Sarah** his wife

Her Calling (her job:) **Farm Servant**

Baptism: **She is not carrying any birth or identification papers!**

Character and Person certifying: Same as her husband. (John's information next page)

State of Health, Religion and Remarks can't be read

On the 2nd page – children: Two male Children are legible as - **Edward 6 years 15th Apr** and **John 11 years 10th June**. The Female Children can't be read but the marks indicate two children. On the page where passengers are listed these names are legible as **Mary** and **Sarah**.

On the next page I have included a better copy of the right hand page below, that clearer copy shows the children's names clearly.

MARRIED FEMALE IMMIGRANT.		
Arrived by the Ship	<i>Thomas Lowry</i>	
Brought out by	<i>A. B. Smith & Co.</i>	
A Native of	<i>Co. Tipperary, Ireland</i>	
Wife of	<i>Julius & Sarah his</i>	
Calling	<i>Farm Servant</i>	
Age	<i>27</i>	
Person certifying Registry of Baptism	<i>No certificate</i>	
Character, and Person certifying the same	<i>Same as her husband</i>	
State of bodily health, strength, and probable usefulness		
Religion		
Remarks		

MALE CHILDREN, EXCEEDING ONE, AND UNDER EIGHTEEN YEARS.		
Name	Age	Person certifying Registry of Baptism
<i>Edward</i>	<i>6 yrs 15th Apr 1840</i>	
<i>John</i>	<i>11 yrs 10th June</i>	

FEMALE CHILDREN, EXCEEDING ONE, AND UNDER FIFTEEN YEARS.		
Name	Age	Person certifying Registry of Baptism
<i>No certificate</i>		

Sydney.

This is a clearer copy of the right side page above. I have included this detail because it clearly shows names of the children and their ages. In particular it shows the name of their son John. None of the children have a second first name listed but I have seen John listed on genealogy sites as "John Russell Meskell" but I can find no evidence for this additional name.

MALE CHILDREN, EXCEEDING ONE, AND UNDER EIGHTEEN YEARS.		
Names.	Ages.	Persons certifying Registry of Baptism.
Edward	6 years	15th April 1860
John	14 years	10th June 1860
FEMALE CHILDREN, EXCEEDING ONE, AND UNDER FIFTEEN YEARS.		
Names.	Ages.	Persons certifying Registry of Baptism.
Maria	11 years	20th August 1859
Ann	10 years	10th July 1859
This certificate		

Sydney.

John Meskell immigration page from the *Thomas Lowry*

His name is spelt **John Maskal**.

And like his wife (previous page) the ship and sponsor are the same.

He is a Native of: **County Tipperary** son of ??? (it looks like John but on his death certificate his father is listed as Edward)!

He is a farmer and Mary Murphy his wife.

John 's Calling is : **Farmer**

Age on Embarkation: 34 (which would have him born in 1806 but when he dies in 1866 his age is listed as 63 making him born in 1803.

The Registry of Baptism this seems to be any proof of age and in this case it seems to be a document from James ???? and Minster of **Crohane*** & John Black????? A farmer

The Minister is from Crohane which is about 25 kilometres from Cashel so that might be of interest for future research.

John Maskal

R. I.

MARRIED MALE IMMIGRANT.

Arrived by the
Brought out by

Thomas Lowry
AB Smith & Co

A Native of

Co. Tipperary

son of John

Murphy

his wife

Mary Murphy

his wife

his wife

his wife

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Sydney 1840

After the ships docked and the passengers, because they were on the Bounty Assisted Scheme, were required to be interviewed by a Board. This must have taken some time and arrangements made by AB Smith & Co, the sponsors, to accommodate the immigrants. The main requirements about the Bounty Scheme I have mentioned a few pages back.

How old were John Meskell and Mary Caesar when they arrived?

Their ages are different on their death certificates, that is, the calculation of their birthdates based on their stated ages when they arrived in 1840 and when they died in 1866 and 1883 respectively are quite different in Mary's case it is 1798 or 1807 a nine year difference. I had assumed the immigration records were the accurate ones to follow BUT I now think the death certificates are probably correct.

John and Mary were married in 1826; she was either 28, if she was born in 1798 or 19 if she was born in 1807. And John was either 23 or 20. All possible. Mary had her last child, William, in 1841 and she was either 43 or 34. Women seemed to keep bearing children into their mid forties at the time.

Back to the Bounty Scheme and a key feature was that parents immigrating should be aged 30 or less and the ships records support this with just a few in their early 30's. Those on the limit could provide a statement to say they were healthy which John and Mary did but they did not supply baptism documents. I am suspicious.

After all of that logic it may fall flat because when I look at Mary's sister Eliza Lydia (details in Research Notes A) she is listed as 30 years old in 1840 born in 1803 but on her tombstone it says she was 64 in 1872 indicating she was born in 1808 and that suggest she was 25 rather than 30 when she arrived. The ship record even lists a date as 16 April 1803. I really don't know. The dates I have for them in parts of this book will be inconsistent depending on what sources I feel are more valid as I proceed. (NM 2025)

The Hunter Region 1840 to 1860

After arriving in Sydney on 16th May 1840 John and Mary seem to have set off quite quickly for the Hunter Region, they may have had work already arranged for them via the Bounty Immigration Scheme. Just 8 weeks after arriving Mary's sister, Eliza Lydia, gave birth to a son, John Caesar McKee on July 14th 1840 at Butterwick.

Mary's sister, Lydia, and her husband John McKee are detailed in an 1841 Census (from "Hunter Valley Directory 1841 compiled by Elizabeth Guildford in 1987). "Aug 1840" seems to be the date they arrived in Butterwick. Other names in the lists have dates earlier in the 1830s but they also include the name of the ship that bought them to NSW.



This Census entry is interesting because it puts them in the same location from where soon to be introduced, Joseph Morgan, is said to be from as well. That location is Butterwick.

Butterwick becomes an important location for the Morgan and the Meskell families because it is here that we can pin down some dates and links between the families. Butterwick is now just a region with, it was however a thriving rural community in the 1840's, potential was just around the corner and immigrants jostled with convicts and established settlers to find the next crop, mine or business to make them successful. The problem they all had was labour, everyone needed more workers and especially people with skills. That's why the schemes like the Bounty Program were developed.

John and Mary Meskell stayed in the Hunter region until sometime between late 1860 and mid 1862 when they moved to Waterview, Grafton. Their life in the Hunter seemed to be around Paterson and Hinton (Butterwick) in farming. There is happiness and grief ahead.

Names and who's who is always a problem with family history apart from variations in spelling there are often people with the same name in the same town at the same time. John Meskell is one of those names. Pete Meskell has tried his hand below at sorting some of that confusion for us.

Which John Meskell?

I remember my Grandfather George telling me that there came a time when our family decided to lock in our spelling as Meskell. In early days when not all could read or write, our ancestors were reliant on the clerk's interpretation of how they pronounced their name!*

The most easily confused John Meskell was born in County Clare, Ireland in 1804 and died in Raymond Terrace, NSW in 1876. He married Matilda McConomy (1820-1857) at East Maitland in 1844. He came to Australia as a convict and ended up with land at Seaham, NSW. His records are often confused with John Meskell senior and they lived in the same general area for twenty years, may have even met?

Once again, different spellings on different documents over the years.

There was a John Miskell (1808-1876) who was born in Galway, Ireland and died in Orange, NSW. He married Ellan Moylan (1832-1895) at Bathurst, NSW in 1850.

I also found a new John Miskell (sometimes spelled Meskell) on the TIPPEM1 database. He was born in 1841 and came from Clonmel in Tipperary. The record said he came to Australia as a free settler in 1863, both his parents were dead and his fare was paid by his cousins John and Joseph Heffernan.

(Note that none of these are the John Meskell in this book).

And another confusion seems to be John Meskell's son, also John Meskell who many family researchers have named John Russell Meskell. There is NO evidence of that middle name in our family history lines. There is a John Russell Meskell and his known details are: born 9th July 1897 in Narrandera, Christened on 11th August 1897 in Narrandera – but not related.

**A note from Pete Meskell in 2025*

John Meskell along with his wife Mary Caesar and the McKee family all move to **Butterwick**, they are there by **July 14th 1840** when Eliza Lydia has her 6th child, John Caesar McKee. The McKee family are good at filling in forms; census, births.... the Meskells not so good. They must have been assigned to a farmer as part of the Bounty Immigration Scheme.

In 1840 the last convict ship arrived in Sydney, farm labour and in fact all forms of labour were in short supply and farmers were eager to get immigrants. There were large land holdings and The Australian Agricultural Company had land near Paterson.

Butterwick is a region, not a town today, near Paterson in the Hunter Valley. Some details of what was the land in Butterwick are detailed in the section later about Joseph Morgan

The Meskell family in Butterwick

For most of not all of the 1840s John and Mary Meskell lived in and around Butterwick working as farm labours and putting together some savings. The first few years must have been very hard. Their daughter **Sarah** who was 10 years old when they arrived in 1840 died on May 14th **1841**. **William** their son born on April 13th 1842 died on February 20th **1843**. They were buried in the Glebe Cemetery at East Maitland.

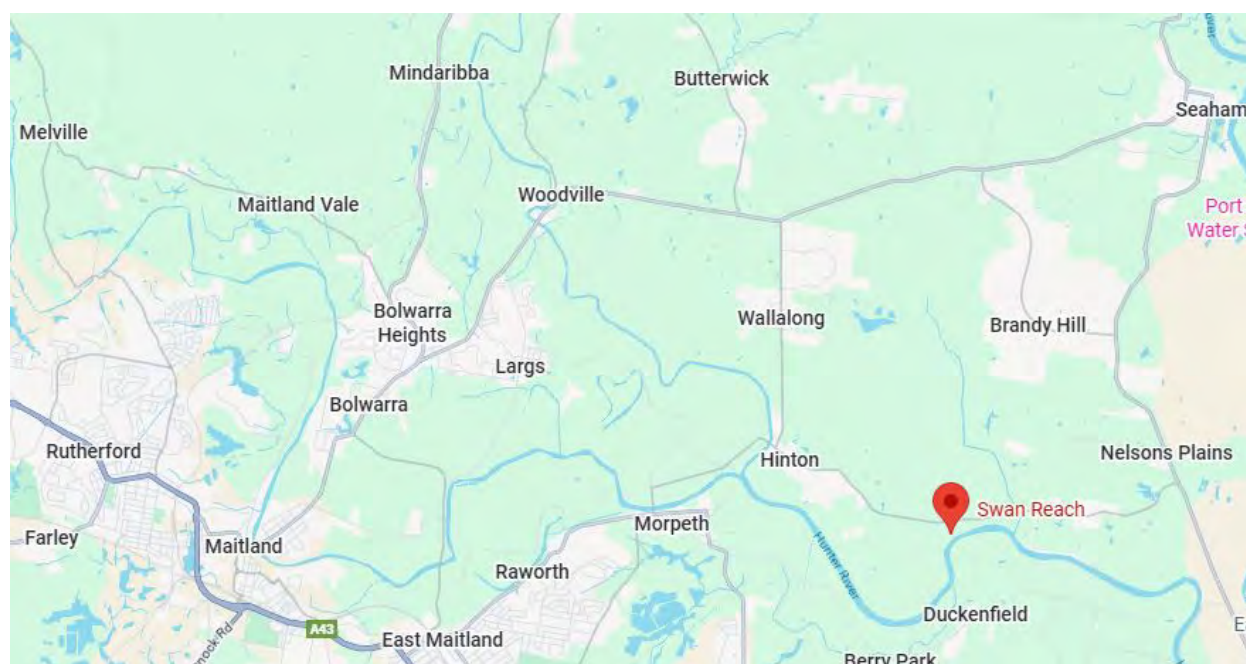
☐ ? MASKAL SARAH

1377/1841 V18411377 AGE 11
25B

CT

St Peters Old Burial Ground Glebe Headstone & Parish Register1.pdf					
MARSDEN: Samuel	24/3/1847	40	F.B.S. Arrived 1826		
MARSH: Thomas	19/3/1846	45	Farmer		
MARSH: Amelia Rockford	22/9/1841	2½	D. of a shoemaker		
MARSHALL: Marea	13/9/1832	25	Green Hills		
MARSHALL: Emma Sophia	25/11/1854	11mth	D. of William		
MARSHALL: Adeline Gertrude	26/11/1845	6mth	Lochinvar		
MARTIN: Richard	21/12/1838	70/73	F.B.S. Drowned		
MARTIN: John	21/5/1847	36	Supposed to be free		
MASKAL: (MISKELL) Sarah	14/5/1841	11	Free Emigrant		
MASKIL: (MISKELL) William	20/2/1843	9mth	S. of a labourer		
MASON: George Henry	24/3/1854	2	S. of a Carrier		
MASON: John Andrew	10/2/1851	15mth	S. of a Labourer		
MASTERS: James	28/3/1846	11dys	S. of a shoemaker		
MASTERS: Mary Anne	28/10/1849	48	F.B.S.		
MAYO: Elizabeth	18/3/1853	46	Wife of John/ Inn Keeper		
MEDLAM: Charles	19/4/1849	8 dys	S. of a Tinman		
MEDLAM: William	3/2/1850	1 day	S. of a Tinman		

Record of Sarah Meskell 11 years and William Meskell 9 months in the East Maitland Cemetery.



Sarah died at Swan Reach in 1841. We have no definitive record of where the Meskell family were living when they came to The Hunter in 1840, the McKees however completed a census and we know they lived at Butterwick and when Mary Meskell married in 1844 she was listed as living at Butterwick. Swan Reach is about 8 kilometres from Butterwick.

These must have been difficult years; far from family and a life they knew in Ireland in a new and strange land with hot summers, and very few facilities. In the early 1940s the Hunter Region has a small population and the decision to immigrate must have weighed on their minds. In **1844** their daughter, **Mary, who is 15 marries Joseph Morgan** who is 33 and seemingly a convict.

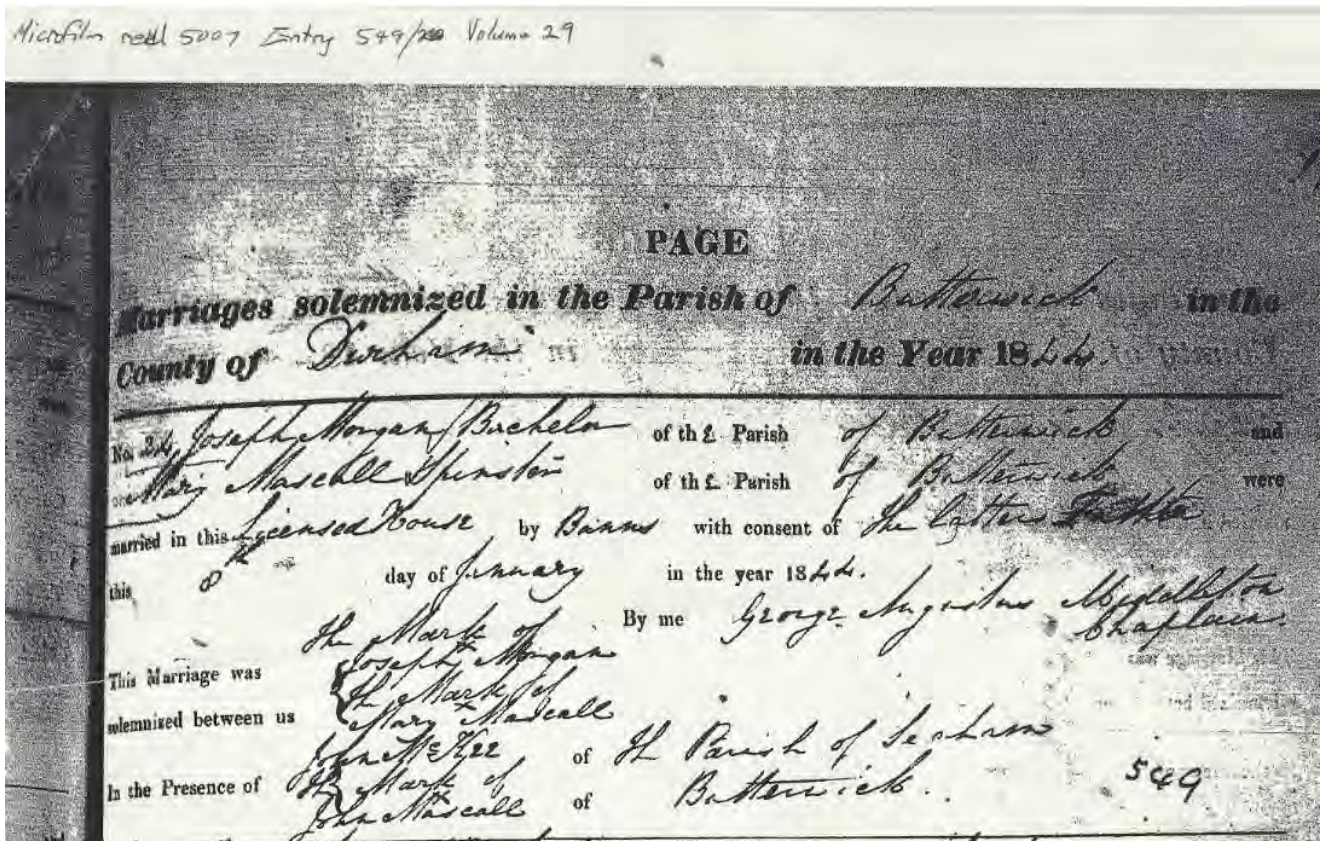
1844

The wedding of **Mary Meskell** and **Joseph Morgan** takes place at **Narrowgut** near Hinton, about 12kms from Maitland and about 10kms from Butterwick on January 8th 1844.

As mentioned earlier Mary is 15 and Joseph is 33, they both live at Butterwick.

The original entry in the Parish Record below lists the names Joseph Morgan and Mary Meskell (that is later transcribed as Mascall (see document next page) and Masewell (see entry directly below that in entered into NSW BDM records).

☐ 549/1844 V1844549 MORGAN JOSEPH MASEWELL MARY ML
29



The marriage entry provides a lot of information.

The marriage was licensed by Banns, that is the intention to of Mary and Joseph to marry was read out in the church service for at least 3 weeks in advance of the wedding. Mary's father John Meskell gave his consent for the marriage and made his mark as a witness. The other witness was John McKee the husband of Eliza Lydia Caesar, the sister of Mary's Mother. And it says they all live in Butterwick.

The register and the Anglican (Protestant, Church of England) Mary Caesar, Mary's mother is still exerting her protestant faith – remember she and her daughters were listed on the immigration ship records as Protestant and her husband and her sons were listed as Catholic.

Narrowgut as the place of the wedding has been something of a puzzle. No town and no church, that is until I chased up the Minister – George Augustus Middleton* – An interesting character, and for our purposes in 1844 his ministering were limited to the Butterwick and Seaham regions and he conducted sermons and marriages from his home.

*Middleton was intolerant of officials and officialdom. He fell out with the Commandant at Newcastle, Major James Morisset, and he lost the support of the first Archdeacon of the Australian Church, Thomas Hobbes Scott to whom Middleton was answerable for his ministry. The Evangelical branch of the church also accused Middleton of being devoid of spirituality and depth in his ministry and teaching.

His Paterson River flock knew better. Middleton related to his people as a husband, parent, farmer, bushman and someone who had experienced the same grief, struggles and failures that they endured. Even though he was unlicensed from 1827, Middleton's unofficial Christian ministry never faltered and, finally, he was allowed back into the Anglican fold.

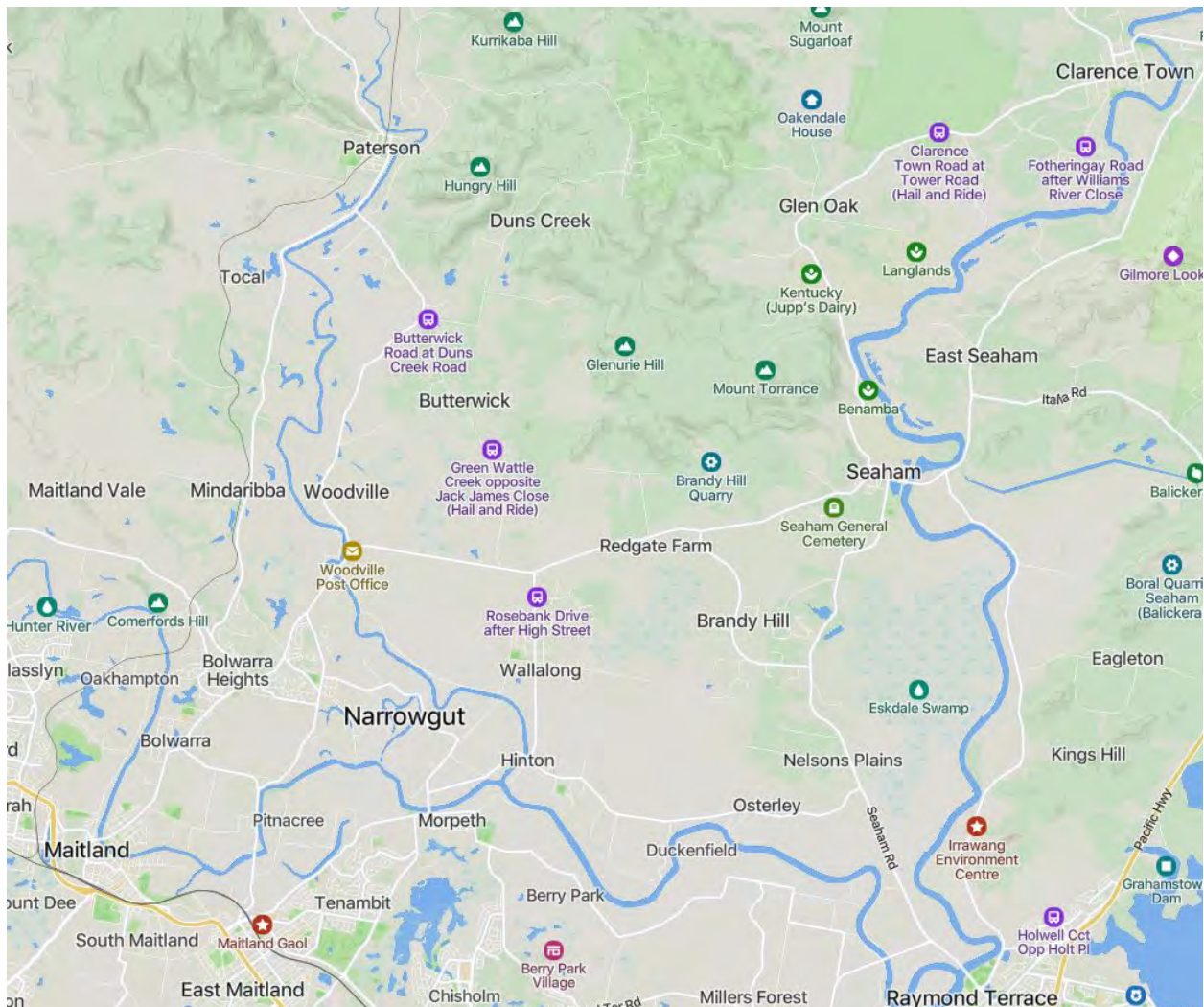
After Bishop William Grant Broughton's pastoral visitation to the Hunter valley in 1837, Middleton was licensed to serve in the parishes of Butterwick and Seaham, and in April 1838 he was authorized to solemnize marriages in his house** at Hinton, there being no church building in the area. In 1839 the Hinton parish was further limited to the lower reaches of the Williams and Paterson Rivers. Middleton also did much of the parish work in the ecclesiastical centre of Morpeth until failing health confined him to Hinton. He died there on 15 May 1848.

Information above edited from:

Maitland our Place, our Stories – Persons Religion 18 April 2022 by Brian Walsh

Australian Dictionary of Biography, Volume 2 , 1967-2009 - George Augustus Middleton (1791–1848) by Niel Gunson

**His house was at Phoenix Park across the river from Hinton at Narrowgut (Phoenix Park Rd runs through Narrowgut today. (NM 2025)



A transcript of the marriage of Mary Meskell and Joseph Morgan in 1844.

The year is still 1844 and we are staying with the Meskell family in the Hunter region, Joseph Morgan has entered the scene as Mary Meskell's husband, they have a son, John Morgan on August 18th 1844. Yes even with the 3 weeks of Banns prior to their wedding it seems like pregnancy was the reason for their marriage. However before all of the extended families, the Meskell, the McKee and the Morgans pack up and leave the Hunter for Grafton in 1860/61 Mary and Joseph have 10 children and they have another 5 during the next 9 years to 1870 in Grafton. Their story will continue in part 2 of this book, The Morgan Family.

New South Wales

Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 1995

Church of England

MARRIAGES

Number	549 Vol 29
Grooms Details	
Name	Joseph MORGAN (his X mark)
Of	Butterwick
Marital Status	Bachelor
Brides Details	
Bride	Mary MASCALL (her X mark)
Of	Butterwick
Marital Status	Spinster
When married	8 January 1844
Where married	Parish of Butterwick in the County of Durham
By	Banns
Consent	The latter's Father
Minister	George Augustus Middleton
Witnesses	John McKee John Mascall (his X mark)



Before accepting copies, sight unaltered original. The original has a coloured background.

REGISTRY OF BIRTHS
DEATHS AND MARRIAGES

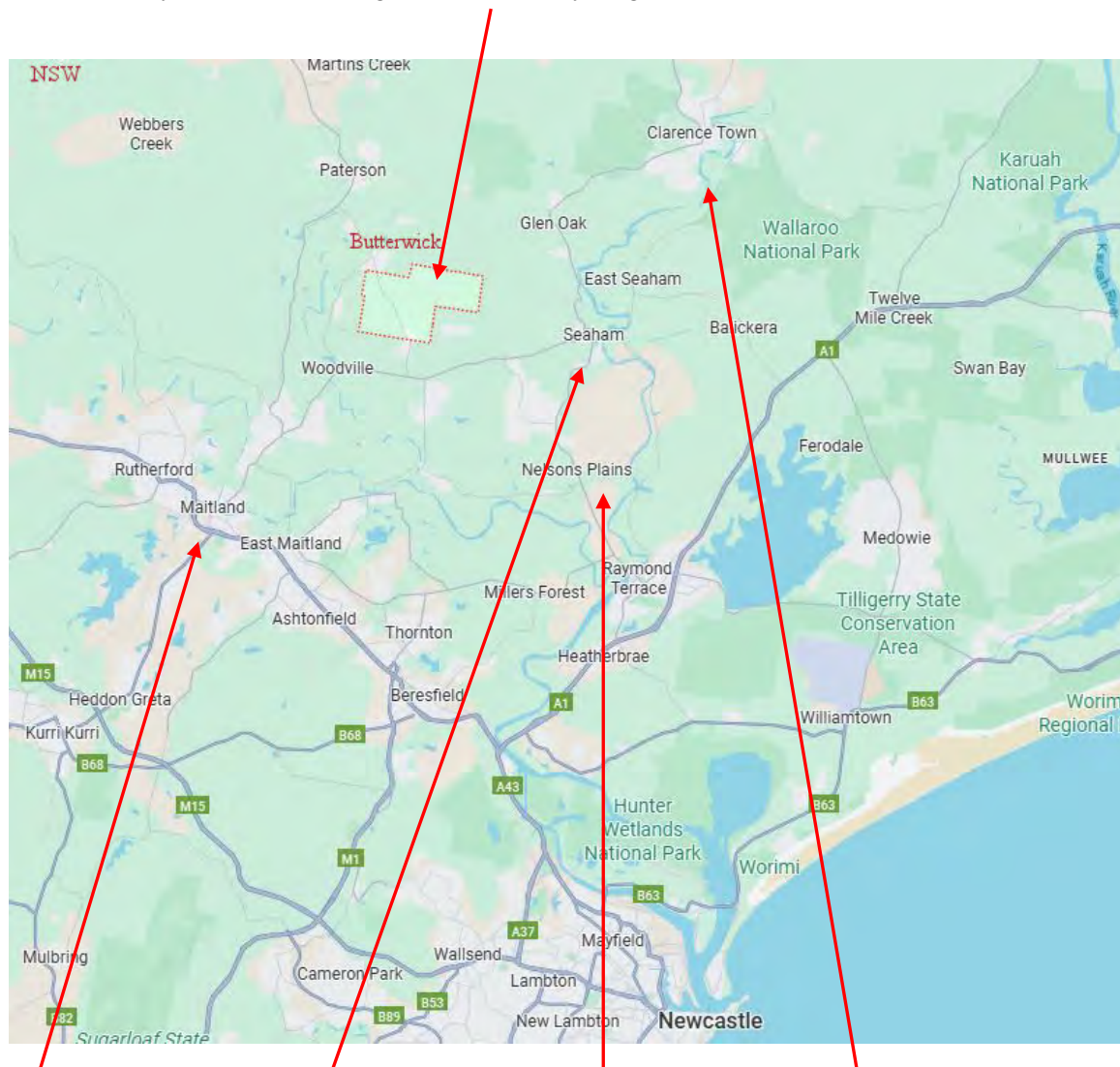
SYDNEY 09 July 2025

I hereby certify that this is a true copy of particulars recorded in a
Register in the State of New South Wales, in the Commonwealth of Australia

Heaven James

Registrar

John and Mary Meskell are living in Butterwick by August 1840.



Maitland

Seaham

Irrawang

Clarence Town

From their arrival in 1840 until they leave the Hunter Valley region and move to Grafton in 1860/61 we know very little about John Meskell and Mary Caesar, within 4 years though they have lost two of their children and their daughter Mary is married.

The conditions of their Bounty Immigration deal meant that they were employed, in their case, John as a farm labourer and Mary as a house servant. Labour was still fairly intensive in the 1840's with very little mechanisation.

From 1844 to 1860/61 we know very little, **John and Mary** may have moved from Butterwick closer to Seaham or Clarence Town records are confusing because another John Meskell lived in Seaham. Their daughter **Mary** has 10 children by 1860 and the code for the District where the children were born suggest that they moved from Butterwick closer to Clarence Town the church code changes from ML to MA (see the birth list from NSW BDM in the later section about Joseph Morgan and Mary Meskell).

The move from the Hunter Valley – Butterwick, Clarence Town or Seaham – **to Grafton** was undertaken between October 1860 and July 1861 based on the birth location of two of Mary Meskell's child. Edward was born 29th September 1860 at Irrawang (south of Seaham, just north of Raymond Terrace, her next child Samuel was born 14th September 1862, however we can close the window a little because while Mary was busy having 10 children from 1844 to 1860 her brother John (Jnr) Meskell had married Eleanor Daley at Hinton in 1858 and their second child Mary Eleanor Meskell (Yes another Mary Meskell to deal with) was born at Waterview, Grafton 3rd June 1862.

A very firm date for having moved to Grafton by is **27 July 1861** when Edward Meskell died.

And maybe, they moved before February 1861 because one of the extend family, William McKee married Janet Jane Gordon on the 14th of that month and the notice below describes him as “Mr William McKee of the Clarence River” and we know he is the son of Eliza Lydia Caesar and James JOHN McKee. My assumption is that most of the extended family moved together.

se / The Maitland Mercury and Hunter River General Advertiser (NSW : 1843 - 1893) / Tue 19 Feb 1861 / Page 1 / Family Notices

MARRIAGES.
At Clarence Town, on the 14th instant, by the Rev. A. M. Sheriff, Mr. William McKee, of the Clarence River, to Janet Jane, eldest daughter of Mr. Joseph Gorton, of the Fitz Roy Hotel, Clarence Town.

Other evidence is an unclaimed letter in the GPO in Sydney addressed to “Mrs M Meskell – Clarence River” the date on this notice is 16th June 1861.

New South Wales Government Gazette (Sydney, NSW : 1832 - 1900) / Fri 5 Jul 1861 [Issue No.162] / Page 1435 / No. 12. LIST OF LE

General Post Office, Sydney,
15th June, 1861.

No. 12.

LIST OF LETTERS RETURNED FROM THE COUNTRY, AND NOW LYING AT THIS OFFICE UNCLAIMED.

PARTIES applying for Unclaimed Letters at the General Post Office, are requested to give the correct number of the Letter, as also the date and number of the List in which they may have observed their names, as such reference will materially facilitate delivery. Parties in the Country making written applications, in addition to the former particulars, are requested to state where they expect their Letters from, and any other information tending to prevent an unnecessary transmission of Letters.

9 Kelly Thos., Walgett (4)
13 Kelly P., Wollongong

3 Mason W., Goulburn
4 Malleson W. T., Binalong

109 Meskell Mrs. M., Clarence River
110 Meurant Mrs. A., Burrangong

It seems the extended families moved from The Hunter to The Clarence:

John and Mary Meskell with their son Edward

Their daughter Mary and her husband, Joseph Morgan and their 10 children

Their son John and his wife Elleanor Daley and one child

And Mary's sister and her husband, that is, James John McKee and Eliza Lydia Caesar and nine of their ten children (Frances died in 1855) moved with them.

Why did they move?

In the 1850s/60s The Clarence region known as “The Big River” was a land of opportunity new land grants were being provided. It was full of possibilities.

My best supposition is that Julius McKee, the son on James John McKee and Eliza Lydia Caesar, and possibly his brother William moved north to The Clarence on 1859. Julius had a farm between Dungog and Clarence Town at Brookfield in 1858 (someone stole a cow from him in March of that year) but then in April 1859 Julius bought land at Copmanhurst, just north of Grafton. The land he bought was at Smith's Flat and I am confident that he is the correct “Julius McKee because later in 1865 he married Margery Phemister at Smiths Flat and the property he buys is next door to land bought by John Phemister.

It seems that the prospects around Grafton were enticing enough for all of the families to give it a go and move so sometime in late 1860 and early 1861 they sailed north.

Also in 1861 land grants were released around Grafton and the Robertson Land Acts (1861), allowed "free selection before survey" that let ordinary people (selectors) buy Crown land cheaply.

Sale of Agricultural Land, situated at Smith's Flat near Copmanhurst, at the head of the Navigation, April 12.				
Lot 1	—	38	8	0
2	—	45	0	0
3	—	41	0	0
4	—	41	0	0
5	—	63	0	0
6	—	45	0	0
7	—	48	0	0
8	—	53	0	0
9	—	49	0	0
10	—	59	2	0
11	—	42	0	0
12	—	40	0	0
13	—	87	0	0
14	—	97	0	0
15	—	86	2	0
16	—	58	0	0
17	—	60	2	0
18	—	No offer		
19	—	118	0	0
20	—	84	0	0
21	—	92	0	0
22	—	91	0	0
23	—	92	0	0
24	—	53	0	0
25	—	90	0	0
26	—	93	0	0
27	—	88	0	0
28	—	86	0	0
29	—	80	0	0
30	—	80	0	0
Deed fees				34 5 0
Total acres	...	2012	2	0
Realized				£4265 9 6

April 1859, Julius McKee buys land near Copmanhurst just north of Grafton in NSW. Julius is a son of Eliza Lydia Caesar and her husband James John McKee he is a nephew of John and Mary Meskell (Caesar). The McKee family do well around Copmanhurst and other strands of the family live there as well, I have not worked out their relationships.

Below:

The Electoral Roll from 1880 lists numerous McKee males in the Copmanhurst District.

it 4 Sep 1880 / Page 3 / GRAFTON ELECTORAL DISTRICT.

M'Kee Charles, Copmanhurst
M'Kee James, Copmanhurst
M'Kee John, senior, Copmanhurst
M'Kee John, Copmanhurst
M'Kee John, Copmanhurst
M'Kee John, Copmanhurst
M'Kee Julius, Copmanhurst
M'Kee Thomas, Copmanhurst
M'Kee William, Copmanhurst
M'Kee William, Copmanhurst
M'Kee George, Copmanhurst

I assume the families took a ship from Newcastle to Grafton, steamers were running from Clarence Town to Newcastle and by 1861 there was a regular paddle wheel steamer service from Sydney to Grafton that called in at Newcastle. Grafton was still fairly isolated only tracks connected the region via Armidale and then the Liverpool Plains through Tamworth to the Hunter and then Sydney.

HUNTER RIVER NEW STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY.—Steam to and from the HUNTER during the months of July and August.
FROM SYDNEY.
The CITY OF NEWCASTLE, on WEDNESDAYS and SATURDAYS, at 11 p.m.
The WILLIAMS, on MONDAYS and THURSDAYS, at 11 p.m.
FROM MORPETH.
The CITY OF NEWCASTLE, on TUESDAYS and FRIDAYS, at 8 a.m.
The WILLIAMS, on WEDNESDAYS and SATURDAYS, at 8 a.m.
A Steamer for CLARENCE TOWN, on WEDNESDAY, the 31st, at 11 p.m.
P. J. COHEN, Manager.
Offices, foot of Market-street.

NEWCASTLE SHIPPING.
ARRIVALS.—October 17. Urara (s.), from Sydney; Anne and Jane, barque, 301 tons, Smith, from Melbourne; Viseroy, schooner, 156 tons, Nicholson, from Melbourne; Thames, brig, M'Kellar, from Sydney.
DEPARTURES.—October 17. Urara (s.), for Clarence River; William Hill, brig, Gregory, for Geelong, with 177 tons coal; 18. Vibilla, schooner, Tolmie, for Geelong, with 166 tons coal.
COASTERS INWARDS.—October 17. Catherine Agnes, Kate Kearney, Little Pet, Otago, Mountain Maid, Shamrock, Ranger, and Atlantic.

In 1862 grandchildren are born in Grafton. John Meskell and Mary Caesar's son John (Jnr) has a daughter Mary in June and his sister Mary has her 11th child Samuel Morgan in September.

During the years 1840 to 1861 while John and Mary Meskell were living in the Hunter Region life in Ireland would have been quite terrible for rural labourers, the famine hit in 1845 and for the next 10 years hunger, disease and homelessness was widespread a million die and two million Irish left their homeland. While things may not have been great in Australia they must have still thought they made the right decision in 1840.

The Meskell and the Morgan families in Grafton 1860/61

As suggested earlier I suspect that John & Mary Meskell and all their family including their daughter Mary who had married Joseph Morgan in 1844 and their 10 children as well (John (Jnr) Meskell who also had one child) and Mary's sister Eliza Lydia Caesar who married James John McKee and their 11 children – term children is used rather loosely, William their eldest would have been 32 years old – (I have not traced the McKee family tree to know how many of Lydia's grandchildren would have been in this move to The Clarence.

The McKee family move to Copmanhurst and the Meskells and the Morgans settle in Waterford. The reasons for these choices are unknown, although we do know that the McKee's son, Julius had bought land at Copmanhurst in 1859. At least one other McKee family also come to live at Copmanhurst, if they were there already or when they came and exactly how they were related to James John McKee I am not sure. (We leave the McKee family here, again, some details about them is located in Research Note A).

Waterview

I have marked on the map below, Waterview as the area is know today, however in the past the location of Waterview probably included most of the areas north towards Seelands. It is all pretty flat farming land and even today (2025) the area is only dotted with a few farmhouses. It floods and has done so regularly. The residence of the Meskells was flooded several times and Pete Meskell has indicated that many of the family historical documents and photos have been lost during floods.

Waterview, Eatonsville, Mylneford, Copmanhurst, Seelands and South Grafton are all places where this part of the family story is cantered.


In 1861 and in fact up until 1932 South Grafton and Grafton were quite separate towns. The Clarence River is 200 metres wide and the current can be a little treacherous so crossing the river was time consuming, and cost money. Facilities; banking, Post Office, schools, offices and shops existed in both towns. In the early 1900s they actually had a ferry that carried the train across the river.



In May 1861 Grafton experienced a serious flood it had been flooded 3 years in a row. Although the region was growing, the town population –Grafton & South Grafton – was only about 1500. Potential was everywhere but so was disease, particularly cholera, and heartbreak.

Within months of arriving in Grafton John and Mary Meskells son, **Edward Meskell**, dies on July 27th 1861 he was just 27 years old. Edward died from Consumption, tuberculosis (TB) it is likely he had it for sometime well before they moved to Grafton anything from one to three or four years. It was a common cause of death in the 1800s. and on May 12th 1865 their son John Jnr and his wife Eleanor Daley loose a child, **John Thomas Meskell** who is just 14 months old.

The death Certificate of **Edward Meskell 1834-1861** . This document of Edward 's death when he was just 27 in 1861 , he died just a few months after the family moved from The Hunter to Grafton the information is provided by his father. The family was living at Waterview. We have John's wife, Edward's mother clearly listed as Mary Caesar. Edward was born in Tipperary Ireland and he died of Consumption (tuberculosis).



DEATH REGISTERED IN NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA.

**CERTIFIED COPY FURNISHED UNDER PART V OF THE
REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES ACT, 1973.**

No.	Date and place of death	Name and occupation	Sex and age	Cause of death Duration of last illness; medical attendant; when he last saw deceased	Name and occupation of father Name and maiden surname of mother	Informant	Particulars of registration	When and where buried; name of undertaker	Name and religion of Minister and names of witnesses of burial	Where born and how long in the Australasian Colonies or States	Place of marriage, age, and to whom	Children of marriage
138	29 July 1861	Edward Meskell	Male 27 yrs	(1) Consumption (2) Eplh or hinchent (3) St Luke (4) About three weeks.	(1) John Meskell Farmer (2) Mary Caesar	His father of Waterview father of deceased	W. H. Walker 29 July 1861 1st Registrar North Grafton 1861 South Grafton	29 July 1861 North Grafton Stephens and Mackay	Rev. A. E. Colwyn Minister of the Church of England St Luke's	Tipperary Ireland 20 years St. Malo	(1) (2) (unmarried) (3)	

VERNON MARRIAGE

John Meskell 1803/06 - 1866

John Meskell dies in 1866 his death certificate says he was 63. When John arrived in Sydney in 1840 his "Age on Embarkation: 34" which would have him born in 1806. Two documents two different dates!

The death certificate on the next page tells us a lot about John. It is from this document we have been able to research a little more detail. It confirms information and lets us speculate.

Some facts and speculation about John Meskell

He was a farmer. That fact was stated on his immigration documents and on wedding certificates of his children as well.

When he died the location is listed as Southampton (see map previous page) this is close to Waterview. He was probably in the care of his daughter, Mary, and her husband Joseph Morgan because Joseph supplied the information for the death certificate and is listed as also living at Southampton.

The cause of death is "Congenital Hernia" and the duration is "3 years". This is something John had all his life and the effect may have been unnoticed as a child but heavy work and manual labour probably was a struggle for him for a long time. The last 3 years of his life it must have had debilitating consequences. Any sort of surgery would have been considered extremely dangerous even in Sydney in remote places like Grafton no chance.

John was in Grafton for no more than 4 years and for most of that time he seems to have been in ill health, it possibly explains the events that we come to next year in 1867.

His family history is recorded when his father is named as "Edward Meskell" a farmer and his mother is named as "Mary Murphy". *His parents lived and died in Tipperary Ireland*

The presiding minister is Church of England. *John was a Catholic when he arrived in NSW.*

Place of marriage is "Cashel, Ireland" in 1826. His wife is named as Mary unknown. That is the maiden name of Mary, his wife, was unknown to her son in law, Joseph Morgan, who he had known for 22 years! *This is of course Mary CAESAR, who is still alive in 1866 and lives another 17 years.*

Children of marriage: living 1 son John and 1 female Mary. --- Two males and two females dead. *Although the "Two" before the males is not clear we do know the 2 males William who died in 1843 and Edward who died in 1861. It is the clearly written "Two" before the females that leaves us assuming a daughter who died in Ireland prior to their departure for NSW. A daughter Sarah died in 1841.*

The descendants of John Meskell are from either his son John (who I have designated John Jnr) the MESKELL line and his daughter Mary who married Joseph Morgan the MORGAN line.

The headstone of **John Meskell 1866** and his wife **Mary Meskell (Caesar) 1883** and their son **Edward** July 1861

Edward Meskell died on July 27th 1861 he was 27 years old. Edward must have died with a few months of the family's arrival in Grafton

I visited the Grafton Cemetery in 2025.

John Meskell and Mary Caesar are my GGG-Grandparents; this is the longest family lineage I have in Australia.

The Grafton Cemetery in Villiers Street Grafton also has headstones of Martin Maloney who married, Harriet Morgan, a granddaughter of John and Mary.

On my maternal side my mother's great-grandfather, Joseph Bradfield, also has a headstone in this cemetery.



Neville Maloney researching in Grafton 2025
A clearer, enlarged photo of the Headstone is on a later page

John Meskell born in Tipperary, Ireland 1803/06 died 25 February 1866 in Grafton NSW Australia

NEW SOUTH WALES						REGISTRATION NUMBER 1866/ 004323
BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES REGISTRATION ACT 1995						
DEATH CERTIFICATE						
Date and place of death	Name and occupation	Sex and age	Cause of Death Duration of last illness; medical attendant; when he last saw deceased	Name and occupation of father Name and maiden surname of mother	Informant	
124 25 th February 1866 Southampton Grafton	John Meskell Farmer	male 63 years	(1) Congestive Nephritis (2) 3 years (3) 8 th of Infants (4) 1 month before death	(1) Edmund Meskell (2) Farmer (3) Mary Murphy	Joseph Meskell Southampton son law of deceased	

Particulars of registration	When and where buried; name of undertaker	Name and religion of Minister and names of witnesses of burial	Where born and how long in the Australasian Colonies or States	Place of marriage, age, and to whom	Children of marriage
Residence 1 st February 1866 Grafton	2 nd February 1866 Grafton	Rev. P. C. Lehane Church of England minister	Tipperary Ireland	Cashel (1) Ireland (2) 1826 (3) Mary unknown	Having males 1 John Females 1 Mary Has males and two females dead
	W. H. H. H.	W. H. H. H.			

Before accepting copies, sight unaltered original. The original has a coloured background.



REGISTRY OF BIRTHS
DEATHS AND MARRIAGES

SYDNEY 04 Sep 2009

I hereby certify that this is a true copy of particulars recorded in a Register in the State of New South Wales, in the Commonwealth of Australia

Corey Curry

Registrar



The headstone of **Mary Meskell (Caesar) 1883** and
John Meskell 1866 and their son
Edward Meskell died on July 27th 1861

The headstone must have been erected sometime after Mary died in 1883
 It is located in the Grafton General Cemetery in the Anglican Section A. B5. In the
 South West corner of the cemetery near the intersection of Villiers St and Crown St

1867 the year after John Meskell's death

John's estate is insolvent; he has more debts than he has assets. He owes some £268 but only has £1 in assets.

Notices of Insolvency Proceedings

The Insolvency court was similar to bankrupt status today, Mr Mackenzie as the Official Assignee was the government appointed officer who managed and sorted the case.

It seems John is a farmer, suggesting he owns a farm, rather than being described as a farm labourer where he would be working for someone. His assets however are only one pound!

John's debts of £268 are considerable. Wages ranged from £2 to £4 a week so his debts were about 18 months of average wages. A family farm around Grafton could be purchased £50 and one on good land for £100, so his debts were considerable. I am puzzled about his assets. Where is the farm? What did he borrow the money for? Who was he in debt to? Why are his assets only £1?

New South Wales Government Gazette (Sydney, NSW: 1832-1900) / Tue 8 Oct 1867 [Issue No.174]

[view title info](#)

In the Supreme Court of New South Wales.
IN INSOLVENCY.
In the Insolvent Estate of John Meskell, of Waterview, Clarence River, farmer.

SINGLE OR ONLY MEETING.

WHEREAS the Estate of the abovenamed Insolvent was, on the 24th day of September, 1867, placed under sequestration, by order under my hand: I hereby appoint a Single Meeting of the Creditors of the said Insolvent, to be holden before the Commissioner of Insolvent Estates for the District of Grafton, at the Court House, Grafton, on Friday, the 25th day of October, 1867, to commence at 11 o'clock in the forenoon, or as soon afterwards as the course of business will permit, for the proof of debts against the said Estate, and for the collection, administration, and distribution of the same; that the Insolvent may account for his Insolvency; for directing the Official Assignee whether the Insolvent will be allowed to retain for his own use, his household furniture, wearing apparel, beds, bedding, and tools of trade, or any part thereof respectively: And as it now appears that the goods and effects of the Insolvent, available for the payment of his debts, are less in value than £100, notice is hereby given, that unless it be shewn at said Single Meeting that these goods and effects exceed the value of £100, the said Commissioner will summarily proceed to rank the debts which shall then be proved, and will direct the proceeds of the Estate to be forthwith distributed by the Official Assignee accordingly.—Dated at Sydney, the 3rd day of October, A.D. 1867.

GEORGE HIBBERT DEFFELL,
Chief Commissioner of Insolvent Estates.
ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL,
Registrar in Insolvency.

Official Assignee—JOHN PIPER MACKENZIE.
4776 8s. 6d.

It is puzzling because as early as 1865 the family seems to be in debt John Jnr Meskell lost a child, John Thomas Meskell, in May 1865 and could not pay the funeral expenses. He is in court in 1866 for two claims against him the other is for dishonouring a promissory note (cheque).

Jry and Hunter River General Advertiser (NSW: 1843-1893) / Sat 28 Sep 1867 /

INSOLVENCY PROCEEDINGS.

NEW INSOLVENTS.

Sept. 24.—John Martin Olson, of Cumberland-street, Sydney, labourer. Liabilities, £320s. 0d. Assets, £5. Mr. Kempill, official assignee.

24.—John Meskell, of Waterview, Clarence River, farmer. Liabilities, £268 16s. 1d. Assets, £1. Mr. Mackenzie, official assignee.

Sydney Mail			
Sep 28 1867 • Sydney, New South Wales, Australia			
ESTATES SURRENDERED OR PLACED UNDER SEQUESTRATION, DURING THE WEEK.			
September.	Estimated Liabilities.	Estimated Assets.	
20 Daniel Sinclair and James Sinclair, Barraba, storekeepers and innkeepers ...	2684 18 8	2983 8 0	
William Somerville, Bulli, timber merchant ...	2882 6 9	663 11 0	
21 Robert Augustus Gillies, Glenmore, near Camden, labourer ...	79 16 6	4 5 9	
James Thompson, Goulburn, butcher ...	5641 10 3	7355 3 6	
23 William Gill Hawken, Raymond Terrace, miner ...	80 12 10	7 0 0	
Patrick Heney, Parramatta, gaol warder ...	76 14 9	5 0 0	
24 John Martin Olson, Sydney, labourer ...	32 0 0	5 0 0	
John Meskell, Waterview, Clarence River, farmer ...	268 16 1	1 0 0	

New England Advertiser (Grafton, NSW: 1859-1889) / Tue 9 Jan 1866 /

SMALL DEBTS COURT.
TUESDAY.

BEFORE Captain Hill, P.M.

M. WELSH V. P. SANDS.
A claim of £1 8s, balance of account for hire of bullocks. Verdict for plaintiff with costs.

L. JACOBS V. W. ARCHER.
A claim of £1 1s 6d, for board supplied to defendant. Verdict for plaintiff, with costs.

ANN GARDENER V. R. COWAN.
An account for board and lodging, £3 7s. Verdict for plaintiff with costs.

W. STUCLEY V. S. MORGAN.
A claim of £5 18s 6d for timber supplied to defendant. Verdict for plaintiff with costs.

W. STUCLEY V. J. MESKELL, JUNIOR.
A claim of £3 14s 6d for funeral expenses. Verdict for plaintiff with costs.

MICHAEL V. J. MESKELL, JUNIOR.
A claim of £4 4s 3d being a dishonored promissory note. Verdict for plaintiff with costs.

D. GOODING V. A. M'LEAN.
A claim of £3 5s 8d, for cash lent. Verdict for defendant with costs.

A. M'LEAN V. D. GOODING.
A claim of £4 10s for board and lodging. Verdict for defendant with costs.

Mary Meskell (Caesar) inherits the debt

It seems the debt problem continues.

Again I assume the insolvency (bankruptcy) case from the Estate of John Meskell was resolved in 1867, however in October 1874 Mary is in debt for £129 and her assets are £5. This time we get more clues; she is a widow, and she has been engaged in "farming pursuits" and the cause of her debt "low price of produce and pressure of her only creditor, Mr Thomas Fisher"

Clarence and Richmond Examiner and New England Advertiser
Nov 3 1874 • Grafton, New South Wales, Australia

INSOLVENCY MEETING.—In the estate of Mary Meskell, a single meeting will be held at the Court House, Grafton, on Wednesday, 28th November, for proof of debts and that the insolvent may account for her insolvency.

The move to Grafton for John and Mary Meskell in 1860/61 has been difficult.

Edward (son) dies in 1861

John Thomas Meskell (grandson) dies 1865

John Meskell dies 1866

"Unnamed" Morgan (grandson) dies in 1867

Insolvent debt of John's Estate 1867

Mary's sister Eliza Lydia McKee dies in 1872

Mary in Insolvency Court 1874

Mary Meskell (Caesar) died 15th May 1883 - her death certificate and confusion about her age are covered in an earlier section about the Caesar family.

In the years after the debt crisis of 1874/75 until her death in 1883 we have very little information but from the few details about her grandchildren we can assume things started to work out for the extended family.

In the death notice below we know Mary was living with her son John and his wife Eleanor.

They seemed to be living a little further west than Waterview and a few kilometres further from Grafton. The residence is named as "Urara" and on her death certificate it is the "Nara River", neither of these places seem to have existed but the Orara River fits the bill. What her short and painful illness was we don't know but her age of 85 is in some dispute. (See previous section on the Caesar family).

Empire

Oct 20 1874 • Sydney, New South Wales, Australia

SURRENDER.
Mary Meskell, of Waterview, near Grafton, widow, lately engaged in farming pursuits. Cause of sequestration: Low price of produce and pressure of her only creditor, Mr. Thomas Fisher. Liabilities, £129. Assets, £5. Deficiency, £134. Official assignee, Mr. J. P. Mackenzie.

General Advertiser (NSW: 1874 - 1875; 1879 - 1882; 1888; 1892; 1899 - 1922) / Fri 23 Oct 1874 /

MRS. MARY MESKELL of Waterview, near Grafton, widow, has filed her schedule in the Insolvent Court, Sydney. Liabilities, £129. Assets, £5. Mr. Mackenzie, official assignee.

Wales Government Gazette (Sydney, NSW: 1832 - 1900) / Fri 23 Oct 1874

IN INSOLVENCY.

In the Insolvent Estate of Mary Meskell, of Waterview, near Grafton, widow.

FIRST AND ONLY MEETING.

WHEREAS the estate of the abovenamed insolvent was, on the 19th day of October, A.D. 1874, placed under sequestration, by order under my hand, I hereby appoint a First Meeting of the creditors of the said insolvent, to be holden before the District Commissioner of Insolvent Estates, at the Court House, Grafton, on Wednesday, the 25th day of November, A.D. 1874, to commence at 11 o'clock in the forenoon or as soon afterwards as the course of business will permit, for the proof of debts against the said estate, and for the collection, administration, and distribution of the same; that the insolvent may account for her insolvency; for directing the Official Assignee whether the insolvent will be allowed to retain for her own use, her household furniture, wearing apparel, beds, bedding, and tools of trade, or any part thereof respectively: And as it now appears that the goods and effects of the insolvent, available for the payment of her debts, are less in value than £100, notice is hereby given, that unless it be shown at said First Meeting that these goods and effects exceed the value of £100, the said Commissioner will summarily proceed to rank the debts which shall then be proved, and will direct the proceeds of the estate to be forthwith distributed by the Official Assignee accordingly.—Dated at Sydney, the 20th day of October, A.D. 1874.

GEORGE HIBBERT DEFFELL,
Chief Commissioner of Insolvent Estates.

ARTHUR HENRY,
Registrar in Insolvency.

Official Assignee—JOHN PIPER MACKENZIE.
5272

8s. 6d.

Clarence and New England Advertiser (Grafton, NSW: 1859 - 1889) / Tue 22 May 1883 /

DEATH.
MESKELL.—On 15th instant, at her son's residence, Urara, Mrs JOHN MESKELL, aged 85, after a short and painful illness.

The family of John Meskell 1806-1866 and Mary Caesar 1807-1883

John and Mary were both born in Tipperary Ireland and immigrated in 1840. They lived in The Hunter region from 1840 until 1860/61 when they moved to Grafton NSW.

John Meskell born 1806 in Tipperary, Ireland (son of Edward John Meskell and Mary Murphy), died 25 Feb 1866 in Grafton, NSW, buried Feb 1866 in Grafton Cemetery.

Mary Caesar, married John in 1826 in Cashel, Tipperary, Ireland, born 1807 in Tipperary (daughter of Julius Caesar and Sarah MacHartel), died 15 May 1883 in Orara River (near Grafton) NSW, buried May 1883 in Grafton Cemetery.

John and Mary's children

- I. **Unknown Meskell**, b. C1827, d. Before 1840.
- II. **Mary Meskell**, b. 28 Aug 1828 in Clonmell Tipperary, Ireland, d. 14 Feb 1900 in Grafton N.S.W.
Mary married Joseph Morgan, married 8 Jan 1844 in Raymond Terrace, John was born. Apr 1811 in Bristol England, the son of David Morgan and Mary Lush, he died 14 Feb 1881 in Grafton, buried 1881 in Grafton Cemetery.
- III. **Sarah Meskell**, born. Abt 1830 in Tipperary, Ireland, died 14 May 1841 in Swan Reach, near Hinton NSW.
- IV. **Edward Meskell**, born 15 Apr 1834 in Tipperary, Ireland, died. 27 Jul 1861 in Waterview near South Grafton NSW. He was buried in the Grafton Cemetery and the grave was used also for his parents.
- V. **John (Jnr) Meskell**, born. 10 Jun 1836 in Tipperary, Ireland, died. 02 Oct 1894 in Southgate, Grafton, NSW.
John married Eleanor Daley, married 09 Aug 1858 in Hinton, NSW, she was born 1842, d. 1922.
- VI. **William Meskell**, b. 13 April 1841 in Raymeind Terrace (sic) (Reg), d. 20 Feb 1843 in Maitland.

Of the generation who came to NSW in 1840 only **James John McKee**, Mary's brother-in-law, is still alive he dies 5 years later in 1888. Mary's sister **Eliza Lydia Caesar** died in 1872.

Only two of John & Mary Meskell's children survived them; **Mary Meskell 1828-1900** and **John Jnr 1836-1894**, they both married and the story of John Jnr's family and descendants follows. The story of Mary, her husband, Joseph Moran and their descendants is in a later section of this book Part 2.

Mary Meskell (Caesar) died in 1883 in Grafton her death certificate is in an earlier section on the Caesar family.

John Meskell (Jnr) 1836 - 1894

John Meskell (Jnr), born 10th Jun 1836 in Tipperary, Ireland, died. 2nd Oct 1894 in Southgate, Grafton, NSW.

John is my great-great-great-uncle he is the brother of Mary Meskell 1028-1900 who is my great-great-grandmother. That is 3 greats as an uncle but only 2 greats as a grandmother because there is no grand uncle relationship status. (Neville Maloney) John is also the great-great-grandfather of Pete Meskell.

(See the Who's Who in the front section of this book).

John immigrated to NSW in 1840 with his parents along with 3 siblings; Mary, Sarah and Edward. Sarah died in 1841 and Edward in 1861 – see the family list on previous page. John was only 4 when he arrived in Sydney. He grew up in the Hunter region, there were no schools so reading writing were not in his skills set.

John married Eleanor Daley, on the certificate she is named Ellen Daily, he is named John Miskell and rather strangely his father is listed as John Riskell and is mother Mary Ceazar. Spelling on this document is interesting. The effect is that his wife's name is spelt as "Elleanor" in some records. Eleanor sometimes seems to have also used the name Helena.

MARRIAGE REGISTERED IN NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA.		CERTIFIED COPY FURNISHED UNDER PART V OF THE REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES ACT, 1973.							
No.	Date and place of marriage	Names and surnames of parties	Conjugal status	Birthplace	Usual occupation	Age	Usual place of residence	Father's name mother's name and maiden surname	Father's occupation
2178	4 th August 1858 Hinton near Morpeth	John Miskell Bachelor Ellen Daily Spinster	-	Sydney NSW.	John Miskell Mary Ceazar	22	Hinton near Morpeth	John Riskell Mary Ceazar	Farmer
					John Daily Johnna Birmingham	21 (16)	Brambling near Morpeth	John Daily Johnna Birmingham	Sutler
Married in the		at Hinton							
According to		the rites of the Presbyterian Church							
Signed		John Miskell Ellen Daily		In the presence of us Mary Morgan Joseph Morgan					
		By (or before) me		Robert Blain Officiating Minister or Registrar.					

I, VERNON MARK BENNETT, HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE IS A TRUE COPY OF PARTICULARS RECORDED IN A REGISTER KEPT BY ME.

ISSUED AT SYDNEY. | 20th AUGUST, 1864.

PRINCIPAL REGISTRAR

John moves to Grafton with his parents in 1860/61 he has with him his wife Eleanor Daley and a child, Edward, who was born in the Hunter region 25 Aug 1859. John and Eleanor have 6 more children; Mary, John, Anne, William, Henry and Arthur. In 1861 when they move John is 25 and by 1866 when his father dies he is 30.

The first few years in Grafton must have been a difficult time for John, as mentioned with his parent's debts John was caught up as well in 1865 he was in court. The article below is from Tue 8 Aug 1865, the same year we had an article (a few pages back) from the Small Claims Court where John could not pay the expenses for his child's funeral. These were tough days.

Clarence and Richmond Examiner and New England Advertiser (Grafton, NSW : 1859 - 1889) / Tue 8 Aug 1865 / Page 2 / GRAFTON

KLOHR V. JOHN MESKIL, JUN.

A claim of £14 2s 11d. being a store account, less £7 paid on account, since the service of the summons. Defendant was not present, but plaintiff swore that Meskil, in the presence of himself and his solicitor, admitted the claim. Verdict for the balance due, £7 2s. 11d., with costs. Mr. Michael for plaintiff.

John Meskell Jnr and the year 1865

As we have seen John has debts but earlier in the year.....

In February 1864 John and Eleanor have their 3rd child John Thomas Meskell but sometime in late April/early May 1865 he gets a fever and on May 12th he died, probably typhus, 15 months old. A distraught John gets caught-up in some dispute raging at the time between doctors, chemists and "healers". Chemists were in effect seeing patients and prescribing formulas that they made up cure most everything. In Grafton it blew up between a local Doctor Belinfante MD, the doctor who treated John's son and a local chemist G Krause.

The Dr wrote a letter to the paper

John Meskell replied to the Dr's letter

Grafton, NSW : 1859 - 1889) / Tue 16 May 1865

PUNISHMENT OF QUACKS.
TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

SIR,—In your two last issues an amusing advertisement appears. A man, named G. Krauss, has removed to the "Elysium of Fashion;" he has a splendid assortment of toilet articles, he moreover declares that he will "always be at home to be consulted," and that he administers gratis advice. On what subject can the public possibly consult the man of the "Elysium of Fashion?" Is he going to teach the ladies dancing and deportment? Or in connection with his splendid perfumery, is he going to acquaint the rougher sex with the means of dyeing red whiskers black? Or does he intend to infuse into the souls of his customers the unspeakable delights attendant on the use of his incomparable oils, pomades, nail brushes, worm cakes, cigars, and lemonades? But as the man of the "Elysium" keeps a dispensary, "accurately prepared prescriptions!" the inference must be that his consultations and gratis advice relate to disease, and that he is thus impudently encroaching upon a learned and honorable profession; an action which is likely to inflict incalculable mischief, and irreparable evils on the public. As yet people entertain a very erroneous idea of what they call a "doctor's shop." They believe, that because a man sells drugs, he necessarily knows the art of surgery and the science of medicine. The sooner the public understand this pernicious error the better for themselves. Any person may open a shop in Prince-street and sell soap in the same way as he may sell marbles, nutmegs, and oranges. A man, whose brains and education, only fit him for a bricklayer, a navvy, or a bullock-driver, may sell drugs if he feels so inclined, but it is needless to add that the act of selling such commodities does not make him a doctor. This gratis advice is certainly not worth anything; but it is not so certain as to the misery and evil such valueless advice, in the majority of instances may entail. Recently, two quacks in England, were, like common felons, condemned to two years' hard labour. It might appear astonishing, that in the face of such facts these druggists do not tremble and forbear to thrust their arrogant and impudent pretensions on the community, were it not that the very essence of quackery consists of impudence and cheek in a most unlimited sense. I would not send the impudent Charlatan to the gallows; but I think the suggestion of my friend *Punch* an admirable one—and that is put all quacks in the stocks. If the man of the "Elysium" were put in the stocks for forty-eight hours, it might on the whole be beneficial to humanity, and a salutary lesson to himself.

I am, Sir, yours, &c.,
S. BELINFANTE, M.D.

New England Advertiser (Grafton, NSW : 1859 - 1889) / Tue 23 May 1865 /

PUNISHMENT OF QUACKS.
TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.

SIR,—I beg you to allow me space in your valuable journal to state a few facts, and also to express my indignation of a letter that appeared in last Tuesday's issue, signed "S. BELINFANTE, M.D."

It is astonishing how a man who styles himself "M.D.", and who, according to his statements, belongs to that honorable and learned profession of which he certainly is no ornament, as he has plainly shown in that disgraceful epistle by which he attempts to hurt another man, who earns his living in this place, in a peaceable and honorable manner. I for one can testify that Mr. KRAUSS possesses no mean share of medical knowledge, as he has proved most successfully in my own family. I also tested the skill of Dr. BELINFANTE, and after his treating my child for five days, I had to bury it; the same day, another of my children was attacked with the same severe symptoms, and on the recommendations of some of my neighbours, I went to call on Mr. KRAUSS to see my child, and to my great gratification and joy, my child recovered, as well as a child of one of my neighbours, who was also treated by Mr. KRAUSS.

Dr. BELINFANTE told me that my child who died had had TYPHUS FEVER; now my other child as well as that of my neighbour who recovered under the skilful treatment of Mr. KRAUSS, had shown EXACTLY THE SAME SYMPTOMS as those the deceased child was attacked with,—but according to Mr. KRAUSS' statement, IT WAS NOT TYPHUS FEVER as Dr. BELINFANTE called it, BUT SCARLET FEVER, and the result has shown that Mr. KRAUSS' view was correct.

As gratitude and justice compel me to the above statement, I hope that the inhabitants of this place and district will be guided and profit by my experience.

SIGNED JOHN MESKILL.
Southampton, May 18th.

John made a terrible mistake. He has been used; remember his 15 month old son had died just a week before. This letter is hard to read, hard to imagine what was going on in John's mind. Harder still when you realise that John was illiterate and the proof lies in that he had this letter witnessed and signed it with a X "His mark"

I would like to say it gets better but John is in court (almost in court) in 1874.

1875; 1879 - 1882; 1888; 1892; 1899 - 1922) / Mon 26 Oct 1874

GRAFTON PETTY SESSIONS.
FRIDAY.
BEFORE Their Worships the Police Magistrate, Messrs. P. R. Donaldson, J. M. Purves, and J. F. Wilcox, J.P.'s.
In the suit of Frederick Doberer v. John Meskell, there being no appearance of the parties, the case was struck out.

And in 1885 he owes £6 11s to J. Houison.
(James Houison was a medical doctor in Grafton).

Examiner and New England Advertiser (Grafton, NSW: 1859 - 1889) / Sat 14 Feb 1885

which a verdict was given.
J. Houison, M.D. v. John Meskell.—A claim of £6 11s, which was admitted, and a verdict given for amount claimed.

Examiner and New England Advertiser (Grafton, NSW: 1859 - 1889) / Tue 23 May 1865

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EXAMINER.
SIR,—Knowing that in your issue of to-morrow, a letter bearing my name is to be inserted, reflecting on Dr. BELINFANTE, I wish to state that Mr. KRAUSS, the chemist, gave me a letter which Mr. WAGNER wrote, to take to the Printing Office, about Dr. BELINFANTE, as a stinger to the letter which appeared in the former week's paper, but I did not know its contents until I read a part of it in the Office of the *Examiner* read by the Editor: even then I was under the effect of a glass. Finding that I have been misled by Mr. KRAUSS, in conveying a letter for publication, the contents of which I was ignorant, I wish to advise uneducated men to observe caution, more especially in matters of this like nature, and not to be gulled by those who profess knowledge un-directed by charitable motives. In justice to Dr. BELINFANTE, I must add that he behaved towards me as a gentleman, professionally and otherwise, and now express my regret that his name should have been so publicly made use of. In giving insertion to this, Mr. Editor, you will oblige,
His
JOHN x MESKIL, JUN.
mark
Witness to the mark of **JOHN MESKIL, JUN.**
EDWARD M. RYAN, J.P.
FREDERICK RYAN.
Waterview, Monday, 22nd May.

1867

An interesting intersection of history

In July 1867 John Meskell Jnr was summoned to court by **Martin Maloney** for unpaid wages, a fairly large sum of £40.

This is interesting because just a month later in August 1867 **Martin Maloney** marries **Harriet Morgan**, the daughter of **Mary Meskell**, John's sister. Yes, John is Harriet's uncle. I don't know if John was invited to the wedding, or if he was in goal.

e / Clarence and Richmond Examiner and New England Advertiser (Grafton, NSW: 1859 - 1889) / Tue 2 Jul 1867 / Page 2 / GRAFTON

WAGES.
John Meskil was summoned by **Martin Maloney** for £40 due to him for twelve months' wages. Meskil did not appear, and the service of the summons having been proved, the case was heard *ex parte*, and the Bench directed that the amount be paid forthwith, or levy and distress, and in default of sufficient levy, fourteen days' imprisonment.

In November 1888 John Meskell Jnr and his son Edward are involved in a trial. John has bought charges against George Austin for £200. Edward borrowed £145 from Austin who seized property from Meskell's farm and sold it to recover his money. John is the Plaintiff and George Austin is the defendant. In 1800s papers were difficult to read – the language has changed – Give this story ago and you will find out quite a bit about the Meskell family. During the trial Edward Meskell said “*he got into difficulties through having to keep his parents who had nothing....*”

Spoiler – John Meskell loses the case.

Clarence and Richmond Examiner and New England Advertiser (Grafton,

Jury Cases.

JOHN MESKELL v. M. M'DONOUGH.

This was an action for illegal distraint, damages being laid at £200.

The defence was “not guilty,” and that the property seized did not belong to plaintiff.

Mr. Norrie for plaintiff, Mr. Laman for defendant.

Jury : Cornelius O'Brien, James Beatson, Walter Lowe, and Charles Walsham.

Plaintiff's case was that he had a son named Edward residing on the same farm, with himself, on the Orara, but occupying different homes. The son was a married man, and held the c.p. of 120 acres on which they resided. E. Meskell became indebted to George Austin for goods supplied, to the amount of £145, in security of which he had given a lien over his crop to Austin. The latter noticing that the debt was increasing to a large amount, obtained a judgment under an eight-day summons. Under this judgment an execution was issued, and defendant went out to enforce it, and seized property belonging to E. Meskell, plaintiff, and other people. Plaintiff's wife gave Phillips, the assistant bailiff, notice that some of the property seized was theirs. She sent her son to where plaintiff was working, at Nana Creek, 40 miles distant. Plaintiff immediately walked in to the Orara, and thence to Grafton. He told defendant that he could prove portion of the property seized belonged to him. Defendant refused to listen to him, saying that if he did not sell under that execution he could under another issued against plaintiff. When defendant came to the place he was warned not to sell the property of plaintiff. This, however, he would not heed, but sold the property seized at a sacrifice. Two horses that were purchased for £40, from M. Duggan, were sold for £21 10s; another, 22 years old, was sold for 5s; dray, £3 5s. Plaintiff also

claimed harness, six cows, fowls, and pigs that were sold under the execution against his son.

In reply to Mr. Laman, plaintiff said he worked off and on for his son with a pair of horses for 30s a week, and find board for himself and family. He had nothing to do with the produce of the land. His cattle were branded with his son Edward's registered brand. A number of judgments had been issued against him at different times, but he satisfied them all except one in favour of Shoveller. *Cu sa* orders had also been taken out against him. He caused no written notice to be served on defendant about the distraint. A notice of this description was prepared for his son William. At his son Edward's request he made an offer to defendant of £20 or £25 for the whole of the articles seized, provided they were put up in one lot. Defendant said that the goods must be sold in the usual way.

The Court adjourned at 1 o'clock for three-quarters of an hour.

Further evidence was given for plaintiff by Murty Duggan, who deposed to selling him two horses for £40, getting his son's endorsement for payment of the bill. The money was eventually paid to the bank to meet the bill, but he could not say whether it was part of the proceeds of Edward Meskell's selection.

Helena Meskell, wife of plaintiff, deposed to claiming the fowls and pigs seized, and generally corroborated her husband's evidence. She admitted receiving some of the goods that Edward Meskell purchased from Austin, and also a portion of some he bought from M'Kittrick. These were taken as payment for work performed by her husband. She did not hear that he was working for wages till some time afterwards, but she knew he was not to receive a portion of the crop, as Austin had a lien over it.

This is Eleanor Daley

Henry Priest, saw mill proprietor at Tea Tree Creek, employed plaintiff at his mill, giving him £18 for two months at fencing and day work. He said he wanted the money to pay for two horses he had purchased.

Thomas Thompson bought a chestnut mare and foal from Edward Meskell, as per receipt produced, on 19th February, 1888, for £6. She was afterwards seized by the bailiff. He and plaintiff came to Grafton, and told defendant that some of the horses seized belonged to them. Defendant said he would sell them. Plaintiff on the day of sale protested against his horses being sold, saying he would hold defendant responsible for them. They were sold, and witness's mare and foal were knocked down to Austin for £2 10s. He did not protest against the sale.

Reuben Ellem, son-in-law of plaintiff's; Albert Everingham; William Meskell, son of plaintiff; and William Robertson also gave evidence, but not of a material character.

Edward Meskill's testimony substantially corroborated that of his father. He was examined at some length.

Sydney Hill, manager of the A.J.S. Bank, gave evidence as to transactions that had taken place by the Meskills through the Bank, and the dates the bills had been paid.

This closed plaintiff's case.

Mr. Laman claimed a nonsuit, as only a verbal notice of demand for the goods had been made to the bailiff, which he held was not sufficient.

His Honor could not uphold the objection.

For the defence, George Austin, storekeeper on the Orara, had several dealings with plaintiff. He understood that the latter and his son worked the place between them. Latterly he supplied the son with goods on condition that he got a lien on the crop, which he did that year. In 1887 both plaintiff and his son agreed to give him a lien conjointly for the crop of that year. They came to Shoveller for that purpose, who said two liens would be required if the two of them had the crop. It was decided to save this expense; that plaintiff would sign a document, stating that he had nothing to do with the crop, and that Edward Meskill was to be charged for the goods. Plaintiff owed him an account, and he stopped his credit. He offered to take cattle and pigs to liquidate the debt on one occasion, but Mrs. Meskill stated they had neither pigs or stock. When Edward Meskill sold his property for £300, he suggested that he should pay part of the claim of £147 he owed him. He replied he could not give any. He then suggested that he would permit a judgment under the new Act to be taken out against him, and this E.

Meskill consented to. Heard £45 was coming to him out of the land, and he got a bill for this amount on C. Schwinghammer, the purchaser of the land. Before the bill was completed, E. Meskill directed Schwinghammer not to pay it. Then got out an execution, but before putting it into force asked E. Meskill for an order for £10 on Schwinghammer, which he refused to give. A levy was then made, and the articles were pointed out by him as belonging to E. Meskill, as he fully believed them to be. On the morning of the sale plaintiff said he would give £30 for two horses, a dray, and some cattle. Replied that was not their value, nor did he consider it would be fair to E. Meskill to sell them that way. He heard plaintiff state when the first horse was offered, that he would hold the party liable that sold him. He purchased the horse. No further protest was made. The proceeds of the sale about half satisfied his claim. He signed a paper indemnifying the bailiff (defendant) the latter representing that no liability attached to it.

In reply to a question as to why he did not produce his books though subpoenaed to do so, witness said he did not consider it necessary, as the execution was on a judgment debt. He supplied both plaintiff and E. Meskill with goods in the name of E. Meskill and Co., on the security of the lien.

John G. Phillips, assistant bailiff, deposed to enforcing a warrant of execution on E. Meskill's goods on 17th August last. Told him that anything on the premises that did not belong to him would be given up to the right owner if claimed in the proper way. The day before the sale heard plaintiff say that he intended to put in a claim, but that he would not do so, but would let everything be sold. At the sale plaintiff wanted to purchase the lot for £30, but Austin would not consent.

Plaintiff said he would not permit the sale, but would put in his claim. Defendant said if he did he would be obliged to interplead, and the case would come before the next Court. E. Meskill said he got into difficulties through having to keep his parents, who had nothing, and Austin would not give them credit. A black mare was the only beast claimed by E. Meskill when he made the levy.

The Court adjourned from 6 till 7.30 p.m.

Defendant, William Clarke, Thomas Shoveller and Charles Schwinghammer also gave evidence, after which addresses were made by the solicitors, and his Honor summed up.

The jury, after a deliberation of half-an-hour, returned a verdict for defendant. The question of witnesses expenses was reserved, pending decision in another case arising out of the same levy. On application of Mr. Laman, attorneys' fee was increased to £5 5s.

The Court adjourned at 10.30 p.m.

The Family of John Meskell Jnr 1836-1894 and Eleanor Daley 1842-1922

John and Eleanor had 7 children.

John Meskell, was born 10th Jun 1836 in Tipperary, Ireland the son of *John Meskell* and *Mary Caesar* he died 02 Oct 1894 in Southgate, Grafton, NSW.

John married **Eleanor Daley** on 9th Aug 1858 in Hinton, NSW. Eleanor was born 1842 and died 1922.

Children

- I. **Edward Meskell**, b. 25 Aug 1859 in Hunter River, d. 15 Aug 1955 in Qld.
Edward married Frances Bollard, married 13 Dec 1886 in Grafton.
- II. **Mary Eleanor Meskell** b. 03 June 1862 in Waterview, Grafton NSW d 26 Aug 1931 in Grafton
Mary married Reuben Ellem, on Jul 1880.
- III. **John Thomas Meskell**, b. 23 Feb 1864 in Southampton, Grafton, d. 12 May 1865 near Grafton.
- IV. **Anne Meskell**, b. 30 Dec 1865 in Waterview, Grafton, d. 11 Feb 1907 in Ulmarra.
Anne married Thomas Hession, on 30 Nov 1882 in South Grafton.
- V. **William Meskell**, b. 01 Sep 1868 in Waterview, Grafton, d. 11 Jan 1927 in Grafton.
William married Mary Ann "Polly" Baker on 1901, b. 1874 in Grafton d 1959 in Grafton.
- VI. **Henry Meskell**, b. 09 Sep 1870 in Waterview, Grafton, d. 04 Sep 1950 in Grafton.
Henry married May Parkinson, married 07 Mar 1899 in Grafton, b. 1877, d. 1967.
- VII. **Arthur Ernest Meskell**, b. 07 Apr 1882 in South Grafton, d. 17 Apr 1917 in Grafton.
Arthur married Sarah Jane Casey, married 1907 in Lawrence.

The descendants of the 7 children, above, of John Meskell Jnr and Eleanor Daley are in **Research Note B**

John Meskell Jnr was the brother of **Mary Meskell** who married **Joseph Morgan** the family lines diverge at this point and the Meskell family members become cousins of the Morgans and the degree of relationship is measured by the generations **Pete Meskell** who assisted me with this book is my 4th cousin John Meskell Jnr is his great-great-grandfather and Mary Meskell is my great-great-grandmother (**Neville Maloney**).

Below: **John Meskell Jnr** died in 1894 (details next page in his death certificate)

Bottom: John's wife **Eleanor** died in **1922**; she had married a 2nd time in 1902 to William Smith. In the notice it mentions her daughter Nurse Ellem. (See the notice on the right).

Below: The 2nd child of John and Eleanor (see above list) **Mary Eleanor Meskell** died in **1931**. This notice provides a wealth of family information.

The Armidale Express and New England General Advertiser
Oct 9 1894 • Armidale, New South Wales, Australia

A resident of Alumny Creek, near Grafton, **John Meskell**, succumbed on Tuesday last to an internal cancer, at the age of 60 years.

Mrs. Eleanor Smith, a very old resident of the Clarence, died at Grafton on Friday last, aged 80 years. She was a native of Sydney, and came to the Clarence about 1860, shortly after she married her first husband, John Meskell, who died 27 years ago. About 20 years ago she married William Smith, of Southgate, who predeceased her by eight years. Of her family four survive, Mrs. (Nurse) Ellem (Grafton), Messrs. N. Meskell (Queensland), W. Meskell (Grafton), and H. Meskell (Cangai).

/ Daily Examiner (Grafton, NSW: 1915-1954) / Thu 27 Aug 1931 / Pa

The death occurred at the Grafton District Hospital yesterday morning after a long illness, of Mrs. **Mary Eleanor Ellem**, wife of Mr. **Reuben Ellem**, of 24 Duke street. Deceased who was well-known on the Clarence River was an obstetric nurse for a period of more than 30 years. The late Mrs. **Ellem**, who was 69 years of age, was born at Waterview, South Grafton. She leaves a widower, two sons, Messrs **Loyal Ellem (Grafton)**, **Arthur Ellem (Sydney)**, and five daughters, Mesdames **Bull (Sydney)**, **F. Dahl (Grafton)**, **Butcher (Condong)**, **G. Kennedy (Grafton)**, and **Fitzpatrick**. The funeral, following a service to be held at 2.15, will leave Christ Church Cathedral for the Grafton cemetery at 2.30 this afternoon.

Family Photo 1907

The family of John Meskell and Eleanor Daley

The photo below is thought to have been taken in 1907 after the funeral of Anne Meskell.

By 1907 two others in the family had died John Meskell 1836-1894 and their son John Thomas Meskell who died in 1865, only 14 months old. John's wife Eleanor Meskell (Daley), in the front row lives another 15 years, dying in 1922. Edward seated on the right in the front row seemingly related to the early days of this story, he made the journey from The Hunter to The Clarence in 1860/61 just 1/1½ years old and remarkably he died in Qld in 1855.



Back Row L to R: **William** Meskell 1868-1927, **Arthur** Ernest Meskell 1882-1917
Front Row: L to R: **Henry** Meskell, 1870-1950, **Eleanor** Meskell (Daley) 1842-1922,
Edward Meskell 1859-1955, **Mary** Eleanor Meskell 1862-1931

There were other photos but as Pete Meskell noted to me: “*Unfortunately my Grandfather Henry George Meskell(1902-2002), told me all other photos and a family bible from these older times, along with other records, had been lost in different floods over the years around the Waterview, Cangai and Grafton areas.*”

The descendants of John Meskell Jnr 1836-1894 and Eleanor Daley 1842-1922

Joan and Eleanor had 7 children: Edward, Mary, John, Anne, William, Henry and Arthur

Six of the 7 had families:

Edward married Frances (Fanny) Bollard – 12 children

Mary married Reuben Ellem – 12 children

John – died at 14 months

Anne married Thomas Hession – 6 children

William married Mary Ann "Polly" Baker – 1 child

Henry married May Parkinson – 6 children

Arthur married Sarah Jane Casey – 4 children

The descendants in the next few generations grow into hundreds and in this book I just can't follow the paths and do them justice. **Peter (Pete) Meskell** – Henry Meskell and May Parkinson are his great grandparents – has an extensive knowledge of the Meskell family and has provided me the descendants that he has researched and that list is **Research Note B** later in this book.

The Meskell name in this story comes to an end and now we follow the family of **Mary Meskell** and her husband **Joseph Morgan**.

Mary Meskell is the sister of **John Meskell Jnr**,. John and Mary were the only two of six children of John Meskell and Mary Caesar who survived to have descendants.



← Mary Meskell 1828-1900 – the daughter of John Meskell & Mary Caesar. Mary Married Joseph Morgan in 1844 and her daughter married Martin Maloney in 1867.

This photo is **Martin Maloney** in August 1867, the day he married Harriet Morgan, it has always been something of a puzzle. Who is standing beside him? It is not Harriet because she was only 18 when she married Martin. The most likely candidate is **Mary Morgan (Meskell)**, Harriet's mother she would have been 39 in 1867. The puzzle has been partly the position of the subjects; not a bride and groom setting. If it is Mary Meskell, Martin's mother-in-law it is the only known photo of one of the Meskells who was born in Ireland. The woman in the photo has a similar slope of her eyes as do later photos of Harriet her daughter.

Part 2

THE MORGAN FAMILY

Some of this section on the Morgan Family I have covered in “From Shamrocks to Gumleaves” The story of the Maloney Family.

Joseph Morgan 1811-1881 is my great-great-grandfather. Joseph links us to the Meskell family when he married **Mary Meskell** 1829-1900 at Narrow Gut near Hinton NSW in 1844.

On the cover of this book I have a photo of **Harriet Morgan*** the daughter of Joseph Morgan and Mary Caesar, for me she is the first Meskell/Morgan but Harriet had 14 brothers and sisters; the Morgan/Meskell family is now a large extended family.

1840 in the title refers to the date that Mary Meskell and her parents, **John Meskell** and **Mary Caesar** arrived in NSW from Ireland.

***Harriet Morgan** married **Martin Maloney** in 1867 and she becomes the link in my line of the family that completes the story line, told by my great-uncle Charles (Charlie) Maloney, of the family names being Maloney, Morgan, Meskell and Caesar.

Not This Morgan Family

The first question when the Morgan family is mentioned is “Are we related to **Mad Dog Morgan** 1830-1865) the outlaw?” The answer is a clear and definite “**NO**”. Mad Dog Morgan was Jack Fuller who went by a variety of names; John Smith, Down-the-River-Jack, Billy the Native. The usual story has him originally as Jack Fuller. There is however a chance he was Sam Moran the son of two convicts. He used so many aliases that the truth is a little obscured. The name Dan Morgan he however adopted later in his career and it alliterated well with Mad Dog so the name Mad Dog Morgan stuck. **He is not a relative.**

This Morgan Family

David Morgan 1757-1853 and **Mary Lush** 1761-1840

3 Children

Sarah Morgan 1789-1862

William Morgan 1796-1879

Joseph Morgan 1811-1881

Joseph Morgan 1800-1181 and **Mary Meskell** 1826-1900

15 Children

- I. **John Morgan** 1844-1918
- II. **Sarah (Sally) Ada Morgan** 1846-1911
- III. **David Morgan** 1847-1921
- IV. **Harriet Morgan** 1849-1923
- V. **Mary Morgan** 1851-929
- VI. **William Morgan** 1853-1924
- VII. **Joseph Jnr Morgan** 1856-1937
- VIII. **Anne Morgan** 1857-1918
- IX. **Frances (Fanny) Margaret Morgan** 1858-1936
- X. **Edward Owen Morgan** 1860-1938
- XI. **Samuel Morgan** 1862-1949
- XII. **George Henry Morgan** 1864-1942
- XIII. **Unnamed Morgan** 1867-1867
- XIV. **Daniel James Morgan** 1868-1933
- XV. **Charles (Charlie) Morgan** 1870-1887

Joseph Morgan 1811 -1881

Joseph Morgan is something of an enigma; we think we know a fair amount about him and maybe we do but there is a maybe. Some of the information on the genealogy sites is not correct and the story that I present here has some issues. I will explain them as I go.

We do have facts so let's start with them. Joseph's death certificate seems an unlikely place to start but it provides us with a clear list. We can work backwards and forwards from 1881 the year he died. The facts going forward are pretty clear it is the going back that presents problems/difficulties and assumptions.

Joseph Morgan's death certificate 1881

This document is a source of some of the few facts we have about Joseph that are reliable.

His name is clear, **Joseph Morgan**, spelling is no problem – *he appears to have no known middle name.*

He is a **farmer**.

He lived at Eatonswill. (*A few kilometres west of Grafton NSW*).

He was **70 years old** in 1881 so he was born about **1811**.

He was **33 when he married in 1844**.

His wife is **Mary Meskell**.

Place of birth was **England**.

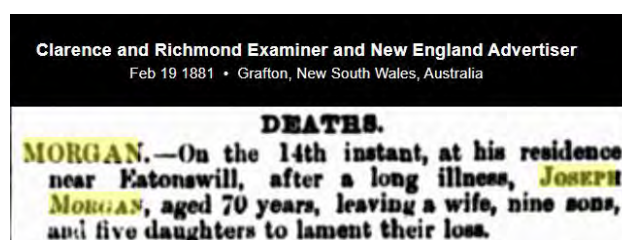
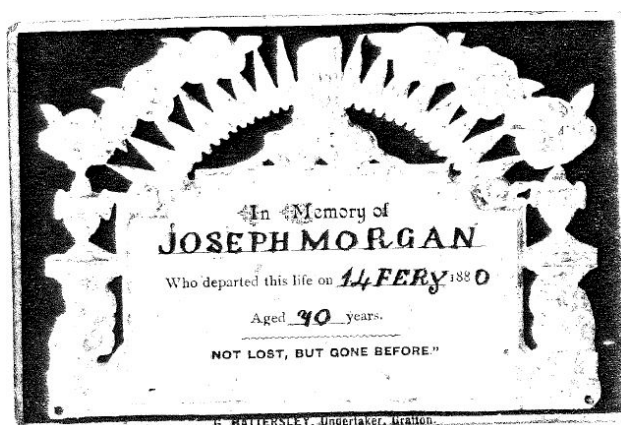
He has been **in Australia for 40 years** arriving about 1840. (*We think 1837*).

His parents were **David Morgan** and **Mary Lush** (*On the original document his father is listed as a storekeeper*)

The Children are listed as **8 males, 5 females & a deceased male**. *The count should have been 9 living males. The total children were 15. They are listed correctly on his wife's death certificate in 1900 and also in a newspaper death notice the correct number of children is mentioned.*

The cause of death was kidney disease that he had for 12 months.

The messages concerning his death below on the left a *memorial card* with an incorrect date the year is written as 1880 and on the right a newspaper notice on February 19th 1881 get the dates and the number of his children correct.



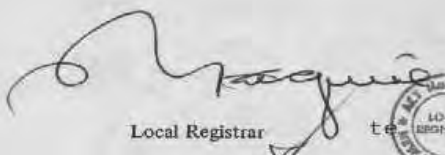

On the following pages are copies of Joseph Morgan's death certificate; a transcription copy and a copy of the original certificate.

Transcription of Joseph Morgan's death certificate 1881

CERTIFIED COPY		
DEATH REGISTERED IN NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA		
Surname of deceased	MORGAN	
Other names	Joseph	
Occupation	Farmer	
Sex and Age	Male 70 years	
Marital status	Married	
Date of death	14th February, 1881	
Place of Death	Eatonswill	
Usual residence	Eatonswill	
Place of birth	England 40 years in Australia	
Father - Surname	MORGAN	
Other names	David	
Mother - Maiden surname	LUSH	
Other names	Mary	
Place of marriage	Hunter River, N.S.W.	
Age at marriage	33 years	
To whom married	Mary Meskell	
Children of deceased	8 Males 5 Females Living 1 Male dead	
Informant	Certified in writing by David Morgan, Son Eatonswill	
Cause of death	Disease of the Kidney 12 Months	
By whom certified	Dr Houison	
Particulars of burial or cremation	15th February, 1881 Grafton	
Particulars of registration	W. Clarke, District Registrar	Date 15th February, 1881 Number 1765/1881

I, JAMES THOMAS MAGUIRE
hereby certify that the above is a true copy of particulars recorded in a register kept by me.

Issued at Grafton
on 29th June, 1889

Local Registrar  

BIRTHS, DEATHS & MARRIAGES		NEW SOUTH WALES		REGISTRATION NUMBER 1881/ 007160	
BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES REGISTRATION ACT 1995					
DEATH CERTIFICATE					
Date and place of death	Name and occupation	Sex and age	Cause of Death Duration of last illness; medical attendant; when he last saw deceased	Name and occupation of father Name and maiden surname of mother	Informant
4 th February 1881	Joseph Morgan		Chorea of the (1) Kidneys	(1) David Morgan	Residence situated by David Morgan
14/65		Male	(2) 12 Months	(2) Markaper	John
		40	(3) 12 Months	(3) Mary Lush	
		Years	(4) December 1880		
Coleraine	Farmer				Coleraine
Particulars of registration	When and where buried; name of undertaker	Name and religion of Minister and names of witnesses of burial	Where born and how long in the Australasian Colonies or States	Place of marriage, age, and to whom	Children of marriage
David Morgan	15 th February 1881	Rev. G. B. Greenway	England	St. Peter's	8 children living
(1) 15 th February 1881	Grassow	Church of England		(1) St. Peter's	5 females
(2) Grassow				(2) 43	Male & female
				(3) Mary	
				Markell	
		Henry James 40 years in			
		John Cameron 40 years in			
		John Cameron 40 years in			

Before accepting copies, sight unaltered original. The original has a coloured background.

REGISTRY OF BIRTHS
DEATHS AND MARRIAGES

SYDNEY 16 Feb 2006

I hereby certify that this is a true copy of particulars recorded in a Register in the State of New South Wales, in the Commonwealth of Australia

Corea Curren

We have our Joseph Morgan died in 1881 in Grafton and married to Mary Meskell in 1844 and we know Mary. They both lived at Butterwick, NSW.

Where did Joseph come from?

The most common researched history follows the information about the names of his parents, from his death certificate, David Morgan and Mary Lush. Following this line of reasoning we have records of Joseph Morgan arriving in Sydney, NSW in 1837 on the Charles Kerr a convict ship. Joseph was sentenced to 14 years for receiving stolen goods.

Joseph Morgan the Convict

In 1837 he is convicted of 2 counts of Larceny (stealing physical goods, in this case he seems to have received stolen goods) at the Wilts Court, short for Wiltshire Court in Devizes. (Devizes is a town in Wiltshire).

County of *Wilt.*

Register of all Persons charged with INDICTABLE OFFENCES

at the Assizes and Sessions held within the County during the Year 1837.

411

412	Names of Offenders	Degree of Indictment	Ages	At what Sessions Tried or Discharged without Trial	Offences of which those Tried were Convicted or Acquitted—and of which those discharged without Trial were charged on Indictment or Committment.	SENTENCES				Acquittals	Execution or Commuted Pardonment *
						Death	Transportation	Imprisonment	Whipping, Fines, &c.		
	<i>William Horcock</i>	<i>Sup</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>County Sessions 3rd January</i>	<i>House stealing</i>	<i>Life</i>					
	<i>Mark Smith</i>	<i>Sup</i>	<i>54</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>Sheep stealing</i>	<i>Life</i>					
	<i>John Welch</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>Killing a Sheep with intent to steal</i>	<i>Life</i>					
	<i>Joseph Morgan</i>	<i>Sup</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>Larceny two convictions</i>	<i>7 Years on each conviction</i>					
	<i>David Weston</i>	<i>Sup</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>Larceny</i>	<i>7 Years</i>					
	<i>Daniel Webb</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>34</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>7 Years</i>					
	<i>Mary Broun</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>33</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>7 Years</i>					
	<i>William Saunders</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>37</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>7 Years</i>					
	<i>Samuel Legg</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>33</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>Larceny before convicted of felony</i>	<i>7 Years</i>					
	<i>Thomas Hitchcock</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>7 Years</i>					
	<i>Richard Bell</i>	<i>Sup</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>Larceny</i>	<i>7 Years</i>					
	<i>Thomas Burdett</i>	<i>Sup</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>7 Years</i>					
	<i>Joseph Harting</i>	<i>Sup</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>Larceny before convicted of felony</i>	<i>7 Years</i>					
	<i>John Lewis</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>Larceny two convictions</i>	<i>7 Years after 10 Days kept</i>					
	<i>Thomas Bowley</i>	<i>Sup</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>7 Years after 10 Days kept</i>					
	<i>John Graw</i>	<i>Sup</i>	<i>33</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>Larceny</i>	<i>8 Months</i>					
	<i>Samuel Hatchett</i>	<i>Sup</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>8 Months</i>					

Joseph is the 4th on the list it reads, some is Ditto marks and I have entered the words.

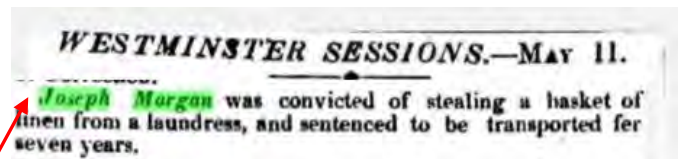
Joseph Morgan, 25, County Sessions 3 January 1837, Larceny - two convictions, 7 years on each conviction

County of <i>Wilt.</i>		Register of all Persons charged with INDICTABLE OFFENCES				at the Assizes and Sessions held within the County					
412	Names of Offenders	Degree of Indictment	Ages	At what Sessions Tried or Discharged without Trial	Offences of which those Tried were Convicted or Acquitted—and of which those discharged without Trial were charged on Indictment or Committment.	SENTENCES					
						Death	Transportation	Imprisonment	Whipping, Fines, &c.	Acquittals	Execution Commuted or Pardonment
	<i>William Horcock</i>	<i>Sup</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>County Sessions 3rd January</i>	<i>House stealing</i>	<i>Life</i>					
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	<i>John Welch</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>Killing a Sheep with intent to steal</i>	<i>Life</i>					
	<i>Joseph Morgan</i>	<i>Sup</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>Larceny two convictions</i>	<i>7 Years on each conviction</i>					

The Problems

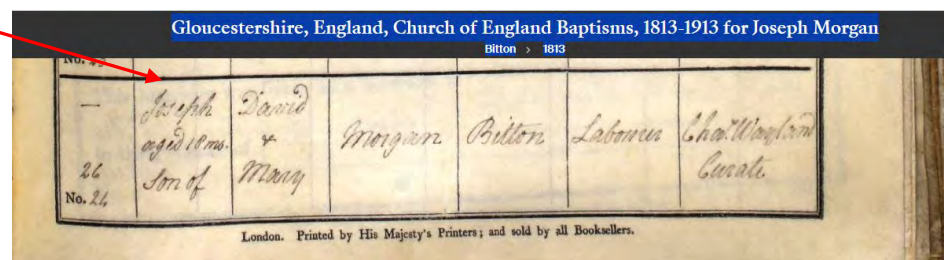
Joseph the convict seems to have been charged with slightly different crimes, in the case above, larceny, stealing but other times it is buying stolen goods. He is mentioned as a; shoemaker, soldier, labourer and an umbrella maker!

There are a lot of “Joseph Morgans” in the historical records and there are even a number of Joseph Morgans with parents David and Mary who fit the timelines for our “Joseph” This Joseph Morgan was convicted in London while our Joseph was in a convict hull waiting transportation at Gosport. 1837 this is **NOT** our Joseph he has though the potential to confuse our records.



These two *Joseph Morgans* are **NOT** our Joseph Morgan. There was also a Joseph Morgan living in Picton and one in Bathurst and in the 1840's again **not** our Joseph.

This is **NOT** our Joseph Morgan baptised in Bitton near Bristol in 1813 however in some of the online genealogy programs researchers and descendants have included this event but this is NOT the same



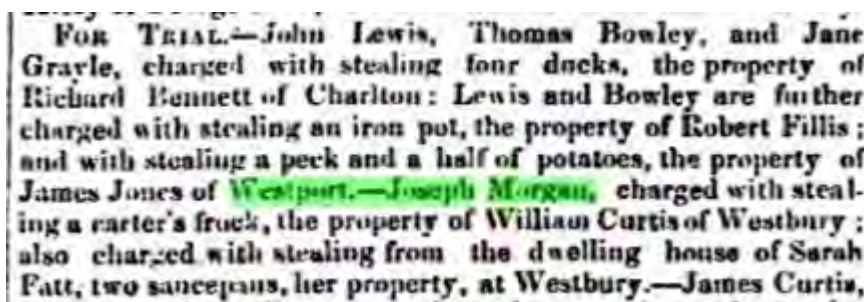
person as the Joseph Morgan who was born in Frome in 1811. (The Bitton in Gloucestershire baptism is another Joseph Morgan, his mother's maiden name was NOT Lush).

Joseph Morgan married Mary Meskell in 1844 and he is 33 and Mary is 15½ and nearly 2 months pregnant. Mary's parents have just lost 2 other children Sarah in May 1841 and William in February 1843. Mary is marrying a convict; yes in 1844 Joseph is still a convict, twice her age.

How often did convicts marry? They live at Butterwick and Michael Magner has a convict, Joseph Morgan, assigned to him in December 1837, so this has to be our Joseph. BUT, but, but remember with John Meskell, Mary's father, another John Meskell lived in Seaham and trying to tease the two apart in the records and newspaper articles is a task. There may have been another Joseph Morgan in Butterwick or very close by. A Joseph Morgan bought a block of land near Paterson. I can't be sure of the dates but it was in the 1840's. It may have been our Joseph but I can't be sure, I just don't know enough about convicts owning land and getting married. Family historians have been unable to find a "Permission to Marry form" for a convict Joseph Morgan and there are no family stories or tradition of Joseph being a convict. I am confident he was but I am not certain.

There are a lot of documents and there are the slight variations in facts. The Joseph who marries Mary Meskell in 1844 seems to be Joseph Morgan the convict who arrived in NSW in 1837 on the convict ship the "Charles Kerr" and that is the history that follows here.

The problems sorted so back to Joseph Morgan the Convict. We have some good documentation of the crime, the trial, the sentencing, the petition and his transportation. It all happens with astonishing speed, Joseph is caught on December 8th 1836 and he is transported on June 8th 1837.



This is the first time we find our **Joseph Morgan** in the historical records; the entry is in the *Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette*, 8th Dec 1836.

"Joseph Morgan is charged with stealing a carter's frock, the property of William Curtis of Westbury; also charged with stealing from the dwelling house of Sarah Fatt, two saucepans, her property, at Westbury."

Joseph Morgan's sentence is published in the *Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette* 12 Jan 1837.

He receives 7 years for each offence.

Transportation for 14 years.—Joseph Morgan, viz. 7 years transportation for stealing a carter's frock, the property of Wm. Curtis ; and 7 years, for stealing two saucepans, the property of Sarah Fatt, at Westbury.

Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette 26 Jan 1837 reports that Joseph is being removed to Gosport to be held in the Hulk (old ship no longer fit for sailing) York until he is transported to NSW.

During the week the following convicts (convicted at the late county sessions at Devizes,) have been removed from Fisherton gaol to the York Hulk, Gosport :—William Stokes and Joseph Morgan, 14 years ; William Hiscock, Mark Smith, Job Welch, life ; David Wootton, Daniel Webb, Richard Ball, Thomas Burchall, William Saunders, John Lewis, Thomas Bowley, James Legg, alias Hewer, Thomas Hiscock, and Joseph Harding, 7 years each.

The following petition was made by a number of people, strangely including Sarah Putt (Fatt) who was one of the victims that Joseph stole two saucepans from. Sarah is described on the list as "Prosecutor" a legal term at the time for the person who the crime was committed against.

This is a transcript obtained by Judy Gordon in Sept 2006 via a website pathfinder.net that no longer exists.

HO17 Petition for Clemency

To His most Gracious Majesty King William the Fourth

We the undersigned loving subjects of your Majesty strongly beg leave to your Majesty's clemency and mercy Joseph Morgan convicted at the last Wiltshire Sessions held at Devizes, of Felony and sentenced to Fourteen years Transportation (a sentence we believe too severe for his offence). Our recommendation is grounded on the following qualifications, he, previous to the committal of the offence of which is convicted (and which was committed under distressed and peculiar circumstances) was possessed.

By trade he is a Shoemaker, and previous to the above offence, of good and honest character; he was formerly a private in the 28th Regiment of Foot (reference to the Captains &c. of that regiment will prove he conducted himself soberly, honestly, and soldierlike) and from which regiment he obtained his discharge by purchase.

A man possessing these (previous) qualifications, we are aware will not be denied your Majesty's Royal clemency. We only ask for a revision of the sentence from 14 to 7 years and not to leave England.

The convict has an aged fond and affectionate Father and Mother, who write with us most earnestly, to implore your most gracious Majesty to grant us this our request.

And we as dutiful, loyal, and loving subjects will ever pray &c

Sarah Putt Prosecutor
Robert Edwards
William Baily
Chas. Barnes

Jerry (unclear)
Edmund Randall
James Will
Joseph Parker
John Carter
Thomas White

A second page reads:

Honble Sir

We shall ever feel obliged if your Lordship will be so kind as to get the enclosed petition presented & let us know the result. We take great liberty but are both nearly broken hearted

From your Lordships
Very humble & very Obed. Servts.
David & Mary Morgan
Father & Mother of the convict
Warminster, Wilts 14th Feb. 1837

The catalogue description from the National Archives, Kew UK concerning this petition is below:

It refers to the petition and his elderly parents are living in Warminster in Wiltshire, it also includes the name of the person he stole the saucepan from and this time her name is spelt Sarah Futt (previously Fatt & Putt)! Joseph is confirmed as being imprisoned on the York and his trial was at Devizes in January 1837. The gaoler report says "Character bad, in prison before".

 HO 17/48/39

[1837 Feb 14]

Prisoner name(s): Joseph Morgan.

Prisoner age: 26.

Prisoner occupation: Shoemaker.

Court and date of trial: Wiltshire Quarter Sessions Devizes January 1837.

Crime: Stealing clothing, property of Sarah Futt.

Initial sentence: Fourteen years transportation.

Gaoler's report: Character bad, in prison before.

Annotated (Outcome): Nil.

Petitioner(s): 52 people including prosecutor.

Grounds for clemency (Petition Details): Previous good character; served with good conduct in army before his discharge; distress of elderly parents.

Other papers: Covering letter with petition from David and Mary Morgan (prisoner's parents) of Warminster [Wiltshire].

Additional Information: Prisoner on board York.

To His Most Gracious Majesty
King William the Fourth

We the undersigned loving Subjects of your Majesty
strongly beg to recommend to your Majesty's clemency and
mercy Joseph Morgan convicted, at the last Wiltshire
Sessions held at Devizes, of Felony and sentenced to Fourteen
years Transportation (a sentence we consider too severe for his
Offence). Our recommendation is grounded on the
following qualifications, he, previous to the committal of the
Offence of which he is convicted (and which was committed under
distressed and peculiar circumstances) was possessed —

By Trade he is a Shoemaker, and previous to the above Offence, of
good and honest Character; He was formerly a Private in the 28th
Regiment of Foot (reference to the Captains &c. of that Regiment
will prove he conducted himself soberly, honestly and soldierlike)
and from which Regiment, he obtained his Discharge by purchase.

A Man possessing these (previous) qualifications, we
are aware will not be denied your Majesty's Royal
clemency, and mercy — We only ask for a revision of the
Sentence from 14 to 7 Years and not to leave England

The Convict has an aged fond and affectionate
Family, who would as most earnestly, as
implore your most gracious Majesty to grant us this our
request — And we as dutiful, loyal and loving subjects
will ever pray &c. —

Sworn Just Prosecutors
Robert Edwards Edmund Randall
William Bailey James Hill
John Baines Joseph Parker
Jenny Evans John Carter
Thomas White

Dear Sir/

We shall ever feel obliged if your Lordship will be so kind as to get the
enclosed Petition presented that we know the result - we take great liberty but are
both nearly broken hearted -

From your Lordships
Very humble & very obed^t Serv^{ts}
David & Mary Morgan
Father & Mother of the Convict
Warrminster - With - 14th Feb^y 1837 -

This is the trail ledger that seems to be from Salisbury (some abbreviation) on 17th January 1837, two weeks after the trial. The names on this list include those in *Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette* 26 Jan 1837. This seems to be an administrative document because the records previously said that Joseph was sent from the Fisherton Goal in Salisbury to Gosport.

This document lists that Joseph stole "Wearing Apparel" and there were 2 charges of 7 years, he is 26, he can read but not write. Strangely his occupation is now an "Umbrella Maker" and the Gaoler's report says "Bad character in prison before"

The column headed: **How Disposed of** names the Charles Kerr, 1 June 1837 NSW and a prisoner just two lines above Joseph is listed on the ship *Emma Eugenia*, 28 Oct 1837 NSW. These details suggest that this ledger as some overall court record for Wiltshire completed probably at the end of 1837.

This record, the articles from the *Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette* 26 Jan 1837 and the WLTs court record a few pages back all list the same names of other prisoners convicted on Jan 3rd 1837 so we have a good foundation that we are following the same person in these documents.

No.	Prisoner's Name	Age	Crime	Where	When	Sentence	or Single	or Write	Trade	Gaoler's report	How disposed of
7132	William Goldsmith	35	Housebreaking & receiving stolen goods	Devizes	2 Jan 1837	14 Years	✓	no	Labourer	Unknown	Philadelphia, Penn 1 Jan 1837
7133	Joseph Gosport	20	Housebreaking & receiving stolen goods	Devizes	2 Jan 1837	7	✓	no	Labourer	Bad character	Philadelphia, Penn 1 Jan 1837
7134	William Goldsmith	38	Disorderly	Devizes	29 Dec 1836	7	✓	no	Labourer	No Report	Philadelphia, Penn 1 Jan 1837
7135	William Goldsmith	26	Stealing	Devizes	2 Jan 1837	14	✓	no	Butcher	Bad character, convicted of receiving stolen goods	Philadelphia, Penn 1 Jan 1837
7136	William Goldsmith	18	Housebreaking	Devizes	3 Jan 1837	Life	✓	no	Blacksmith	Not known	Philadelphia, Penn 1 Jan 1837
7137	Mark Goldsmith	56	Sheep stealing	Devizes	3 Jan 1837	Life	✓	no	Labourer	Not known	Philadelphia, Penn 1 Jan 1837
7138	John Goldsmith	31	Sheep stealing	Devizes	3 Jan 1837	Life	✓	no	Labourer	Not known	Philadelphia, Penn 1 Jan 1837
7139	John Goldsmith	26	Sheep stealing	Devizes	3 Jan 1837	14 Years	✓	no	Labourer	Bad character in prison before	Philadelphia, Penn 1 Jan 1837
7140	John Goldsmith	22	Sheep stealing	Devizes	3 Jan 1837	7 Years	✓	no	Labourer	Bad character in prison before	Philadelphia, Penn 1 Jan 1837

Joseph Morgan is now waiting on the prison hulk **York** in Gosport (Portsmouth). These must have been four long months; February, March, April and May 1837 were spent in the old, rotting ship.

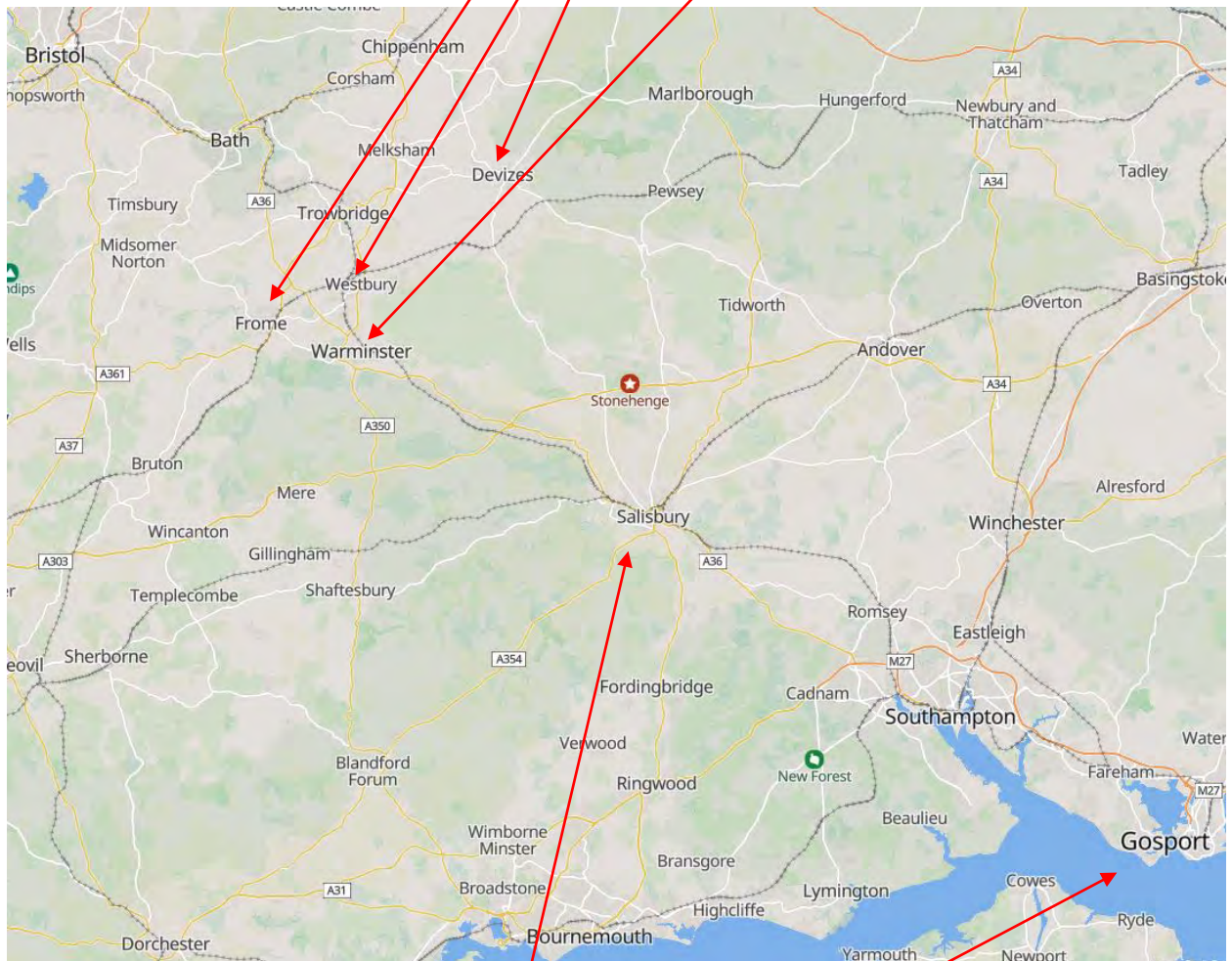


Joseph was born in Frome

He was caught stealing in Westbury

His trial was at Devizes

His parents lived at Warminster in 1837



Joseph was sent to Fisherton Goal in Salisbury.

In late January 1837 Joseph was sent to the prison hulk **York** at Gosport near Portsmouth he spent 4 months on this ship.

A drawing of the prison ship **York**.



Joseph is waiting; those sentenced with him on June 3rd at Devizes are with him he must have known about the petition to commute his transportation he must have hoped. Other have written about the conditions on the York and the following is an edited quote from a family history of Samuel Harford http://harfordenterprisescomau.melbourneitwebsites.com/persistent/catalogue_files/products/1.9transportation.pdf

In general, conditions on board the floating gaols were appalling. The standards of hygiene were so poor that disease spread quickly. The sick were given little medical attention and were not separated from the healthy. Many of the convicts sent to New South Wales in the early years were already disease ridden when they left the hulks. As a result, there were serious typhoid and cholera epidemics on many of the vessels heading for Australia. James Hardy Vaux described the conditions on the hulk Retribution : There were confined in this floating dungeon nearly 600 men, most of them double ironed; and the reader may conceive the horrible effects arising from the continual rattling of chains, the filth and vermin naturally produced by such a crowd of miserable inhabitants, the oaths and execrations constantly heard amongst them.... On arriving on board, we were all immediately stripped and washed in two large tubs of water, then, after putting on each a suit of coarse slop clothing, we were ironed and sent below; our own clothes being taken from us.... The living quarters were very bad. The hulks were cramped and the prisoners slept in chains. The prisoners had to live on one deck that was barely high enough to let a man stand up. The officers lived in cabins in the stern. The conditions on board were often worse than places like Newgate Prison. Attempts by any prisoners to file away or knock off the chains around their waists and ankles led to frequent floggings, extra irons and solitary confinement in tiny cells with names like the 'Black Hole'. The men were poorly dressed as well as unhealthy. The authorities were always keen to keep down the cost of the prisons. They wanted to avoid giving prisoners a better life than the poor had outside the hulks. The quality of the prisoners' food was therefore kept as low as possible. The monotonous daily meals consisted chiefly of ox-cheek, either boiled or made into soup, pease (dried peas), bread or biscuit. The biscuits were often mouldy and green on both sides! On two days a week the meat was replaced by oatmeal and cheese. Each prisoner had two pints of beer four days a week, and badly filtered water, drawn from the river, on the others.

The above was written about 1833 and it seems life in the hulks may have actually improved a little because Maree Woods writes of her ancestor as a convict imprisoned on the York in 1837 with Joseph Morgan and she says:

Life on a prison hulk was well organised with prisoners in irons working in the dockyards for ten hours a day, returning to the ship at midday for dinner and then resuming their labour. There was also schooling for an hour every evening as well as evening prayers. Prisoners were expected to thoroughly wash on Saturday's and on Sunday's clothing was checked and repaired, followed by religious services.

From the website Free Settler or Felon the following information about the 1837 trip of the Charles Kerr provides the following information:

Embarked 250 Men
Voyage 123 days

The prisoners were convicted in counties in England - Suffolk, Wiltshire, London, Somerset, Hertford, Berwick, Norfolk, Oxford, Dorset, Essex, Sussex, Northampton and Cambridge, mostly for various forms of stealing. There were also three soldiers who were court-martialled for desertion and insubordination at Corfu, Cefalonia and Portsmouth, - William Spencer, Thomas Brett, and John Brown.

Surgeon-Superintendent John Edwards

John Edwards was a well experienced surgeon having previously been employed as surgeon-superintendent on the convict ships Hercules in 1832, Henry Tanner in 1834 and Roslin Castle in 1836. He kept a Medical Journal from 13th May to 18 October 1837. Most of the prisoners were embarked on the Charles Kerr at Portsmouth from the convict hulks; some from the **York** and others from the Leviathan on **1st June 1837**. They were examined by the surgeon and all were considered to be in good health. According to the surgeon at the time of embarkation there prevailed on board the convict hulks a strong scorbutic diathesis and on inspection prior to embarkation he rejected a number of prisoners who were suffering some of the symptoms.

The Charles Kerr sailed from Spithead on 8th June however owing to boisterous weather and rain they anchored at Falmouth on the 10th where they remained wind bound until 14th June. Here Thomas Boyles a feeble old man aged 68 transported for seven years

for a trifling offence, died after suffering diarrhoea. On the 17th June another death occurred, a soldier of the guard, Adam Bailey died from the result of internal injuries received by a fall into the hold.

On the 28th June yet another death - Richard Edwards aged 21, had been tried at the Old Bailey on 7th April and sent to the Leviathan hulk from Newgate prison on the 21st April. For the next few weeks there were no more fatalities although the surgeon was kept busy in the Hospital. His journal reveals some of the diseases experienced by the convicts - During the voyage prisoners presented with illnesses such as Synochus, Phlogosis, Rheumatism, Pleurodynia, Tonsillitis, Syphilis, Icterus, Scorbutus, Catarrhs, Dyspepsia, Headaches, Diarrhoea, Colica, Vulnus and Obstipatio.

Storms lasted for 12 days and there was almost constant rain and the frequent shipment of heavy seas kept the vessel above and below continuously under water preventing anything approaching dryness or ventilation in the prison and hospital. Besides this the upper seams near the side let in the water so abundantly that at one time there was not a dry bed in the hospital - many of the berths in prison equally sharing in the discomfort. Another man Leonard Turner became ill and died on the 25th August. After this the weather improved and they completed the remainder of the voyage without any more serious sickness.

They arrived in Port Jackson on Monday 9th October 1837 with the remaining two hundred and forty-six prisoners. The printed indents reveal such information as name, age, education, religion, marital status, family, native place, trade, offence, date and place of trial, sentence, prior convictions and physical descriptions. There is no information as to where and to whom the prisoners were assigned on arrival.

The men were probably at first taken to the Hyde Park Barracks when they disembarked from the ship.

On the Charles Kerr "The Guard consisted of Lieutenant Hilton and Ensign Boyle, 4th regiment, and 28 rank and file of the 28th regiment" This is an interesting point because in the Petition to the King in 1837 requesting that Joseph not be transported to NSW it is mentioned that he was a soldier in the 28th regiment. He may have for better or worse known some of the guards on the ship.

Joseph Morgan arrives in NSW 1837

Joseph is on the convict ship Charles Kerr from 8th June until the 9th October 1837, the trip took 123 days.

On the following pages are manifests of the convicts when they left England. There appears to be two lists, one is simply titled "Charles Kerr 250 NSW June 1837" and that is on page 3567 of a bound volume of convict ships and the convicts. The British Government keep detailed records of their trials, sentencing and the transportation of convicts. Joseph is found 10 pages into this list on page 77.

The second list is titled "Assignment List of 250 Male Convicts embarked in the Ship Charles Kerr for New South Wales". A note at the top right read "Charles Kerr 1837 and a page number 227 (another bound volume of convict ships and convicts) There some other semi-legible notes added to the heading "13 Oct" probably the date this list was copied or filed. The words "Certified copy..... convicts 13 died" (I'm not sure about the 13 died because the surgeons report, a few pages back, says only 4 died)!

Charles Kerr.

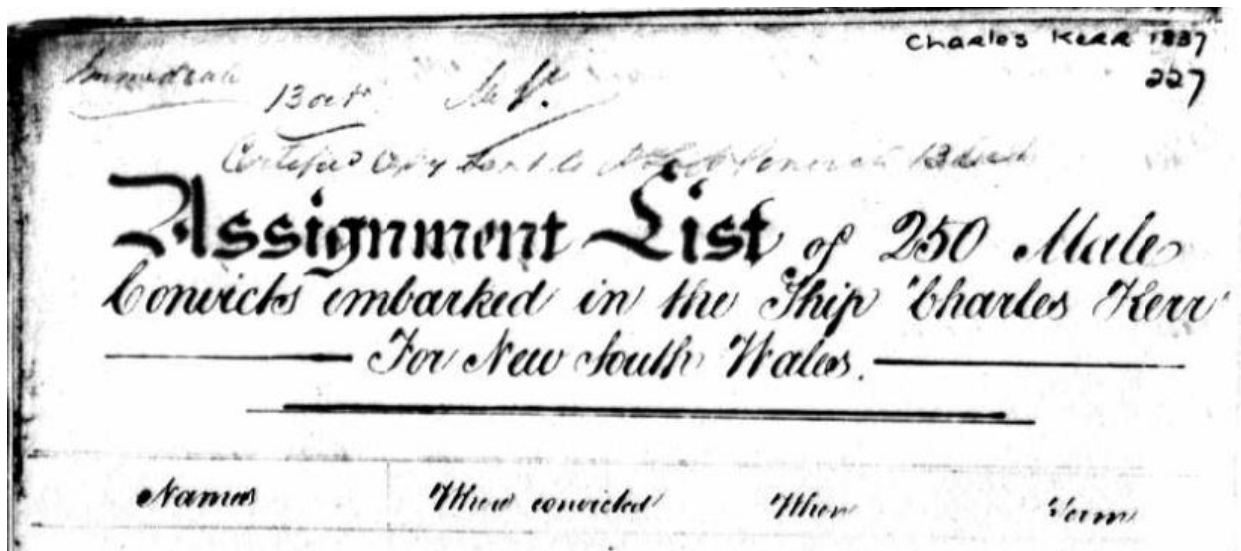
250. N.T.W. 6 June 1837

Names.	Where convicted.	When.	Term.
William Hiscock	do . . do	3 rd January 1837	Life
Job Welch	do . . do	3 rd January 1837	Twelve Years
Joseph Morgan	do . . do	3 rd January 1837	Twelve Years
David Wootton	do . . do	3 rd January 1837	Twelve Years
Daniel Webb			
Richard Ball			
Thomas Burchall	do . . do	3 rd January 1837	Seven Years
John Lewis			

Note computed from 1st January being under sentence of the Prisoners' Ticket of Leave.

During the week the following convicts (convicted at the late county sessions at Devizes,) have been removed from Fisherton gaol to the York Hulk, Gosport :—William Stokes and **Joseph Morgan**, 14 years ; **William Hiscock**, Mark Smith, **Job Welch**, life ; **David Wootton**, **Daniel Webb**, **Richard Ball**, **Thomas Burchall**, **William Saunders**, **John Lewis**, **Thomas Bowley**, James Legg, alias Hewer, Thomas Hiscock, and Joseph Harding, 7 years each.

Above Centre is a partial copy of page 77 of the convict list on the Charles Kerr and below that in the article above is the list of those convicted with Joseph Morgan on 3rd Jan 1837. The seven names highlighted in yellow are the same names; they are also as well as in the Charles Kerr manifest on the next page.



William Stokes	Do (Devizes)	at 2 ^d January 1837	Fourteen years
William Tussock	Do	at 3 ^d January 1837	Life
✓ Job Titcher	Do	at 3 ^d January 1837	Fourteen years
Joseph Morgan	Do	at 3 ^d January 1837	Fourteen years
David Woolton	Do	at 3 ^d January 1837	Seven years
Daniel Webb	Do	at 3 ^d January 1837	Seven years
Richard Wall	Do	at 3 ^d January 1837	Seven years
Thomas Burdick	Do	at 3 ^d January 1837	Seven years
John Lewis	Do	at 3 ^d January 1837	Seven years

As completed from the original list of assignments in 1837

We are going to leave Joseph for the moment while he waits in Sydney it is the 9th October 1837.

The year before, in 1836, he must have been living in Warminster or Westbury. His parents seem to live in Warminster and he stole a carriers coat and some saucepans in Westbury.

We are about to discover his family in Somerset England.

The Morgan Family in England

We know Joseph's parent's names from the Petition for his sentence reduction; it listed their names and address and also their names are on his death certificate.

(Part of the Petition)

Very humble & very Obed. Servts.

David & Mary Morgan

Father & Mother of the convict

Warminster, Wilts 14th Feb. 1837

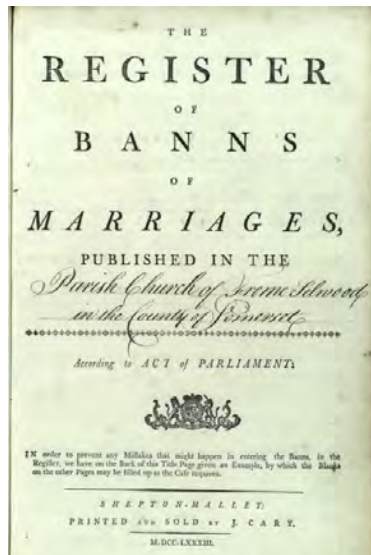
From Joseph's death certificate

David Morgan

Storekeeper

Mary Lush

Name and occupation of father	Name and maiden surname of mother
David Morgan	Mary Lush



Given the names of Joseph's parents, the only couple in the records that fits are David Morgan and Lush from Frome, Somerset. The Register of Banns and Marriages is from **Parish Church of St John the Baptist** in Frome. (Frome was known as Frome Selwood). The Banns were read in April and in May 1789 and the wedding was 7th August 1789.

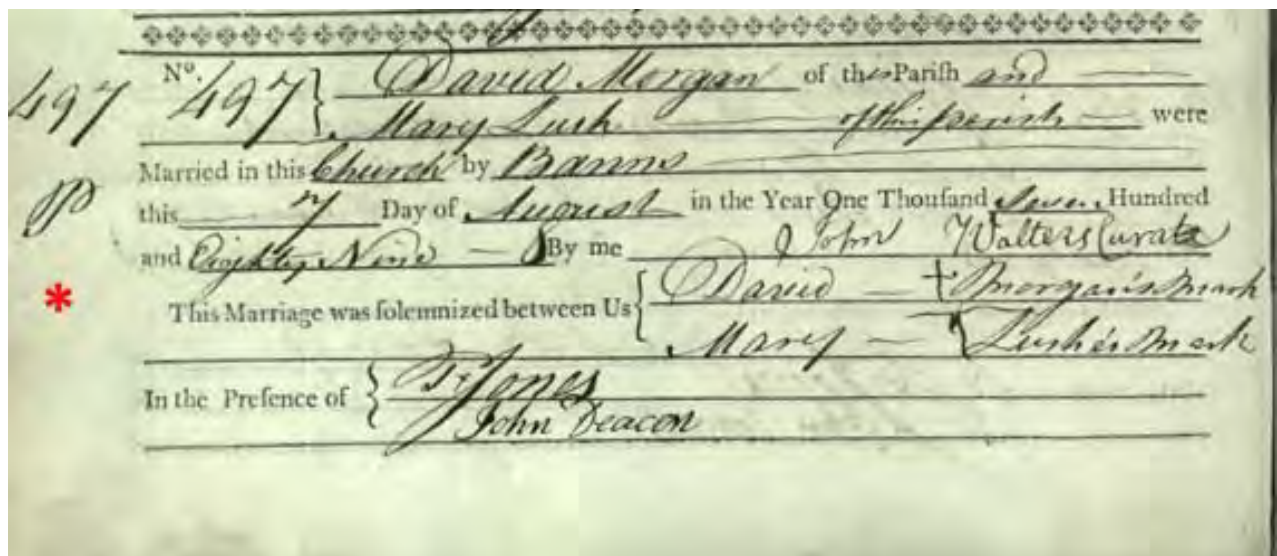
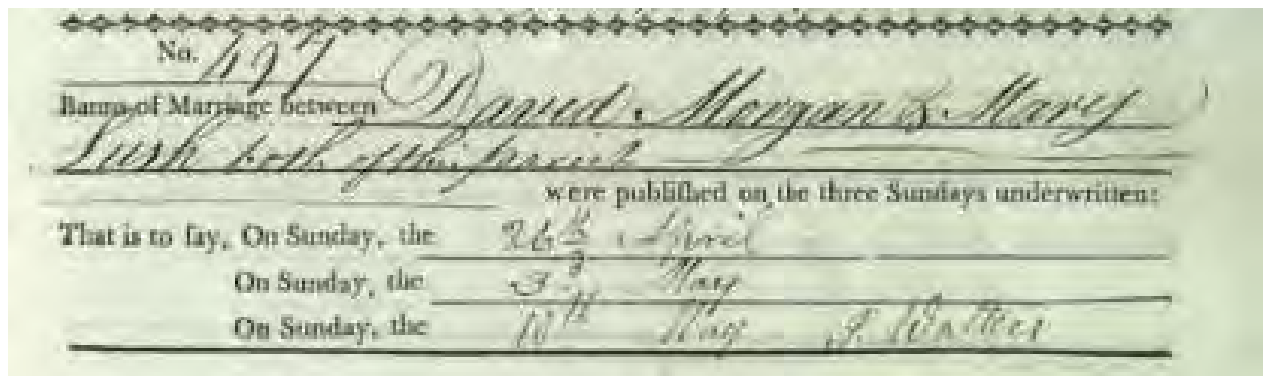
The marriage entry is on page 128 of the register.

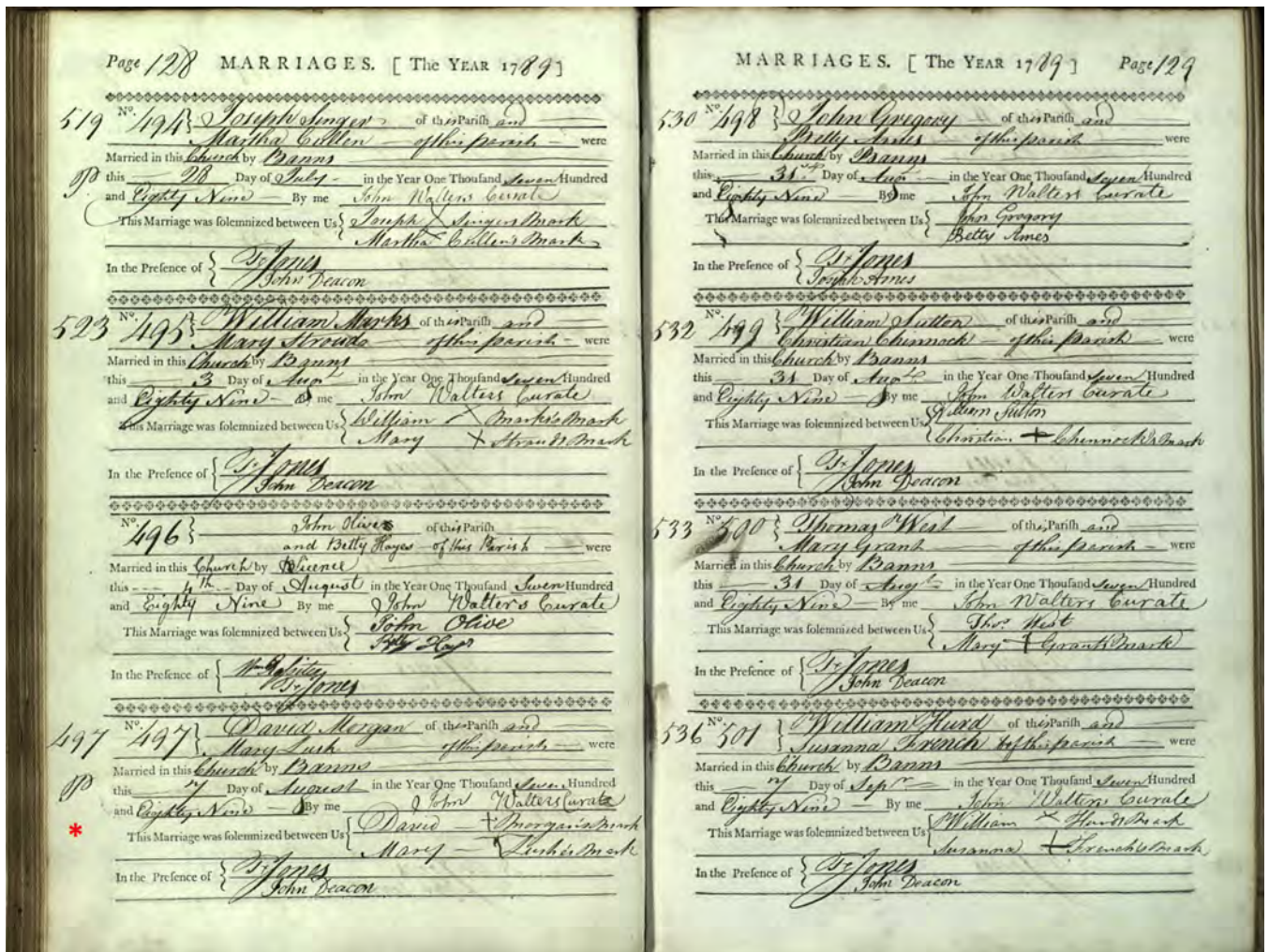
Left: cover page of the church register.

Below: Register entry of the Banns

Bottom: Marriage entry of David Morgan and Mary Lush 1789

Next Page: The full registry pages 128 & 129 showing David and Mary's marriage.





Joseph Morgan's death certificate in 1881 in Grafton stated that his mother was Mary Lush, the record above is looking pretty good. The evidence that Joseph was born in Frome, Somerset is based on this document. The gaoler also noted on Joseph's convict record that he had been in gaol before and recently I found a record of a Joseph Morgan "stealing straw bonnets from a shop of Mr Beacham." This was in Frome in October 1835. The next charges for stealing in 1836 were from Westbury. Frome is in Somerset and Westbury is in Wiltshire, they however are only 10kms apart.

FROME, Oct. 25. Commitments at Frome Petty Session: Charles Wheeler, Henry Gunning, and Elisha Stride, for imprisonment in Shepton Mallet gaol, in default of paying a fine of £5 each, for using snares in pursuit of game;—and for trial at the next Session, James Dunning, Jeremiah Scammel, and Joseph Morgan, on a charge of stealing straw bonnets from the shop of Mr. Beacham. Also, James Wilkins, for having secreted himself with a felonious intent on the premises of Benjamin Wall.

Date: Thursday, Oct. 29, 1835

Publication: Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette (Bath, England)

Volume: 78, Issue: 3826

The baptism entry on the previous page is from the **Broadchalke Paris Register AD 1658-1771**. The inscription on the first page declares that it is a register from 1653.

*A Register of the Births of Children After
the 29th day of September made in the
Parish of our Lord Anne. 1653 according
to the Act*



If this is the correct Mary Lush we can trace her parents **William Lush & Sarah Folliot** to their wedding in Broad Chalke in 1764. The record below is from the Banns before their wedding.

<i>The Year 1764.</i>		N ^o 37.
Banns of Marriage between <i>James Barber</i> and <i>Sarah Wilkins</i> , both of this Parish were published on the three Sundays underwritten: That is to say, On Sunday, the 8 th of April, 1764, by Mr. John Chapp, Vicar. On Sunday, the 15 th of April, 1764, by Mr. John Chapp, Vicar. On Sunday, the 22 nd of April, 1764, by Mr. John Chapp, Vicar.		
		N ^o 38.
Banns of Marriage between <i>William Lush</i> and <i>Sarah Folliot</i> , both of this Parish, were published on the three Sundays underwritten: That is to say, On Sunday, the 14 th of Oct ^r 1764, by Mr. John Chapp, Vicar. On Sunday, the 21 st of Oct ^r 1764, by Mr. John Chapp, Vicar. On Sunday, the 28 th of Oct ^r 1764, by Mr. John Chapp, Vicar.		

The wedding date for William and Sarah Lush is listed as 29th October 1764 just one day after the 3rd Bann was read in church.

The key information in this record is again the location Broad Chalke and new information Sarah's maiden name Folliot.

Another claimant, another Mary Lush, with almost the same credibility was born in Salisbury on 12th July 1769 she however was my option two because her parents were named Henry and Louise, names that do not recur in the Morgan family.

Name	William Lush
Marriage Date	29 Oct 1764
Parish	Broad Chalke
Spouse	Sarah Folliot
Save v	
< 	

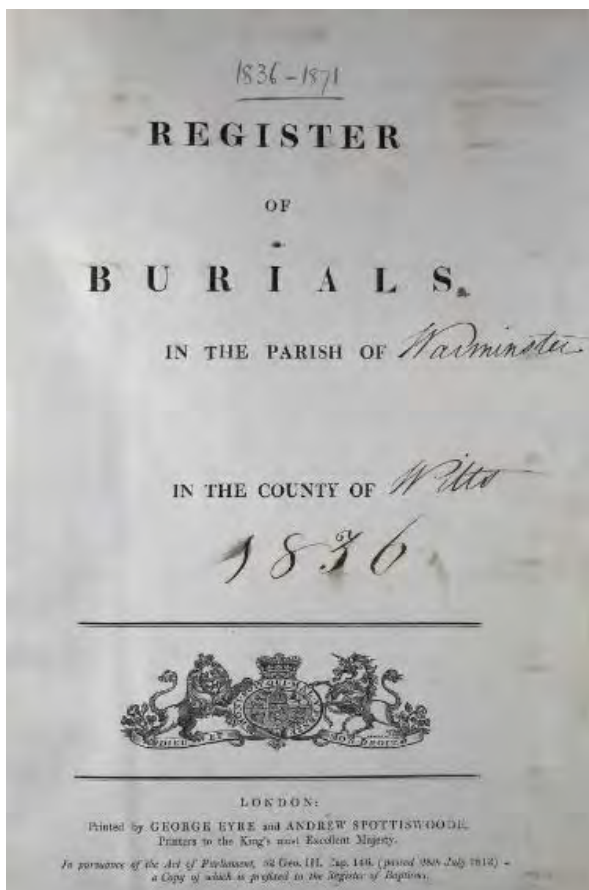
The problem with the Mary Lush options

Mary Lush the popular Bridport one fits a Mary Morgan death in **Warminster** she died on 26 January 1840 and her age is listed as 79, giving her a birth date of 1761 and this seems to be Joseph's mother, remember, her parents were living in **Warminster** when they wrote the petition about his sentence in 1837. The evidence is enhanced with the 1841 Census. **David Morgan** is listed in this census as 75 and his daughter, who was living with him, Sarah Dean, was listed as 50. David's birth date based on other events is thought to be 1757 but if we accept the 75 years of age he would have been born in 1766. (More on the issue of David's age in the following pages).

The Mary Lush solution for me is to include both the Bridport and the Broad-Chalke Mary and let future researchers history determine who it is.

Below is the cover of the Register of Burials in Warminster.

The record of **Mary Morgan (Lush)** is on Page 44 and the Entry No. is 374. **Mary died on 26th January 1840** and was buried on 2nd February 1840. Her last address is listed as West St, Warminster.



Page 47.

BURIALS in the Parish of <i>Warminster</i> in the County of <i>Wilt</i> in the Year 1840				
Name	Age	When buried	Age	By whom the Ceremony was performed
<i>Charlotte Lott</i>	<i>Perceps Street</i>	<i>January 22</i>	<i>72</i>	<i>James Brown</i>
No. 369.				
<i>Laura Houghton</i>	<i>Perceps</i>	<i>January 23</i>	<i>46</i>	<i>William Dobby</i>
No. 370.				
<i>William Wilcox</i>	<i>Portway</i>	<i>January 24</i>	<i>1 1/4</i>	<i>James Brown</i>
No. 371.				
<i>William Eaton</i>	<i>Perceps Street</i>	<i>January 25</i>	<i>56</i>	<i>James Brown</i>
No. 372.				
<i>William Owen</i>	<i>Perceps Street</i>	<i>January 30</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>James Brown</i>
No. 373.				
<i>Mary Morgan</i>	<i>West Street</i>	<i>January 26</i>	<i>79</i>	<i>William Dobby</i>
No. 374.				
<i>Mary Ellway</i>	<i>King Street</i>	<i>Feb 2</i>	<i>88</i>	<i>H. Walsh</i>
No. 375.				
<i>Henry Smith</i>	<i>Portway</i>	<i>February 12</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>James Brown</i>
No. 376.				

David Morgan the Father of Joseph Morgan

The first reference we have of David Morgan is his marriage on 7th August 1789 to Mary Lush in the Parish Church in **Frome**.

They have a daughter **Sarah** in 1789 (baptised in 1791).

Next we find David in Warminster, his address with his wife Mary is on the petition in 1837 for Joseph's sentence to be reduced is listed as Warminster and he is described as elderly.

Mary Morgan (Lush) dies in Warminster in 1840, she was living in West St.

David Morgan (second from the top) is listed in the **1841 Census**. He is 75 (he could be 76,77,78 or 79 see the notes below), his job is now a "Chimney Sweep" and he was NOT born in Wilshire, and that helps confirm he is from Frome in Somerset. His address is "Frome Road" (Frome Rd is no longer a name in Warminster but I suspect it is now Victoria Road an extension of West St. The road now connecting Warminster and Frome the A362 was known as Frome Rd).

In the 181 Census David's daughter, Sarah, who is 50 is listed as living with him – Sarah Dean – (more about Sarah later). There seems to be two other people in the same house a common practice at the time. This section of the Census covers four terraced houses, the ditto marks indicate another dwelling, and there were no house numbers in 1841. Interestingly a Sophia Morgan living a couple of doors away and she is an umbrella maker.

PLACE	HOUSES		NAMES of each Person who abode therein the preceding Night.	AGE and SEX		PROFESSION, TRADE, EMPLOYMENT, or of INDEPENDENT MEANS.	Where Born	
	Uninhabited or Building	Inhabited		Males	Females		Whether Born in same County	Whether Born in Scotland, Ireland, or Foreign Parts
Frome Road 10		1	Charles Budgett	12			He	
		1	David Morgan	75		Chimney Sweep	He	
		1	Sarah Dean		50		He	
			William Mitche	75		Capoteek Maker	He	
Ditto			Elizabeth Payne		55		He	!
		1	John Graham	30		Printer	He	
			Mary Graham		45		He	
			John Graham	6			He	
Ditto			Francis Graham		8		He	
			Thomas Graham	1			He	
		1	Sophia Morgan		40	Umbrella Maker	He	
			Sophia Jones		11		He	
Ditto			David Perkins	70			He	
		1	James Pearce	35		Braxen	He	
			Elihu Pearce		30		He	
			Rich Pearce	7			He	

In the 1841 census (taken in June), enumerators were officially instructed to round down the ages of everyone over 15 to the nearest lower multiple of five.

- **Census "Fudging":** An individual who was 59 would be recorded as 55.
- **The Advantage:** This official rounding often created confusion that individuals could exploit. If a person wanted to appear younger for employment or older for relief, the lack of strict verification at the time made it easy to "fudge" their reported age during these official counts

The **1851 Census** sees David back in **Frome**, Sarah, his daughter, is still with him and now his son William is living with them. (More about William in the family section).

David is now 93! He was 75 ten years ago but then they were possibly “fudged” and his age is correct, it corresponds with the age of 96 when he dies in 1853. Birthdays were not universally celebrated in the 1800’s, and many people, particularly in rural or poorer communities, genuinely did not know their exact age. Ages were often “best guesses” provided to the census enumerator, which could change between censuses.

David and Sarah, his daughter, who s now 65 (she was 60 in 1841 so aged 15 years in the last 10), are both listed as “Paupers” in David’s case it lists in brackets (late sweep). You could be relieved for thinking at least he is not cleaning chimneys anymore. The bad news is that being a pauper is not good, either you receive a social benefit and have to live and work in the workhouse in terrible conditions, or the older and infirm can get “outdoor relief” and live at home and this seems to be the case with David and Sarah. The “relief”, the social support was very basic just enough food and clothing in kind or cash to survive.

William is an umbrella mender, hopefully bringing in a few extra pennies. They are listed as Widowers (Sarah a Widow) and all being born in Frome. They live in Bell Lane.

Parish or Township of <i>Frome</i>		Ecclesiastical District of <i>Frome</i>		City or Borough of <i>Frome</i>		Town of <i>Frome</i>		Village of	
Name of Street, Place, or Road, and Name or No. of House	Name and Surname of each Person who abode in the house, on the Night of the 30th March, 1851	Relation to Head of Family	Condition	Age of	Rank, Profession, or Occupation	Where Born	Whether Blind, or Deaf, or Lame		
	William Noble	Son		24		Middler London			
	Charles Noble	Son		24		Somerset Frome			
172 Broad Way	Richard March	Head	Mar	34	Laborer	Do Upton			
	Mary A Do	Wife	Mar	27	Laborer	Do Upton			
	Elizabeth Do	Daughter		6		Do Upton			
	Maria Do	Daughter		5	Scholar	Do Upton			
174 Bell Lane	Mary Gray	Head	W	53	Charwoman	Wiltshire Marlborough			
	Emma Do	Daughter	W	23	Flat trimmer	Somerset Frome			
	John Do	Son	W	20	Pauper late Painter	Do Do			
	Suey Do	Daughter	W	14	Lick worker	Do Do			
	Theresa Do	Daughter	W	8	Scholar	Do Do			
174 Bell Lane *	David Morgan	Head	Wid	93	Pauper (late sweep)	Do Do			
	Sarah Do	Wife	W	65	Pauper	Do Do			
	William Morgan	Son	Wid	58	Umbrella mender	Do Do			
175 Bell Lane	Thomas Hayford	Head	W	62	Laborer	Do Laverham			
	Mary A Do	Wife	W	29	Washerwoman	Do Frome			
	Mary Marshall	Daughter	W	26	Dressmaker	Do Do			
176 Bell Lane	James Thatchum	Head	Mar	22	Pauper late spinner	Do Do			
	Mary Do	Wife	Mar	27	Do	Northamptonshire Peterborough			
	Sarah Do	Daughter	W	8	Scholar	Somerset Frome			
Total of Persons...				17					

We have the same David Morgan who married Mary Lush and he may have been a storekeeper in his early years as Joseph remembered him but at some point he cleaned chimneys and lived a very long life. His life was centred in the town of Frome in Somerset SE England about 160kms from London and about 35kms from Stonehenge.

The church records in Frome from the early 1700s to the early 1800s have entries of baptisms and burials for a couple of dozen of the Morgan family. There is Robert and Mary Morgan who lose 3 of their new born children. There’s a Hannah, James, Richard, George, Anne, Maria, Harriet, Robert and a Thomas. Both a William and Joseph are in the records but they are not members of our David and Mary’s family.

Frome went from being a prosperous town in the 1600s right up to the mid 1700s, all based on sheep, wool, weaving and cottage industries making carpets, clocks as well as dairying. With the advent of industrialisation in the Midlands a quick decline set in and by the early 1800s poverty and social unrest predominated. David was probably caught up in this social change and not for the better.

David Morgan spent the last years of his life in Bell Lane, Frome. When he lived there Cocky's Bell Foundry would have been burning coal, making smoke and fumes as it noisily producing bells.

Bottom End of Bell Lane



8. Part of old Frome: Bell Lane, 1962

1853 April 10th David Morgan's name is entered in the "Frome Chapelry of the Holy Trinity in the County of Somerset", a record of the date he buried, he died on April 3rd. His age is recorded as 96 and he was living in Milk St

During his life the French Revolution, the Napoleonic Wars took place. The American War of Independence was fought. He lived through the Georgian Era.

The reigns of:

George III: 760 to 1820.

George IV: 1820 to 1830.

William IV: 1830 to 1837.

And then the start of the Victorian Era with Queen Victoria: from 1837

It was the time of the Agricultural Revolution, the start of the Industrial Revolution. The impact of trade meant people moved into towns and the great urbanisation began.

The year, 1789, that David Morgan Married Mary Lush; In France the Revolution began with the storming of the Bastille. In America George Washington was elected President and in Australia there was a Mutiny on the Bounty and Captain Blight was set adrift.

Page 14

BURIALS in the Parish of <i>Frome Chapelry of the Holy Trinity</i> in the County of <i>Somerset</i> in the Year <i>1853</i>				
Name.	Abode.	When buried.	Age.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
<i>Marshall Perry</i>	<i>Marney Lane</i>	<i>March 25th</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>John Horton</i>
No. 105				
<i>John Wards</i>	<i>Union Hill</i>	<i>March 25th</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>John Horton</i>
No. 106				
<i>Benjamin Burrell</i>	<i>Broadway</i>	<i>March 31st</i>	<i>73</i>	<i>Edaniel</i>
No. 107				
<i>Mary Mitton</i>	<i>Milk Street</i>	<i>April 1st 1853</i>	<i>85</i>	<i>John Horton</i>
No. 108				
<i>Sophia Chinnock</i>	<i>Broad Street</i>	<i>April 3rd 1853</i>	<i>76</i>	<i>Edaniel</i>
No. 109				
<i>Annand Collier</i>	<i>Windsor Lane</i>	<i>April 4th 1853</i>	<i>73</i>	<i>John Horton</i>
No. 110				
<i>David Morgan</i>	<i>Milk Street</i>	<i>April 10th</i>	<i>96</i>	<i>John Horton</i>
No. 111				
<i>William James Gales</i>	<i>Blunt Street</i>	<i>April 17th</i>	<i>2 years</i>	<i>John Horton</i>
No. 112				

CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF DEATH

GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE

Application Number COL 665925

REGISTRATION DISTRICT Frome

1853 DEATH in the Sub-district of Frome in the County of Somerset

No.	When and where died	Name and surname	Sex	Age	Occupation	Cause of death	Signature, description and residence of informant	When registered	Signature of registrar
284	1853 With third Frome	David Morgan	Male	96 years	Sweep	Age. Cause. Not Relieved.	X The Mark of Elizabeth Bull Present at the death. Brandy Lane Frome	1853	John Hargreaves Registrar

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of a Register of Deaths in the District above mentioned.

Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, under the Seal of the said Office, the 25th day of October 2006

DYB 216424

See note overleaf

CAUTION: THERE ARE OFFENCES RELATING TO FALSIFYING OR ALTERING A CERTIFICATE AND USING OR POSSESSING A FALSE CERTIFICATE ©CROWN COPYRIGHT

WARNING: A CERTIFICATE IS NOT EVIDENCE OF IDENTITY.

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GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE ENGLAND

MCC 58

David Morgan's death 1853 (Father of Joseph Morgan)

It confirms his age of 96. The place where David is listed in the burial list (previous page) as Milk St, on this record the address of the informant "Elizabeth Bull" is listed as Brandy Lane; the two streets are only 200 metres apart. (Brandy Lane is now known as Baker St). The notes reads: "X The Mark of Elizabeth Bull, Present at the death, 'Brandy Lane. Frome'"

A **Head of House Survey** was undertaken in Frome in **1785** and the Morgans living there include David, a chimney sweep, he would have been 28 and interestingly a Thomas Morgan who lived in Milk St. Maybe David was taken in by relatives in the years before he died.

Reference numbers for the 1785 Survey referring to the page number and the position of the entry on the page.

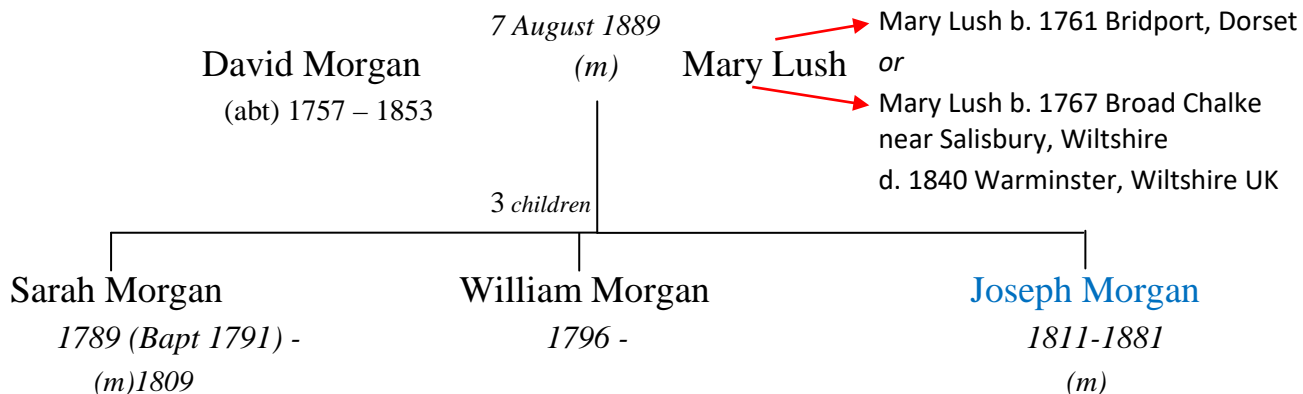
MORGAN, David	Chimney Sweep	Garston Stile	12R	9
MORGAN, James	Shoemaker	Garston Stile	12L	21
MORGAN, Jane	Spinster	Gentle Street	11L	2
MORGAN, John	Card Maker	Cross Street	24R	21
MORGAN, John	Chimney Sweep	Broad Street	32R	6
MORGAN, Samuel	Labourer	Gentle Street	11L	10
MORGAN, Thomas	Malter	Milk Street	20R	24

And just to add a little more confusion to the which **Mary Lush** problem there is a John Lush living in Frome in 1785

LUSH, John	Clothier	Behind Town	9L	6
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The Morgan Family Tree in England

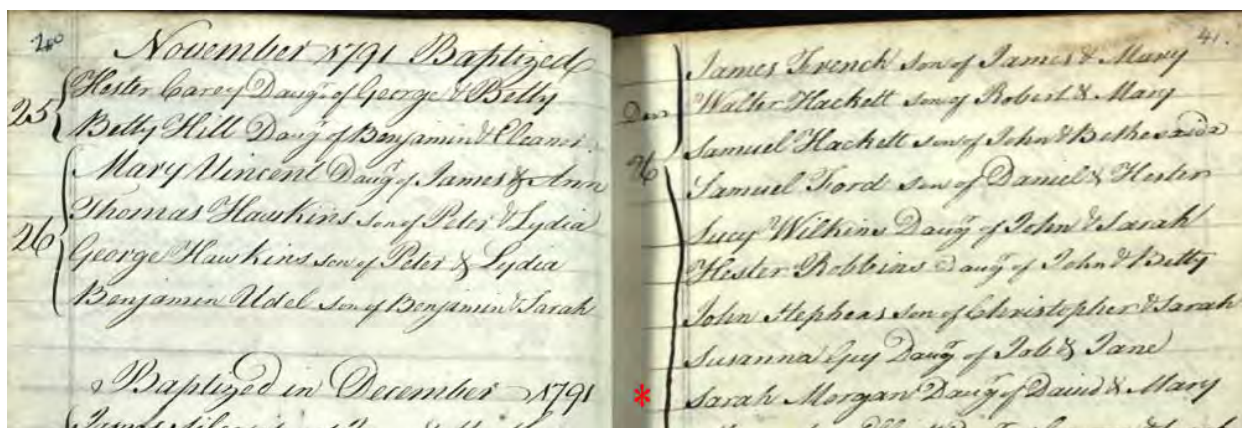
Joseph's death certificate states that his father's name is David and his mother is Mary Lush based on that the most likely couple are David Morgan and Mary Lush who married in Frome Somerset on 7th August 1789.



Charles Innocent Dean

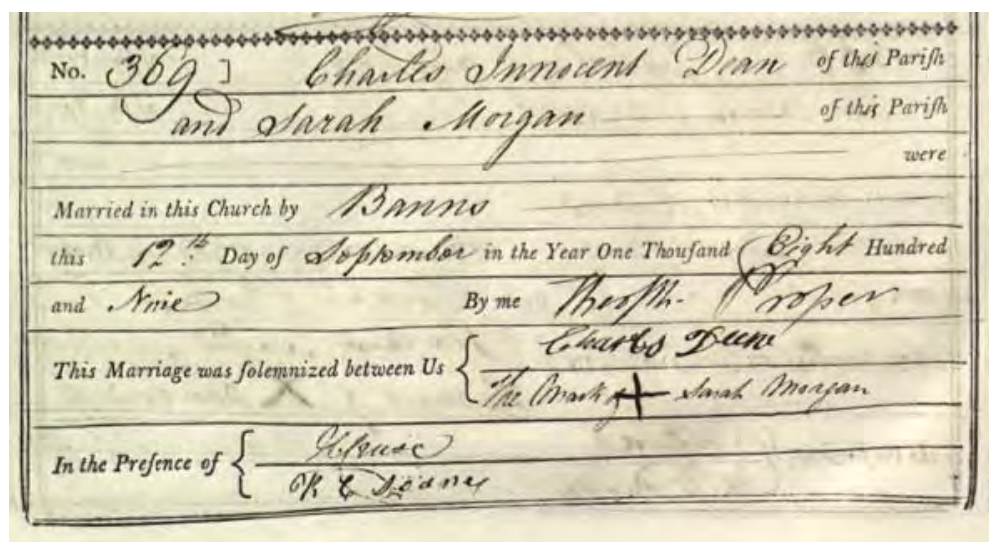
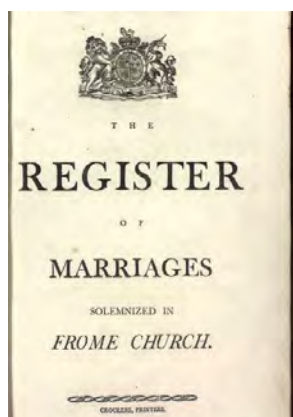
(Sarah is listed as Sarah Dean the daughter of David Morgan in the 1841 and 1851 Census).

Sarah Morgan is the only child of David Morgan and Mary Lush that can be found in the Frome parish records. The records for the St John the Baptist Parish Register in Frome seem intact from the mid 1600's through to 1843, so there is a little mystery going on here. Where are the other children?



Sarah married **Charles Innocent Dean** in 12th December 1809. She would have been about 20.

Sometime between then and 1841 Charles must have died because Sarah is living with her father and described as a widow. Some family histories online include her death and they are in Somerset but not near Frome. The only one which is close is a Sarah Dean buried in Batcombe, which is about 20 kms from Frome on 15 Feb 1860 but her age is 81. Our Sarah should have been 71. Can't be sure.



William Morgan – the 2nd child of David Morgan and Mary Lush - *the only reliable record* that there is to indicate that David and Mary had a son William is the 1851 Census where he is listed as David's son. He is 55 giving him a birth date of 1796+- 2years. Without this entry in the 1851 Census we would not know about William. The record lists him as a "Wide" for Widower indicating that he has a wife who has died and he is 55 and an umbrella mender

William Morgan *Wid* *55* *Umbrella mender*

The most likely marriage for William in the Somerset records is to Ann Baker on 10 February 1820 in Wedmore.

There seems to be a link between Wedmore and Frome they are about 35kms apart. They share common Surnames and there were a lot of Morgans in Wedmore.

This William Morgan marriage I have identified as most probable because William would have been 24/25 years old and a David Morgan was a witness to the marriage

Page 50.

MARRIAGES solemnized in the Parish of *Wedmore*
in the County of *Somerset* in the Year 1820.

William Morgan of the Parish
and *Ann Baker* of the Parish
were married in this *Church* by *Lucas* with Consent of
this *Tenth* Day of
February in the Year One thousand eight hundred and *Twenty*
By me *W. B. Baker*
This Marriage was solemnized between us { *Wm Morgan*
Ann Baker
In the Presence of { *Richd Baker* *David Morgan*
Thos Popham
No. 148.

If this is William's wife there are two possible records of her burial (i) An Ann Morgan in Wedmore 21st August 1845 she was 52 and (ii) Ann Morgan in Frome 24th June 1846 she was 42. These two options would explain William living with his father in 1851 and described as a widower.

There are 3 registered burials in Frome after the 1851 Census that could be William. These records are from FreeReg - www.freereg.org.uk/

William MORGAN	Burial	28 Feb 1855	Somerset	Frome : Workhouse : Other Register
William MORGAN	Burial	02 Mar 1855	Somerset	Frome : Holy Trinity : Parish Register
William MORGAN	Burial	20 Jul 1857	Somerset	Frome : St John the Baptist : Parish Register

The entries for William that are recorded in many online family histories seem to be simply records of any William Morgan anywhere in Somerset with little to indicate that it is the same William in the 1851 Census who we know is the son of David Morgan and that is the same David in Warminster in the 1841 Census because of the presence of Sarah Dean in both and David and Mary Morgan we living in Warminster when they signed the petition for the reduction of Joseph Morgan's sentence. There's potential for a lot more research here.

Joseph Morgan 1811-1881

There is no record of Joseph's birth, baptism or any other direct link to David Morgan and Mary Lush. The records that lead us to the David Morgan and Mary Lush in this book are based on:

1. The mention in Joseph's death certificate in 1881 of his parent's names.
2. The names of his parents and their address in the Petition for his sentence reduction in 1837.

On the basis of those two documents, the linking documents like the 1841 and 1851 Census, and the courts records and dates, the family first names and some assumptions, Joseph Morgan is listed here as the 3rd child of David Morgan and Mary Lush.

We left Joseph, a few pages back, just as he arrived in Sydney on the convict ship the Charles Kerr in October 1837.

He had been convicted in Wiltshire of stealing goods, somehow on the ship records buying stolen goods. Things get confusing but family history researchers and I am confident we have the same Joseph Morgan through all the variations in details.

One vital fact is consistent **Joseph Morgan was convicted on January 3rd 1837 in the Wilts (Wiltshire) Quarter Sessions at Devizes.** From that trial we can trace him to the convict ship the Charles Kerr (see previous section about his crimes) and now we follow the records of the convicts on that ship.

Joseph Morgan from Somerset England to Sydney NSW - 1837

The records of the convicts on the Charles Kerr give us a detailed description of the person and the crime. In our case we get a great physical description of Joseph and we get this garbled variation of his offence.

Remember after his trial the Petition to reduce his sentence and save him from transportation was from friends, his parents and even one of the people he stole from

"By trade he is a Shoemaker, and previous to the above offence, of good and honest character; he was formerly a private in the 28th Regiment of Foot...."

BUT the gaoler report read

"Bad character in prison before"

In the following record he is listed as a labourer and a soldier.

These records are clear and easy to read because they are printed. First a full page of the record to give it context and then some magnified copies of the sections relevant to Joseph Morgan.

And another reminder Joseph is my great-great-grandfather.

<i>GG-Grandparents</i>	-	Joseph Morgan m Mary Meskell
<i>G-Grandparents</i>	-	Harriet Morgan m Martin Maloney
<i>Grandparents</i>	-	John Maloney m Mary Waugh
<i>Parents</i>	-	Jack Maloney m Ivy Bradfield
		Neville Maloney m Barbara Ford
<i>Children</i>	-	Reeanna, Amber & Andrew Maloney
<i>Grand-Children</i>	-	Jude & Freya Ventura Horta - Caleb & Carter Maloney

Joseph Morgan in NSW 1837-1881

On the next page is a list of the convicts on the Charles Kerr when it arrived in Sydney on 1837. Joseph Morgan's name and details are on page 157, 4th name from the bottom of the page.

List of 250 Male Convicts by the ship CHARLES KERR, Harford Arnold, Master – JOHN EDWARDS, Esquire Surgeon Superintendent, Arrived from ENGLAND, 9th October 1837

Joseph Morgan

Standing No. of Convicts.	Name.	Age	Education		Religion.	Single Married or Widower.	Children.		Native Place.	Trade or Calling.	Offence.	Tried.		Sentence.	Former Conviction.
			R. Reads.	W. Writes.			Male.	Female.				Where.	When.		
37-2396	Morgan, Joseph	27	R		Protestant	Single			Somerset	Laborer and soldier	Buying stolen goods.	Criminal Court Wills Quarter Session	3 Janus., 1887	2 1/2 Years	None
37-2174	Morgan, William	18	None		None	Single			Swansea (in Wales)	Plasterer	Stealing lead	Central	12 Decemr.	6 1/2 Years	None

Height.	Feet In.	Complexion.	Color of		Hair.	Particular Marks or Scars.	
					yes.		
5	7 1/2	Ruddy and freckled			Brown	Dark hazel	Right arm, CxM&L inside lower left arm, Large brown blotch right shin.
5	11	Fair, middle and freckled			Sandy brown	Light grey	Red whiskers, round scar right cheek, anchor inside lower right arm, breast a little hairy, (Eyebrows meeting, W and small anchor inside left

The test from the records on the previous pages is a description of Joseph Morgan, the convict, who arrived in Sydney in 1837. The record tells us:

His convict number is **37/2326**, he was the **242nd** convict out of 250 who were loaded onto the ship the **Charles Kerr**, he was **27** years old and he could **read** but not write, he was a **protestant** (Church of England) and **single** with no children. His native place, where he was born was **Somerset** in England. His Trade/Calling, his occupation is **Labourer and Soldier**. The offence is listed as **"Buying Stolen Goods"**. He was tried at **"Wilts QS**, this is Wiltshire Quarter Sessions on **3 Jan 1837**. His sentence is **14 years**. Former convictions **"NONE"** The remaining columns describe Joseph. He is **5ft 7¾ in** (172cm). His complexion is **Ruddy and Freckled**, his hair is **Sandy Brown** and his eyes **Light Grey**. The description: **Red whiskers, Round scar right cheek, Anchor on inside lower forearm, Breast a little hairy.**

Joseph Morgan, ruddy and freckled, has arrived in Sydney, it's Monday the 9th October in 1837 and the Charles Kerr is about to unload its cargo of convicts. From Circular Quay, Joseph is marched up to the Hyde Park Barracks, 1km that probably took about 30 minutes. Hard to imagine what he must have been thinking; he has certainly lost everything he had, family, friends and freedom, it must have seemed a strange land.

The Hyde Park Barracks were built by 1819 and they are still there today, you can see the hammocks the convicts slept in and an explanation of their processing. Their lives have become a tourist attraction!

Surprisingly the printed sheets the "List of Convicts on the Charles Kerr....." were made at the time. The "Indents" of convicts from each ship were bound into books and they were the administrative journals of the colony. (A copy of a page from that book lists Joseph Morgan a couple of pages back in this book).

The possible options open to Joseph were to be; further sentenced to punishment, flogging or prison if he committed any offences on the voyage, assigned to a Government Work Gang to build roads, bridges and public buildings or assigned to a Private Master. Joseph was assigned to **Michael Magner**.

We know Joseph was assigned to Michael Magner because of the 1837 Convict Muster. Below is the top of page 95 of that muster, Joseph is at the bottom of that selection and it tells us he is 27 and arrived on

Convicts' Names	Age	Name of the Ship in which they arrived	Year arrived	When tried
Miles John	23	'Charles Kerr'	1837	
Madden Michael	26	"	"	
Milly Charles	23	"	"	
Maddock Robert	27	"	"	
Morris John	35	"	"	
Morgan Joseph	27	"	"	

the Charles Kerr in 1837. Although this page is part of many online family trees it frustratingly appears to simply list his name the ship he arrived on and the year BUT on the next page, page 96, it lists who he was assigned to and that is a vital record to link Joseph to The Hunter region and in particular to Paterson near Butterwick.

The name Michael Magner and the district of Paterson correspond to the line of Joseph on the double opened page of the 1837 Convict Muster.

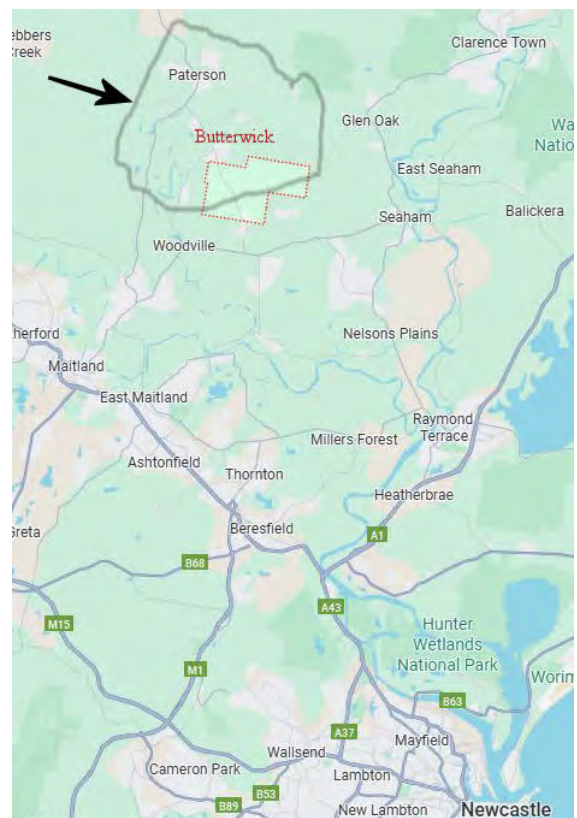
Name of Master to whom each Convict is at present assigned, and the District in which he is stationed.	
Name of Master	Name of District
Police	Port Macquarie
R. Dawson Senr	Sydney
Gov. H. Mitchell	Paterson's Plains
J. Pollard	Unsettled
Michael Magner	Mawarra
"	Paterson

Being assigned to a Private Master meant long hours of physical labour, and although Joseph is variously described as an umbrella maker, a shoemaker and a soldier, being assigned to Michael Magner suggests he was working as a farm labourer. Farm work for free settlers and for convicts was hard manual work in the 1800s. Paterson was just the makings of a village in 1838, Magner had a property in the region and Joseph was cutting cedar trees, herding sheep or cattle or cultivating tobacco.

The assignment of a convict was not the end of the story but rather part of an ongoing bureaucracy, one that at the local level was dealt with by the magistrates. Magistrates spent much time dealing with the relations between convicts and the masters to whom they were assigned... Identification and being able to access a convict's records was naturally important and characteristic of this was adding the name of the ship on which a person arrived to the convict's name.... A labour force based on sentenced prisoners was not easy to manage and punishments were a major part of the system. The degree and nature of this punishment was often debated by landowners who as magistrates also determined these punishments. Charles Boyde, for example, criticised a law that would limit punishments, as this would allow a servant to sin 'to the utmost limit of his tether' ... Local landowners acted as magistrates with the limitation that they could not sentence their own convicts. This often meant sending convicts away for sentencing with a consequent loss of labour.... For absconding and other crimes, punishment with the lash was often inflicted, as when in 1837 William Forbes and William Daley received 50 lashes each. John Ford was given 50 lashes plus 12 months on the 'Ironed gang'

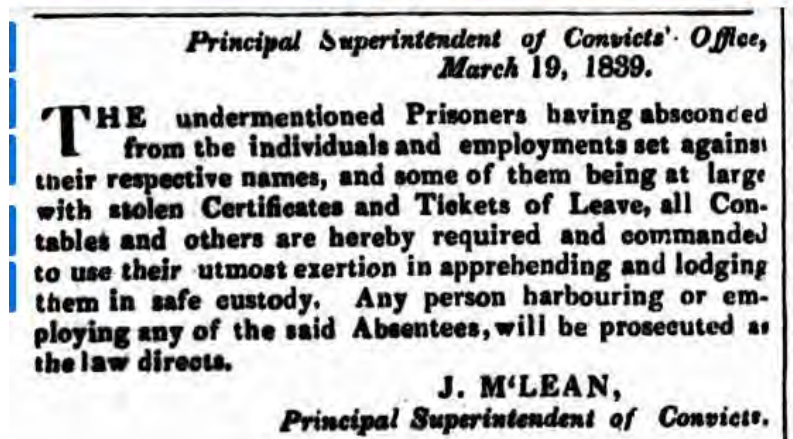
"A History in Three Rivers Dungog Shire Heritage Study Thematic History August 2014, Michael Williams"

During the years 1840 to 1844, the settlers of all classes, in the HunterRegion, suffered severe privation from the effects of drought and the low value of produce. The distress then was more general and acute than what the colonists have been passing through, during late years. The causes were the same - drought, land boom, and low prices for produce, "Free Settler or Felon"



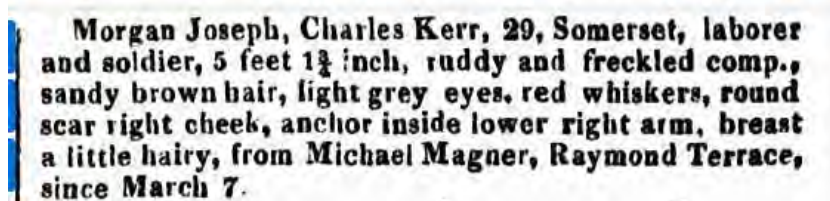
In March 1839 after nearly 18 months labouring for Michael Wagner, Joseph has had enough and we find him listed in the Government Gazette on Page 340 of the bound gazettes there is a notice that reads:

Government Gazette (Sydney, NSW : 1832 - 1900) / Wed 20 Mar 1839 [Issue No.400] / Page 340



And in the list of convicts on the next page:

Government Gazette (Sydney, NSW : 1832 - 1900) / Wed 20 Mar 1839 [Issue No.400] / Page 341



And we know it's our Joseph Morgan because there's the "ruddy completion" the: anchor tattoo" and he has absconded from Michael Wagner. They made a transcription error and maybe to his advantage he is now 6 inches shorter, 5 feet 1 3/4 inches rather than 5 feet 7 3/4 inches, than his convict records really state.

He is, however, caught. The records don't reveal when, where, how..... He is returned to Michael Wagner. We only know he was returned because of later records. He was probably flogged, the descriptions on the previous page from "*A History in Three Rivers Dungog.....*" indicated that the punishment was usually 50 lashes. The notices above say he absconded, ran away, on March 7th and this notice was published on March 19th 1839 so a few weeks at least on the run.

Joseph goes back to Paterson as a farm labourer and for 4 1/2 years he must have been on good behaviour or just knuckled down to hard work because in **November 1843 he received his Ticket of leave.**

A Ticket of Leave was essentially what we call a parole. The convict was now freed from their condition of essentially slave labour to the government or a private master. For a convict like Joseph he would have had to have served about 6 years of his 14 sentence and have demonstrated good behaviour. Joseph was now free to:

- **Work for themselves** or others for wages.
- **Acquire property.**
- **Live in a specified district**, or obtain special travel permission to move until their full sentence time was completed.
- **Marry or bring families** over from England.
- **Musters & Church:** Holders had to attend quarterly musters and weekly church services

This is a copy from microfilm* of **Joseph's original Ticket of Leave**. The document was in two parts and this is the stub the other half with a government coat of arms was retained by the convict and he/she had to carry it or provide it to prove their free status. Interestingly although they were precious documents for the holder very few of the convicts copy survive, once their sentence was completed most convicts wanted to put that period of their life well behind them and kept nothing of their convict past and in fact claimed to be free settlers.

Joseph's Ticket of Leave (TOL) has been written on and has become a little confusing.

We know it is "our" Joseph, the Prisoner No. is 37/2326 the number allocated when he arrived on the Charles Kerr in 1837.

The handwritten text on the left edge reads: "Altered for Maitland 11 March 1844 see Com from Paterson R No, 44/2438"

Across the centre of the document has been written:

"Ticket of Leave Torn Up
Morgan having Obtained
A Cond^d Pardon xxxx 9/997
Dated 1 June 1849"

It seems the process of getting the TOL took quite a while with some initial communication in March 1843, the recommendation is dated July 23rd but the actual TOL seems to be dated from June 10th 1843.

*The microfilm copy of this document is held at the John Oxley State Library of Qld in Brisbane. It is in Database – British Convict Transportations, The Source – Registers 1787-1867 on Roll 90 H011/11 Number 70(40)

Michael Magner and his brother Thomas were both Irish convicts transported to NSW in 1823 who took up land grants and bought land after they completed their 7 year sentences. They were assigned to a large farming property, Tocal, and just south of what became Paterson. Michael, in the early 1830's returned to Ireland and convinced 12 relatives to return to NSW with him. Michael lived at both Paterson and Hinton. His reports about Joseph as a convict worker would have contributed to him gaining his Ticket of Leave. From the Colonial Secretary's correspondence the following letter paints a rather disturbing picture of what life may have been like for Joseph in his last year working for Michael. The farm and business operation of the Magner brothers must have been failing and within months of Joseph leaving the Magner farm in November 1843.

29 May 1844 from Jane Sullivan, Kent St Sydney, requesting admission of Michael Magner into Lunatic Asylum, his friends and relatives unable to support him. "The wife of Michael Magner is my sister, and she is now left destitute at Hinton in the County of Durham with a family of three children one of whom I have taken upon myself to support. I am therefore the Sister in Law of the said lunatic Michael Magner". The letter is annotated "Let the man be admitted. G.G. May 29". (CSIL 44/4244 in 4/2650.5). *

Michael died in the asylum in November 1844.

* Some of this information about the Magner brothers came from "Voices from Tocal –Convict Life on a Rural Estate by Brian Walsh"

TICKET-OF-LEAVE.

No. *43/2596* *10th Nov 1843*

Prisoner's No. *37/2326*

Name..... *Joseph Morgan*

Ship *Charles Kerr*

Master *Arnold*

Year *1837*

Native Place.....

Trade or Calling

Offence

Place of Trial..... *W. J. S.*

Date of Trial..... *3rd January 1837*

Sentence

Year of Birth.....

Height

Complexion

Hair

Eyes..

General Remarks

Allowed to remain in the District of *Paterson*

On recommendation of *do* — Bench.

Dated *July 23*

3000

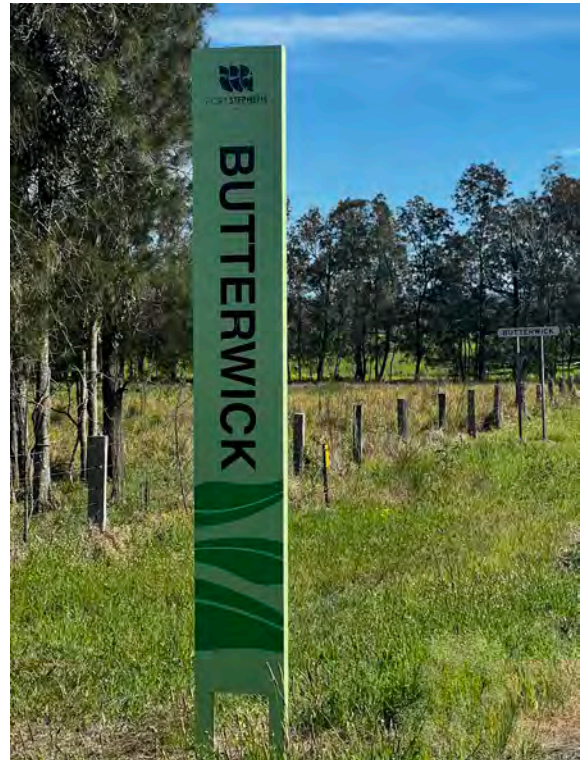
Altered for Maitland 11th March 1844 see Com from Paterson R No 44/2438

Ticket of Leave Torn Up Morgan having Obtained A Cond^d Pardon xxxx 9/997 Dated 1 June 1849

1844 Again

In Part 1, The Meskell Family, under the heading 1844, I covered the marriage of Mary Meskell to Joseph Morgan. There are the wedding Banns, the Marriage Certificate, they both lived at Butterwick and married at Narrow Gut. Joseph was 33 just 5 or 6 years older than Mary's father John Meskell and Mary was only 15. Since the Meskell Family arrived in NSW in 1840 they had lost 2 children; Sarah who came from Ireland with them died in May 1841, she was 11 and William who was born in April 1842 died in Feb 1843.

I had read the "facts" and I still wondered how John Meskell and his wife Mary Caesar must have felt, their daughter marrying a convict who was twice her age. The documentation did not quite link the Joseph Morgan on the marriage certificate to the convict Joseph Morgan. I emailed and spoke to a number of the Morgan Family researchers. I explained that there was no evidence that Joseph Morgan, the one who married Mary Meskell was a convict. There were no stories in the family about Joseph being a convict. I am now certain that the Joseph who was sentenced in the Wiltshire Court in 1837 is the Joseph Morgan whose name is on the marriage certificate in 1844. More documents including the assignment to Michael Magner and the deciphering of the Ticket of Leave and its meaning make the historical links convincingly complete. The younger Joseph is a rogue, a liar and a thief but the Joseph after 1839, the year he absconded and was caught, is a changed person. He spent 4 years working and following the rules and as we will see he became responsible and organised and he must have provided well for his family of 15 kids. Not all goes well because life in the 1800s was not easy.



With his ticket of Leave (TOL) Joseph was free to own land, get married, get paid for his labour or be self employed. He seems to have given all of them a go. He receives his TOL in November 1843 and is married on January 8th 1844.

In the book "The First Titleholders of Land in the County of Durham" – compiled by Geoff Cannon there is an entry for land purchased by a Joseph Morgan. The columns are:

Name	Grant Ref.	Area	Holding	Parish No.
McDuff James	13.7.1857	10ac ea'		17
McDuff James	27.12.1845	60ac		41
Manning William Montagu		2a3r32p	C.P. 24.13	25
Morgan Joseph	2620-11	160ac	H.S. 97.6 Home Grant	31Rem
Morris Price	2373-26	102a2r34p	H.S. 97.7 Home Grant	73
Morris Walter Albert	13.7.1857	7a1r		74
O'Keeffe Morris	13.7.1857	9a1r11n		

There is no Grant Reference for the Joseph Morgan purchase so it seems he bought it. The piece of land is about 1.2hectares. The land is just south of the Town of Paterson (see maps below).

The Joseph Morgan Parish No. 41 is contained within the section of the name marked "See Diagram A" and that refers to the "Small Portions" table. I have not been able to sort the dates on this section because these maps were working documents with notes added to them for decades. The only date lot 41 is June 16th. The lot above (40) 23 May 90 and that have something to do with the note below and maybe not. If it refers to 1890 and that is the date then this is NOT our Joseph Morgan. If Joseph was in fact the "First Title Holder" then it would be in the 1840s and it is him. (*More research for someone. NM 2026*).



REFERENCE SMALL PORTIONS					
Parish N°	Catalogue N°	Name	Area		
			a	r	p
15	P1561978	The Council of Education for Pub:Sch Site	5	0	0
39	D37482003	L. A. Jordan	14	0	10
40	3749	R24189Fr: Sale for Int Purposes Not 23 May 90	6	0	0
41	3755	Joseph Morgan CP 24.13 June 16 th	2	3	32
59	4887	John Shelton p Sp 137	8	2	1
62	4086	R 35724 from Sale for Roadway & Access { Notified 4 th March 1905 W.R.Hicks P ^o Sp L19.2 Gaz. 11.7.19	11	1	10
68	do	{ R35721 From Sale for Water Supply Notified 4 th March 05 also Part of R40776 see face of Map W.R.Hicks P ^o Sp L19.2 Gaz. 11.7.19.	4	2	0

1st June 1849

Joseph Morgan receives his Conditional Pardon. This must have been a key event in his life, he is now free to travel, he can go anywhere except to the United Kingdom and Ireland. That is the condition of the pardon, he can however return after the date of his 14 year sentence has expired on the 3rd of January in 1851.

Below: The section of the Pardon that confirms the Joseph Morgan sentenced at Wilts (Wiltshire Court) on the Third day of January 1837. Next page the full page of Joseph's Pardon.

Pardon, had passed on that Day, under the Great Seal of the United Kingdom : And whereas the said recited Act has taken effect in the said Colony of New South Wales : And Whereas Joseph Morgan whose Description is hereunto annexed, having been indicted and convicted at Wilt 2.8 on the third day of January One thousand eight hundred and thirty seven of the Crime of Buying Stolen Goods was, in pursuance of the said Conviction, sentenced to Transportation, and was accordingly Transported to the said Colony, for a term which will expire on the third day of January which will be in the Year one thousand eight hundred and fifty one } And whereas, in consideration of the good conduct of the said Joseph Morgan since his arrival in the said Colony, I, SIR CHARLES AUGUSTUS FITZ ROY, as such Governor of New South Wales, recommended the said Joseph Morgan to Her Majesty for a Pardon, to take

NEW SOUTH WALES.

CONDITIONAL PARDON.

No. 49/997

By His Excellency Sir Charles Augustus Fitz Roy, Knight Companion of the
Royal Hanoverian Guelphic Order, Captain-General and Governor-
in-Chief in and over Her Majesty's Territory of New South Wales
and its Dependencies, and Vice-Admiral of the same, &c., &c., &c.

WHEREAS, by an Act of the Imperial Parliament of Great Britain and Ireland, passed in the Sixth Year of the Reign of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, intituled, "An Act to amend the Law affecting Transported Convicts, with respect to Pardons and Tickets of Leave," it was, amongst other things enacted, that, after the taking effect of the said recited Act, in any Place to which Felons and Offenders had been or might be transported by Law, the Governor or Lieutenant-Governor should, from time to time, by an Instrument in Writing, under his Hand, recommend such Felons or other Offenders as he should think fit to be recommended, to Her Majesty, for an Absolute or Conditional Pardon; and in case Her Majesty should, through one of Her Principal Secretaries of State, signify Her approval of any such recommendation, it should be lawful for the Governor or Lieutenant-Governor to grant an Absolute or Conditional Pardon, pursuant to such Instructions as should be sent to him by the Secretary of State, by an Instrument in Writing, under the Seal of his Government, which should be deemed from the Day of the Date thereof, to have, within such Place or Places as should be specified in such Pardon, but not elsewhere, the same effect in the Law, to all intents and purposes, as if a General, Absolute, or Conditional Pardon, had passed on that Day, under the Great Seal of the United Kingdom: And whereas the said recited Act has taken effect in the said Colony of New South Wales: And Whereas *Joseph Morgan* whose Description is hereunto annexed, having been indicted and convicted at *Wills 28* on the *third* day of *January* One thousand eight hundred and *thirty seven* of the Crime of *Buying stolen Goods* was, in pursuance of the said Conviction, sentenced to Transportation, and was accordingly Transported to the said Colony, for *a term which will expire on the third day of January which will be in the Year one thousand eight hundred and fifty one* And whereas, in consideration of the good conduct of the said *Joseph Morgan* since his arrival in the said Colony, I, SIR CHARLES AUGUSTUS FITZ ROY, as such Governor of New South Wales, recommended the said *Joseph Morgan* to Her Majesty for a Pardon, to take effect in all parts of the World, except the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland: And Whereas, Her Majesty has been graciously pleased to signify Her approval of such recommendation, through Her Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies: NOW KNOW YE, that I, SIR CHARLES AUGUSTUS FITZ ROY, in pursuance of the Power and Authority so in me vested by the said recited Act, and of Her Majesty's gracious approval so signified, and of the instructions of the said Secretary of State in this behalf, do hereby grant unto the said *Joseph Morgan* a Pardon for the Offence, in respect of which such Sentence of Transportation was passed as aforesaid, which shall take effect in all parts of the World, except the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland: PROVIDED ALWAYS, and it is hereby expressly declared to be a Condition of this Pardon, that if the said *Joseph Morgan* shall, at any time during the continuance of the term of his said Sentence, go to, or be in, any part of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, then this Pardon shall thenceforth be and become wholly void, as by Her Majesty's Commands expressly limited and directed: And all Her Majesty's Officers and Ministers of Justice, and all other, Her Majesty's Subjects, are hereby required to take notice accordingly. IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have caused these Letters to be made Patent, and to be Sealed with the Seal of the said Territory.

Given under my Hand at Government House, Sydney, this *first* day
of *June* in the *twelfth* Year
of the Reign of Her Majesty, and in the Year of Our Lord One thousand eight hundred
and *forty nine*.

(Signed)

CH^S. A. FITZ ROY.

ENTERED upon Record at Pages *194* and *200* Register No. *37* this *twentieth*
day of *June* One thousand eight hundred and *forty nine*.

W. R. A. Fitz Roy
for the

W. R. A. Fitz Roy
for the COLONIAL SECRETARY AND REGISTRAR.

On the next page of the records (page 100) is the reverse of the Conditional Pardon and here the details of the convict are listed. One puzzle still continues. Joseph is sentenced for stealing goods but is changed on the records when he arrived in Sydney to receiving stolen goods. On this document the words 'Burglary and' have been crossed out and the word "Buying" seems to be the word replacing them.

200.

JANUARY 1837

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

DESCRIPTION.

NAME	Joseph Morgan
SHIP	Charles Her
MASTER	Arnold
YEAR OF ARRIVAL	1837
NATIVE PLACE	Somerset
TRADE OR CALLING	Laborer
OFFENCE	Buying Burglary and Stolen Goods
PLACE OF TRIAL	Wilt
DATE OF TRIAL	3 rd Jan'y 1837
SENTENCE	14 Years
YEAR OF BIRTH	1810
HEIGHT	5 feet 7 3/4 inches
COMPLEXION	Ruddy & freckled
HAIR	Sandy brown
EYES	Slight Grey
GENERAL REMARKS	Red whiskers, round, round scar on right cheek, anchor inside lower right arm, breast a little hairy.

W. H. H.

1849 - The Meskell/McKee/Morgan extended family

By June 1849 Joseph and Mary have four children; John 1844, Sarah (Sally) 1846, David 1847 and Harriet in March 1849.

Mary's aunty and uncle, Eliza Lydia Caesar and James JOHN McKee, have 10 children (one more will be born in 1853). The reliable McKee family name their children after grandparents and no doubt other family members. Their first two children are William and Frances, named after his parents and the next two are, Julius and Sarah, named after her parents. They even name their sixth child John Caesar McKee. This sort of naming makes family history a breeze.

The extended family of the Caesar sisters, Mary and Eliza Lydia, is now quite expanded, they arrived in 1840 with nine children Mary had 4 and Eliza Lydia 5 and she was 7 months pregnant. Now in 1849 Mary has lost 2 children (Sarah and William the later born in NSW 1842 and died 1843). There are now 13 children and 4 grandchildren in the Meskell/McKee/Morgan extended family. Just nine years have passed and there is another eleven years of living in The Hunter Region before they all pack up and move to The Clarence: Grafton, Waterview, Eatonsville and Copmanhurst.

Apart from the Joseph's convict records the time the Meskell and Morgan families spent in The Hunter region we know very little. We can surmise quite a bit though. They were farming and moving around just a little, they were not living in the developing towns of Maitland, Seaham, Paterson.... they did not move to Newcastle. Their farming ventures, as labourers, share farmers must have been successful but not successful enough for them to but profitable farms. Joseph did not take up his work as a shoe or umbrella maker, if he ever had those skills. These assumptions are based on the places where Joseph and Mary's children's births were registered; John 1844 at Butterwick, the same place that is on Joseph and Mary's marriage certificate, Sarah 1846 at Alnwick, about 15 kilometres south east of Hinton, near Raymond Terrace, the next children David 1847, Harriet 1849 and Mary 1851 are listed as Hunter River which sounds like generic farm locations near the Hunter River. William 1853 is registered at Nelson Plains an area north of Raymond Terrace towards Seaham. The next three; Joseph Jnr 1856, Anne 1857 and Fanny 1858 were all registered with the generic Hunter River again. Edward 1860 is registered at Irrawang in Nelson Plains just north of Raymond Terrace.

The 1850's and Gold.

During the 1850's in Australia there was a constant shortage of labour, a lot of people were lured to the goldfields the Morgan and Meskell families moved around the Lower Hunter region scouting out better paid farm work and not tempted by gold fever. The McKee family moved from Butterwick a little further north to Glen William on the Williams River between Clarence Town and Dungog, their son Julius owns a farm near Glen William and one of their children Frances McKee 24/4/1831-28/3/1855 is buried in the Glen William cemetery. Throughout the 1840s and 1850s they all lived quiet rural lives. They do not appear in any records or newsworthy incidents. Joseph and Mary obviously maintain a clean and healthy household all of their children survive.

In the Part 1 – The Meskell family I suggested that the McKee family may have been the impetus for the families to make the move to The Clarence. Julius McKee bought land through a land grant sale in 1859.

and Hunter River General Advertiser (NSW : 1843 - 1893) / Tue 27 Dec 1859 / Page 3 / TT

TITLE DEEDS READY FOR DELIVERY.
Surveyor General's Office,
Sydney, 6th December, 1859.
The deeds of grant specified in this list being ready for delivery to the grantees, or their agents duly empowered, it is requested that early application may be made for them at this office.
Authorities must bear the signatures of the grantees, attested by a magistrate.
Parties applying for deeds are particularly requested to state the numbers placed against those they may require.

1828 McKee Julius, Clarence, 92 acres

Joseph Morgan in Grafton 1861-1881

After Sept 1860 and before July 1861

Joseph moved to Grafton with his wife Mary Meskell sometime after their 10th child Edward Owen Morgan who was born in September 1860 in the Hunter Region and their 11th child Samuel Morgan who was born in September 1862 in Grafton.

Mary's brother, Edward Meskell, died in Grafton on 29th July 1861 so the most likely time of the move was between **November 1860 and May 1861**

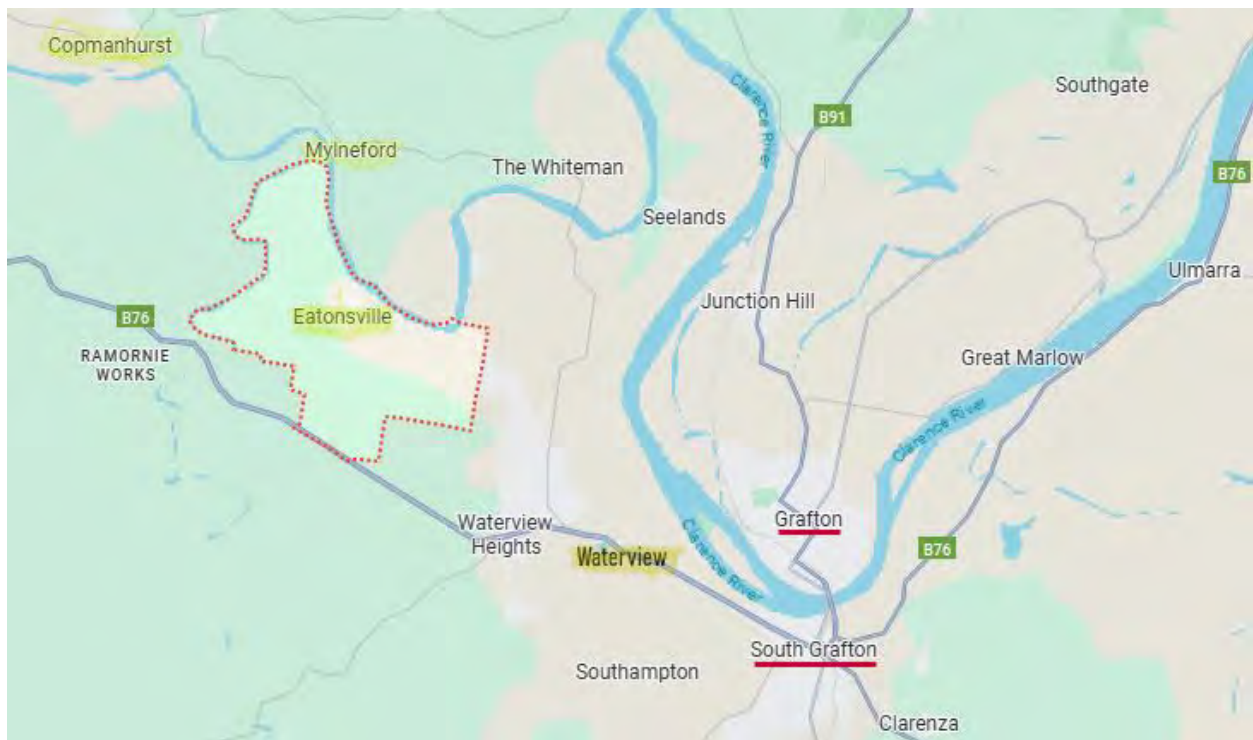
Mary's parents and her brother John Meskell Jnr moved to Grafton as well, John Jnr's, wife had a daughter, Mary Eleanor, born at Waterview, Grafton on June 3rd 1862.

The trip to Grafton on a steamer from Newcastle would have taken about 2 days. Grafton was two separate towns North and South Grafton. The shipping wharves and main business centres in 1861 were in South Grafton. Cowans Family Hotel and private boarding houses provided accommodation for arriving families so with 10 kids, the eldest, John, was 17 and the youngest Edward was between 1 and 8 months old they must have stayed in accommodation until they found a house to live in.

If I assume that they moved in early 1861 (that's about midway within the possible time they could have moved) it must have taken a week or two to sort themselves. The McKee cousins may have come to Grafton a few weeks earlier to make preparations; in any case the move to a new home required a cart, maybe an ox team returning back from Grafton that had delivered wool, to move their possessions and the family. Mary's parents, John and Mary Meskell seem to have moved to Waterview, located somewhere west of Waterview Heights on the map below, and Joseph and Mary moved to Eatonsville (see map below).

The McKee family, Mary's aunty and uncle, moved to Copmanhurst. (See Research Note A).

Joseph lived at Eatonsville and Mylneford, he seems to have owned land at Eatonsville and his sons later owned land and lived at Mylneford. – There are variations in the spelling of Eatonsville in the original documents; Eatonswill and Eatons Ville. The location is just to the west of Grafton.



A little bit of context here. The NSW that the families lived in by the mid 1850s was a different place from when they arrived. In the early 1840s NSW was a convict colony, travel was difficult relying on wind and sail, roads outside of Sydney were nonexistent, free settlers completed with free convict labour. Convicts were no longer sent to NSW after 1840 and by the mid 1850's there were very few convicts who had not received Tickets of Leave or Pardons. Steam power meant reliable and fast coastal shipping. In

It must have been a blow to the whole family when just a few months after arriving in Grafton, Edward Meskell, Mary's younger brother who came from Ireland when he was a six year old died on 27th July 1861. Edward was 27. Edward died from Consumption, tuberculosis (TB) it is likely he had it for sometime well before they moved to Grafton anything from one to three or four years. It was a common cause of death in the 1800s.

1860s

Joseph and Mary Morgan's family increases. Edward is born in 1860 near the Hunter River before they leave to live in Grafton. Samuel 1862, George 1864, Unnamed baby 1867-1867, Daniel (James) 1868, and Charles (Charlie) is born 1870. That completes their family of 15 and of those 15 only one an unnamed still birth child has died by 1870.

Mary's brother John Jnr has four children. Mary 1862, John 1864-1865, Anne 1865 and William 1868,

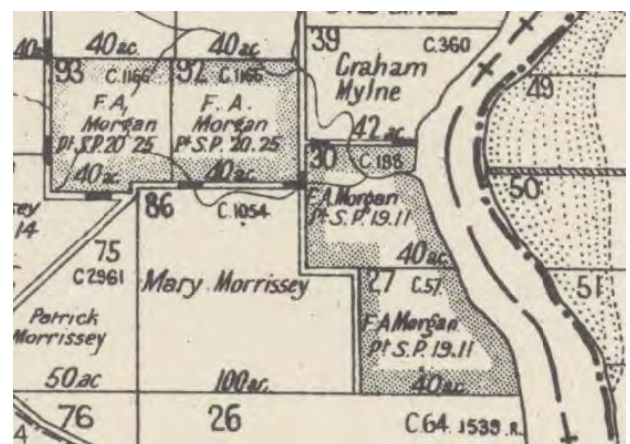
Joseph seems to have made a land selection in 1864. These land selections must have been an attempt to get their own farms going. By the end of this decade Joseph has four sons older than 16 so farm labour was available and opportunity was what this move to The Clarence must have been all about as well.

rd New England Advertiser (Grafton, NSW : 1859 - 1889) / Tue 27 Nov 1866 /

FREE SELECTION.
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 22ND.
JOSEPH MORGAN, Eaton, South Grafton, 70 acres, county of Clarence, parish of Eaton, portion No. 27; lot 2, sale at Grafton of 24th November, 1869, of 40 acres, and 30 acres, unsurveyed land, adjoining.

nd Examiner and New England Advertiser (Grafton, NSW : 1859 - 1889) / Tue 9 Apr 1867 /

FREE SELECTION.
THURSDAY, MARCH 28TH.
JOSEPH MORGAN, JUN., of **Eaton, Clarence River,** 40 acres, county of **Clarence,** parish of **Eaton,** portion No. 27 lot n; sale at **Grafton,** 23rd November, 1864, as selected by **Joseph Morgan,** 22nd of November, 1866, and directed to be forfeited.
JOSEPH MORGAN, JUN., of **Eaton, Clarence River,** 40 acres, county of **Clarence,** parish of **Eaton,** unsurveyed land, and adjoining his conditional purchase of that date.



89

1870s

In the family: Mary's brother **John Meskell Jnr** and his wife **Eleanor Daly** have 2 more children, Henry in 1870 and Arthur in 1882.

Mary's aunty, **Eliza Lydia McKee (Caesar)**, dies 1872

John Morgan, the eldest of their children, marries Ellen Mary Jane Pigott in 1873

Mary Morgan marries Walter Baker 1876

Anne Morgan marries Henry Walden in 1878

Joseph Morgan and his wife Mary Meskell have their 15th their last child, Charles, in August 1870. In 1870 Mary is 42 and Joseph is 59. Joseph is now described as a farmer and a miner. The family must have been able to make a reasonable living, maybe the Meskells helped out. All of the 15 children, except for two, one, unnamed, who was probably still born, and Charlie who has an accident at 17, survived into adulthood.

In the early 1870s mini gold rushes were all the rage around Grafton, gold was being found to west towards Glen Innes and the wonderfully named "Lunatic" mine at Kangaroo Creek to the south. It was at this time that the term "Miner" was added to the many occupations attached to Joseph Morgan. In 1872 we find his name along with John Meskell (this is John Meskell Jnr Mary Meskell's brother, Joseph's brother-in-law) in a list of gold mining claims registered and published in *The Clarence and Richmond Examiner, Grafton, Tuesday August 27, 1872*. The full list has 200+ names covering 50+ mining claims. Joseph's claim is at Cangai and they have named their claim "Napoleon".

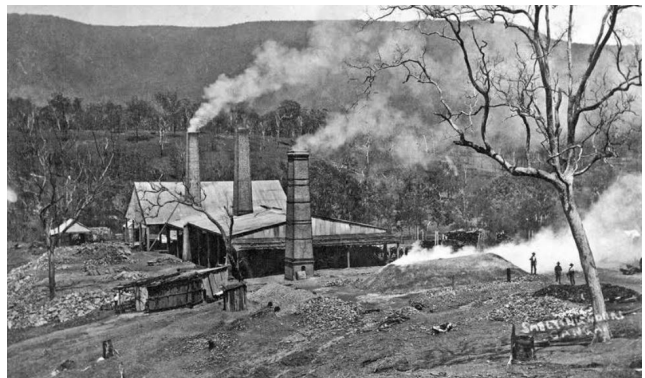
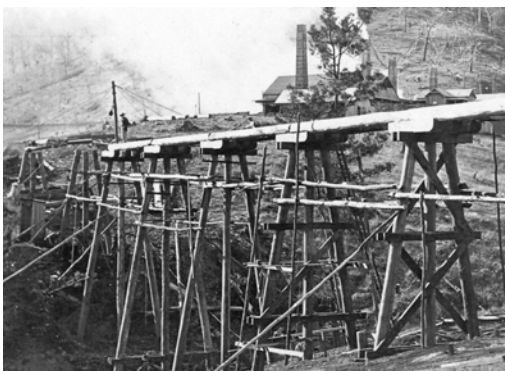
and Advertiser (Grafton, NSW : 1859 - 1889) / Tue 27 Aug 1872

CHAMBIGNE, CANGI, UPPER CANGI, AND CUNGLEBUNG RUNS.

The following is a list of the claims taken up and registered with Mr. W. H. H. Becke, J.P., Mining Registrar, at Grafton, on the above reefs up to Thursday last, with the No. of the register, locality, name of claim, shareholders, No. of bearing, and area:—

No. 129—Cangi—Napoleon—Messrs. John M'Guinness, John Meskill, Hugh M'Guinness, David Bowie, Joseph Morgan, and Archibald Campbell
—No. 1 North, 300 feet x 200 yards.

All the above claims taken up in the neighbourhood of Cangi, Upper Cangi, Chambigne, and Cunglebung, will we have no doubt lead to the above districts being proclaimed by the Governor, as a Gold-Field, under the Gold-Fields Regulations Act.



Cangai, or Cangi as it was spelt then, in the 1870s. Cangai is about 20 kilometres west of Jackadgery about a kilometre off the Gwydir Highway between Grafton and Glen Innes.

In December 1872 Joseph also decided to lease a large parcel of land at Eaton (Eatonsville)

id Examiner and New England Advertiser (Grafton, NSW : 1859 - 1889) / Tue 17 Dec 1872

OUR OF AUGUST.
APPROVED CLAIM FOR UNDEFINED PRE-EMPTIVE LEASE.—The undermentioned claim of an undefined pre-emptive lease, has been approved by the Minister for Works :—**Joseph Morgan, sen., 240 acres, parish of Eaton. Rent, £1 per annum.**

New South Wales Government Gazette (Sydney, NSW : 1832 - 1900) / Tue 3 Dec 1872 [Issue No.305] / Page 3123 / APPROVED CLAIMS FOR UNDEFINED PRE-EMPTIVE LEASES.

[4411]

Department of Lands,
Sydney, 3rd December, 1872.

APPROVED CLAIMS FOR UNDEFINED PRE-EMPTIVE LEASES.

IT is hereby notified for the information of all persons concerned, that under the provisions of the Crown Lands Occupation Act of 1861 claims for Pre-emptive Leases have been made by the persons enumerated in the subjoined List, in right of the several portions of land therein referred to, and have been approved subject to the conditions set forth in the Regulations of 1st November, 1861.

2. Applicants are reminded that the rents of the lands in question for the year commencing on the 1st of January, 1873, must be paid to the Agent for the Sale of Crown Lands of the District in which they are situated, or to the Treasurer in Sydney, within two months from this date.

3. The rent of Leases in virtue of the undermentioned freeholds, is at the rate of £1 per lot per annum for all lots not exceeding 320 acres, and at the rate of £2 per section per annum for all lots above that area. The sums hereunder shown are those which must therefore be paid for the lots. *The renewal of rent for 1874 of any of these Leases must be paid in the month of September next.*

JAMES S. FARNELL.

Abstract No. of Lease.	Leasee.		Area of Freehold in virtue of which Lease is granted.	Particulars of Lease.				District.	Office No. of Application and papers.
	Name.	Address.		Area.	Rent.	County.	Situation.		
7	Joseph Morgan, jun.	Grafton	80	210	1 0 0	Clarence	Parish of Eaton	Grafton	3841 C.P.

The top notice names “Joseph Morgan Sen” as the applicant however the name on the Lease document list is “Joseph Morgan Jnr” It seems to be the same lease. Joseph Jnr would have been 16 in 1872.

This must have seemed like it was all working out, the culmination of all those years of convict servitude, farm labour, moving the family north from The Hunter to The Clarence, 14 children all doing well and four grandchildren.... land, gold, sunshine. Joseph even found some geese, but before that find the world comes crashing down, within months Joseph is insolvent (bankrupt).

It's May 1873. The good times didn't last long. And we know what went wrong. Everything. Everything went wrong; his health, the mine, farming prices, he had a wife and too many kids to support.

In this Notice of Insolvency we read the devastating news.

Empire (Sydney, NSW : 1850 - 1875) / Tue 27 May 1873 / Page 2 / SURRENDER

Joseph is £257 15s 7½d in debt. That is somewhere between \$60,000 and \$320,000 in 2025 dollars depending how you convert historically equivalent values. An average might be about \$200,000.

Joseph Morgan, of Eatonsville, Clarence River, miner. Cause of insolvency: Losses in farming, mining, and sickness, and having a wife and nine children to support. Liabilities, £257 15s 7½d. Assets, £24 4s 6d. Deficiency, £257 15s 7½d. Official assignee, Mr. F. T. Humphery.

One mine at Cangai, the Sir Walter Scott was a success the alluvial miners quickly panned the surface gravel and departed, by 1901 it became a very profitable copper mining area and in 2025 Infinity Mining reopened the old Sir Walter Scott mine.

Some years later Henry Meskell 1870-1950 the son of John Meskell (named on the mining lease at Cangai) and nephew of Joseph Morgan and Mary Meskell owned the general store, butcher shop and Post Office at Cangai. He later invested in a platinum mine at Jackadgery that was not successful.

Joseph Morgan is in Debt.

Nsw Government Gazette (Sydney, NSW : 1832 - 1900) / Tue 10 Jun 1873

In the Supreme Court of New South Wales. (11,526)
IN INSOLVENCY.

**In the Insolvent Estate of Joseph Morgan, of Eatonsville,
 Clarence River, miner.**

FIRST AND ONLY MEETING.

WHEREAS the estate of the abovenamed insolvent was, on the 26th day of May, A.D. 1873, placed under sequestration, by order under my hand: I hereby appoint a First Meeting of the creditors of the said insolvent, to be holden before the Commissioner of Insolvent Estates for the District of Grafton, at the Court House, Grafton, on Friday, the 18th day of July, A.D. 1873, to commence at 11 o'clock in the forenoon or as soon afterwards as the course of business will permit, for the proof of debts against the said estate, and for the collection, administration, and distribution of the same; that the insolvent may account for his insolvency; for directing the Official Assignee whether the insolvent will be allowed to retain

for his own use his household furniture, wearing apparel, beds, bedding, and tools of trade, or any part thereof respectively: And as it now appears that the goods and effects of the insolvent, available for the payment of his debts, are less in value than £100, notice is hereby given, that unless it be shown at said First Meeting that these goods and effects exceed the value of £100, the said Commissioner will summarily proceed to rank the debts which shall then be proved, and will direct the proceeds of the estate to be forthwith distributed by the Official Assignee accordingly.—Dated at Sydney, the 5th day of June, A.D. 1873.

GEORGE HIBBERT DEFFELL,
 Chief Commissioner of Insolvent Estates.
ARTHUR HENRY,
 Registrar in Insolvency.

Official Assignee—**FREDERICK THOMAS HUMPHREY.**
 3198

8s. 6d.

This insolvency (bankrupt) seems to have been settled in June 1873. He gets to keep his clothes, bed tools of trade

New South Wales Government Gazette (Sydney, NSW : 1832 - 1900) / Fri 30 Jul 1875 [Issue No.190] / Page 2266 / IN INSOLVENCY

[Notice of Application for a Certificate of Conformity.]

In the Supreme Court of New South Wales. (11,526)

IN INSOLVENCY.

**In the Insolvent Estate of Joseph Morgan, of Eatonsville,
 miner.**

To the Official Assignee and Creditors.

TAKE NOTICE, that Joseph Morgan, intends to apply to His Honor the Chief Commissioner of Insolvent Estates, at the Court Room, King-street, Sydney, on Tuesday, the 31st day of August next, at 11 a.m., or as soon afterwards as the course of business will admit, that a certificate be granted to him, under and according to the provisions of the Acts 5th Victoria No. 17, 7th Victoria No. 19, and 25th Victoria No. 8.—Dated this 26th day of July, 1875.

J. K. O'MEAGHER,
 Attorney for Insolvent,

Agents—**PIGOTT & TRICKETT,** Grafton.
 129, King-street, Sydney.

4010

6s. 6d.

The New South Wales Government Gazette Friday 30 Jul 1875 has a notice and Joseph Morgan is insolvent again. (I am not sure if this relates to the earlier 1873 insolvency that was not finalised or a separate situation) NM

Things are not going well.

As the 1870s progress the family seems to keep farming around Eatonsville and the kids go to school at Gerymberrym.

1880s

The decades roll on and in 1880 Joseph Morgan is 69 and his wife Mary Meskell is 52.

Wait. What about the Geese? Oh yes, in 1876 Joseph found eight geese. The classified notices in the past were often a treat; social media today serves the same function.

Examiner and New England Advertiser (Grafton, NSW : 1859 - 1889) / Sat 29 Jul 1876

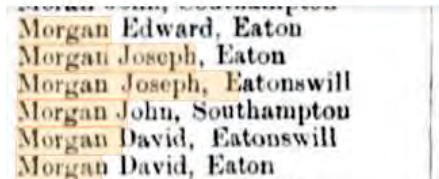


The list below of the Grafton Electoral Roll has 6 Morgans; Joseph and his sons; Edward, Joseph Jnr, John and David.

A few problems here.

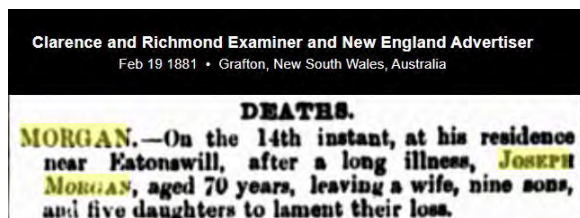
Edward was born 29th September 1860 he would have been 19 – the voting age was 21! There is only one David Morgan in the family in the 1800's. William Morgan is missing, he may have moved away from the Grafton Electoral District.

Sat 4 Sep 1880 / Page 3 / GRAFTON ELECTORAL DIS



Joseph Morgan Dies 14 Feb 1881

The insolvency in 1873 mentions Joseph's health as a mitigating factor. His death certificate says cause of death "Disease of the Kidney" and now on February 14th 1881 we have returned to where we started the Morgan Family with Joseph's death certificate it lists his parent's names and enough clues to have recreated something of who he was.



Throughout the 1880s and into the 1900s most of the Morgan family continue to live in the region around Grafton in the Clarence Valley.

Mary Morgan (Meskell) was 17 years younger than Joseph and we have followed her story from her birth in Clonmel, Ireland in 1828 to here in Grafton in 1881. She travelled, with her parents from Ireland in 1840; she was an 11 year old kid, her younger sister, Sarah, died in 1841 and a baby brother in 1843. Her brother, Edward, died of tuberculosis just after they arrived in Grafton in 1861, he was only 27. Mary has lost only one child, a still birth, at this point. She has four children still under 19, the youngest, Charles is 9 and James is 11.

CERTIFIED COPY	
DEATH REGISTERED IN NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA	
Surname of deceased	MORGAN
Other names	Joseph
Occupation	Farmer
Sex and Age	Male 70 years
Marital status	Married
Date of death	14th February, 1881
Place of Death	Eatonswill
Usual residence	Eatonswill
Place of birth	England 40 years in Australia
Father - Surname	MORGAN
Other names	David
Mother - Maiden surname	LUSH
Other names	Mary
Place of marriage	Hunter River, N.S.W.
Age at marriage	33 years
To whom married	Mary Meskell
Children of deceased	8 Males 5 Females Living 1 Male dead
Informant	Certified in writing by David Morgan, Son Eatonswill
Cause of death	Disease of the Kidney 12 Months

Mary Morgan (Meskell) maintains some small farm at Eatonsville after Joseph dies she puts a notice in the *Clarence and Richmond Examiner* and the *New England Advertiser (Grafton NSW)* in May 1882. She has lost a Draught Horse and a colt.

[aminer and New England Advertiser \(Grafton, NSW : 1859 - 1889\)](#) / Sat 6 May 1882 /

Mary remains in Eatonsville and her family, all of her children and their families are close by.

William Morgan marries Elizabeth Emily Durrington in 1881

Joseph Morgan Jnr marries Emily Susannah Baker in 1886

Frances "Fanny" Morgan is not married but by 1889 has 8 children

In 1887 **Charles (Charlie) Morgan**, Mary's youngest child, contracts tetanus from a wound and dies, he is just 17. The news article below describes the accident and the death notice provides the date and that he is the son "of the late Joseph Morgan", his mother inserted an "In Memory" notice on April 30th. There was a major flood in Grafton in late January 1887 and the mud and mess left over from this disaster may have been the cause of the tetanus cases.

£1 REWARD. -STOLEN or STRAYED from Morgan's Paddock, **Eatonswill**, on the 10th April, one Bay **DRAUGHT HORSE**, one hip down, branded 3 over JC; also, one Bay **COLT**, 3 years old, branded JM over t near shoulder. The above reward will be paid on delivery to **Mrs MORGAN, Eatonswill.**

[The Sydney Mail and New South Wales Advertiser \(NSW : 1871 - 1912\)](#) / Sat 14 May 1887 / Page

A lad named Charles Morgan died in the hospital here last week. He was suffering from tetanus when admitted. It is said that this was the result of a wound in the foot, caused by treading on a stalk of the plant popularly known as "stinking rodger." The lad's friends state that this is the third death which has occurred here from wounds caused by the same plant.

[Clarence and Richmond Examiner and New England Advertiser \(Grafton, NSW : 1859 - 1889\)](#) / Tue 3 May 1887 / Page 2 /

DEATH.
MORGAN.—Died at the Grafton Hospital on the 29th April, 1887, **CHARLES**, aged 17 years and 8 months, youngest son of the late **Joseph Morgan, First Falls, Eatonswill.**

[nond Examiner and New England Advertiser \(Grafton, NSW : 1859 - 1889\)](#) / Tue 30 Apr 1889 /

IN MEMORY of CHARLES MORGAN, who died the 29th April, 1887; aged 16 years and 8 months.
O! listen to my tales of woe, they are sorrowful to hear,
As soon the shades of evening cool draws o'er the silent tomb,
Bent down in life before his dawn of youth had yet begun,
And left a widowed mother here to mourn here faithful son.
To her he proved a faithful son—a son both kind and true;
His upright, manly ways had won the praise of all he knew.
Rest on, in peace, dear faithful son—thy loss we all deplore—
Unto that blessed mansion bright thou has't only gone before
Inserted by his loving mother MARY MORGAN.

Research Problems

In 1886 a rather curious advertisement appears in the *Clarence and Richmond Examiner* and the *New England Advertiser (Grafton NSW)*. It seems like William Morgan the son of Joseph and Mary. The problem is William was born in 1853, he would have been 33 years old and it is extremely unlikely that a 33 year old would have had cataracts for the previous 15 years, so most likely not our William. There are other Morgan families in the Grafton region.

[and New England Advertiser \(Grafton, NSW : 1859 - 1889\)](#) / Sat 6 Nov 1886

TO DOCTOR CARRODEEN,
Indian Eye and Pile Doctor.
After being 15 years troubled with a cataract on the eye, and under several doctors without obtaining any benefit, I went under Doctor Carrodeen, and in 14 days he made a complete cure.
WILLIAM MORGAN, Southampton.
November 4, 1886.

1890s

Mary Morgan (Meskell) continues her life now as that of a grandmother as this decade proceeds she has 43 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren. Mary is known as a mid-wife helping neighbours with childbirth.

Edward (Owen) Morgan marries Jane Elizabeth Amos in 1891. Edward was Mary's 10th child the last one born when they still lived in The Hunter region in 1860

Mary's brother John Meskell died on in October 2nd 1894

In her later years Mary had arteriosclerosis, hardening of the arteries, she may have had a heart condition as well, her death certificate lists "Senile gangrene". Her last few weeks were in Grafton Hospital, Mary died on **14th February 1900**.

The kid from Ireland who was 11 years old when she arrived in NSW in 1840 is the only one of that family to see the new century. Her parents have died, her brother John Meskell Jnr died in 1894, Edward in 1861 just after the move to Grafton and her sister Sarah died near Maitland in 1841. Her mother's sister, Eliza Lydia Caesar and her husband John McKee have died but four of their five children who came from Ireland in 1840 are still alive. William McKee 1629-1904, Julius McKee 1833-1910, Sarah McKee 1836-1930 and Anne McKee 1838-1903. Frances McKee born 1831, died in 1855.

Mary's death certificate lists her age as 80, however the records are pretty clear that she was born 28th August 1828 in Clonmel in Ireland, she was 11 in 1840 (immigration records), Mary was in fact 71 when she died on 14th February 1900. She is buried in Grafton Cemetery but the grave site has been lost. There is no headstone for her or for her husband Joseph Morgan.

Clarence and Richmond Examiner (Grafton, NSW : 1889 - 1915) / Sat 24 Feb 1900



DEATHS.
MORGAN—On the 14th February, at the Grafton Hospital, **MARY MORGAN**; aged 79 years.
Sadly we sit beside you;
Our sad, last watch to keep.
For soon they will lay you away, dearest mother,
Far away where the green willows weep.

Ah, mother! in accents so tender
We call on that loved name in vain.
That dear mother is slumbering so deeply;
She heeds not our sorrow and pain.

On the churchyard's green hillside so lonely
They will lay you forever to-day,
Where the soft summer wind shall sigh o'er you,
Where the sweet tender moonbeams shall play.

We must take our last look at you, dear mother,
Ere they bear you away to your rest.
Ah! you lie so calm and so peaceful
With dear folded hands on your breast.

May God's peace be with you, dear mother,
May God's holy rest be your own
In that far off beautiful city
Where we pray your dear spirit has flown.

Where we hope, dearest mother, to meet you,
When this sad journey below here is o'er;
Meet you in love, joy and rapture
To part again never more.

Inserted by her loving daughter, H. Maloney,
Solitude.

MORGAN.—At Grafton Hospital on February 14th, **MARY MORGAN**, the widow of late **Joseph Morgan**, of Eatonville, at the advanced age of 79 years. She leaves a family of 8 sons and 5 daughters and children, 14 great grand children to mourn their loss.

DEATH REGISTERED IN NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA

Surname of deceased	MORGAN	
Other names	Mary	
Occupation	-	
Sex and Age	Female 80 years	
Marital status	Married	
Date of death	14th February, 1900	
Place of Death	Hospital, Grafton	
Usual residence	-	
Place of birth	Clonmell, Tipperary, Ireland	
Father - Surname	MESKELL	
Other names	Edward	
Mother - Maiden surname	CEASAR	
Other names	Mary	
Place of marriage	Narrowcut, near Hinton,	
Age at marriage	N.S.W. 17 years	
To whom married	Joseph Morgan	
Children of deceased	John, 55 years, Sarah 53, David 51, Harriett 49, Mary 47, William 45, Ann 43, Joseph 41, Fanny 39, Edward 37, Samuel 35, George 33, James 30 Living.	
Informant	Samuel Morgan, son, 2 Males deceased Eatonsville	
Cause of death	Senile Gangrene of leg (Spreading) Asthenia 2 weeks	
By whom certified	C.J. Kearney. (Registered)	
Particulars of burial or cremation	15th February, 1900 Church of England Cemetery, Grafton	
Particulars of registration	C.C. Vindin, Acting District Registrar	Date 20th February, 1900 Number 14/1900

This is **Mary Meskell**, she married Joseph Morgan. Her daughter Harriet is my Great Grandmother, the mother of **John Maloney 1875**.
(Neville Maloney)

I, **JAMES THOMAS MAGUIRE**
hereby certify that the above is a true copy of particulars recorded in a register kept by me.

Issued at: Grafton
on 29th June, 1989


Local Registrar

NEW SOUTH WALES

REGISTRATION NUMBER

1900/ 001627

BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES REGISTRATION ACT 1995

DEATH CERTIFICATE

Date and place of death	Name and occupation	Sex and age	Cause of Death Duration of last illness; medical attendant; when he last saw deceased	Name and occupation of father Name and maiden surname of mother	Informant
1890. 14 th February 4 Hospital Grafton.	Mary Morgan.	Female 80 years.	(1) Venile Haemorrhage of leg (spreading). (2) & sepsis. (3) G.P. Kearney M.B. B.S. (Registered). (4) 12 th February 1900.	(1) Edward Mestell. (2) Farmer. (3) Mary Mason.	Samuel Mestell Rosa Catonville

Particulars of registration	When and where buried; name of undertaker	Name and religion of Minister and names of witnesses of burial	Where born and how long in the Australasian Colonies or States	Place of marriage, age, and to whom	Children of marriage
(1) Paul Mestell	15 th February 1900	Francis Day	Blonmell	(1) Harrowgate near Hinton B.P. Wales.	John. 55 years Sarah. 53 David. 51 Harriet. 49 Mary. 47 William. 45 John. 43 Joseph. 41 Fanny. 39 Edward. 37 Samuel. 35 George. 33 James. 30 Living & all deceased.
(2) 20 th February 1900	Church of England Cemetery Grafton	Church of England	County Tipperary Ireland.	(2) 17 years.	
(3) Grafton.	Henry A. Sanders.	A.B. Baker Samuel Morgan.	How long in Australia not known.	(3) Joseph Morgan.	

Before accepting copies, sight unaltered original. The original has a coloured background.



REGISTRY OF BIRTHS
DEATHS AND MARRIAGES

SYDNEY 16 Feb 2006

I hereby certify that this is a true copy of particulars recorded in a Register in the State of New South Wales, in the Commonwealth of Australia

Greg Curry
Registrar

The original of this photo is at the end of Part 1 – The Meskell Family.

The photo was always something of a puzzle because it is Martin Maloney on his wedding day and the woman is not Harriet Morgan. The positioning of the subjects does not suggest a couple. The age of each does however strongly suggest that it is Martin with his mother-in-law Mary Morgan (Meskell). Martin was 33 and Mary 39 in 1867. The photo at the bottom of the page is Harriet Morgan there is a strong resemblance between the two women.

Photo enhancement is now – in 2026 – offering all sorts of possibilities but many of the results look nothing like the original so with just minimal tweaks I have included 2 copies of the photo here.

Martin Maloney and his mother-in-law Mary Morgan (Meskell) in 1867 – Martin is 33 and Mary is 39



Harriet Morgan
Wife of Martin Maloney
Daughter of Joseph & Mary Morgan

The family of Joseph Morgan 1812-1881 and Mary Meskell 1828-1900

Joseph and Mary both lived at Butterwick were married at Narrowgut January 8th 1844 both of those exotically named places are in the Hunter Valley near Maitland NSW. Joseph was a ticket-of-leave convict 33 years old and Mary not yet 16 and pregnant. This doesn't look like a good start, but 15 children later and from the few facts available it went very well.

Their first child, John, was born at Butterwick on August 19th 1844 and the last child, Charles, was born at Southampton, South Grafton on 27th August 1870. In 26 years Mary had 15 births.

One of their children, Harriet, is my* great-grandmother she married Martin Maloney in 1867 (see previous page). * *Neville Maloney*

1. **John Morgan** 1844 - 1918
2. **Sarah (Sally) Ada Morgan** 1846 - 1911
3. **David Morgan** 1847 - 1921
4. **Harriet Morgan** 1849 - 1923
5. **Mary Morgan** 1851 - 1929
6. **William Morgan** 1853 - 1924
7. **Joseph Morgan Jnr** 1856 - 1937
8. **Anne Morgan** 1857 - 1918
9. **Frances (Fanny) Margaret Morgan** 1858 - 1936
10. **Edward Owen Morgan** 1860 - 1938
11. **Samuel Morgan** 1862 - 1949
12. **George Henry Morgan** 1864 - 1942
13. **Unnamed Morgan** 1867 - 1867
14. **Daniel James Morgan** 1868 – 1933
15. **Charles (Charlie) Morgan** 1870 - 1887

The birth records for the family are pretty good with 14 of the 15 recorded in the NSW Births, Death and Marriages' Registry. That registry includes records held by churches prior to a formal registration system.

Unfortunately they are not on chronological order.

The birth of John Morgan in 1844 is not in this list.

The district designations of ML and MA are explained are:

ML	CHURCH OF ENGLAND	ALNWICK; BUTTERWICK; CLARENCE TOWN; MIDDLEHOPE; RAYMOND TERRACE; SEAHAM
MA	CHURCH OF ENGLAND	AUSTRALIAN AGRICULTURAL COMPANY; DUNGOG; ELTON; STROUD; UFFINGTON

Births Search Results

	Name	Registration Number	Father's Given Name(s)	Mother's Given Name(s)	District
<input type="checkbox"/>	? MORGAN SALLY	2401/1846 V18462401 31A	JOSEPH	MARY	ML
<input type="checkbox"/>	? MORGAN DAVID	2269/1847 V18472269 32A	JOSEPH	MARY	MA
<input type="checkbox"/>	? MORGAN HARRIET	3272/1849 V18493272 34A	JOSEPH	MARY	MA
<input type="checkbox"/>	? MORGAN MARY	2984/1851 V18512984 37A	JOSEPH	MARY	MA
<input type="checkbox"/>	? MORGAN WILLIAM	761/1853 V1853761 39A	JOSEPH	MARY	MA
<input type="checkbox"/>	? MORGAN GEORGE H	8999/1864	JOSEPH	MARY	GRAFTON
<input type="checkbox"/>	? MORGAN SAMUEL	8123/1862	JOSEPH	MARY	GRAFTON
<input type="checkbox"/>	? MORGAN EDWARD	11653/1860	JOSEPH	MARY	RAYMOND TERRACE
<input type="checkbox"/>	? MORGAN JOSEPH	7535/1856	JOSEPH	MARY	RAYMOND TERRACE
<input type="checkbox"/>	? MORGAN FANNY	11752/1858	JOSEPH	MARY	RAYMOND TERRACE
<input type="checkbox"/>	? MORGAN CHARLES	10427/1870	JOSEPH	MARY	GRAFTON
<input type="checkbox"/>	? MORGAN DANIEL	9841/1868	JOSEPH	MARY	GRAFTON
<input type="checkbox"/>	? MORGAN (MALE)	9724/1867	JOSEPH	MARY	GRAFTON
<input type="checkbox"/>	? MORGAN GEORGE H	8999/1864	JOSEPH	MARY	GRAFTON

1. John Morgan

, the eldest child, the reason that Joseph and Mary married in early January 1844, John was born 19 Aug 1844 at Butterwick Hunter River, New South Wales. He died 4 Nov 1918 in Grafton and is buried in the Anglican section Old Grafton Cemetery.

He married (1) Ellen Mary Jane Pigott, 12 Aug 1873 in Grafton, New South Wales, Australia, b. 1851 in County Galway, Ireland (daughter of James Pigott and Mary Anne Walsh), buried in Grafton NSW. Old Cemetery, d. 27 Aug 1879 in Grafton, New South Wales, Australia. He married (2) Janet Rankin Sneddon, 20 Jun 1882 in Grafton, New South Wales, Australia, b. 7 Jul 1855 in Falkirk Stirling Scotland (daughter of James Sneddon and Janet Rankin).

9. Fanny

Denise O'Brien (Ancestry)

Fanny is the mother of Elenor Olive Ivory (1882-1962), usually know as Olive.

Olive married Alfred "Ernie" Owens. They had 5 children, but they also adopted two other children in the 1930's. One of those adopted children is my husband's mother, Joyce.

For many years we did not know who Joyce's father was. But when we found him, we later found that prior to her marriage to Ernie, Olive had a child (George Henry, known as Paul) with George Carmichael, who was the 1st cousin of Joyce's father (John De Hon). George and John's mothers were sisters.

So that is how we are connected to Fanny - a little confusing and creates a rather messy tree but makes for an interesting story.

I'm afraid that I haven't researched the other parts of Fanny's family - I've identified her siblings and I think all of her children but only got into details in respect to Olive's branch.

I'll pass on what I find but you are welcome to plunder my tree

10. Edward Owen Morgan

Taylor Cosgrove (MyHeritage)

Ruby & letters from Tumut in 1990



4. Harriet Morgan

Harriet is out of order here, she is number 4 because she is the 4th child of Joseph Morgan and Mary Meskell, but it is her story that directly links me, Neville Maloney, with the Morgans and the Meskells and Caesars in this book Harriet is the grandmother with varying degrees of greatness of all of my Maloney relatives. Harriet is my Great-Grandmother

My relationship to Harriet Morgan (*Neville Maloney*)

GGG-Grandparents – John Meskell & Mary Caesar (*Both came from Ireland in 1840 as well as Mary*)

Great-Great - Grandparents Joseph Morgan & Mary Meskell (*Joseph from England 1837*)

Great-Grandparents - Harriet Morgan & Martin Maloney (*Harriet born NSW 1849, Martin from Ireland 1860*)

Grandparents – John Maloney & Mary Waugh

Parents – Jack Maloney & Ivy Bradfield

For all my Maloney 1st cousins Harriet is our Great-Grandmother

As mentioned previously I am spelling her name with one “t” because most of the official documents, birth & death certificates have that spelling but inconsistencies happen and the “tt” ending will occur in some places.

Harriet was born in Dungog on 27th March 1849 and died in Murwillumbah on 2nd December 1923

Harriet was born I think was born in Dungog, I know her death certificate says Raymond Terrace but that information was supplied by her son 75 years after the event. The registration record lists the district as MA and that comprised the places listed below and all of them are in the northern area of the Hunter Valley near Dungog, Raymond Terrace is towards the southern end of the Hunter Region.

MA	CHURCH OF ENGLAND	AUSTRALIAN AGRICULTURAL COMPANY; DUNGOG; ELDON; STROUD; UFFINGTON
----	-------------------	---

From the birth records it seems the family may have moved around the Hunter region from Butterwick to the area around Dungog, probably Glen William, because that area had a lot of tenant farmers who leased land and the area was quite fertile. It is near Glen William, some 15 kilometres south of Dungog, where we know a cousin, Julius McKee, had a farm. Harriet seems to have been schooled at home learning home duties and practical skills; she signed her marriage certificate with a cross. The family must have been doing fairly well; all 10 children born before they moved to Grafton in 1860/61 when Harriet was then 12 years old were doing apparently in good health, clothed and fed and looked after better than most by the standards of their day.

Married 1867, she was 18, Martin Maloney was 30 with a 3 year old child. Martin's first wife, Ellen White died on 4th May 1864 when their child Michael Maloney was born.

Harriet worked as a house maid for a family by the name of Schwinghammer, the family who owned the farm they leased. (*Information from Lima Esmond a daughter of Fred Maloney*)

After her husband, Martin died, Harriet later moved into share farming on a property owned by Yeagers between Lismore and Casino. (*Information from Florence Boyle 1991, daughter of Michael Maloney, the son of Martin & his first wife Ellen White*)

It was Harriet who placed memorial notices about the death of Martin in 1900 until just before she died in Murwillumbah in 1923. She is buried in the Banner Street, Murwillumbah cemetery. The grave headstones have been replaced with a plaque listing those buried in the cemetery.

(*My father, Jack Maloney, remembered visiting her just before she died in Bray St, South Murwillumbah. He would have been about 5 years old at the time. NM*)



MARTIN MALONEY and HARRIET MORGAN

Martin married for the second time on 15th August **1867** to HARRIET MORGAN at Grafton.

Martin and Harriet had 10 children.

Ellen	29.07.1868
Mary	08.03.1871
James	24.05.1873
John	29.08.1875
Martin Thomas (Tom)	01.02.1878
Daniel Joseph (Dan)	07.06.1880
William Edward (Bill)	06.12.1882
Charles Graham (Charlie)	29.06.1885
Clarence Walter (Clarrie)	16.06.1888
Frederick Harold (Fred)	12.04.1891



Wedding photo Martin Maloney and I think with his mother-in-law
Mary Meskell 1828-1900 – (Photo taken in 1867)

Prior to Harriet leaving Grafton in 1910 Harriet was presented with an Illuminated Letter



Mrs MALONEY

Dear Madam,

Your many friends have heard with deep regret of the severance of your old associations and home ties consequent upon your removal from your old home.

They desire to tender to you their heartfelt sympathy under these circumstances and sincerely trust your new home may ere long be able in a large measure to replace the old in your affections and that many years of happiness and prosperity may still lie before you.

They also wish to express their appreciation of your uniform kindness and willing help to your neighbours in time of need, your actions in this respect have secured to you the earnest good will of all.

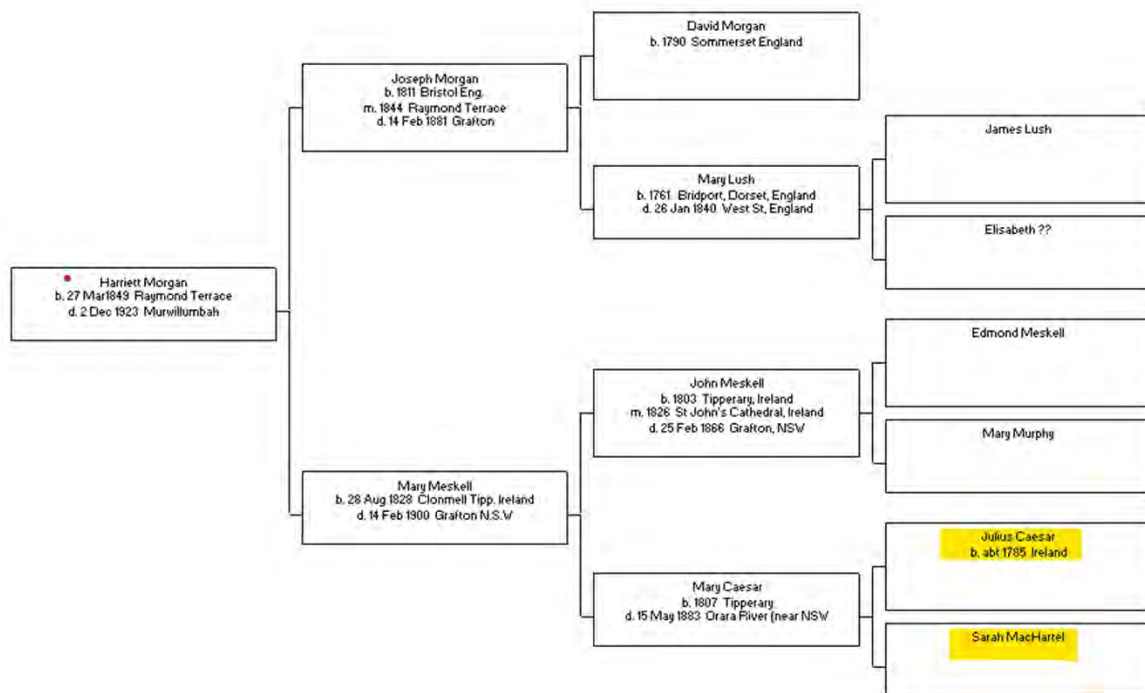
With sincerest best wishes for your future prosperity, signed on behalf of your many friends.

Maria Dixon Eva Smart
Charlotte Waldon Jane Durrington
The Maloney and Morgan Family camping at Brooms Head in 1911



In the photo above taken in 1911 **Harriet Morgan** is on the far right, next to her is Michael (Mick) Maloney (her step son, Martin's son from his first wife Ellen White). Mary Waugh is holding her daughter Dulcie her husband **John Maloney** is to her left wearing braces, their daughter Linda is being held by one of the Morgan brother's wives. Two of their other children are just in front of John and they are Jessie and Gladys. David Morgan, Harriet's brother, is next in dark clothes and on the far left is John Maloney's brother **Dan**.

Harriet Morgan's Ancestry



So far the ancestry of the Maloney line is only traced back to Martin's parents (Michael Moloney & Ellen Cavanagh) in Ireland and we have no links to any of his brothers or sisters. The ancestry of Harriet however provides more generations and this section will detail that information.

The surnames in this tree were the inspiration for me to research family history. In 1966 I visited Charles (Charlie) Maloney my Dad's (Jack Maloney) uncle at Tyalgum near Murwillumbah and during that visit he told Dad something about the family history. I can't remember any of the detail, I was 12 years old at the time, but I clearly remember Dad telling me on the drive home to remember the names: **Maloney, Morgan, Meskell and Caesar**. When we got home he had me write them down on a piece of paper and he said that was the **"Family History"**

Those 4 surnames names and a few other names like "Uncle Mick" were all I knew.

One day some months or a year or so after the piece of paper was put away I took it out of the draw and tried to create and chart of my ancestors. I didn't get far, mum, dad and their parents, on Dad's side John Maloney and Mary Waugh. It took a bit of effort but John Maloney's parents were known and they were Martin Maloney and Harriet Morgan.

That success led to utter confusion

Who was Meskell? Martin's mothers surname or Harriet's

How did you spell Meskell? Meskil, Meskill, Maskil,.....

It took years but in the 1980's I travelled around with Dad to Tenterfield and Grafton and visited the Morgans and distant Maloney relatives. My aunties Gladys and Jessie provided information, Jessie in particular added a great deal to the puzzle. In the early 1990's descendants of Michael Maloney made contact and the original of this book was created and a reunion was held in 1994. Family knowledge exploded. Since then I have plodded away and just this year 2022 I have added another name to the surname list, Julius Caesar's wife Sarah's (born about 1780) surname was

MacHartel. (Neville Maloney 2022)

Mary Meskell 1828 - 1900

Harriet Morgan's mother was Mary Meskell born on 28.08/1828 in Clonmell Tipperary Ireland and died on 14/02/1900 in Grafton NSW.

She came to Australia with her parents when she about 11 years old in 1840. She lived on a farm at Mylnford, near Eatonsville near Grafton.

Mary worked as a mid-wife, and considering she had 15 children she bought some personal experience to her work.

She was buried in Grafton Cemetery the site is now unknown.

When she died she had 43 grand children and 14 gt-grand-children.

Her death certificate reads: Cause of death: Senile Gangrene of leg (Spreading) Asthenia (abnormal physical weakness or lack of energy) 2 weeks

The Clarence & Richmond Examiner listed her death "*Residing many years at Eatonsville, died in hospital on Wednesday, 79 years. Moved from Hunter River to Grafton between 1860 and 1862*"

There are inconsistencies in the dates and age of Mary Meskell. Her death Certificate, in her married name of Mary Morgan, says 80 years, but if she was born in 1828 (maybe a correct year because her parents were married in 1826) and she was recorded as being 17 when married in 1844 and her first child was born in 1844. Her last child was born in 1870 making Mary 42 when she had her last child. If as the newspaper notice and her death certificate were correct about her age she would have been 50 when her youngest son was born in 1870. I suspect she was in fact 71 when she died

Mary Meskell's father was:

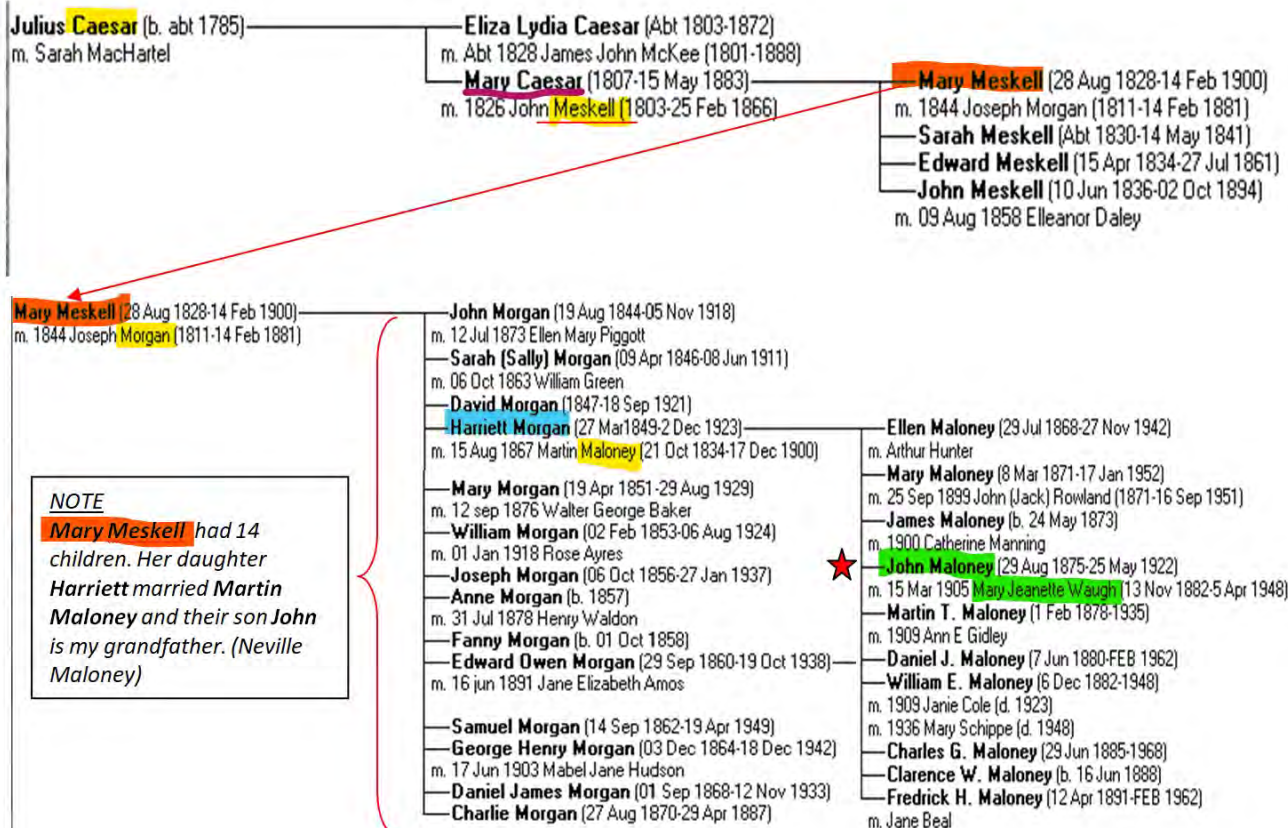
John Meskell 1803 (Tipperary Ireland) – 25/2/1866 (Grafton NSW)

John Meskell came to Australia in 1840 the ship the "Thomas Lowrie" he came with his family, his wife, Mary, and 4 children as a Bounty Immigrant.

On the migration list he is recoded as John Maskall farm labourer aged 34. His wife is listed as Maria, a farm servant aged 33. The children were listed as Edward 6, John 4, Maria (Mary) 11, and Sarah 10. (The words underlined were spelt like that in the immigration documents but seems to be in error compared to all other documents).

John and the 2 boys were listed a Roam Catholic while Maria (Mary) and the 2 girls were listed as Protestant.

The Bounty Immigrant Scheme was a result of the EMIGRATION REGULATION ACT of 1835 where commissioners give a free package to the colony, including provisions and every expense of the voyage to Agriculture labourers, shepherds, bakers, blacksmiths braziers, add tin-men, smiths, shipwrights, boat-builders, wheelwrights, sawyers, cabinet-makers, coopers, carriers, farriers, millwrights, harness-makers, boot and shoe-makers, tailors, tanners, brick-makers, lime burners, and all persons engaged in the erection of buildings. Applicants to give satisfactory references to show they are honest, sober and of general good character. Wives have free passage. Every male emigrant is allowed to take one half (1/2) of a ton OR twenty (20) cubic feet of luggage. Emigrants are to provide own bedding. On arriving at the colony, they are met by an officer, who supplies their immediate wants, assists them to their destination and at all times gives them employment on government works at reduced wages if they cannot get work elsewhere



THE FAMILY OF MARTIN MALONEY and HARRIET MORGAN

THE FAMILY OF **MARTIN MALONEY** *and* **HARRIET MORGAN** *& their* **DESCENDANTS**

Martin and Harriet had 10 children.

1. Ellen	29/07/1868
2. Mary	08/03/1871
3. James	24/05/1873
4. John	29/08/1875
5. Martin Thomas (Tom)	01/02/1878
6. Daniel Joseph (Dan)	07/06/1880
7. William Edward (Bill)	06/12/1882
8. Charles Graham (Charlie)	29/06/1885
9. Clarence Walter (Clarrie)	16/06/1888
10. Frederick Harold (Fred)	12/04/1891



*Section from the photo taken at Brooms Head in 1911.
Michael with his step mother Harriet Morgan.*

The following is an article from **the Northern Star on January 5th 1916**. Both Clarence and his oldest brother James are mentioned.

It also tells us that **Harriet**, their mother has by this time moved from Grafton and is living near BUNGARBEE which is about halfway between Kyogle and Lismore near Bentley.

The story is worth a read because it gives us a quite a bit of information; for example James owned a piano he was paying off.....

NORTHERN STAR, WI

FIRE AT BUNGABEE.

EVIDENCE AS TO ORIGIN.

INQUEST ADJOURNED.

An inquiry was held at the Court House, Lismore, by Mr. A. J. Peisley, coroner for the district, into the origin of a fire by which a certain house at Bungabee, previously occupied by James Maloney, was destroyed by fire.

Charles Manning Buttsworth, constable of police stationed at Lismore, stated that on December 20th he went to the premises in question, the fire being then all out except some wooden blocks which were still burning. The house had been of weatherboard, and had, he believed, five rooms and a kitchen. He searched the ruins and found no indications of fire except where the fire had been. The house and contents were completely destroyed.

James Maloney stated that he was now employed as a carter in Lismore, and was previously a dairy farmer at Bungabee. He and his family left the cottage at Bungabee about seven weeks ago, and he stowed his furniture in the house, covering up the best of it. He slept in the house several nights about a month ago. On the night of December 18th he slept at his mother's house, about half a mile from his own place at Bungabee. On Sunday, the 19th December, he was not at the cottage. He left his mother's place after 12 o'clock on the Sunday, and went to Tuncester Hotel, about three miles away, and he stayed there the night. He got to the hotel at about 3.30 o'clock on the Sunday afternoon, and did not leave till the next morn-

Joseph Morgan

Facts:

1. Born in Frome – Somerset near Bristol in 1811 ???
2. His parents were married in Frome in 1789 – Mary LUSH is his mother. The name is known in the family & on Joseph's death Cert her name is listed.
- ?. Evidence that the trial & convict records are Joseph born in Frome, although the convict comes from Somerset. .
- ?. No record of permission to marry in - The original registers are held by New South Wales State Archives, Registers of convicts' applications to marry 20.12.1825– 26.2.1851 ref: NRS-12212, 4/4508-14, 4/1117.4. These have been digitized online by ancestry.com.au

Research Note A - The McKee family

In 1840 **Mary Caesar** and her sister, **Eliza Lydia Caesar**, came to Australia with their husbands and their children. Mary had married John Meskell and much of this book is about that family and one of their children in particular **Mary Meskell** and in turn one of her daughters, **Harriet Morgan**, who married Martin Maloney. *The Meskell and Morgan Families are the title and the story of this book.*

But there were two Caesar sisters and this section is the summarised story of **Eliza Lydia Caesar** and her husband **James John McKee**.

The following list of the McKee family is incomplete and could have some errors because there are a lot of the McKee family in Copmanhurst and there is a tangle in the names and dates that would not fit into one family line. There is a William McKee* who died in 1884 and he is James John McKee's brother there are also 2 John McKees* who have wives Margaret and Emily. It seems that John C McKee whose wife is Margaret Phemister is a son of Eliza but the other John, whose wife is Emily, does not fit into this family line. There are others and in particular a Thomas McKee who does not seem to be one of James and Eliza's children either.

The key point here is that the extended family related back to the Caesar sisters and their father Julius Caesar is much more extensive than I have been able to research in the McKee branch.

I have only added children to William McKee who is buried in Grafton cemetery because his son John, also named William, is in the Copmanhurst cemetery

Eliza Lydia Caesar, b. 16 Apr 1803 in Tipperary, Ireland (daughter of Julius Caesar and Sarah MacHartel), d. 1872 in Grafton NSW.

She married **James JOHN McKee**, Abt 1828, in Ireland he was born in 1801 in Killkenny Ireland, d. 1888 in Grafton NSW.

1. **William McKee** b. 13 Aug 1829 in Ireland, d. 19 Feb 1904 in Copmanhurst Cemetery.
He married Janet Jane Gorton b. 1840, d. 7 Mar 1867 in Grafton Cemetery.
 - A. **Mary Jane McKee**, b. 1862, d. 3 Sep 1949 in Copmanhurst Cemetery.
 - B. **William George McKee**, b. 1864, d. 24 Jun 1939 in Grafton (Notice).
He married Elizabeth Frances Pocock, married 22 Apr 1912.
2. **Frances McKee** b. 24 Apr 1831 in Ireland d. 29 Mar 1855 Williams River NSW.
3. **Julius McKee**, b. 14 Apr 1833 in Ireland, d. 1910 in Grafton NSW.
He married Margery Phemister, in 1865 in Grafton, b. 1846, d. 1923.
4. **Sarah McKee**, b. 20 Apr 1836 in Ireland, d. 1930 in Grafton NSW.
She married William Davison on 19 Jul 1859 in Glen William Williams River NSW.
5. **Anne McKee**, b. 29 May 1838 in Ireland, d. 1903.
6. **John Caesar McKee**, b. 14 Jul 1840 in Butterwick NSW, d. 1927 in Casino NSW.
He married Margaret Phemister, in 1864 in Grafton, b. 1846, d. 1895 in Casino.
7. **Margaret McKee**, b. 13 Aug 1842, d. 05 Aug 1928 in Compmanhurst Cemetery.
8. **James McKee**, b. 1844 in Hinton NSW, d. 25 Dec 1917 in Casino NSW.
He married Alice Duck, b. 08 Jun 1865, d. 13 Oct 1956 in Jandowae Qld.
9. **Charles McKee**, b. 1845 in Butterwick NSW, d. 18 Jul 1929 in Dalby Qld.
10. **Mary McKee**, b. 1849 in NSW, d. 1914 in Ballina.
11. **George Henry McKee**, b. 1853 in Williams River, d. 20 Feb 1927.
He married Frances Robinson, b. 1858, d. 05 Aug 1929 in Lismore.

*William McKee - Born abt 1807-2 Jan 1884 from a WikiTree entry is the brother of James JOHN McKee and he immigrated after 1850 to NSW. William married Mary Delap in 1842 in Kilkenny Ireland and they had 3 children Mary 1841, John 1844-4 Oct 1929 and Thomas 1849-6 Jun 1915. Both of the sons John and Thomas were born in Ireland and died at Stockyard Ck, Copmanhurst NSW.

* There are three people named **John McKee** on this 1870/71 Electoral Roll

1869	M'Kee William	Copmanhurst	freehold	Copmanhurst
1870	M'Kee Thomas	Copmanhurst	residence	
1871	M'Kee Charles	Copmanhurst	residence	
1872	M'Kee James	Copmanhurst	residence	
1873	M'Kee Julius	Copmanhurst	freehold	Copmanhurst
1874	M'Kee John, senior	Copmanhurst	freehold	Copmanhurst
1875	M'Kee John	Copmanhurst	leasehold	Copmanhurst
1876	M'Kee William, senior	Copmanhurst	leasehold	Copmanhurst
1877	M'Kee William	Copmanhurst	leasehold	Copmanhurst
1878	M'Kee John	Copmanhurst	leasehold	Copmanhurst



Lydia McKee's grave 1872 in Copmanhurst Cemetery. Lydia is the sister of Mary Caesar.

John McKee died in 1888 and the headstone has fallen.

They were both known by their first names Eliza and James when they immigrated in 1840.

ce and Richmond Examiner and New England Advertiser (Grafton, NSW : 1859 - 1889) / Sat 25 Aug 1888 /

The Late Mr. John M'Kee.

WE have been able to ascertain a few particulars of this late respected gentleman. He was born in County Kilkenny, Ireland, in June, 1796, married 1828, and emigrated to Australia in January, 1840. That year he proceeded with his wife and five children to the Hunter, and settled near Hinton. Here they remained eight years, and afterwards went to the Williams, and resided near Clarence Town till 1860, when the glowing reports of the Clarence River induced Mr. M'Kee to come to this district with his six sons and three daughters. An eldest daughter died at the Williams, and the second was married to Mr. W. Davison, now of Copmanhurst. After residing a year at Swan Creek, he finally went to Copmanhurst, where he remained till his decease. His wife died about 16 years since. Three of his sons reside at Copmanhurst, and three near Casino on the Richmond. His four daughters are residents of Copmanhurst. The deceased was of a quiet, unassuming disposition, and though he attained a patriarchal age, retained his faculties to the end of his long life. He was a zealous member of the Church of England, and was up to the last a regular attendant at public worship.

Clarence and Richmond Examiner and New England Advertiser
Aug 18 1888 • Grafton, New South Wales, Australia

We are apprised by telegram that Mr. John M'Kee, of Copmanhurst, died on Wednesday at the advanced age of 92. Deceased arrived in the colony in 1840, and was for 27 years a resident of Copmanhurst, proceeding thither amongst the first settlers. He leaves a long line of descendants, a large number of whom are residents of Copmanhurst. Others are on the Richmond. Deceased was much respected, and the funeral procession was the largest yet seen on Smiths Flat.

John McKee died in 1888 and the information in these notices confirms many known details but also is confusing in his date of birth mentioned here which really seems to be 1801.

The pages below are from the “Thomas Lowry” ship records. On the individual pages the name is John McKee (McGee) and Elizah McKee but on the index, the list pages of the passengers they seem to be transcribed incorrectly as Maskall. They appear just above her sister Mary (listed as Maria) and her husband John Meskell which is also listed as Maskall.

[illegible]

John Peter Wagner

MARRIED MALE IMMIGRANT.

Arrived by the *Swiss*
Brought out by *J. P. Wagner*

A Native of *Prattling Long, Belgium*
Prattling Long, Belgium

Calling *John Wagner*

Age on Emigration *30 years*

Place emigrating from *Prattling Long, Belgium*

Religion *Catholic*

Character and Person and
Living the same *Equivalent of Farmer, Prussia*

Remarks *Prussia of Belgium*

State of health, strength
and probable usefulness }

Religion

Remarks

The family of Eliza Lydia Caesar and John McKee

The articles here confirm that the family who immigrated in 1840 moved from the Hunter to the Clarence around 1860 and then moved to Copmanhurst.

Their eldest child William McKee married Janet Jane Gordon and she and one of her children are buried in Grafton Cemetery (Headstone photo below). William McKee's death in 1904 and their son William G's McKee death in 1939 is reported in the clippings below.



Below: Julius McKee the 3rd child died in 1910 and an interesting story about his wife bitten by a snake in 1889 is also recorded.

[sino Kyogle Advertiser \(NSW : 1904 - 1929\) / Tue 18 Jan 1910 /](#)

Death of Mr. Julius McKee.

MR. JULIUS MCKEE, an old and highly respected resident of the district, died at his residence, Grafton, on Thursday, at the age of 76. He had been in delicate health for some time previous to his decease. Mr. McKee was a native of Ireland, and came to this State when seven years of age. He first sojourned on the Williams River, but came with his parents and brothers and sisters to the Clarence River in 1859. The family resided on a farm at Swan Creek, now occupied by Mr. Want, for a short period, and then went to Copmanhurst, where they acquired a property. They were amongst the first settlers on Smith's Flat, as Copmanhurst was known in those days. Deceased secured a property on this part of the river, and followed agricultural operations for a number of years. In 1893 he came to Grafton and became licensee of the Royal Hotel, and afterwards of the Clarence and Richmond Hotel. Of late years he lived privately. He leaves a widow, two sons and six daughters. The sons are residing in Sydney, also two married daughters—Mrs. Richardson and Mrs. Blakey. The other daughters are Mrs. S. See, Carr's Creek, Mr. J. See and Mrs. T. A. Aston and Miss McKee. He also leaves four brothers—Mr. George McKee, of Myrtle Creek; Messrs. John and James McKee, of Deep Creek, near Casino; and Mr. Chas. McKee, of Queensland. Two unmarried sisters reside at Abstonville, and Mrs. W. Davidson, of Copmanhurst is also a sister.—"Examiner."

[Clarence and Richmond Examiner \(Grafton, NSW : 1889 - 1915\) / Sat 20 Feb 1904](#)

Mr. William McKee, of Smith's Creek, Upper Copmanhurst, died yesterday morning, at the age of 74. He came to the Clarence about 45 years ago, and nearly the whole of that period resided on the Upper Clarence. He leaves one son and one daughter. His remains will be interred in the Copmanhurst cemetery this afternoon.

[Examiner \(Grafton, NSW : 1915 - 1954\) / Mon 26 Jun 1939](#)

MR. WILLIAM G. MCKEE.

The death occurred at the Grafton District Hospital on Saturday evening of Mr. William G. McKee at the age of 75 years.

Mr. McKee was the only son of the late Mr. William McKee, of Copmanhurst, and lived most of his life on his own property at Smith's Creek, where he carried on grazing pursuits. Deceased was a well-known and highly respected resident of the district and was always ready to help his fellow-men. He had a severe illness about two years ago and had not enjoyed the best of health since.

He is survived by a widow and one son, William; also one sister, Miss M. J. McKee, of Smith's Creek.

[Richmond Examiner and New England Advertiser \(Grafton, NSW : 1859 - 1889\) / Tue 19 Feb 1889 /](#)

Snake Bite.

ON Friday afternoon last, Mrs. Julius McKee, of Copmanhurst, while walking round the farm placed her hand in some vines, and was bitten on the forearm by a snake. She immediately tied a handkerchief above the bitten part, returned to the house, where the wound was freely scarified, and sucked by Mr. McKee. Ammonia was also applied to the bite, and stimulants freely administered. Dr. Houson was telegraphed for, and on arrival found the patient doing well, everything done that was necessary in the case. Dr. Houson states that during a residence of 20 years in the district he has treated several cases of snake-bite annually, but on no occasion has there been a fatal result. A warning is given, however, to those who follow the too popular idea of administering alcoholic stimulants too freely, as the doctor states that such cases have proved the most troublesome. To promptly tie a ligature on the heart side of the bite, and scarify the latter, suck the wound, and moderately use stimulants, are recommended as the best treatment. We are informed that Professor Halford's antidote of injecting ammonia into the veins has proved inefficacious in case of venomous snake bite in India.

Sarah McKee the 4th child of Lydia and John McKee married **William Davidson** and obituary in 1926 details some the McKee family history. Sarah died in 1930 aged 94

Margaret & Mary McKee children 5 & 10 born in 1842 & 1849 moved to the Richmond region in 1891. And a notice of Mary's death in Alstonville in 1914.

"Early Pioneer" is the death of **George Henry McKee** the 11th child 1853-1927 it confirms the family history

n, NSW: 1915 - 1954) / Sat 29 May 1926 /

OBITUARY

THE LATE MR. WILLIAM DAVIDSON.

One of the earliest pioneers and oldest residents of the Clarence River district died on Sunday last, in the person of the late Mr. William Davidson, of Copmanhurst, who had attained the ripe old age of 91 years and 9 months, and had lived on the Clarence River for about 64 years.

The late Mr. Davidson was a native of Ireland, having been born in County Tyrone in 1834, three years before the late Queen Victoria came to the throne. He left his native land on May 21, 1855, and arrived in Sydney on September 21, 1855, just four months later. Proceeding to the Hunter River, he remained a short time there before going to the Rocky River mines. He stayed there only a few months, and returned to the Hunter, where he entered into farming pursuits.

In 1859 he married Sarah McKee, eldest daughter of the late John McKee. About three years later (in 1862) he left the Hunter, and travelling overland arrived on the Clarence. He took up land on the Coldstream, but excessively wet seasons caused him to seek the higher lands of the Upper Clarence, and in 1865 he left for Copmanhurst, where he purchased the property known as "Midlands," on which he had resided ever since.

Mr. Davidson took a great interest in the welfare of the country at large in his earlier days, and was a keen politician, whilst in his own district he was one of the foremost in every movement for its advancement and welfare. He could relate many interesting incidents from his experiences since he first came to Copmanhurst 62 years ago. When he arrived it was a dense scrub, and he lived to see remarkable developments take place in the history of the Clarence River. It is interesting to learn that he subscribed to the "Examiner" from his first arrival to the district until the day of his death. He had also been a subscriber to the Agricultural Society and the Grafton Hospital from the earliest days.

A loyal member of the Church of England, he served the parish as a warden for 30 years, and it is chiefly owing to his perseverance and foresight that the vicarage and beautiful Church of Holy Apostles, occupy their present splendid position.

The family consists of six sons and three daughters, the sons being Mr. John Davidson and Mr. Robert H. Davidson, of Copmanhurst, and Messrs. Charles, William, Julius, and George Davidson, of Queensland. The Misses Lydia Francis Ann Eliza and Sarah Matilda Davidson, of Copmanhurst, are the daughters.

Northern Star (Lismore, NSW: 1876 - 1954) / Sat 21 Feb 1891 /

Clarence River News.

THE Misses McKee, of Copmanhurst, who are leaving for the Richmond, were presented with an address and a souvenir for each in token of the high esteem in which they were held by the people there. Miss McKee received a very handsome gold Albert and a beautiful chaste gold brooch set with pearls. Miss Margaret McKee was presented with a very handsome silver tea and coffee service on a silver salver, and Miss Mary McKee was the recipient of a gold harp brooch set with pearls.

Northern Star (Lismore, NSW: 1876 - 1954) / Fri 25 Sep 1914

DEATH OF AN ALSTONVILLE RESIDENT.

Miss Mary McKee, who died at six o'clock yesterday evening, had been a resident of Alstonville for many years, and prior to her death was ailing for about 51 years, so that when she passed away the sad news came as no surprise to her many friends and relations. The McKee family are well known on the River, in some cases places being named after them. Miss McKee has a brother (Charles) at Dalry, Queensland, who is a well known grazier. There are also two brothers at Myrtle Creek—James and George—and a sister at Copmanhurst named Mrs. Davidson.

Sino Kyogle Advertiser (NSW: 1904 - 1929) / Mon 21 Feb 1927 /

EARLY PIONEER.

DEATH OF MR. GEO. H. MCKEE.

After an illness extending over several months, the death occurred yesterday of Mr. Geo. H. McKee, a well-known resident of Myrtle Creek and Rappville districts. He was born at Clarencetown 73 years ago, and when a boy moved with his parents to Copmanhurst. In the late 70's he came across to the Richmond and selected a large holding at Myrtle Creek, and gave little time later removed to Pearce's Creek, where he opened up a butchering business. Thirty years ago he returned to Myrtle Creek, where he had since resided continuously with the exception of the past 12 months, when he retired and took up his residence in Casino. He was at one time a director of the Casino Co-operative Dairy Co., and was a devoted churchman. He is survived by a widow and two sons, Messrs. Reginald and John McKee. Mrs. S. Davidson and Miss McKee (Copmanhurst) are sisters of the deceased, and Messrs. Clarence (Queensland) and John McKee (Alstonville) brothers. The funeral moved to the Church of England portion of the Casino cemetery this afternoon, the Rev. Archdeacon Lampard officiating.

Births Search Results

	Name	Registration Number	Father's Given Name(s)	Mother's Given Name(s)	District
<input type="checkbox"/>	? MCKEE JOHN	2029/1840 V18402029 24A	JOHN	LYDIA	ML
<input type="checkbox"/>	? MCKEE CHARLES	1481/1845 V18451481 49	JOHN	LYDIA	JR
<input type="checkbox"/>	? MCKEE MARY	541/1849 V1849541 162A	JOHN	LYDIA	PC

Research Note B

The Descendants of John Meskell Jnr 1836-1894 and Eleanor Daley 1842-1922

John Meskell Jnr is the son of *John Meskell 1806-1866* and *Mary Caesar 1807-1883* and he is the brother of *Mary Meskell 1828-1900* who married Joseph Morgan in 1844.

John was born in Ireland and like his sister came to NSW in **1840** with his parents he was only 4 years old at the time.

Joan and Eleanor had 7 children: Edward, Mary, John, Anne, William, Henry and Arthur

Six of the 7 had families:

Edward married Frances (Fanny) Bollard – 12 children

Mary married Reuben Ellem – 12 children

John – died at 14 months

Anne married Thomas Hession – 6 children

William married Mary Ann "Polly" Baker – 1 child

Henry married May Parkinson – 6 children

Arthur married Sarah Jane Casey – 4 children

The rather extensive list of descendants that follows is not complete but it provides future family historians and good start and is a wonderful resource to check if someone is related. **Pete Meskell** who is the great-great-grandson of John Meskell Jnr and Eleanor Daley created the list and his name can be found if you follow the Henry Meskell lineage.

John Meskell Jnr was born 10 Jun 1836 in Tipperary Ireland, buried 3 Oct 1894 in C of E Cemetery Grafton NSW, d. 2 Oct 1894 in Southgate, Grafton NSW. He married *Elleanor Daley*, 9 Aug 1858 in Hinton, Morpeth, NSW, b. 12 Aug 1842 in Sydney, NSW, buried in Grafton, NSW, d. 22 Dec 1922 in Grafton, NSW.

I. Edward Meskell, b. 25 Aug 1859 in Hunter Valley, NSW, d. 15 Aug 1955 in Qld. He married (1) *Frances (Fanny) Bollard*, 13 Dec 1886 in Goodooga, Grafton, NSW, b. 23 Jul 1867 in Cabramatta Creek Liverpool NSW, d. 22 Aug 1942 in Brisbane, Qld.

A. **Edward Ernest Meskell**, b. 18 Mar 1887 in Orara, Clarence River, South Grafton, NSW, d. 26 Oct 1954 in Qld.

B. **Henry George Meskell**, b. 25 Jul 1888 in Orara Clarence River Grafton, d. 10 Sep 1950 in Brisbane, Qld. He married (1) Lydia Elvin Perkins (nee Robb), 1940 in Lismore, NSW, b. 1890 in Robertson, NSW, buried in Cremated Brisbane, d. 23 May 1964 in Brisbane, Qld. He married (2) Mary E Tierney, 1912 in Lismore, b. ABT 1892, d. 1931 in Lismore, NSW.

1. **George Meskell**, b. 1913 in Lismore NSW, buried in Ballina, Ballina Shire, NSW, d. 15 Nov 1982 in Ballina NSW. He married (1) *Emmeline Rose Kirkham*, 1937 in Casino NSW, b. 1910 in Casino, NSW, buried 23 Jan 1984 in Casino, NSW, d. 21 Jan 1984 in Casino, NSW. He married (2) Joan Meryl Fletcher, ABT 1960, b. ABT 1930.

a. **Lynn Maree Meskell**, b. ABT 1967.

C. **Ruby Perle Meskell**, b. 25 May 1890 in South Grafton, NSW.

D. **John Thomas Meskell**, b. 31 May 1892 in South Grafton, buried in Memorial Panel 119 Vignacourt British Cemetery, d. 20 Jul 1918 in World War One in France.

E. **Myra Gladys Meskell**, b. 14 Feb 1894 in Southgate Clarence River Grafton, d. 26 Dec 1950 in Brisbane, Qld, Aust. She married James Ewen Norris, 21 Jul 1915 in Leichhardt, NSW b. 2 Sep 1890 in Broughton Creek(now called Berry) NSW, d. 8 Jun 1967 in Eventide. Brighton. Qld.

F. **Elsie May Meskell**, b. 13 Sep 1895 in South Grafton, NSW, buried in North Ryde, Ryde City, NSW, d. 21 Jul 1989 in Sydney, NSW. She married *Oswald James Rigney*, 1913 in Lismore

NSW, b. 15 Sep 1891 in Kangaroo Valley registered at Nowra NSW, buried in North Ryde, Ryde City, NSW, d. 20 Apr 1966 in Campsie NSW.

1. **Wilfred Clive Rigney**, b. ABT 1913, d. 1995. He married Lyla Elizabeth Lillian Payer, 1936 in Canterbury, NSW.

a. **Robert.**

b. **Lee- Anne.**

2. **Edward Rigney**, b. 1919 in Redfern, NSW.

3. **May Margaret Rigney**, b. ABT 1917, d. 14 Oct 1982 in Revesby, NSW. She married Henry Charles Oliver, b. 21 Oct 1925 in Undercliff, NSW, buried in North Ryde, Ryde City, NSW, d. 8 May 1984.

4. **Percival James Rigney**, b. 23 Sep 1915 in Redfern, NSW, buried in Lae, Lae District, Morobe, Papua New Guinea, d. 2 Jan 1945 in Papua New Guinea. He married Florence Ethel Rigney.

5. **Dorothy Rigney.**

G. **Ivy Ella Meskell**, b. 25 Jun 1897 in South Grafton. She married John Mackay, 15 Dec 1921 in Brisbane, Qld, b. ABT 1895.

H. **William Albert Meskell**, b. 19 Jan 1899 in Ramornie Clarence River Grafton, d. 8 Sep 1971 in Brisbane, Qld. He married Maud Lillian Milgate, 1927 in Lismore NSW, b. 1908 in Lismore, NSW, d. 10 Sep 1988 in Lismore, NSW.

1. **Lloyd John Meskell**, b. 1935, d. 23 Jul 1971 in Qld. He married Margaret Hill.

a. **Denise Elizabeth Meskell**, b. 1961, d. 4 Mar 1966 in Qld.

I. **Lilian Vera Meskell**, b. 9 Feb 1902 in Coraki Richmond River Casino. She married Gordon Leslie Smith, 28 Nov 1929 in Brisbane, Qld, b. ABT 1900.

J. **Rosena Madge Meskell**, b. 11 Nov 1904 in Coraki Richmond River Casino, d. 1975 in Brisbane, Qld, Aust. She married Alexander Douglas Hamilton Rannie, 18 Nov 1925 in Brisbane, Qld, b. 5 Jan 1902 in QLD.

K. **Elwin Loyal Meskell**, b. 6 Dec 1906 in Dunoon - Casino, d. 13 Jul 1989.

L. **Reita Doris Meskell**, b. 4 Nov 1908 in Dunoon, NSW, Aust. She married Robert Emmett King, 5 Jan 1934 in Brisbane, Qld, b. ABT 1905.

NAMES AND DATES OF BIRTH OF THE MESKELL FAMILY				
EDWARD (NED) MESKELL	BORN	25 th AUGUST 1859		(FATHER)
FRANCES (FANNY) MESKELL (NEE BOLLARD)	BORN	23 rd JULY 1867		(MOTHER)
CHILDREN				
EDWARD ERNEST MESKELL	BORN	18 th MARCH 1887	AT ORARA, CLARENCE RIVER, NSW	
HENRY GEORGE MESKELL	"	25 th JULY 1888	AT ORARA, CLARENCE RIVER, NSW	
RUBY PERLE MESKELL	"	25 th MAY 1890	AT SOUTH GRAFTON, NSW	
JOHN THOMAS MESKELL	"	31 st MAY 1892	AT SOUTH GRAFTON, NSW	
MYRA GLADYS MESKELL	"	14 th FEBRUARY 1894	AT SOUTHGATE, CLARENCE RIVER, NSW	
* ELSIE MAY MESKELL	"	13 th SEPTEMBER 1895	AT SOUTH GRAFTON, CLARENCE RIVER, NSW	
* IVY ELLA MESKELL	"	25 th JUNE 1897	AT SOUTH GRAFTON, NSW	
WILLIAM ALBERT MESKELL	"	19 th JANUARY 1899	AT RAMORNIE, CLARENCE RIVER, NSW	
LILIAN VERA MESKELL	"	9 th FEBRUARY 1902	AT CORAKI, RICHMOND RIVER, NSW	
ROSENA MADGE MESKELL	"	11 th NOVEMBER 1904	AT CORAKI, RICHMOND RIVER, NSW	
* ELWIN LOYAL MESKELL	"	6 th DECEMBER 1906	AT DUNOON, NSW	
* REITA DORIS MESKELL	"	4 th NOVEMBER 1908	AT DUNOON, NSW	
* INDICATES THE ONLY FOUR MEMBERS STILL LIVING AS AT 6 th JANUARY 1985				

A handwritten list from 1985 of Edward (Ned) Meskell's and Frances (Fanny) Bollard's 12 children.

II. Mary Eleanor Meskell*, b. 3 Jun 1862 in Waterview Grafton NSW, buried in Grafton, NSW, d. 26 Aug 1931 in Waterview, South Grafton, NSW. She married **Reuben Ellem**, 28 Jul 1880 in Waterview South Grafton NSW, b. 30 Nov 1857 in Mangrove Creek NSW, buried in Grafton, NSW, d. 1 Mar 1938 in Lismore NSW.

**The following two pages are from a book "Early Midwives in Grafton and South Grafton" by Robyn Higham.*



Early Midwives in Grafton and South Grafton - P26

Nurse Mary Eleanor Ellem (1862 – 1931)

Mrs Mary Ellem, although untrained, was a nurse and midwife in Grafton in the early 1900's and was known as "Nurse Ellem" in the community. Her Irish-born grandmother Mrs Mary Meskell, her mother Mrs Eleanor Meskell, and her aunt Mrs Mary Morgan, were midwives so young Mary followed in their footsteps. CAESAR
MARY | MARIA MESKELL

She was 18 years old when she married Reuben Ellem at Waterview in 1880. Reuben had been born on the Hunter River in 1857 and was the fourth of Richard and Susannah Ellem's twelve children. The Ellem family came to the Clarence River in 1871 and farmed at Alumny Creek and then moved to Seelands. Richard Ellem was a keen cricketer and is remembered for installing the love of cricket in his family.

Reuben and Mary Ellem had a dairy and crop farm at Alumny Creek and Southgate. They had twelve children, two of whom died in infancy, including their youngest born in 1899. On 16 July 1901 Reuben had a "Clearing Out Sale" at his residence on Quinn's farm at Alumny Creek saying he was giving up farming. They then moved into Grafton and lived in Queen Street.

A Return Thanks notice was placed in the *Clarence & Richmond Examiner* on 13 April 1909 from a family thanking Nurse Ellem and her family for their kindness and attention to their little son during his illness and for sympathy shown to them during their recent bereavement. In September 1909 the *Examiner* recorded a birth at her Prince Street residence.

During April 1912 she advertised weekly in the *Examiner* saying "Nurse Ellem has moved from Queen Street to Mrs Hunter's late residence, *Park View*, Prince Street, where she can be consulted." *Park View* was a 2-storey building opposite Fisher Park's gates and today remains as *Sissy's Collectables and Vintage Wares*. It had been leased by Nurse McKnight during 1902-1903 as her private hospital.

The *Examiner* recorded a birth at Nurse Ellem's *Park View Private Hospital* in August 1912 and also a death in January 1913.

Nurse Ellem made a donation to the Red Cross Society in February 1915 towards their motor ambulance and war kitchen fund. Sadly her son Vivian Ellem was killed in action in France in March 1918.

A birth certificate of January 1923 gives Nurse Ellem as the midwife. She went to the Villiers Street home of Mrs Elizabeth Landenberger and delivered her son Henry.

Mary Ellem was 69 years of age when she died on 26 August 1931. After a funeral service held in Christ Church Cathedral she was buried in the Grafton Cemetery. Her husband Reuben put a *Return Thanks* notice in the *Daily Examiner* shortly after her death to sincerely thank the Matron and nursing staff of the General Hospital, the medical attendants, and Rev Canon Ware, for their untiring attention to his wife during her long illness in hospital.

Reuben Ellem had become a general labourer after moving into Grafton. He later used a horse and cart to carry coal from the NCSN Co. wharf to the gas works in Pound Street where he was known to be honest, reliable and a hard worker. He was 80 years of age when he died on 1 March 1938 and was buried beside his wife.

It is interesting to note that several of the Ellem women were also midwives. Two of Reuben's sisters acted as midwives on many occasions. They were his eldest sister Eliza who married Thomas Wallbank and lived at Lawrence while a younger sister Ann married Fred Leeson and lived at Southgate.

The next pages are from a book “Early Midwives in Grafton and South Grafton” pages 26 & 27 about **Mary Eleanor Meskell** and also a newspaper story from 1930, Mary and Reuben married in 1880 and they were celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary. (I am not sure if the photo from the book represents that day or not).

Reuben’s Aunt Agnes (nee Craft) and wife of Samuel Ellem, was known as Granny Ellem around Glenreagh, and was a well-known midwife, riding many a mile through the bush to attend a birth. It was said that her services were widely sought especially among the relatives.

References:

- Pre-1900 Clarence River Pioneer Index p.74 & 75*
- CRHS - Ellem file*
- ELLEM TREE & BRANCHES by Lewis Ellem pub 1989, p.185 & 279*
- CRE - 16 July 1901, Sale*
- CRE - 19 March 1912; 23 February 1915*
- D.Ex - 28 August 1931, Mary Elem’s death notice*
- D.Ex - 12 September 1931, Return Thanks*
- D.Ex - 3 March 1938, Reuben’s death notice*

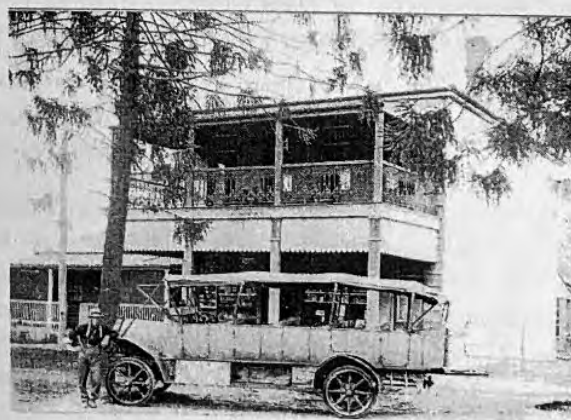


Northern Districts Advertiser (NSW: 1886 - 1942) / Tue 19 Aug 1930 /

A very happy family gathered at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. R. Ellem, of Duke Street, Grafton, on 28th ult., to celebrate the golden wedding of their parents. The marriage lines showed that on July 28th, 1880, Mary Eleanor, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Meskell, of Waterview, was married to Reuben, second son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Ellem, of Great Marlow, by the Rev. C. C. Greenaway, at Christ Church Cathedral, Grafton. The old couple have lived in and around Grafton ever since.

Mary & Reuben Ellem

courtesy *Ellem Tree* by Lewis Ellem, publ. 1983, p.22, CRHS E291



Nurse Ellem's Park View Private Hospital in Prince Street

The 10 children of **Mary Eleanor Meskell** 1862-1931 and **Reuben Ellem**

- A. **Eleanor Charlotte Ellem**, b. 5 May 1881 in Grafton, NSW, d. 1905 in Grafton, NSW. She married Henry Mansfield, 1898 in Grafton NSW, b. ABT 1875.
 1. **Eleanor Gladys Mansfield**, b. 1898 in Ulmarra, NSW. She married Wilmot Chambers, 1928 in Grafton NSW, b. 1897 in Walcha NSW, d. 1969 in Parramatta NSW.
 2. **Alan Clive Mansfield**, b. 1899 in Grafton NSW, d. 1965 in Burwood NSW. He married Myee Annie Kennedy, 1938 in Burwood NSW, b. ABT 1905.
- B. **Susannah Maude C Ellem**, b. 6 Mar 1883 in Grafton NSW, d. 1947 in Ryde, NSW. She married Albert Bull, 1911 in Waterloo Sydney NSW, b. 1865 d. 1914 in Ryde NSW.
 1. **Mary Bull**, b. ABT 1912.
 2. **N Bull**, b. ABT 1914.
- C. **John Thomas Ellem**, b. 9 Jun 1885 in Grafton NSW, d. 6 Oct 1921 in Grafton NSW.
- D. **Albert George Ellem**, b. 15 Jun 1886 in Grafton NSW, d. 1886 in Grafton NSW.
- E. **Violet May Ellem**, b. 15 Jun 1886 in Grafton NSW, d. 1962 in Grafton, NSW, b. 1887. She married Francis William Dahl, 1907 in Grafton NSW, b. 1886, d. 1951 Grafton
 1. **Francis Owen R Dahl**, b. ABT 1908, d. 1971 in Maclean NSW. He married Lorna D Husking, 1934 in Grafton NSW, b. ABT 1910.
 2. **Veronica Violet Dahl**, b. ABT 1910. She married Kenneth Andrew Curran, 1937 in Grafton NSW, b. 12 Oct 1905, d. 4 Dec 1969.
- F. **Evelyn Grace Ellem**, b. 1890 in Ulmarra NSW. She married Henry J Fitzpatrick, 1913 in Grafton NSW, b. ABT 1885.
- G. **Reuben Loyal Ellem**, b. 19 May 1892 in Grafton, d. 13 Sep 1973 in Grafton, He married Catherine Stevenson, 1913 in Grafton, NSW, b. 4 Apr 1892, d. 23 Sep 1971.
 1. **Edgar Harold Ellem**, b. OCT 1915, d. NOV 1915.
 2. **Freda Noreen Betty Ellem**, b. OCT 1926, d. 7 Feb 1927.
 3. **Frederick William David Ellem**.
 4. **Arley Grace Ellem**.
 5. **Lillian Gladys Ellem**.
 6. **Eleanor Margaret May Ellem**. She married Francis Henry Lenifer, 1937 in Grafton, NSW.
 7. **Beryl Catherine Roma Ellem**.
 8. **Loyal Vivian Ellem**.
 9. **Gwen Lorraine Nola Ellem**.
- H. **Lillian Mary Ellem**, b. 19 May 1892 in Grafton d. 26 Jun 1934 in Murwillumbah. She married Edwin C Butcher, 1916 in Grafton NSW, b. 1889 .
 1. **Merle I Butcher**, b. ABT 1922, d. 1922 in Grafton NSW.
 2. **Tommy Butcher**, b. ABT 1928, d. 1928 in Murwillumbah NSW.
 3. **Merle Butcher**, b. ABT 1928, d. 1928 in Murwillumbah NSW.
- I. **Teresa Annie Ellem**, b. 5 Apr 1895 in Grafton NSW, , d. 27 Jul 1983 in Merrylands
- J. **Arthur Harold Ellem**, b. 3 Jul 1898 in Grafton, d. 1972 in Burwood, NSW. He married (1) Erna Beryl May Macleay, 5 Jun 1926 in North Sydney NSW, b. ABT 1907 in NSW, d. 1975 in Blackalls Park near Toronto NSW, b. ABT 1907. He married (2) Kathleen Dorothy Cartwright, 1940 in Paddington NSW, b. 1902 in Wagga Wagga NSW, buried in Rookwood, d. 20 Jun 1973 in Sydney NSW.

1. **Rex Carter**, *Rex was born out of Wedlock in 1920 and died in 1939 after a Boxing match. His mother was Ivy Violet Carter.*
2. (1) **Vivian Beryl Ellem**, b. 22 Jun 1927 in 24 Duke St, Grafton, NSW, d. 17 Oct 2018 in Yallambe Village, Revesby, NSW. She married Ross Annesley, b. 1928, d. 2001.
 - a. Denise Annesley b. 1948 d. 2003 She married Colin Wood
 - b. **Yvonne Merile Annesley**. She married Kevin Roff. Kevin b 1950 d. 2025
 - c. Gregory Annesley b. 1953 d 2012 He married (1) Dianne Reynolds (2) Donna Joy Bowen
3. (1) **Therese Elaine Ellem**, b. ABT 1931. She married Thomas Francis Wainwright
 - a. Raymond John Wainwright
 - b. Jeffrey Thomas Wainwright
 - c. Allan Paul Wainwright
4. (2) **Edwin Reuben Ellem**, b. ABT 1941.
 - K. **Vera E Ellem**, b. 7 Oct 1899 in Grafton, NSW, d. 1902 in Grafton, NSW.
 - L. **Vyvian Eric Ellem**, b. 7 Oct 1899 in Grafton NSW, d. 30 Mar **1918** in Killed in Action in France.

III. John Thomas Meskell, b. 23 Feb 1864 in Southampton Grafton NSW, d. 12 May 1865 in Waterview near Grafton NSW. (*John was the 3rd child of John Meskell Jnr and Eleanor Daley, he died just 14 months old*).

IV. Anne Meskell, b. 30 Dec 1865 in Waterview near Grafton NSW, buried 12 Feb 1907 in Grafton Cemetery, NSW, d. 11 Feb 1907 in Southgate near Grafton, NSW. She married **Thomas Frank Hession**, 30 Nov 1882 in St Matthews C of E South Grafton NSW, b. 21 Jun 1860 in Box Hill, NSW, b. 1860 in Windsor, NSW.

A. **Thomas E Gerald Hession**, b. 1883 in Grafton NSW, d. 1947 in Qld. He married Arutha Meain, 16 Feb 1924 in Qld, d. 3 Aug 1965 in Qld, d. 3 Aug 1965 in Goondiwindi, Qld.

1. **Lilian Goulburn Goddard**, b. 1921, d. OCT 1936 in Goondiwindi, Qld,

B. **Frederick John Hession**, b. 1885 in Grafton NSW.

C. **Eleanor Amy May Hession**, b. 9 Jan 1887 in Grafton, NSW, buried in Grafton, NSW, d. 27 Jun 1920 in Grafton NSW. She married **Ernest James Ferguson**, 6 May 1908 in St Matthews C of E South Grafton NSW, b. 25 Apr 1884 in Reg'd in Ulmurra NSW (Colah Creek) (16778), buried in Grafton, NSW, d. 27 Mar 1942 in Grafton NSW.

1. **Dorothy A Ferguson**, b. 22 Feb 1911 in Grafton d. 10 Jan 1912 in Grafton.

2. **Frederick Owen Ferguson**, b. 9 Nov 1912 in Grafton, NSW, d. 31 Mar 1990 in Brisbane, Qld.

3. **Ernest James Ferguson**, b. 24 May 1907 in Bacon St Grafton NSW, buried in Bridgeman Downs, Brisbane City, Qld, d. 30 Aug 1990 in Sandgate, Qld. He married Lorna Hazel Greenaway, 1930 in Grafton, NSW, b. 15 Nov 1912, buried in Stapylton, Gold Coast City, Qld, d. 28 Jan 1999.

4. **Cora Hazel Ferguson**, b. 4 Jul 1918 in Grafton, NSW, d. 29 Mar 2007 in Nambour, QLD. She married Henry Vincent Jordan, 25 Dec 1934 in Brisbane, Qld, b. 22 Jun 1913 in Toowoomba, Qld, d. 1973 in Mooloolaba, Qld.

a. **William Vincent Jordan**, b. 31 Mar 1941 in Brisbane, Qld, buried in Bridgeman Downs, Brisbane City, Qld, d. 9 Dec 2008 in Redcliffe, Qld.

(A) **Steven Vincent Jordan**, b. 24 Sep 1964 in Adelaide, South buried in Bridgeman Downs, Brisbane City, Qld, d. 11 Nov 1977 in Brisbane, QLD.

5. **Florence Annie May Ferguson**, b. 1908 in Grafton, NSW, buried in South Grafton, d. 23 Aug 1988 in Grafton, She married Reginald Robert Hayes, 1933 in Grafton

a. **Keith James Hayes**, b. 1935 in Grafton, d. 4 Dec 1943 in Grafton.

b. **Margaret Pearl Hayes**, b. ABT 1937 in Grafton, d. 1939 in Grafton

D. **Evelyn Maud Hession**, b. 27 Dec 1888 in St Marys NSW, buried 17 Jul 1972 in Southport, Gold Coast City, Qld, d. 15 Jul 1972 in Southport Qld. She married (1) Frederick Edward Finlay, 29 Dec 1908 in Sydney, NSW, b. ABT 1889 in NSW. She married (2) Charles Allen Bradbrook, b. 28 Jun 1885 in Qld, buried 9 Aug 1941 in Southport, Gold Coast City, Qld, d. 8 Aug 1941.

1. **Stanley Douglas Bradbrook**, b. 1925, buried 14 Jul 1960 in Southport, Gold Coast City, Qld, d. 11 Jul 1960 in Qld.

E. **Theresa Mary Hession**, b. 18 May 1891 in Rooty Hill NSW, buried in Toowoomba, Toowoomba Region, Qld, d. 24 Feb 1963 in Toowoomba Qld. She married James Matthew Darcy, 12 Aug 1914 in Grafton, NSW, b. 5 May 1891 in Grafton NSW, d. 15 Jul 1967 in Toowoomba Qld.

1. **James L Darcy**, b. 1915 in Grafton NSW, d. 1921 in Grafton NSW.

2. **Eleanor Margaret Darcy**, b. 1917 in Grafton NSW, d. 15 Feb 1987 in Toowoomba Qld. She married Lionel J Casson Sr, 1934 in Grafton, NSW, b. 26 May 1906 in Copmanhurst, NSW, buried in Nerang, Gold Coast City, Qld, d. 1983 in Brisbane, Qld.,

3. **Gladis Mary Darcy**, b. 15 Aug 1921 in Grafton NSW, buried 23 Apr 1997 in Southport, Gold Coast City, Qld, d. 20 Apr 1997 in Southport Qld. She married Dudley John Stanfield, b. 20 Oct 1912 in Hope Island, Qld, buried 16 Jul 1992 in Southport, Gold Coast City, Qld, d. 13 Jul 1992.

4. **Thomas Henry Darcy**, b. 10 Dec 1919 in Southport, Gold Coast City, Qld, buried in Bridgeman Downs, Brisbane City, Qld, d. 27 Feb 2003 in Brisbane Qld. He married Margaret

Jean Salmon, 30 Oct 1952, b. 19 Jul 1933, buried 27 Jul 2012 in Mount Gravatt, Brisbane City, Qld, d. 23 Jul 2012.

- a. **Patrick Darcy**, b. 22 Dec 1952 in Toowoomba Qld.
- b. **Linda Darcy**, b. 22 Jul 1954.
- c. **Pamela Elaine Darcy**, b. 7 Sep 1947 in Southport Qld. She married Peter Leslie Dawson, 8 Aug 1964, b. 16 Aug 1945 in Goondiwindi Qld.
 - (A) **Dianna Maree Dawson**, b. 2 Dec 1964 in Goondiwindi Qld. She married Glenn Goubareff, b. ABT 1964.
 - (1) **Gregory Glenn Goubareff**, b 1 Jul 1991 in Brisbane Q
 - (2) **Melissa Maree Goubareff**, b. 15 Apr 1994 in Brisbane
 - (B) **Paul Leslie Dawson**, b. 28 Aug 1968 in Toowoomba Qld. He married Lydia Siranovic, b. ABT 1970.
 - (1) **Aidan Paul Dawson**, b. 12 Dec 1999 in Brisbane Qld.
 - (2) **Pierce Dawson**, b. 20 Apr 2002 in Brisbane Qld.
- 5. **Irene Darcy**, b. 1926, d. ABT 1985 in Mt Isa She married Keith Wells, b C1925.
- 6. **Alan Leslie Darcy**, b. 3 Apr 1923.
- 7. **Daphney Darcy**, b. ABT 1928. She married Lionel Quick, b. ABT 1925.
- F. **Pearl Gertrude Hession**, b. 1893 in Windsor, NSW, d. 1895 in Parramatta, NSW.

V. William Meskell, b. 1 Sep 1868 in Waterview, Grafton, NSW, d. 1 Nov 1927 in Grafton, NSW. He married **Mary Ann "Polly" Baker**, 27 Jul 1901 in Grafton, NSW, b. 3 Oct 1874 in Grafton, NSW, d. 1 Jun 1959 in Newtown NSW.

Right: William Meskell 1868-1927 Son of John Meskell Jnr and grandson of John Meskell & Mary Caesar.

Far Right: Mary Ann "Polly" Baker, William's wife

Right Below: Eleanor Helena Meskell 1902-1955 the daughter of William & Polly



A. Eleanor Helena Meskell, b. 22 Nov 1902 in Grafton NSW buried in Rookwood, Cumberland Council, NSW, d. 12 Apr 1955 in Sydney, NSW. She married **Jacob Kennedy**, 16 Jul 1926 in Lismore, NSW, b. 18 May 1889 in Hillgrove near Armidale NSW, buried in East Maitland, Maitland City, NSW, d. 21 Jan 1979 in Maitland, NSW.

1. **William Meskell Kennedy**, b. 30 Nov 1927 in Grafton NSW, buried in Bronte, Waverley Council, NSW, d. 12 Nov 2016.

2. **John Henry Kennedy**, b. 1930 in NSW buried in Rookwood, d. 5 Jun 1983 in Redfern, NSW.

3. **Frederick Carl Kennedy**, b. 8 Sep 1925 in Grafton, NSW, buried in Salisbury, Salisbury City, South d. 26 Apr 2002 in Holden, Hill, South Australia. He married Ruby Lila Jones, 21 Jun 1947 in Sydney, NSW, b. 8 Mar 1923 in Wilcannia, NSW, buried in Salisbury, Salisbury City, South d. 3 Feb 2002 in Elizabeth east, South Australia.

a. **Michael John Kennedy**, b. 21 Feb 1953 in Broken Hill, NSW, d. 1 Mar 1975 in Adelaide, South Australia.

b. **Steven Kennedy**.

c. **Lester Kennedy**, b. in Australia.

d. **Dennis Kennedy**, b. in Australia.

e. **Lloyd Kennedy**, b. in Australia.



VI. Henry Meskell, b. 9 Sep 1870 in Waterview, Clarence River, NSW, buried in South Grafton, NSW, d. 4 Sep 1950 Grafton, NSW. He married **May Parkinson**, 7 Mar 1899 in Anglican Cathedral, Grafton NSW, b. 22 Feb 1877 in Waterview near Grafton, buried 27 Feb 1967 in Sandgate C of E Cemetery Newcastle NSW, d. 24 Feb 1967 in District Hospital, Wallsend, Newcastle NSW.



A. **Clarence Edward Meskell**, b. 23 Jul 1899 in Ulmarra - Grafton, NSW, buried in Sandgate Cemetery, Newcastle NSW, d. 16 May 1975 in Newcastle, NSW, Aust. He married Christina Southern, 12 Oct 1929 in Darlinghurst, NSW, Aust, b. 26 Apr 1906 in Waterloo, NSW, d. 30 Jul 1985 in Blacksmiths, NSW (near Lake Macquarie).

1. **John Meskell**, b. 29 Aug 1930 in Taree, NSW, buried in Tweed Heads, Tweed Shire, NSW, d. 4 Jan 2019 in Tweed Heads, NSW. He married Betty Robb, 24 Jan 1959, b. 20 Nov 1929 in Mackay, Qld, , NSW, d. 8 Dec 2016 in Burleigh Heads, Qld.

2. **Marcia Anne Meskell**, b. 3 Dec 1931 in NSW, Aust, buried in Belmont, Lake Macquarie City, NSW, d. 10 Feb 1991 in Nimbin, NSW, Aust. She married (1) **John Alexander Meyer**, 1957 in Camden, NSW, b. 21 May 1937 in Tullibigeal, NSW, d. APR 2007 in Wherrol Flat, (near Taree) NSW.

a. **Vicki Anne Meyer**.

3. **Julie Ruth Meskell**, b. ABT 1934 in NSW. She married (1) Brian Edward Crosbie, b. ABT 1933. She married (2) Unknown Wilton, b. ABT 1933.

a. **Rachael Crosbie**.

b. **Unknown Crosbie**.

c. **Unknown Wilton**.

B. **Henry George Meskell**, b. 26 Mar 1902 in Deep Creek, Grafton, NSW, buried in Coffs Harbour, Coffs Harbour City, NSW, d. 24 Sep 2002 Bellingen, NSW. He married (1) **Jessie Purvis**, 29 Dec 1932 in St Johns House, Paddington, NSW, b. 16 Jun 1899 in Yan Yean (NE of Melbourne), Victoria, buried in NSW, d. 17 Feb 1985 in Coffs Harbour, NSW. He married (2) **Clarice Edith Annie Sellers**, b. 2 Jun 1906 in Cangai, NSW, d. 14 Feb 1967 in Grafton, NSW.

1. **Joan Isabel Meskell**, b. 26 Jul 1933 in NSW, d. 30 Dec 2021 in Melbourne, Victoria. She married **David Wellesley Purvis**, 10 Jul 1956, in Victoria, b. 24 Nov 1926 in VIC, d. 8 Dec 2024 in Melbourne, Victoria.

a. **Mark David Purvis**, b. 4 Jun 1957 in Melbourne. He married Candice Charles, 4 Mar 1994 in Melbourne?, b. ABT 1959.

b. **Kay Elizabeth Purvis**, b. 3 Feb 1960 in Melbourne.

c. **Alison Brenda Purvis**, b. 28 Apr 1961 in Melbourne. She married Timothy Russell De Wan, 28 Mar 1992, b. ABT 1960.

(A) **Caroline Emma De Wan**, b. 16 Jul 1998.

(B) **Nicholas Russell De Wan**, b. 6 May 1996.

d. **Andrew Purvis**, b. 25 Oct 1970 in Melbourne.

2. **George Rex Meskell**, b. 26 Feb 1935 in Coolamon, NSW, buried 16 Sep 2010 in Cremated - Hogbin Drive Crematorium Chapel, d. 13 Sep 2010 in Coffs Harbour, NSW. He married (1) **Patricia Mary Todkill**, 21 Sep 1957 in St Saviour's Cathedral Goulburn NSW, b. 10 Oct, Goulburn NSW. He married (2) **Wendy Kempnich**, 18 Apr 1981 in Evans Head, NSW, b. 6 Oct 1941 in Coraki, NSW, buried 2013 in Coffs Harbour, NSW, d. 13 Feb 2013 in Woolgoolga, NSW, d. 13 Feb 2013.

a. **Peter John Meskell**, b. 17 May 1959 in Goulburn NSW. He married (1) **Helen Clare Payne**, 19 Apr 1987 in, Queanbeyan NSW b. 18 Oct 1959 in Amlwch, North Wales UK. He married (2) **Luz Llenaresas**, b. 2 Jan 1969 in Butuan City, Philippines.

(A) **Petrina Kate Meskell**, b. 15 May 1988 in Canberra.

(B) **Jessica Clare Meskell**, b. 24 Nov 1989 in Canberra ACT. She married **Toby Irwin**, 19/10/2019 in Canberra.

(1) **Madeleine Cecily Irwin**, b. 15 May 2021 in Canberra

(C) **Matthew John Meskell**, b. 12 Jun 1992 in Launceston TAS.

(D) **Harrison David Meskell**, b. 25 Aug 1997 in Launceston TAS.

b. **Michele Joy Meskell**, b. 15 Oct 1960 in, Goulburn NSW.

c. **Julie Anne Meskell**, b. 22 May 1962 in Goulburn NSW.

d. **Keith Rex Meskell**, b. 28 Nov 1963 in Goulburn He married **Sandra Jeanene Smith**, 10 Jan 1987 in Queanbeyan b. 14 Sep 1964 in Queanbeyan.

(A) **Samuel Keith Meskell**, b. 15 Nov 1991 in Canberra. He married **Taylor Dunlop**.

(1) **Leni Louise Meskell**, b. 7 Jul 2023.

(2) **Noah Samuel Meskell**, b. 20 Nov 2025.

(B) **Ryan David Meskell**, b. 17 Jun 1994 in Canberra.

(C) **Olivia Frances Meskell**, b. 22 Apr 1998 in Canberra.

C. **Stella M Meskell**, b. 1904 in Grafton, NSW, d. 23 Jul 1909 in Road to Dalmorton NSW.

D. **John Meskell**, b. 13 Aug 1905 in South Grafton, NSW, d. 3 Oct 1984 in Lismore, NSW. He married Bessie Gordon Mackenzie, 1951 in Chatswood, NSW, b. 1914 in Glebe, NSW, d. 11 Dec 1989 in Lismore, NSW.

1. John Richard Meskell, b. 1952 in NSW. He married Janice Maree Unknown, b. 1955 in NSW?

a. **Luke Meskell**, b. ABT 1988.

b. **Paul Meskell**, b. ABT 1990.

E. **Eleanor Ivy Meskell**, b. 31 Jan 1907 in Iluka, Maclean or Grafton NSW, buried in Newcastle, Newcastle City, NSW, d. 9 Sep 1968 in Newcastle, Newcastle City, NSW. She married Richard Irwin Palmer, 10 Aug 1932 in Anglican Cathedral, Grafton NSW, b. 2 Jun 1909 in Grafton, NSW, buried in Karangi, Coffs Harbour City, NSW, d. 7 Feb 1993 in Coffs Harbour City, NSW.

1. **Gillian Eleanor Palmer**, b. 30 Jun 1938 in NSW. She married Eric James Finch, 22 Apr 1961, b. ABT 1935 in NSW, buried in Booral, Mid-Coast Council, NSW, d. 5 Dec 2017.

2. **Barbara June Palmer**, b. ABT 1935 in NSW, buried in Camden, Camden Council, NSW, d. 10 Sep 1952 in Camden NSW.

F. **Gladys Esma Meskell**, b. 5 Mar 1918 in Grafton NSW, buried in Newcastle, Newcastle City, NSW, d. 16 Dec 2011 in Sydney, NSW. She married **Norman Hadley**, 21 Oct 1941 in New Lambton, NSW, b. 27 Apr 1916 in Adamstown, Newcastle City, NSW, buried in Newcastle, Newcastle City, NSW, d. 2 Aug 2005 in Newcastle.

1. **Denis Norman Hadley**, b. 27 Dec 1948 in Martyr Hospital, Waratah, Newcastle. He married Judith Unknown, b. ABT 1950.

2. **Gail Elizabeth Hadley**, b. 14 Mar 1950 in Waratah Newcastle NSW. She married Ronald James Onley, 11 May 1974 in Newcastle NSW, b. 14 Dec 1948 in Tongala VIC.

a. **Aaron James Onley**, b. 23 Feb 1986 in Caringbah NSW.

(A) **A J Onley**, b. ABT 2018.

b. **Shari Onley**, b 31 Jan 1984 in Caringbah She married **Regan Webb**.

(A) **Boella Joy Webb**, b. 2022.

VII. Arthur Ernest Meskell, b. 7 Apr 1882 in Orara, South Grafton, NSW, buried in Grafton, NSW, d. 12 Apr 1917 in Grafton Hospital at Grafton NSW. He married **Sarah Jane Casey**, 6 Feb 1907 in Lawrence near Grafton NSW, b. 14 Jul 1887 in Maclean NSW, buried in South Grafton, NSW, d. 4 Feb 1960 in Grafton NSW.

A. **Thelma Eleanor Meskell**, b. 8 Feb 1917 in Bellingen, NSW, Aust, d. 19 Jan 2010. She married Francis William Thomas, 1942 in Randwick, NSW, b. 1917, d. 12 Aug 2008 in Sydney, NSW, Aust.

1. **Bruce THOMAS**, b. 22 Nov, d. 29 Mar 2007 in Sydney, NSW, Aust.

B. **Beatrice Irene Meskell**, b. 1907 in Maclean, NSW, Aust, buried in Maclean, NSW, d. 15 Mar 1999. She married John James Joseph Simpson, 1945 in Grafton, NSW, 17 Jul 1945 in Seventh Day Adventist Church, South Grafton, NSW, b. ABT 1905.

1. **Kerry John Simpson**, b. ABT 1946. He married Kim Gail Unknown.

C. **Ernest John Meskell**, b. 29 Jan 1910 in Lawrence, NSW, buried in South Grafton, NSW, d. 13 Jul 1973 in Grafton, NSW. He married (1) Maisie Merle Lowe, 1934 in Grafton, NSW, b. 1917 in Ulmarra, NSW, buried in Lismore, NSW, d. 15 Feb 1986 in Sawtell NSW, b. ABT 1915. He married (2) Dorothy Julia Jarrett, 1955 in Grafton NSW, b. 20 Jul 1920 in Grafton, NSW, buried in South Grafton, NSW, d. 31 Jul 2009 in Grafton,

1. **Ernest Vernley Meskell**, b. 12 Jan 1935 in Grafton, NSW, buried in South Grafton, NSW, d. 4 Feb 1982. He married Barbara Glen Chalmers, 1958 in Campsie, NSW, b. 6 Apr 1938 in NSW, d. 8 Nov 2021 in Caboolture, Qld,

a. **Michael Wayne Meskell**, b. 25 Jun 1965 & d. 8 Jul 1965 in Wagga Wagga, NSW,

b. **Kevin John Meskell**, b 14 May 1959 Qld, d 30 Dec 1991 Casula, NSW

c. **Christopher Meskell**, b. 17 Jan 1967 in d. 5 May 2021.

d. **Julie ? Meskell**, b. ABT 1963.

e. **Sharon Leigh Meskell**, b. ABT 1958.

D. **William Henry Meskell**, b. 19 Jan 1912 in Maclean, NSW, buried in Matraville, Randwick City, NSW, d. 25 Jul 1964 in Repatriation General Hospital Concord.

Research Note C

NOT Joseph Morgan 1811-1881

These are records that are NOT the Joseph Morgan in this family history. I have included this section because some of these documents appear in the records and family trees online in Ancestry and MyHeritage. It has been a task separating the many Joseph Morgans from the one born in Frome Somerset in 1811 and who died in Grafton in 1881 from the many other Joseph Morgans in the historical records.

The first of the Joseph Morgans who is often mistaken is a Joseph Morgan who was convicted in Somerset in December 1835 and transported in 1836. Just to confuse things the convict list below has him arriving in 1837, his convict ship, Strathfieldsaye, however arrived in February 1836. This Joseph appears in a number of convict records in Tasmania.

K 21.									
No.	Rank	NAME	ARRIVAL		FREE & BOND		NATIVE PLACE	REMARKS	TRADE & CALLING
			Ship	Date	On	By			
379		John Morgan	Barrister	1836	1836	1836	London		Labourer
380		John Morgan	1836	1836	1836	1836	London		Labourer
381		Henry Morgan	1836	1836	1836	1836	London		Labourer
382		James Morgan	1836	1836	1836	1836	London		Labourer
383		John Morgan	1836	1836	1836	1836	London		Labourer
384		John Morgan	1836	1836	1836	1836	London		Labourer
385		John Morgan	1836	1836	1836	1836	London		Labourer
386		John Morgan	1836	1836	1836	1836	London		Labourer
387		John Morgan	1836	1836	1836	1836	London		Labourer
388		John Morgan	1836	1836	1836	1836	London		Labourer
389		John Morgan	1836	1836	1836	1836	London		Labourer
390		John Morgan	1836	1836	1836	1836	London		Labourer
391		John Morgan	1836	1836	1836	1836	London		Labourer
392		John Morgan	1836	1836	1836	1836	London		Labourer
393		John Morgan	1836	1836	1836	1836	London		Labourer
394		John Morgan	1836	1836	1836	1836	London		Labourer
395		John Morgan	1836	1836	1836	1836	London		Labourer
396		John Morgan	1836	1836	1836	1836	London		Labourer
397		John Morgan	1836	1836	1836	1836	London		Labourer
398		John Morgan	1836	1836	1836	1836	London		Labourer
399		John Morgan	1836	1836	1836	1836	London		Labourer
400		John Morgan	1836	1836	1836	1836	London		Labourer
401		John Morgan	1836	1836	1836	1836	London		Labourer
402		John Morgan	1836	1836	1836	1836	London		Labourer
403		John Morgan	1836	1836	1836	1836	London		Labourer
404		John Morgan	1836	1836	1836	1836	London		Labourer
405		John Morgan	1836	1836	1836	1836	London		Labourer
406		John Morgan	1836	1836	1836	1836	London		Labourer
407		John Morgan	1836	1836	1836	1836	London		Labourer
408		John Morgan	1836	1836	1836	1836	London		Labourer
409		John Morgan	1836	1836	1836	1836	London		Labourer
410		John Morgan	1836	1836	1836	1836	London		Labourer
411		John Morgan	1836	1836	1836	1836	London		Labourer
412		John Morgan	1836	1836	1836	1836	London		Labourer
413		John Morgan	1836	1836	1836	1836	London		Labourer
414		John Morgan	1836	1836	1836	1836	London		Labourer
415		John Morgan	1836	1836	1836	1836	London		Labourer
416		John Morgan	1836	1836	1836	1836	London		Labourer
417		John Morgan	1836	1836	1836	1836	London		Labourer
418		John Morgan	1836	1836	1836	1836	London		Labourer
419		John Morgan	1836	1836	1836	1836	London		Labourer
420		John Morgan	1836	1836	1836	1836	London		Labourer

This information on the next two pages is from the Convicts Records website, the reference is:

<https://convictrecords.com.au/convicts/morgan/joseph/34948>

The information is about the same Joseph Morgan recorded in the list above

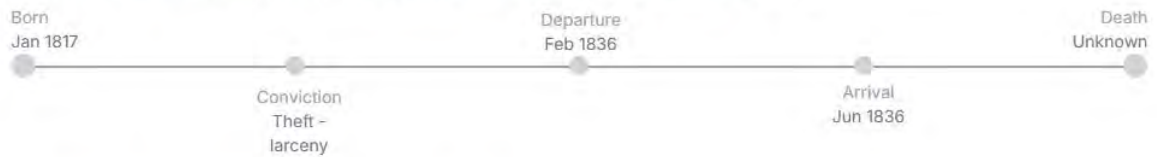
[Convicts](#) > [M](#) > [Morgan](#) > [Joseph](#) > [Joseph Morgan](#)

Joseph Morgan

[Edit](#)

Summary

Joseph Morgan, one of 270 convicts transported on the Strathfieldsaye, 11 February 1836



Personal Information

Name: Joseph Morgan

Aliases:

Gender: Male

Born: 1st Jan 1817

Death: Unknown

Age: Unknown

Occupation: Unknown

Crime

Crime: Theft - larceny

Convicted at: Somerset Quarter Session

Sentence term: 99

Voyage

Departed: 11th Feb 1836

Ship: Strathfieldsaye

Arrival: 15th Jun 1836

Place of Arrival: New South Wales

Transportation

Ship: Strathfieldsaye

Departed: 11th Feb, 1836

Arrived: 15th Jun, 1836

Passengers: 272



11/11/1835 Taunton Courier, and Western Advertiser Somerset, England:
Joseph Morgan, for stealing bonnets of James Beauchamp.

Joseph Morgan was 18 years old on arrival.

Occupation: Factory Boy.
Native Place: Somersetshire.

Joseph was illiterate, protestant, single, 5'3¼" tall, ruddy complexion, brown hair and eyes, small mole under right ear.

24/3/1842: Tried at Berrima Circuit Court for robbery - Life.

5/2/1843: Arrived VDL per 'Seahorse'

Joseph was then described as: A labourer, 5'5½" tall, 22 years old, fair complexion, brown hair and eyes.

11/3/1843: Absconding - 100 stripes.

16/3/1843: AWOL - 12 months hard labour in chains/Port Arthur.

5/3/1846: To be removed from Port Arthur, and to serve 2 months at Bridgewater.

27/1/1847: Absconding - to be sent to Port Arthur.

8/4/1850: TOL refused.

2/9/1850: TOL refused.

3/3/1851: TOL refused - to apply in 6 months.

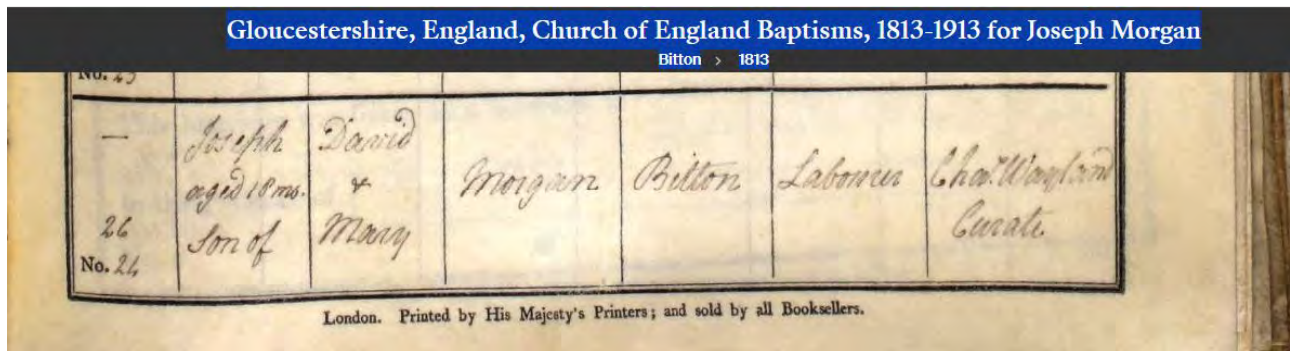
23/9/1851: TOL

28/10/1853: Recommended for a CP

25/7/1854: CP approved.

The information above is NOT the Joseph Morgan 1811-1881 in the family history.

This Joseph Morgan I have mentioned previously in the book notes



This is **NOT** our Joseph Morgan baptised in Bitton near Bristol in 1813 however in some of the online genealogy programs researchers and descendants have included this event but this is NOT the same person as the Joseph Morgan who was born in Frome in 1811. (The Bitton in Gloucestershire baptism is another Joseph Morgan, in fact David Lewis Morgan 1770-1851 and his mother's name was Mary Morgan nee STRONG 1769-1851 (NOT Mary Lush). They had two children named Joseph Morgan, one lived 1808-1880 and the other 1811-1851 with both dying in the UK. (This is based on Ancestry family tree records and was completed by Pete Meskell in 2025 however he was still sceptical about some of the dates. It is clear however that this is not our Joseph.

Not this Joseph Morgan transported on the convict ship Lord Lyndoch 15th April 1836

Sentence details: Convicted at Gloucester City Assizes for a term of 14 years on 15 August 1835.

Vessel: Lord Lyndoch.

Date of Departure: 15 April 1836.

Place of Arrival: Van Diemen's Land.

Source: Australian Joint Copying Project. Microfilm Roll 90, Class and Piece Number HO11/10, Page Number 251 (128)

Not this Joseph Morgan transported on the convict ship Emperor Alexander 6th April 1833

Notes

Sentence details: Convicted at Warwick Quarter Session for a term of 14 years on 31 December 1832.

Vessel: Emperor Alexander.

Date of Departure: 06 April 1833.

Place of Arrival: Van Diemen's Land.

Source: Australian Joint Copying Project. Microfilm Roll 90, Class and Piece Number HO11/9, Page Number 43 (23)

There were a lot of convicts with the name Joseph Morgan transported to NSW but only Joseph Morgan on the Charles Kerr fits the correct timeline and location for the Joseph Morgan who marries Mary Meskell in 1844.

Research Note D

This work is as accurate as I can chase up information, recollect stories and interpret and try to believe the unbelievable that is sometimes dished up on the Internet or reported by well intentioned fellow researchers.

The random collection of screen dumps, cuttings and other items that did not make it into the book notes are here for future research or those wanting more specific source material.



Biographical report for Joseph MORGAN

Person ID: U#12191035801

Birth: circa 1810 SOM ENG

Arrival: per Charles Kerr

Date Biographical record

1839 Mar Morgan Joseph, Charles Kerr, 29, Somerset, laborer and soldier, 5 feet 1¾ Inch, ruddy and freckled comp., sandy brown hair, light grey eyes, red whiskers, round scar right cheek, anchor inside lower right arm, breast a little hairy, from Michael Magner, Raymond Terrace, since March 7; Original Source: Ref: NSWGG Wed 20 Mar 1839 [Issue No.400] Page 342 signed 19 March 1839; Event Year: 1839 [Biog Item No. 121910358]

Source

Absconded
Convicts
1839

Date	Group	Biographical record	Source
1837 Oct		Joseph Morgan, Arrived: per Charles Kerr 9 Oct 1837; at Sydney NSW; Age: 27 years; Education: Reads; Religion: Protestant; Marriage Status: Single; Born at Somerset [SOM ENG]; Employment: Labourer, soldier; Trial Crime: Buying stolen goods, Trial Court: Wilts Quarter Sessions, Tried at [WIL ENG], 3 Jan 1837, Trial Sentence: 14 years; Previous convictions: None; Height in feet & inches: 5 7.75; Complexion: Ruddy and freckled; Hair: Sandy brown; Eyes: Light grey; Marks or Scars: Yes [Biog Item No. 170712252]	Convict Indents & Ship Musters, 1832, 1834, 1835, 1836, 1837 ABOUT »
1843		Ticket of Leave Number: 43/2596 Year: 1843; Allowed to remain in the District of Paterson; Name: Joseph Morgan; Place of Trial: Wiltshire [WIL ENG], Quarter Sessions, Ship: Charles Kerr, Year: 1837. [Biog Item No. 120141861]	Tickets of Leave Index 1810-1841 ABOUT »
1847		Joseph Morgan, Arrived per ship Charles Kerr, Recommended date 1847; Original Remarks: Conditional Pardon [Biog Item No. 113615416]	Pardons Recommended for Convicts 1826-1856 ABOUT »

End Note:

