

TRANSPORTATION — “FALLING FOWL OF THE LAW”

Researching two brothers who were transported from a small Lincolnshire village to Van Diemens Land in 1844 and what became of them upon release and those they left behind.

Ian Newton

Contents

Page 1	Contents
Page 2	Introduction, Research Process and Background
Page 3	1. Matthew and Henry Burridge, 1831–1843
Page 4	2. Louth Quarter Sessions – 24 th October 1843
Page 5	3. Transportation to Van Diemens Land and life on the Colony, 1844–1850
Page 8	4. 1850 onwards – Life post-sentence, Henry Burridge
Page 10	5. 1850 onwards – Life post-sentence, Matthew Burridge
	6. Those that Matthew and Henry left behind in England
Page 11	a. Eliza Snell, 1815–1899, (Matthew's wife)
Page 12	b. Charlotte Emmitt, 1821–1894, (Henry's wife)
Page 12	c. Samuel Davey
Page 13	7. Summary
Page 13	8. Conclusion
Page 14	Bibliography and Websites
<u>Appendices (not included here)</u>	
Page 15	1 – DT Hawkings "Sequence to research a transported convict"
Page 16	2 – Calendar of Prisoners, Louth Quarter Sessions October 1843
Page 17	3 – Recognizances taken from Witnesses against the Burridge brothers
Page 18	4 – Prison Chaplain's report – Spilsby Gaol, Michaelmas 1843
Page 19	5 – Louth Quarter Sessions 1843 – Cost sheet for Trial expenses
Page 20	6 – Louth Quarter Sessions 1843 – Jury List of Names and Defendants on Trial
Page 21	7 – Transportation Register, the <i>London</i> , March 1843
Page 22	8 – Henry Burridge and Ellen Morley Marriage Certificate
Page 22	9 – The <i>Sydney Griffiths</i> passenger list – December 1850
Page 23	10 – Henry Burridge Burial Certificate
Page 24	11 – Burridge Family of Stickford, Lincolnshire

Introduction

We shall be researching the lives of two brothers, Matthew and Henry Burridge of Stickford, Lincolnshire, who were sentenced to seven years penal service in Van Diemens Land in 1844.

By accessing and examining original documents from County Archives, records from the National Archives, (TNA), English and Australian newspaper reports, records of the General Register Office, (GRO), published and on-line sources, we shall create a full picture of both Matthew and Henry and their families.

Research process

David Hawkings¹ in his book *“Bound for Australia”* provides a comprehensive 26 stage plan to researching a transported convict. This has been used and followed as the basis of the research and the resultant findings, (both positive and negative), have been summarised in *Appendix 1*. In addition to Hawking’s suggested research plan, we have also looked at the lives of Matthew and Henry prior to being arrested and also what became of them after their release. We also consider those they left behind in rural Lincolnshire and what became of them.

Background

Matthew and Henry were born in Stickford, Lincolnshire in 1815 and 1817 respectively to George and Mary Burridge. Their parents, originally from North Yorkshire, moved to



Stickford in the Lincolnshire Fens around 1806. George Burridge was an excavator of drains and rivers and there was much work to be had reclaiming and securing land in the East Fens as Landowners were being encouraged to mark their territories via the various Enclosure awards that were being granted during the late 18thC.

Stickford was a remote village with a population of 425 in 1831, the nearest town of any size being Boston, 12 miles south. The surrounding area was predominantly a rural economy, sheep, cattle and arable farming which prospered well on the fertile Lincolnshire silt soils.

George and Mary had eight children, (five sons and three daughters), of which Matthew and Henry were the two youngest, both were baptised at St Helen’s parish church in Stickford, (a full family tree is included in *Appendix 11*).

¹ David T Hawkings, *Bound for Australia*, the History Press, Stroud, Gloucestershire, 2012

George died in January 1831, aged 62² leaving behind his wife and eight children who were all of adult age except Matthew and Henry who were aged 15 and 13. The loss of a father figure at an impressionable age may have been a significant influence in determining their future. We shall now follow Matthew and Henry and events leading up to their appearance at the Louth Quarter Sessions in October 1843.

1. Matthew and Henry Burridge, 1831–1843

Following the death of their father in 1831 and the subsequent loss of income to the household, it is highly likely that the two brothers would have been encouraged to find employment on nearby farms and when we look later on at their prison records, both have as their occupation, 'farm labourer, can plough'.

We find Matthew and Henry in December 1838 appearing on a Gaol Discharge Register³. They had both been imprisoned in Spilsby Gaol for seven days from the 3rd to 10th December for assault. Their given ages are two years younger than they actually are and occupations both declared as labourer.

In 1840, Henry marries 20 year-old Charlotte Emmitt from nearby Alford. Just over two years later on the 13th October 1842, they have a son, John.

In the summer of 1841, Matthew marries Eliza Snell, also living in Alford although originally from Tipperary, Ireland. In May 1842 they also have a son, George, named after Matthew's father. A few months before George is born, we find Matthew again being discharged from Spilsby Gaol⁴ on the 27th February 1842, having spent a calendar month imprisoned for a felony.

The annual report, Michaelmas 1843, (*see Appendix 4*), from the Spilsby Prison Chaplain to the Chairman of the Quarter Sessions confirms the two brothers have been in and out of gaol during the year. The report notes that both can read and write which from an educational standpoint, places them in the upper half of the 302 prisoners who passed through the gaol in 1843.

Therefore in early 1843, we have two brothers, farm labourers, aged 26 and 28, both married each with one son, less than a year old. Both have a criminal record and have spent time in the local Gaol.

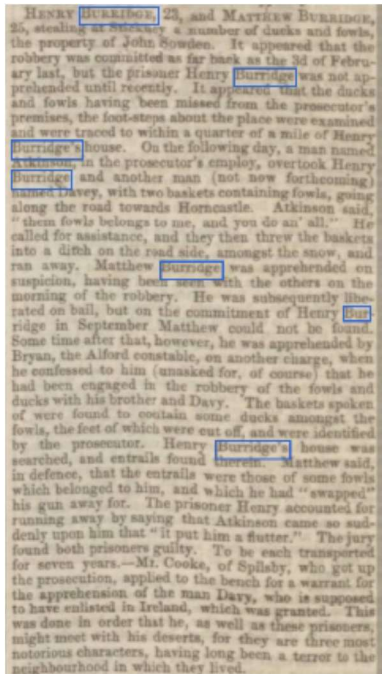
² Stamford Mercury, Friday 14th January 1831

³ Spilsby Gaol, Lincolnshire: Discharge Register, 1838, original document at TNA, PCOM2, accessed via www.ancestry.co.uk 22 May 2021

⁴ Spilsby Gaol, Lincolnshire: Discharge Register, 1842, original document at TNA, PCOM2, accessed via www.ancestry.co.uk 22 May 2021

2. Louth Quarter Sessions – 24th October 1843

On the 3rd of November 1843, the *Lincolnshire Chronicle* carried a full report⁵ from the court case of what happened on that day in February which would change the course of Matthew and Henry's lives as well as their families. The report reads as follows:



“Henry Burrige, 23 and Matthew Burrige, 25, stealing at Stickney a number of ducks and fowl, the property of John Sowden. It appeared that the robbery was committed as far back as the 3rd February but the prisoner Henry Burrige was not apprehended until recently. It appears that the ducks and fowl having been missed from the prosecutors premises, the footsteps about the place were examined and traced to within a quarter of a mile of Henry Burrige's house. On the following day, a man named Atkinson in the prosecutors employ, overtook Henry Burrige and another man, (not now forthcoming), named Davey with two baskets containing fowls going along the road towards Horncastle. Atkinson said, ‘them fowls belong to me, and you do an’ all.’ He called for assistance, and they then threw the baskets into a ditch on the road side amongst the snow, and ran away. Matthew Burrige was apprehended on suspicion, having been seen with the others on the morning of the robbery. He was subsequently liberated on bail, but on the commitment of Henry Burrige in September, Matthew could not be found. Sometime after that however he was apprehended by the Alford Constable on

another charge when he confessed to him (unasked for of course) that he had been engaged in the robbery of the fowls and ducks with his brother and Davey. The baskets spoken of were found to contain some ducks amongst the fowls, the feet of which were cut off and identified by the prosecutor. Henry Burrige's house was searched and entrails found therein. Matthew said in defence that the entrails were of some fowls which belonged to him and which he had swapped his gun away for. The prisoner Henry accounted for running away by saying that Atkinson came so suddenly upon him that ‘it put him in a flutter’. The jury found both prisoners guilty. To be each transported for seven years. —Mr. Cooke, of Spilsby, who got up the prosecution, applied to the bench for a warrant for the apprehension of the man Davey, who is supposed to have enlisted in Ireland, which was granted. This was done in order that he as well as these prisoners might meet with their just deserts for they are the three most notorious characters having long been a terror to the neighbourhood in which they lived”

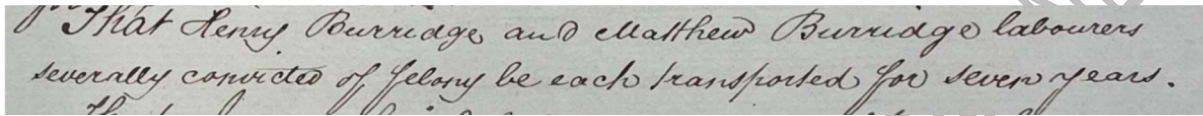
From the newspaper report and what we know from the Spilsby Gaol records, Matthew and Henry were habitual criminals, often in trouble with the Police and probably not the brightest of individuals – leaving footprints in the snow leading back to their homes isn't exactly the hallmark of a criminal mastermind.

There were four recognizance bonds, (*see Appendix 3*), issued against the witnesses, (acting as a subpoena), ensuring that they attend court and give evidence. The prosecution leaving little to chance ensuring the brothers would be found guilty. The witnesses were the Constables from Alford and Stickney, William Atkinson and the farmer, John Sowden. They

⁵ Lincolnshire Chronicle 3 November 1843, accessed www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk 22 May 2021

were all paid mileage and a daily allowance for 3 days. Including legal fees, the cost of the trial came to £18-15s-4d, c. £1,500 in today's money⁶, (see Appendix 5).

It is not clear how long the trial lasted or if any evidence was offered in defence, however the Judge's decision, (below), to sentence the two brothers to seven years transportation was probably not a difficult one to make.



That Henry Burridge and Matthew Burridge labourers severally convicted of felony be each transported for seven years.

Following sentencing at Louth Quarter Sessions on 24 October 1843⁷, they were held in cells in Lincoln Castle for a month, then in early December 1843 they were moved to the national penitentiary at Millbank, London, in the 'county van'⁸.

Transportees were sent here first where they were held for a further three months. Conditions were harsh, the location next to the River Thames meant the prison could be very cold and damp in winter and there were frequent cholera outbreaks. Prisoners were kept in solitary confinement and restricted to silence during their sentence⁹. Shortly after, Matthew and Henry were aboard "*the London*" which set sail from Plymouth on 15 March 1844 for Van Diemens Land¹⁰.



Whilst Matthew had been in Lincoln Prison, awaiting being transferred to Millbank, his only child, George, was being buried back home in Alford on 20 November 1843, aged 18 months¹¹. Sadly, Henry's only child, John, was buried¹² two weeks later, also in Alford, aged 14 months.

3. Transportation to Van Diemens Land and life on the Colony, 1844-1850

The "*London*" left Plymouth on 15 March 1844 although the convicts, including Matthew and Henry had been on-board ship for a week prior to departure. The surgeon's journal for *the*

⁶ National Archives Currency Converter, www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/currency-converter/#currency-result, accessed 10 June 2021

⁷ Louth Quarter Sessions 24th October 1843, Judgement Sheet, Ref: LQS A/1/630/310, original document, Lincolnshire Archives, accessed 9 June 2021

⁸ Lincolnshire Chronicle 8 December 1843, accessed www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk 5 June 2021

⁹ A London Inheritance website, www.alondoninheritance.com/london-buildings/millbank-estate-millbank-penitentiary/ accessed 5 June 2021

¹⁰ Convict Transportation Registers 1844-45, www.discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/C9986087, original data HO11/14/35 p42, The National Archives, accessed 5 June 2021

¹¹ England, Select Deaths and Burials, 1538-1991, www.ancestry.co.uk, accessed 5 June 2021

¹² England, Select Deaths and Burials, 1538-1991, www.ancestry.co.uk, accessed 5 June 2021

London survives and contains details of illnesses during the voyage. The journal also makes mentions of the convict's behaviour during the voyage and a description of the voyage itself.

The Ship's Surgeon, Charles Inches, maintained a Log¹³ of the journey, noting those he treated as well as a commentary of the journey to Van Diemens Land.

Inches notes that,

"... the sick list was more numerous than he had experienced in four previous convict ships due to the poor condition of the convicts on inspection at Millbank Penitentiary"

Of the 300 on-board, (250 convicts), Inches treated 198, the Burridge brothers held up well as they didn't require treatment for ailment or injury. On the health of those on the ship, Inches wrote,

"...diarrhoea was the prevalent disease and not just restricted to the prisoners although many had suffered it in Millbank. All were given improved diet and extra lime juice. On disembarkation, the convicts were generally in better health than when they had embarked.."

It says much that the convicts fared better aboard a convict ship than in the Penitentiary. On the journey itself, Inches observed that,

"... the weather was good from leaving the Channel until approaching Van Diemens Land when it became cold, wet and tempestuous, producing sea sickness. During the ten days the prisoners remained on-board at Hobart Town, it rained nearly every day and frost at night, the temperature being lower than it had been at sea..."



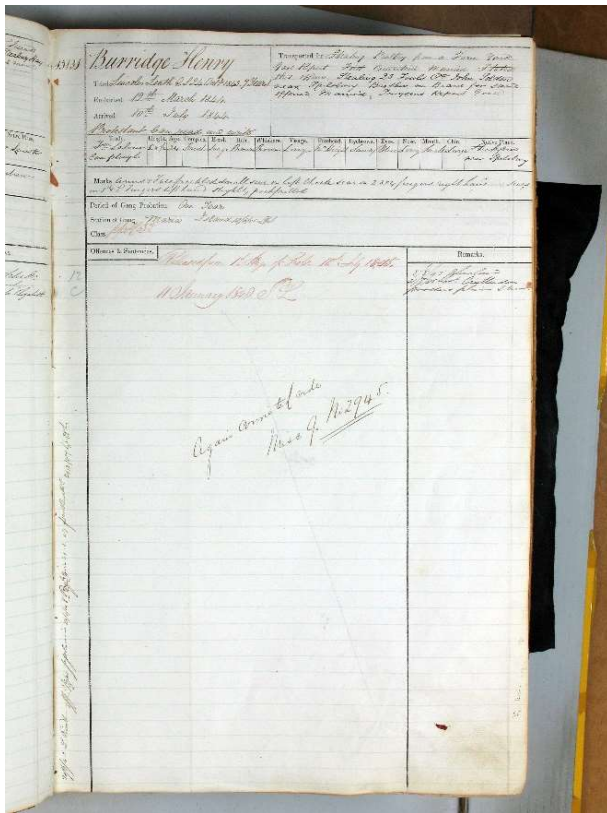
Convict Ship, "the London"

Upon arrival in Hobart on 10th July 1844, after a 108 day voyage, Matthew and Henry get assigned to Maria Island to work their 12 month probationary period¹⁴. It was Sir John Franklin, (more famous as the explorer of the North-West passage), who as Lieutenant-General of Van Diemens Land in 1840 introduced the probation system, replacing the previous system of 'assignment'. Sir John came from Spilsby, Lincolnshire, only a few miles away from Stickford, however had left office in 1843 before the two brothers arrived. The probation system involved segregation from the free population, working in supervised

¹³ Medical and surgical journal of the convict ship *London* for 1 March to 19 July 1844, www.discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/C4106724, original data ADM 101/43/5, The National Archives, accessed 5 June 2021

¹⁴ Appropriation List of Convicts 1822–1846, www.libriaristas.ent.sirsidynix.net.au/, original data CON27-1-10P190, The Tasmanian Archives, accessed 5 June 2021

convict gangs as opposed to the earlier system where convicts were dispersed to work on free-holders lands.



The Conduct Registers¹⁵ held in the Tasmanian Archives provide a wealth of information on the convict's time on the Island. From the Register, (left), aside from the court dates, nature of offence, dates leaving England and arriving in Hobart, we also learn that both brothers are of similar height - 5' 7", brown hair, blue eyes, sporting whiskers. Both have heavily scarred hands, probably as a result of a life of manual labour and both can read and write.

After having served a year on probation and having been subjected to successive stages of punishment, commencing with a period of confinement and hard labour in gangs they progressed satisfactorily through several stages of decreasing severity and received a probation pass and became

available for hire to the settlers. In August 1845, Henry and Matthew are moved to Prosser Plains, (now Buckland), to work on Thomas Cruttendens land.

From a search¹⁶ on *Ancestry*, Thomas Cruttenden was born in Kent, England, in 1800, emigrated to Van Diemens Land with his two sisters and brother in 1821, shortly after his father had died. He was a sheep farmer and Justice of the Peace¹⁷.

Apart from Matthew who was cautioned for using indecent language in the presence of a lady, both brothers appear to have behaved themselves whilst serving their sentence. This is confirmed in the Conduct Register as they were both granted a 'ticket of leave' on 11 January 1848. The ticket was recognition of good behaviour and allowed the holder to seek employment within a specified radius, acquire property, to marry but not board a ship. It also reduced the onus on the authorities to house and feed a growing convict population.

¹⁵ Conduct Registers of Male Convicts 1840-53, www.libriariestas.ent.sirsidynix.net.au/, original data CON33-1-56P17, The Tasmanian Archives, accessed 5 June 2021

¹⁶ Ancestry, [Thomas CRUTTENDEN - Facts \(ancestry.co.uk\)](http://Ancestry.com), accessed 6 June 2021

¹⁷ Information extracted from a Tree on *Ancestry* which supports what we know although the source documentation relating the facts would need to be verified

On 15 January 1848, the *Launceston Examiner* reported¹⁸ that Matthew and Henry, amongst others, had been granted a ticket so informing the local population of their right to move freely.

The final entry in the Conduct Register tells us that Matthew received his freedom on 1st November 1850, seven years and one week after being sentenced at the Louth Quarter Sessions back in Lincolnshire. There is no corresponding entry in Henry's record, however he had already committed himself elsewhere by then.

4. 1850 onwards – Life post-sentence, Henry Burridge

On 19 February 1850, Henry, (33), applies¹⁹ for permission²⁰ to marry Ellen Morley, (17), and on the 6th March 1850 they are married at Spring Bay, Van Diemens Land. Ellen was originally from East Grinstead in Sussex²¹, born circa 1832, and had travelled with her parents and siblings to Hobart aboard the *Apolline* in 1842. Two months later on 17 May 1850, Henry and Ellen have a son who was still-born²²²³.

Technically the marriage permission should not have been granted as the seven year wait under the 1604 Act “...an Act to restrain all Persons from Marriage until their former Wives and former Husbands be dead...” hadn't quite been achieved.

They had been married seven years when Henry is caught sheep stealing near Hobart. In March 1857, the *Tasmanian Daily News*²⁴ reported that Henry pleaded guilty under extenuating circumstances as his wife had induced him steal the sheep so that when he was convicted she would be free to leave him for another man. The Judge was unimpressed and sentenced him to ten years penal servitude. The Register of Criminal Cases²⁵ confirms the sentence. It is not clear where Henry served his full sentence or whether it was commuted to a lesser term.

We next come across Henry involved in an assault charge in Hobart on New Years Eve, 1874, and he is sentenced to two months imprisonment before being released in March

¹⁸ Launceston Examiner, 15th Jan 1848, www.trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/36253860, Accessed 6 June 2021

¹⁹ Marriage for a convict still serving his sentence resulted in better living conditions and was seen as an indulgence and therefore necessary to apply to the Governor for permission to marry.

²⁰ Register of Application for Permission to Marry, 1850, www.talis.ent.sirsidynix.net.au/client/en_AU/names, original data CON52-1-3 p26, The Tasmanian Archives, accessed 6 June 2021

²¹ East Grinstead Census 1841, www.ancestry.co.uk, original data HO/107/1115/7, accessed 6 June 2021

²² Register of Births in Hobart 1838-1969, www.libriariestas.ent.sirsidynix.net.au/, original data RGD33/1/28 no887, The Tasmanian Archives, accessed 7 June 2021

²³ Register of Deaths in Hobart 1838-1899, www.libriariestas.ent.sirsidynix.net.au/, original data RGD35/1/19 no24, The Tasmanian Archives, accessed 7 June 2021

²⁴ Tasmanian Daily News, 4 Mar 1857, www.trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/, accessed 7 June 2021

²⁵ Register of Criminal Cases 1853-1973, www.libriariestas.ent.sirsidynix.net.au/, original data AB693-1-1-1857, The Tasmanian Archives, accessed 7 June 2021

1875²⁶. He is still recognisable by the scar on his left cheek which he had before leaving England although his hair is no longer brown but grey.

REPORTS OF CRIME.

39

PRISONERS discharged from H. M. GAOLS and HOUSES OF CORRECTION, Hobart Town and Launceston, during the Week ending 10 March, 1875; Country Districts for the Week ending 6 March, 1875.

Name.	Ship.	Where Tried.	When.	Offence.	Sen- tence.	Native Place.	Age.	Height	Hair.	Remarks.
<i>Hobart Town.</i> Burridge, Henry	London 1	Buckland	31 Dec. '74	Assault	2 mths	Lincoln- shire	60	ft. in. 5 8½	Grey	F.S. Mole and scar on centre left cheek.

There then follows records from a Crew and Passenger List on the steam ship *Wolonga* sailing from Melbourne to Sydney in January 1878 with a Henry 'Burrage' on-board in stowage. Then a report in the New South Wales Police Gazette that in Sydney, November 1881, a Henry Burridge reports losing his watch whilst drunk. Neither report provides enough information to confirm this is 'our' Henry Burridge although travelling stowage and getting drunk would fit with what we know of him.

In 1899 Henry is now 85 years of age and has lived a hard life. We find him being discharged as an inmate from the Tasmanian Invalid Depot, (a government run institution for people who were sick and in poverty). He is discharged for being 'absent on pass'.

Henry then spends time at the New Town Charitable Institute in Hobart before passing away on 5 February 1902²⁷, aged 87. According to his burial certificate, (see *Appendix 10*), cause of death was 'senility'. The Institution provided accommodation to people who were poor and aged, or had disabilities so it seems Henry died alone in poverty with no family around him.



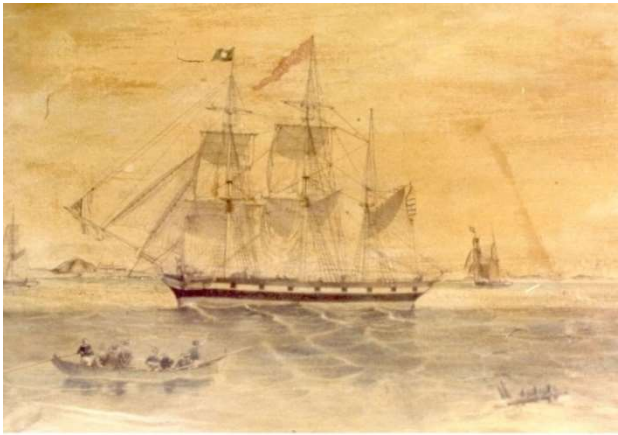
New Town Charitable Institute, 1902

We shall now look at how Matthew fared after he was released in 1850.

²⁶ Reports of Crime, Hobart Police Gazette, 6 March 1875, www.ancestry.co.uk, accessed 7 June 2021

²⁷ Find a Grave, www.findagrave.com/memorial/212785544/henry-burridge, accessed 7 June 2021

5. 1850 onwards – Life post-sentence, Matthew Burridge



THE PARQUE "SYDNEY GRIFFITHS" LEAVING PORT FAIRY FOR LONDON
FEBRUARY 8th. 1851. (CAPTAIN-J.COWTON)

The Conduct Register told us that Matthew received his freedom on the 1st November 1850. Seven weeks later on 21 December 1850 he departs Launceston for London aboard the barque *Sydney Griffiths*. Matthew disembarks at Port Fairy, near Melbourne, the ship's last port of call before sailing for England. We know this because we find Matthew later marrying in 1858 in Geelong, a suburb of Melbourne.

What we don't know is why Matthew decided to disembark at Port Fairy or what

he did over the next seven years.

One likely possibility is that he heard of Gold being discovered and decided to join the thousands of others in the search for it. Gold was discovered near Ballarat, sparking the Victorian gold rush. Ballarat subsequently became a thriving boomtown that for a time rivalled Melbourne, the capital of Victoria, in terms of wealth and influence. Over 100,000 prospectors arrived in Australia during 1852 and the Country's population grew from 400,000 to 1,000,000 between 1850 and 1860²⁸.



We do know that in April 1858, Matthew marries Susan, (Susannah), Tuddenham in Geelong. Matthew describes himself as a bachelor from Boston, Lincolnshire. Susan, originally from Norfolk, had arrived in Adelaide three years earlier aboard the *Octavia* in 1855.

Unlike his brother, Matthew settles down into his new life with Susannah bringing up a large family living in and around towns to the west of Melbourne, (Geelong, Moolap, Ross Creek, Scarsdale and Ballarat).

Their first child, George, was born November 1858 in Geelong. Named either after Matthew's father or possibly his infant son that died whilst Matthew was waiting to be tried back home in Lincolnshire.

Over the next twenty years, Matthew and Susannah have another nine children, (six sons and three daughters), of which only one dies in infancy. Their children go on to produce over forty Grandchildren for Matthew and Susannah so whatever else Matthew achieved with his life, it certainly wasn't a lonely existence like his brother Henry's.

²⁸ The Australian Gold Rush, www.stagoldrush.weebly.com/timeline, accessed 7 June 2021

Matthew dies on 8 January 1904 in Corbett Street, Ballarat of heart disease²⁹ at the declared age of 81. We know he was baptised in Stickford in June 1815 so he is actually closer to 89 years old.

THIRD SCHEDULE.

1904 DEATHS in the District of *Ballarat East* in the State

(2) No.	DESCRIPTION.			(5) Cause of Death. Duration of last illness. Medical Attendant by whom certified, and When he last saw Deceased.	(6) Name and Surname of Father and Mother (Maiden Name), if known, with Rank or Profession.
	(1) When and where Died.	(3) Name and Surname, Rank, or Profession.	(4) Sex and Age.		
	8 January 1904 Corbett Street Chapel Ballarat East County of South Australia	Matthew Burridge Old age pensioner Labourer	Male 81 Years	Heart disease Not certified Dr J. H. Richards 4.28 April 1903	George Burridge Labourer Mary Burridge Mrs Saunders

Susannah lives for another ten years, no doubt surrounded and supported by her large family and according to the *Ballarat Courier*³⁰, her funeral on 26 March 1914 was very well attended.

6. Those that Matthew and Henry left behind in England

a. Eliza Snell, 1815–1899, (Matthew's wife)

Eliza was born in Tipperary, Ireland circa 1815 to John Snell, from Alford, Lincolnshire, a soldier in the 43rd Foot Regiment and Ellen Massey from Ireland. We can follow Eliza via the decennial Census forms from 1851 to 1891 and then to her death in 1899.

After Matthew was transported in 1843 we find that Eliza has two further children, (Ellen born Stickford, 1849 and David born Alford, 1852), their father(s) unknown. By 1851 Eliza



has moved into live with her mother, Ellen, now a widow, in Alford. In 1861 Eliza and her two children are still with Ellen who is aged 72 and described as a pauper. Eliza has her occupation as a Laundress which remains constant for the rest of her life. They are living on West Street in Alford, (left), which is where they are for the next almost forty years.

Her daughter, also Ellen, is a charwoman and her son David is a plumber. Ellen is still living with Eliza in 1891 who is now aged 76 and relying on parish relief for income. Eliza dies in late 1899 in Alford, she never remarried after Matthew left. It was possible for a convict or wife of a convict to apply for free passage to be reunited in Australia or Tasmania once the

²⁹ Register of Australian Deaths 1904, Ballarat, www.ancestry.co.uk, accessed 8 June 2021

³⁰ Ballarat Courier, 27 March 1914, www.trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/73497439, accessed 8 June 2021

sentence had been served. There are no records of either Matthew or Eliza applying to the Colonial Office to be reunited.

Whilst researching this paper, contact was made with David Burridge's Great Granddaughter, (for the purposes of this paper, named 'Betty'). Betty's father's favourite phrase after doing something silly or daft was "*I must have Irish blood in me*". Until recently and after his death, they didn't know how true this was. The stigma of transportation was passed through the generations as Betty's grandmother, (also Eliza Burridge, named after David's mother, Eliza Snell), disowned the Alford side of the family and refused to discuss them.

b. Charlotte Emmitt, 1821–1894, (Henry's wife)

As with Eliza, we can follow Charlotte through the decennial census forms. In 1851 she is a cook and on census night is a visitor in the house of Peter Hope, a 26 year old labourer from Weiberfalden near Frankfurt, Germany, living in Grimsby. In 1852, nine years after Henry had been transported, Charlotte marries Peter Hope. By 1861 they have moved to live with Peter's father who is a tailor, still in Grimsby. Charlotte and Peter have now four children between them and one from Peter's previous marriage.

Peter dies in 1885, aged 60 and by 1891 Charlotte has moved in with her daughter Mary and son in law William, a fisherman, who were living only a few streets away from where she lived with Peter in Grimsby's dockland. Charlotte dies in May 1894, aged 73.

Charlotte and Peter were married for over thirty years and had five children between them. Living around the docks in Grimsby with Peter working as a labourer suggests a tough existence, however at least Charlotte managed to build a new life and family after Henry had been transported.

c. Samuel Davey

Samuel was the third person on the charge sheet at the Louth Quarter Sessions in October 1843 and a warrant was issued for his arrest in his absence. According to the newspaper report it was thought he had absconded to Ireland and joined the army. A simple search for a "Samuel Davey, Lincolnshire, born circa 1815" brings three candidates, two born in Wainfleet, near Boston and one born 1821, Stickford, the same village as the Burridge brothers.

He may have left for Ireland in 1843, however we find him marrying Ann Lilley in Spilsby in 1849³¹, living in nearby Toynton St Peter in 1851³² before moving to North Yorkshire where he remains for the next twenty years at least.

³¹ FreeBMD, www.freebmd.org.uk/cgi/search.pl, accessed 10 June 2021

³² 1851 Spilsby, England Census, HO107, Piece: 2109, Folio: 342, Page: 8, www.ancestry.co.uk, original data The National Archives, accessed 10 June 2021

Whilst he was named on the charge sheet he successfully avoided the sentence of transportation to a penal colony although he had to move away from home twice over and ended up making a new life further north.

7. Summary

Through a variety of documental sources from early 19thC Census and parish registers to Gaol calendars, court and prison records, ships logs plus newspaper reports in England to convict records, birth, marriage and death records, police records, passenger lists and newspaper reports in Tasmania and Australia, we have been able to follow the fortunes of two young miscreants from a small Lincolnshire fenland village to the opposite side of the world.

Whilst the two brothers were inseparable up to the point of being released in 1850, thereafter their lives took very different paths. It is likely that after Matthew boarded the *Sydney Griffiths* in December 1850, the two never saw each other again.

Henry may well have continued under the impression that Matthew was back home in England and not living just across the water near Melbourne. His life seemed to drift without his elder brother alongside, although it could be argued that Matthew was no great role model or steadying influence whilst they were together back home.

Matthew managed to turn his life around, either prospecting in the gold fields or taking advantage of employment opportunities in the boomtown of Ballarat. He continued to live in the Melbourne area for another fifty years with an ever expanding family, passing away at a good age surrounded by his wife and children.

Those left behind rebuilt their lives, without further recourse to the two brothers, with varying degrees of success and hardship.

8. Conclusion

The paper trail that a transportee leaves behind is comprehensively documented by the authorities at each step and the survival rates of the records are good. We also benefit from the established recording of births, marriages and deaths in both Britain and Australia from the mid 19thC onwards.

Seven years hard labour on the other side of the world seems in today's terms a severe sentence for stealing a few ducks, however, convict labour helped lay the foundations of modern Australia by building roads, bridges, hospitals and other important amenities. Transportation changed the dynamics of Australian society and contributed to make Australia the country it is today.

Bibliography

- David T Hawkings, *Bound for Australia*, The History Press, Stroud, Gloucestershire, 2012
- Amanda Bevan, *Tracing Your Ancestors in the National Archives*, 7th Ed., The National Archives, Richmond, 2006
- Mark Herber, *Ancestral Trails*, 2nd Ed, Sutton Publishing Ltd, Stroud, 2006

Websites

- [Convict Records: Matthew Burridge](#)
- [Convict Records: Henry Burridge](#)
- [05 Apr 1850 - Domestic Intelligence. - Trove \(nla.gov.au\)](#)
- [Police Gazettes - Government Records and the Family Historian - LibGuides at State Library of South Australia \(slsa.sa.gov.au\)](#)
- [Search - Tasmanian Archives \(sirsidynix.net.au\)](#)
- [Founders and Survivors | Search:](#)
- [Search \(digitalpanopticon.org\)](#)
- [History of Stickford, in East Lindsey and Lincolnshire | Map and description \(visionofbritain.org.uk\)](#)
- [Biography – Sir John Franklin – Australian Dictionary of Biography \(anu.edu.au\)](#)
- [Buckland, TAS – Aussie Towns](#)
- [Maria Island – Great Australian Secret](#)
- [Timeline - The Australian Gold Rush \(weebly.com\)](#)
- [Home | Search the archive | British Newspaper Archive](#)
- [Millbank Estate and Millbank Penitentiary - A London Inheritance](#)
- [Discovery | The National Archives](#)
- [Genealogy, Family Trees and Family History Records online - Ancestry.com](#)