

Far Side of the World - IV

(The Bird Family Migration)



Including the Life of
JOHN BIRD

Poacher & Convict
Stone Mason and Settler
[1817 – 1893]

**“CRISIS PLUS ATTITUDE
EQUALS OPPORTUNITY”**

The Bird Migration

BRIGSTOCK

Centuries before the Bird family arrived on the scene the settlement of "Brigstock" was to be found in a Forest that originally stretched from Stamford to Northampton. Known by the name Rockingham Forest it was designated a royal hunting forest by William the Conqueror. Brigstock mentioned as 'Bricstoc' in the Domesday Book-A.D.1087) may mean "*the stockade of birch trees.*" The earliest definite traces of human habitation in the parish date from the Early Bronze Age. A skeleton found in a sand pit was dated c 1500 BC. There are considerable traces of habitation during the Roman times. The present village dates from Saxon times and it was then a place of some importance in the Forest.

In the late Middle Ages Brigstock became the largest village in the Rockingham Forest and it stood between the two vast royal parks of Geddington and Farming (*Fermyn*) Woods. In 1466 Edward IV granted Brigstock a market on Saturdays and two fairs a year, on St Georges and St Martins Days. King James I in 1604 granted a licence for Markets on Thursdays and for three fairs a year on St Marks, St Bartholomew's and St Martins days. In 1830 it is reported that the market had fallen into disuse but the fairs were still being held.

The population of Brigstock has been fairly steady for hundreds of years at about 1000. It was expected to reach 2000 in the 1980s. However, at the time of the 2001 census, the parish population was 1,329 people. There has always been a certain amount of enterprise in Brigstock; principally in the industries of a small market town." It is the largest Parish in Northamptonshire covering 6,000 acres. The oldest parts of the present Parish church date from c 850-900 AD., and the cemetery was opened in 1893, after an outbreak of Diphtheria killed 60 children. At one-time Brigstock had 13 pubs but today has only two.

["Historical Guide to the Church and Village of Brigstock," compiled by Rev Davies and revised by Rev Loxston 1970 copy supplied by Nadine Lovejoy]

THE BIRDS

William Bird, 'the aleman' was a labourer until 1717 when a transfer of property, shows him as tenant of the "Dukes Arms" (now the Co-op in Brigstock). In 1723 the property again changed hands this time it was sold to the Duke of Montagu and William rented the pub and 12 acres of land. William was often fined for selling ale in 'mugs of the wrong size', no odds for betting they were under size! Large bills for repairs to the pub raised the rent from £11 a year to £14 and the cost of repairs one year was £300, a huge sum for those days. William was also fined for not taking the job of Parish Constable. Later, for one year, he was Overseer for the Poor.

The earliest records of house dwelling rents is from 1733 when William Bird was moved from a 5d place to a 2s-5d one, annual value, and rents ranged from 5d & 9d to an average abode for 2s-5d. (Brigstock Northants.)

William 'the aleman' had a half-brother, John Bird. John's son William was the only carpenter in the, family, probably because his father died a month before he was born and so he took the trade of his step-father, William Edwins. William 'the carpenter' applied for a settlement certificate to allow him to move to Easton-on-the-Hill in 1747 and his cousin Edward Bird moved into his house, this was the first independent house Edward had lived in despite being married for five years, up until this time he had lived with his father, William, in the alehouse.

In the overseer's accounts of 1773 it reports that William Bird's wife came from Eason (Easton) to see the overseers and this cost.6d, in April they went to see her and put their costs as 2s-6d, without recording why! In 1774 it was recorded as follows, 'hors and expenses going to see Wm Bird at Eason cost 3s.' Many details of the Overseers Accounts give us an insight into the hard times our ancestors had to put up with; In 1773, 2s was paid to "cure Birds boys head", 1775, 2d for "mending shoes", 1777, 1s paid for a "second hand shift" for Birds girls, and 5s-6d was paid for poor Rebecca Bird who had "second hand staise" (corset) and in 1779 1s-6d was paid for Thomas Bird to have bread for his wife's funeral.

In 1826 when 16 years old, young William Bird was convicted of stealing two pieces of timber from Rockingham Forest and he was imprisoned for 3 months. Then in 1837 in an incident surrounded by confusion and controversy, two Bird brothers, were caught stealing a lamb. William, now 27, and married to Betsy Bland with one child was sent to the 'house of correction' for 4 months together with his brother-in-law John Finedon. His brother, John (19) and accomplice Matthew Brown were transported for 10 years to Tasmania and never came back. John received a pardon after serving 8 years and in 1849 travelled to Adelaide where he was reunited with his sisters Lucy, married to John Finedon, and Sarah, now married to Henry March (or Marsh) from the nearby village of Thrapston, as well as his youngest brother Charles who married Margaret Heddy at Christ Church in North Adelaide just days before his own wedding. John Bird married Margaret Malthouse in Adelaide in 1850 and settled at Yankalilla on the south coast of South Australia where they raised a family of 8 children.

After his second run-in with the 'law', eldest brother William sailed away to Wellington, New Zealand with his wife Betsy and 3 out of what eventually became 9 children. Edward their 63-year-old father was caught stealing a 'faggot' and an 'ash pole' in 1843 and transported for 7 years to Tasmania. After his release he spent the rest of his life in Tasmania, dying at Longford in 1853 aged 73. Wilson, another son, also stole a lamb in 1846 and was sentenced to be transported for 10 years. His accomplice William Tebbutt ended up at Moreton Bay, Queensland in 1850.

Prepared by Judith Mower (nee Bird, now Coombes) in 1991

At this point our story centres around the family of Edward Bird and Sarah Whitwell and in particular John Bird, the third of 9 children born to Edward and Sarah in Colleyweston, a small village about 5kms south of Stamford on the road (A43) to Corby, Northamptonshire, on 11 May 1817, and baptised 9 February 1818. (parish register)

EDWARD BIRD, (-4, Edward-3, Edward-2, William-1)

Born: abt.1786; bapt. 20 April 1788; d. 3 Sept.1859. Buried 5 Sept.1859 Christchurch Cemetery, Longford, Tasmania.

Note: Charged with stealing a faggot and an ash pole in Brigstock in 1844. Transported to Australia for 7 years. Two of his sons, John & Wilson, were also transported for stealing sheep in two separate incidents.

Married: 22 May 1809

SARAH WHITWELL, b.1789-90; bur.25 Feb.1835, aged 45.

Children: of Edward & Sarah BIRD...

- i. **WILLIAM BIRD**, bapt.20 May 1810; d. 13 Jan. 1872; Married: abt. 1835/36, **BETSY BLAND**
- ii. **LUCY BIRD**, bapt.12 Mar.1815; d.8 Dec 1911; Married: 4 Jan. 1835, **JOHN FINEDON**
One Child: **SARAH FINEDON** b. abt.1835
Note: for John & Lucy FINDON
 - John, Lucy & daughter Sarah sailed in 1847 with sister Sarah & brother Charles BIRD on board the "Mariner" bound for Adelaide, South Australia.
- iii. **JOHN BIRD**, bapt.11 May 1817; d.25 May 1893; Married: 3 Dec.1850, **MARGARET MALTHOUSE**,
- iv. **ELIZABETH BIRD**, b.1819; bapt.11 Sep.1822; Bur.16 May 1833, aged 13
- v. **AMELIA BIRD**, bapt.11 Sep.1822 Married: 1849, **WILLIAM NEAL**, no known issue
- vi. **WILSON BIRD**, bapt.6 Mar.1825; d. 1 Dec. 1903; Married: abt. 1860 1, **MARY JANE ?????**; 2. **SADIE ?????**
Note: for WILSON BIRD
 - At the 1846 Stanion, Northamptonshire Assizes, William Tebbutt, aged 23, and Wilson BIRD, aged 18 (21), were charged with stealing a sheep, the property of Messrs Bell. – *The Mercury*, an 1846 Northampton newspaper. They both received a 10 year sentence of, "Transportation".
- vii. **SARAH BIRD**, [1829-1916], Married in South Aust.: **HENRY MARCH**, [1830-1902].
Note: for SARAH & HENRY MARCH
 - Sarah and her younger brother, Charles sailed to SA on an assisted passage in 1847, together with brothers Henry & Matthew March from Islip. It is thought that they may have been seeking to be reunited with their brother John transported for 10yrs in 1835, and father Edward, transported for 7 years in 1844.
- viii. **CHARLES BIRD**, bapt. 28 June 1830. Married: 12 Nov.1850, **MARGARET HEDDY, (EDDY)** in Adelaide
Witnesses: Henry MARCH & Sarah FINDEN, daughter of Lucy & John.
- ix. **SAM(UEL) BIRD**, b. 22 May 1831-4; Died an infant

During the 1830's Britain was in a state of flux. The old order of a rural, agriculture based society was quickly being overtaken by one that was urban and industrialised. Going along with this was the "enclosure" by local landowners of large tracts of land for their own use, that had previously been "village commons", and perceived as unproductive. Overlaying this chaotic change was an explosive birth rate that from 1800 to 1850 doubled the nation's population. Lagging well behind these accelerating changes were the living standards of large groups of people caught in a situation of abject poverty where hunger, homelessness, disease, and malnutrition, spawned social disorder and crime. Because the dynamics of these changes were not fully understood by the elite policy makers, it was assumed they were dealing with a growing criminal class, and a New Poor Law was passed in 1834 that made it even more difficult for victims of these tumultuous changes to gain any charitable relief. This law virtually drove them

towards a life of petty crime or worse. To a greater or lesser degree, Edward & Sarah Bird's family were a fairly accurate microcosm of what was going on in many homes right across Britain's countryside.

Running parallel with these changes was the establishment and growth of Britain's police force that had a direct influence on the family of our real-life story. In order to understand the ramifications, we must backtrack to 1749. In this year Henry Fielding founded the Bow Street Runners, Britain's first police-detectives. They were disbanded in 1839. In seeking information about the "Runners" for the bicentenary of their founding in 1949, the remarkable manuscript of Henry Goddard's autobiographical memoirs was gifted to the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis by the widow of his grandson.

Henry Goddard was born in 1800 and was enlisted in the Bow Street Foot Patrol on April 7 1824 previously having worked as a fishmonger. He rose to become one of the eight highest paid detectives in Metropolitan London and remained at Bow Street until they were disbanded in 1839. He continued to accept private commissions and remained in London until 1840 when he became the first Chief Constable of the shire county of Northampton. In researching the history of the Bow Street Runners, Patrick Pringle gained access to the manuscript and wrote the preface to the book "Memoirs of a Bow Street Runner" published in 1956 by Museum Press Ltd. He also added editorial notes to the chapters that verify the recollections of Mr Goddard from sources such as court records and Newspaper reports.[I have a copy of this book – S.B.]

Chapter twenty "*Apprehension of Deer Stealers, Sheep Stealers and Burglars*" (pages 137 to 142), deals with his investigations into the theft of money and silver from a property on the estate of the "Ladies Fitzpatrick" in Fermyn Woods at Brigstock. In the course of his investigations and arrest of the Clare brothers for the burglary charge, he also apprehended a known felon, Richard Knight, who furnished the authorities with the names of a supposed group of rustlers and poachers in return for free passage to America for fear of murderous retribution. As a result of this information Goddard obtained warrants against two brothers by the name of Bird, and four others, Brown, Briggs, Jackson and Finedon, all of whom were apprehended for sheep and deer stealing. These were committed for trial and convicted at the October sessions held at Northampton in 1837". Given his known reputation, one is left to ponder on the reliability of Knight's information and what other evidence was produced to prove the conviction of a charge at first attributed to Knight.

"Thanks in part to the vigorous efforts of Goddard there was an unusually large number of prisoners at the Quarter Sessions, the proceedings of which were reported at length in the Northamptonshire Herald and Northamptonshire Mercury of Oct 21st. 1837."

[From a copy of the newspaper report from the British Library collection]

Two of the deer stealers Goddard arrested, namely John Finedon and William Bird, did not reach the October Quarter sessions but were committed to the "*House of Correction*" for four months in July. Matthew Brown and John Bird however, did appear at the October sessions and were convicted of the theft, not of a deer now, but of a lamb from Sarah Viccars, which Goddard had at first attributed to Richard Knight. They were sentenced to ten years transportation."

[Stealing horses, cattle and sheep had ceased to be a capital offence in 1832]

According to prison hulk records which tally with both New South Wales convict and English parish records, John was born in 1817. Details of his early life first appear in Court records which document his having been a repeat offender, poaching hares on four occasions before he was convicted of stealing a sheep from Sarah Viccars in the Northampton Quarter Sessions of 19 October 1837.

:the jurors of our Lady the Queen upon their oath present that John Bird late of the parish of Brigstock in the County of Northampton, labourer, and Matthew Brown, late of the parish of Brigstock aforesaid in the county aforesaid, labourer, on the thirtieth day of May in the seventh year of the reign of our late sovereign Lord William the fourth by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, with force and arms at the parish aforesaid in the county aforesaid one lamb of

the value of fifteen shillings of the cattle, goods and chattels of one Sarah Viccars, then and there being found then and there wilfully and feloniously did kill with felonious intent to steal part of the carcase (that is to say, the heart and liver of the said sheep) against the form of the statute in such case made and provided, against the peace of our said Lord the late King, his crown and dignity.”

[Northamptonshire Quarter Sessions Grand File October Sessions 1837 QSR2/304,
Northamptonshire Quarter Sessions Recognizances File October 1837 QSR 2/305]

With his friend Matthew Brown he was, at the age of 20, sentenced to 10 years transportation.

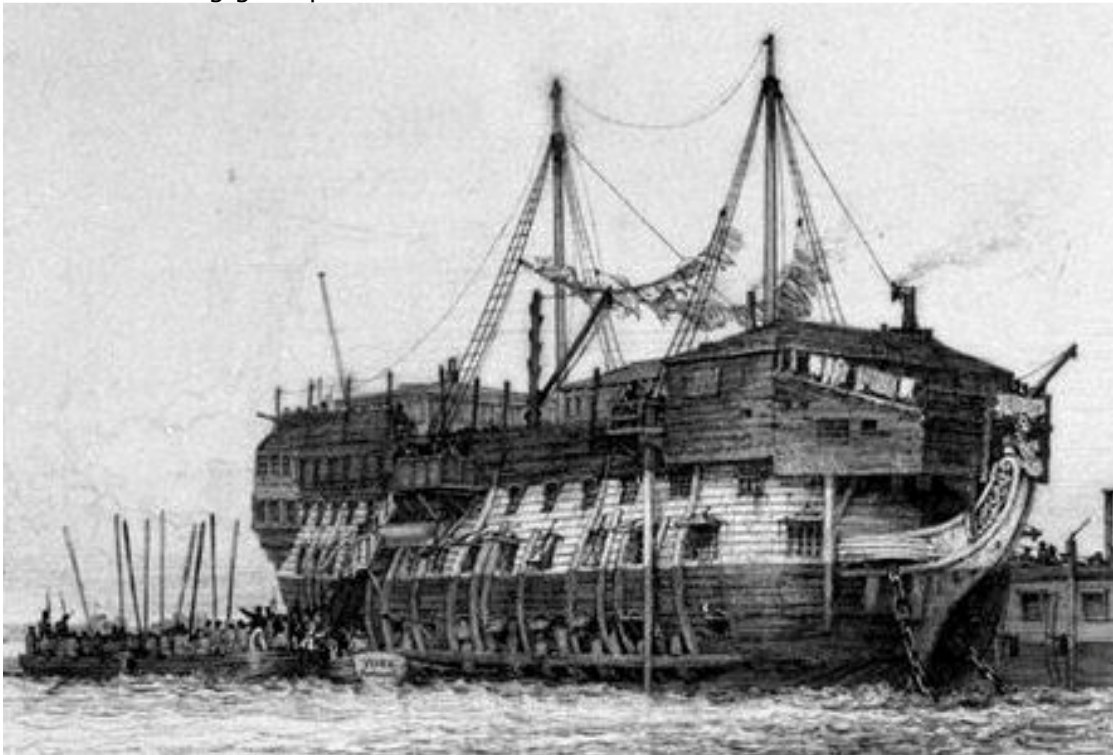
“The prisoners severally plead not guilty. The Jury find the prisoners both guilty.

Orders that the said John Bird and Matthew Brown be severally transported beyond the seas to such place as Her Majesty with the advice of her Privy Council shall think fit to direct for the term of ten years.”

[Northamptonshire Quarter Sessions minute book 1835-1837.]

Both the shipping lists for *HMS Gilmore* and the Convict registers confirm that the Clare brothers Samuel and James, convicted of theft, were transported for 7 and 14 years respectively, and Matthew brown and John Bird for ten years each

Together with the Clare brothers, John and Matthew were in all likelihood marched under guard to a major prison like Newgate. From this point they would probably have been taken in a larger group by cart or wagon to Portsmouth. Along the way they would have stopped overnight at secluded but strategically placed, government built, 'Red Barns', with iron stakes purpose built into the walls to which the prisoners were shackled until morning. Apparently, there are still a few 'Red' signposts to be found at secluded intersections, directing the way to one of these now long gone prison motels.



Prison Hulk at Portsmouth about 1820-40

They were held on a Prison Hulk *HMS Leviathan*, moored at Portsmouth, for almost a year until 29 September 1838. The Prison Hulks were decommissioned naval sailing ships moored in rivers to accommodate prisoners from the overflowing prison system until they were transported or released and from where they were detailed into work gangs. Conditions were appalling and disease was rife, so that many did not survive their incarceration. This, we fear, may have been where the life of John's brother Wilson came to an end about ten years later.

HMS *Leviathan* was built at Chatham dockyard and launched in 1790 by the Royal Navy. She was a 74-gun third rate ship of the line, being one of a class of six modelled on the lines of a captured French 74, the *Courageux*. The ship had a very active life in the French Revolutionary Wars taking part in the action at Toulon, the battle of the Glorious First of June and numerous other engagements in the West Indies and Mediterranean. At Trafalgar under Henry William Bayntum, she was fourth in the windward column led by HMS *Victory*, and captured the Spanish ship *San Augustin*. In 1816, after the end of the Napoleonic Wars, *Leviathan* was laid up as a prison ship at Portsmouth in 1816, and was later used for target practice before being broken up in 1848.

(Lavery, Brian (2003) "Ships of the Line - Volume 1: The development of the battle-fleet 1650-1850." Conway Maritime Press. ISBN 0-85177-252-8 per Wikipedia)

Without the usual naval discipline, life on board a hulk was horrific. A cruel, dirty, disease ridden, immoral hell on earth. During their months on board they would almost certainly have been organized into daily work-gangs and taken ashore to carry out some laborious mind-numbing project. Once on the prison hulk it is doubtful they would have been brought back to London to embark on the ship to Australia, but rather, the ship would have sailed around and picked them up directly from the hulk at Portsmouth. Almost a year after being sentenced they boarded the HMS *Gilmore* which sailed from Portsmouth on 5 October 1838 and arrived in Van Diemen's Land (VDL), an early name for Tasmania, 111 days later on 24 January 1839.

Much has been written about the terrible conditions of convicts in Australia: the conditions in the convict ships, their treatment by the guards, the horrible nature of the prisons such as Port Arthur in Tasmania, and so on. In the introduction to his book, *"The Fatal Shore"*, Robert Hughes wrote, "This book is largely about what the convicts tell us of their suffering and survival..."; and his 600 pages, with few exceptions, are doom and gloom from start to finish. These depressing stories are probably true. However, I think the overall correct perspective is something else. For roughly the first 10 years of the convict era the death rate during the voyage was high. But the English reformists' actions in England led to better treatment of the convicts and from about 1810 the death rate on the Transports was less than on other ships undertaking similar voyages during the same time frame. Why? It became law that a surgeon had to be on board and the remuneration of the Captain and surgeon depended, in part, on the number of healthy convicts who landed in Australia.

Surprisingly, it turns out that there were some regulations for providing 'in house' medical treatment for convicts. This was better than 'free' Australians got and certainly better than almost everyone in the UK got. Going along with this, the dietary value of food that was available and could be afforded in England's big cities was dreadful, and this of course was where the vast majority of convicts came from. Fruit and vegetables in these big cities were hard to get even if they could be afforded; there was no refrigeration and no effective distribution system. In Australia fruit and vegetables were comparatively plentiful in season though probably not more plentiful than meat.

The two policy objectives for the Governors were to punish and reform the convicts. And although it was probably something less than keeping convicts in UK prisons, both aims still cost British money. Correspondence between the Colonial Governors and the English Government is full of Governors' pleas for more funds — not surprisingly the British wanted to spend less. The cost of keeping a convict in captivity had to be shouldered by the Governors, and because of a shortage of British funds the Governors sought ways to lessen that cost.

The answer was getting convicts out of gaols to survive without Colonial funds, using two main tactics: allocating convicts, as free labour for settlers; and land grants which (apart from increasing the productivity of the colony) created opportunities to employ convicts at a cost of merely 'board and lodging' that was borne solely by the employer. Imagine for a moment such tactics being possible in the UK! It was near impossible for an ordinary British citizen to even contemplate the possibility of acquiring ownership of land.

It became evident, fairly early on, that life for most of the convicts in Australia was good compared with life in the UK, which probably helps to explain why so few convicts returned to the UK after they were freed.

Surviving Prison Hulk Registers and Letter Books 1802-1849 record the following...

Name: *John Bird no. 3592*
Aged: *21, Single;*
Crime: *Sheep-stealing;*
Convicted: *Northampton 19th October 1837;*
Sentence: *10 years;*
Read or Write: *No;*
Trade: *Labourer;*
Gaoler's Report: *Bad. In prison 4 times before;*
How disposed of: *VDL 29 September 1838* [VDL: Van Dieman's Land, later Tasmania]

Detailed descriptions of Convicts' appearances were recorded when they arrived in case of their absconding and from these we know that John was 5' 9" tall, fair complexioned, with red hair and eye brows, and clean shaven. He had hazel eyes and freckles. His nose mouth and chin were all described as "med", visage oval, head small. John's vocation was listed as Agricultural Labourer, specifically "Ploughman/Milk".

As already noted, the lack of British funds forced colonial governors to seek ways to lessen the costs of their administration. Their answer with regard to the convict population in their care was to allocate convicts, as free labour for settlers. This allocation was driven by the offering of land grants which (amongst other things) created opportunities to employ convicts. A Ticket of Leave (TOL), given to a convict on the basis of good behaviour, was a document granting them freedom to work and live within a given district of the colony, or under the supervision of a particular employer, before their sentence expired or they were pardoned. Some time after his arrival in Tasmania John was assigned to, or "appropriated" by, Captain Glover at Sorell (on the road to Port Arthur) with a TOL. John must have got along quite favourably under the oversight and mentorship of Captain Glover, for eight years later the record of his Pardon notes the following:

Conviction: *Transported for Sheep Stealing.*

Gaol report: *4 times in prison before.*

Hulk report: *good, single, stated that this offence stealing a lamb tried with Matthew Brown, once for a hare 14 days; again 2 mo for a hare, twice 2 mo for same.*

Surgeons report: *good*

Recommended for a Conditional Pardon: *28 October 1845; Approved: 31 October 1845*

"Having completed 8 years of a 10-year sentence without having been once charged with misconduct."

13133

Bird Edward

Transported for *Healing Wood. Good Report Second Conviction, Digged - Staked this offence - Healing Faggots R & Mr Chapman at Bird Street for wood 6 months. No army several times 8 months. Woodwork Surgeons Report Good.*

Tried *Northampton Q.L. 3rd July 44. 7. Year*

Embarked *12th March 1844*

Arrived *10th July 1844*

Protestant - see further read or write

| Trade | Height | Age | Complex. | Head. | Hair. | Whiskers. | Visage. | Forehead. | Eyebrows. | Eyes. | Nose. | Mouth. | Chin. | Native Place. |
|--------------------|-------------|-----------|--------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|----------------|
| <i>Tann Labour</i> | <i>5.10</i> | <i>58</i> | <i>Ruddy</i> | <i>Long</i> | <i>Dark Brown</i> | <i>Dark Brown</i> | <i>Long</i> | <i>H. Hair</i> | <i>Black</i> | <i>Brown</i> | <i>Long</i> | <i>Thin</i> | <i>Pointed</i> | <i>Bristol</i> |
| <i>Can plough</i> | | | | | <i>Grey</i> | <i>Grey</i> | | | | | | | | |

Marks *1 Scar on forefinger 2 scars on 3 finger Right Hand scar on left wrist scar on back of right hand scar on right wrist scar over left eye low face wrinkled hands do & slightly crippled*

Period of Gang Probation *Fifteen Months*

Station of Gang *Marion Island*

Class *A. 1. 1.*

Offences & Sentences.

*Emerges from bay 10th Oct 1845
11 Jan 1848 Q.L.*

Remarks.


Copy of this report sent to the Hon. Secy of the Colonies 18/1/49 B. M. & P. B. Ballantyne Secy 1849.

Free best: 4 - 1 - 57.

29th Nov 1844

Edward Bird's Tasmanian convict record

John Bird's companion Matthew Brown also survived the ordeal and his family finally settled in the South-east of South Australia and went on to establish "Brown's of Padthaway", a winery on the Riddoch Highway. Among their labels, the 300-hectare winery produces a "*Brigstock Cabenet Shiraz Malbec*". A 6 pack retails for \$252.00 AUD in 2014 commemorating the family's origins. The winery also has a presence on the internet.



Every serious wine producer makes a wine that speaks to their fans about what their wine values really are – and makes a statement about what they do best. Ours is the Brigstock, named after the town from which our forbears came, in Northamptonshire. We trust that they approve...

It is not made every year, and is carefully produced to be a wine that will age gracefully; the current vintage is from the cool, dry year of 2002. It is a blend of several classic French red varieties, each of which plays its part to make a wine of complexity and interest.

The '02 Brigstock is deep red colour, with an inky, formic first glance, coming from the Shiraz; plus notes of dried herbs (from the Cabernet Sauvignon and Malbec); then some chocolate (from those expensive French oak barrels in which it slept for many months); plus a hint of leather (from bottle age). This is a lovely amalgam of fruit and winemaking influences, and touches of bottle maturation. It is genuinely complex in that many aromas are present, and all are in balance.

The palate is dense but well-structured; a core of fresh acidity from the cool season sets the tone. While it is approaching mid-life there is not a hint of crisis, largely due to that acidity, but also its fruit-derived tight, dry tannins.

The Brigstock will go at least another 5 years from now (this note written in 2009), and is delightful with Moroccan lamb fillets, a venison pie with roast onions and potato mash; or if you are feeling adventurous in the kitchen, a roast duck.

Browns Of Padthaway
The Brigstock 2002

http://www.brownsopadthaway.com.au/Browns_Of_Padthaway/The_Brigstock.html

In summary, when reading the details above, the decade of the 1830's was a black time for the Bird family it is obvious they were doing life in the toughest possible way, but at the same time were probably not that different to many others at the time. It appears that their troubles began to multiply when Elizabeth, a daughter of the family aged just thirteen, died in 1833 and possibly the young infant Sam, at about the same time. Then when their mother, Sarah Whitwell died two years later in 1835 everything took another spiralling downward twist. In 1837 William (27) and John (21) were arrested, one to serve time in the '*house of correction*' and the other transported to van Dieman's Land for ten years. At the same time their sister Lucy's husband, John Finedon also served time in prison. Later in 1844, Edward the father aged 63, was transported for seven years for theft. And in 1846, another son, Wilson (18), was also transported for ten years for sheep stealing, and thought lost to the gaol system until his destination, only discovered in 2017, was found to be Bermuda rather than Australia. Their cousin Mary Shepherd Bird (15) also came to the notice of the law in 1846, when she was convicted of uttering a valueless paper, purporting to be a ten-pound note, with intent to defraud, and received a four months hard labour sentence.

John's eldest brother William had been sentenced at the July Quarter Sessions of 1837, to 4 months in the "*House of Correction*" which must have been especially tough for his wife Betsy who had 6-month-old Mary to look after, and was almost certainly expecting their next baby, for the following year William and Betsy's first son was born. They named him John, possibly for his uncle 'beyond the seas' in Tasmania, for the name has continued through at least three generations almost like a living memorial.

With this family crisis also came opportunity. Now that they were well and truly under the watchful gaze and accusing finger of officialdom, the family probably realised that a new start was required. In what turned into a family exodus William and Betsy together with their young and growing family that eventually reached nine children, made their move by emigrating from Gravesend 3 October 1841 on the sailing ship *Clifton*, done, the story is told, to be near John, his brother. The *Clifton's* passenger list records the family as follows, William, age 33, agricultural labourer; Betsy, age 32; Mary, age 4; John, age 3, and Amelia, age 1mth. The ship was under the command of Captain Cox and also carried on board a Surgeon Super-intendent: Joseph Hamilton Smyth. They arrived 138 days later, on the 17 February 1842 at Port Nicholson (Wellington), New Zealand. In an era when few children under five survived the primitive rigors of sailing ships, Betsy did a sterling job of bringing her first three through four and a half months, of ship-board life on the *Clifton*, just to begin enduring the privations of being dumped on a beach. Apart from a primitive landing stage on the opposite side of the harbour, built specifically

in 1840 to land the initial surveying party and their equipment, Wellington wouldn't have a wharf for another forty years. William & Betsy with privations of this sort at every turn, had to fend, not just for themselves but also for their expanding brood.

WILLIAM BIRD, (-5, Edward-4, Edward-3, Edward-2, William-1)

Born: 20 May 1810 in Brigstock, Northamptonshire Eng. Died: 13 January 1872, Wellington

Married: 26 October 1836 in Brigstock, Northamptonshire, ENG. .

ELIZABETH (BETSY) BLAND, daughter of JOHN BLAND, brewer

Born: 1812 in Brigstock, Northamptonshire, Eng.

Children: of WILLIAM BIRD & BETSY BLAND are:

- | | | |
|-------|-------------------------------|---|
| i. | MARY BIRD , | b. 15 Jan. 1837, Wellingborough, Northamptonshire, Eng. |
| ii. | JOHN THOMAS BIRD , | b. 11 Feb. 1838, Brigstock, Northamptonshire, Eng. |
| iii. | AMELIA BIRD , | b. abt. 1841, Brigstock, Northamptonshire, Eng. |
| iv. | MARK GRAMMOR BIRD , | b. abt. 1842, Wellington, New Zealand. |
| v. | MARGARET SARAH BIRD , | b. 20 Jan. 1847, Wellington, New Zealand. |
| vi. | ELIZA ELIZABETH BIRD , | b. 17 Jun. 1848, Wellington, New Zealand. |
| vii. | WILLIAM WILSON BIRD , | b. 6 Oct. 1850, Wellington, New Zealand. |
| viii. | SAMUEL BLAND BIRD , | b. 12 Mar. 1853, Wellington, New Zealand. |
| ix. | THOMAS EDWARD BIRD , | b. 13 Jul. 1855, Wellington, New Zealand. |

Wellington Independent

MONDAY, JANUARY 15, 1872.

DEATH.

BIRD.—On the 13th instant, at Wellington, Mr William Bird, aged 62 years.

<http://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/cgi-bin/paperspast>



Although we are uncertain, Sherrie believes this photo from her archives could well be Betsy Bird with 8 of her 9 children.

Evening Post.

Wednesday, September 5, 1894

OBITUARY

We regret to have to announce the death of another early settler in Wellington—Mrs. Elizabeth Bird, of Hall-street, Newtown, who passed away yesterday at the ripe age of 83 years. Mrs. Bird arrived with her husband in the ship Clifton, in February, 1842, and has been a resident in Wellington ever since. Her husband died in January, 1873. She leaves five sons, four daughters, 62 grandchildren, and 36 great grandchildren, with a large circle of friends, to lament their loss. Mr. Florence Macarthy, now part proprietor of the Grey River Argus, and long connected with the Wellington press, is a son-in-law. Mrs. Bird will be much missed in the neighbourhood in which she resided, as she was ever ready to assist those who required assistance, and her acts of charity will be long remembered.

(Betsy's husband William, actually died 13 January 1872 not 1873 as recorded in this obituary. Son-in-law Florence Rowland Macarthy was married to Margaret Sarah Bird.)

Thursday, September 6, 1894

FUNERAL NOTICE.

THE Friends of the late Mrs. Elizabeth Bird are respectfully invited to attend her Funeral which will leave her late residence, Hall-street, To-morrow, Friday, 7th September, 1894, at 2.50 p.m., for Bolton-street Cemetery.

E. MORRIS, JUN.,
Undertaker, Taranaki-street.

Nephew and namesake **John** Thomas Bird settled in Hawkes Bay in the mid 1850s and married Johanna Hunt, a union producing five children before Johanna's death. In a second marriage to Mary Nelson there were four more children. The eldest son of this union was named

John Joseph (Joe Bird) who in turn used 'John' in the naming of his two sons. The first, Thomas **John** (Noel) Bird. named his eldest son Brian **John** Bird. The second, **John** Joseph Nelson (also known as Joe) named his eldest son **John** Gerrard Bird. This "John" went on to have a son, Dominic Joseph BIRD who as a New Zealand All Black in 2014, plays that king of team sports, rugby, a game that was first codified in the public-school life of Rugby, Warwickshire in about 1845. It is also the setting for Thomas Hughes' "*Tom Brown's School Days*" a classic story about life in a public school.

Information supplied by Brian John & Sherrie Bird, Hawkes Bay, NZ.

So, what about John's brother, Wilson Bird [1825-1903]. He and his friend William Tebutt were arrested for stealing a sheep and sentenced at the March 1846 Stanion, Northamptonshire Assizes to 10 years transportation, and until 2017 that has been about as much as we know. He appeared to vanish and all the research to discover his whereabouts beyond the seas in the southern hemisphere only produced "thin air". His name was not to be found amongst the convict ship records or the prison records from Perth to Hobart and beyond and it was feared he had become a victim of the prison system, or worse. However, the reason Wilson could not be found on a Prison Hulk Register is that he was never sent to one! Instead, due to overcrowding on the hulks he was incarcerated in Millbank Prison in what is now the site of the South Bank complex by the river Thames. From there he was placed aboard the "*Warrior*" Hulk before being transported in April 1846 to Bermuda in the convict ship "*Scotia*". As for his partner in crime, William Tebutt ended up sailing aboard the "*Mount Stuart Elphinstone*" as late as 1 June 1849. The ship must have taken the longest route possible and made some stops along the way because they did not arrive at Moreton Bay, (Brisbane, Queensland) until 1 February 1850.

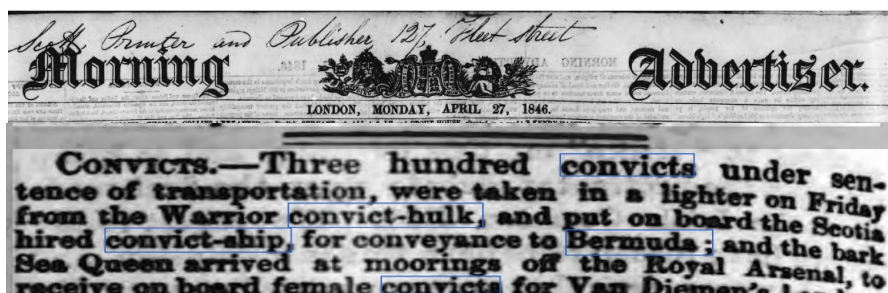


England & Wales, Crime, Prisons & Punishment, 1770-1935 Transcription

[Learn more](#)

[Print](#)

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| First name(s) | Wilson |
| Last name | Bird |
| Age | 18 |
| Birth year | 1828 |
| Occupation | Labourer |
| Year | 1846 |
| Date | 02 Mar 1846 |
| Crime | Stealing |
| Sentence duration | 10 |
| Place | Bermuda |
| Court | Northampton |
| County | - |
| Source | Millbank Prison Registers: Male Prisoners. Volume 3 |
| Series | HO24 |
| Piece number | 3 |
| Record set | England & Wales, Crime, Prisons & Punishment, 1770-1935 |
| Category | Institutions & organisations |
| Subcategory | Prison registers |
| Collections from | Great Britain, UK None |



Wilson BIRD, (-5, Edward-4, Edward-3, Edward-2, William-1)

Born: March 1825 in Brigstock, Northamptonshire Eng. Died: 1 December 1903 in Illinois, U.S.A.

Note: for WILSON BIRD

- At the 1846 Stanion, Northamptonshire Assizes, Wilson aged 18 (21), was charged with stealing a sheep, the property of Messrs Bell. – *The Mercury*, an 1846 Northampton newspaper. He received a 10-year sentence of, "Transportation to Bermuda".
- Incarcerated in Millbank Prison & "Warrior" hulk before transported 30 April 1846 in "Scotia".
- After release Wilson became a farmer in Pleasant Plain, near the village of Tallula, Menard County, Illinois.
- Both Wilson & Mary Jane are buried at Indian Point Cemetery, Illinois, U.S.A.
- Sherrie Bird found the Will of Wilson Bird, died 1 December 1903 in the Illinois Wills and Probate Records 1772-1999 on Ancestry. From this document have come the names of Wilson's children and second wife.

Married 1st: sometime after 1856, and his release from Bermuda convict prison

Mary Jane BALDOCK,

Born: abt. 1829, U.S.A.?? Died: 17 June 1883; buried Indian Point Cemetery, Illinois, U.S.A.

Married 2nd: 1895 U.S.A.

Sarah Lorinda (Sadie) JACOBS

By accessing both her marriage and death certificate we know that on the 19 November 1849, John's sister Amelia, born in 1822, and now working as a servant, married a labourer named William Neal whose father, also with the name William Neal, was a shoemaker. Amelia's father is listed as a labourer and the witnesses for this event were John Neal and William Warner. The Neale's continued to live in England and by following them through the census years it does not appear that any children were born to them. Amelia died of cirrhosis of the liver, aged 59, on the 19 April 1889 at Benefield, where one presumes they lived, just north of Brigstock.

The next stage of the exodus happened in 1847, two years prior to Amelia's marriage. The two youngest surviving members of the family, Sarah (18) and brother, Charles (17) procured an assisted passage having to pay as little as £2 each and sailed away to begin a new life in South Australia, aboard the "*Mariner*". Sailing also on board the "*Mariner*" with Sarah and Charles were some other passengers we need to know about. The news-paper's shipping list recorded a "John Frinden, wife and child" who with some more research by Sherrie Bird from New Zealand, turned out to be Sarah & Charles Bird's older sister Lucy. her husband John Finedon or Findon and their only daughter, Sarah. Also on board from the neighbouring village of Thrapston was Henry March and his brother Matthew. Now, they may have known each other previously and planned it all before the voyage, on the other hand the voyage itself may have provided the catalyst that ignited this romance, but the fact remains, Sarah Bird married Henry March very soon after their arrival in South Australia where, after about a ten-year stint on the Victorian goldfields at Ararat and Castlemaine, they eventually settled in rural Kapunda and produced a family of 12 children. The passenger list also contained a "John Brown & wife", begging the question, was this Matthew Brown's brother?

SARAH BIRD, (-5, Edward-4, Edward-3, Edward-2, William-1)

Born: 3 June 1829 in Brigstock, Northamptonshire Eng. Died: 29 April 1916 in Kapunda, South Australia,

Married: soon after their arrival in Adelaide 23 Sept. 1847 on board the *Mariner*

HENRY MARCH, [1830-1902]. Son of MATTHEW MARCH & ANN GUESS

Born: 25 July 1830 in Thrapston, Northamptonshire, U.K. d. 17 June 1902 in Kapunda, S.A.

Children: of SARAH & HENRY MARCH,

- | | | |
|-------|--------------------------------------|---|
| i. | MARY ANN MARCH, [1848-1923]; | m. WILLIAM P. THOMAS, b.1842 |
| ii. | HANNAH MARCH, [1850-1942]; | m. EDMUND E. PARHAM, [1853-1885] |
| iii. | HENRY MARCH, [1852-1902]; | |
| iv. | JOHN MARCH, [1855-1855]; | |
| v. | SAMUEL MARCH, [1857-1944]; | m. ELIZABETH PRIOR WILLIAMS, [1857-1946] |
| vi. | MATTHEW MARCH, [1860-1948]; | m. HENRIETTA WAGNER, [1856-1927] |
| vii. | SARAH MARCH, [1863-1937]; | m. JOHN HENRY G. TAYLOR, |
| viii. | AGNES LOUISA MARCH, [1865]; | m. CHARLES H. GLASSON, |
| ix. | ISAAC MARCH, [1867-1922]; | m. MARGARET SHORT, |
| x. | ALBERT MARCH, [1870-1957]; | m. JULIA THOMPSON, |
| xi. | SELINA MARCH, [1871-1942]; | m. WILLIAM H. PEARCE, |
| xii. | EDITH MAY MARCH, [1873-1886]; | |

Kapunda, located about 80kms north of Adelaide, on the road to Morgan, is famous for two things. The first is the copper ore outcrops that were discovered here in 1842 that led to copper mining in the area from 1844 to 1879, and the development of the town. Today it is probably known more for the fine marble quarried locally, and for its close proximity to the world class quality, wine growing region of South Australia's Barossa Valley. Kapunda's other claim to fame is the identity who made it his home in the person of Australia's greatest pastoralist Sir Sydney Kidman [1857-1935] who at one time owned a total area in Australia greater than the size of

the British Isles, and held annual horse sales in the town, where as many as 3000 horses were sold during the week of festivities.

After their arrival in South Australia John Findon (Frinden/Finden/Finedon) turned his hand to carting and probably settled in the vicinity of Port Adelaide in order to take advantage of the work created by the port. John also appears to have had a serious falling out with his brother-in-law Charles, although with another Charles Bird (mariner) living in Port Adelaide it could have been this local mariner. Anyway, the South Australia Register 26 February 1869 reports on a lawsuit in the Police courts, between Findon and Bird being withdrawn and settled out of court. John died 30 years after his arrival in Adelaide in 1878 aged 63. Lucy lived on for another 33 years and died 10 December 1911 aged 96, "*widow of the late John Findon, carrier, originally from Brigstock*". At the time of her death, Lucy had lived in Australia for 64 years and her address was given as (Grand) Junction Road, Rosewater, a short walk from the port, but a distance of about 10kms from the burgeoning town of Adelaide. Today, Lucy and her daughter Sarah lie buried in the cemetery at Cheltenham, off the road to Port Adelaide. Their daughter Sarah Findon who later married William Henry Wells, went on to have 8 children. Unfortunately, 4 of them died within 4 months of their birth.

ADELAIDE: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26
[Before Mr. S. Boddome, P.M.]
An information – Bird v. Findon – was withdrawn
on the application of Mr. Walsey, the case having
been settled out of Court.

LUCY BIRD, (-5, Edward-4, Edward-3, Edward-2, William-1)

Bap. 12 Mar.1815, Brigstock, Northamptonshire.

Died: 8 Dec.1911, aged 96 yrs. Rosewater, Port Adelaide, South Australia.

Lucy lived at (Grand) Junction Road Rosewater, and is buried at Cheltenham Cemetery.

Married: by banns on 4 Jan.1835, Brigstock, Northamptonshire aged 20 yrs

JOHN FINDON (FindMyPast Northamptonshire Marriages) Born: 4 Jan.1814, Brigstock, Northamptonshire Eng. Died: 1 May.1878, MacDonnell Ward, Hospital, Margaret Street, North Adelaide, SA.

Only Child: of LUCY & JOHN...

SARAH FINDON, Born abt. Nov.1835 Brigstock. Died: 23 Jun.1917, Rosewater, Port Adelaide, South Australia.

Married: 27 Jun.1854, Trinity Church, Adelaide, South Australia aged 19 yrs.

WILLIAM HENRY WELLS, aged 24 yrs. Born abt.1830, Died: 20 Oct.1910, Rosewater, Port Adelaide, South Australia.

Children (eight): of SARAH & WILLIAM, four died within a few months of birth and one at eight years old.

i. **ELIZABETH WELLS**, Born: 25 Apr.1855, North Adelaide SA. Died 5 Feb.1864, Queenstown, SA.

ii. **AMELIA WELLS**, Born: 25 Jan.1859, North Adelaide, SA died ??

iii. **LUCY WELLS**, Born: 21 Jul.1861, North Adelaide, SA died: 25 Oct.1935, Redfern, Adelaide, SA

iv. **SOPHIA WELLS**, Born: 29 Feb.1864, Queenstown, Adelaide. Died: 9 Aug.1911, Brompton, Hindmarsh, SA.

v. **CAROLINE WELLS**, (twin) Born: 24 Oct.1869. Port Adelaide, Died: 28 Nov.1968, Port Adelaide, SA.

vi. **WALTER FINDON WELLS**, (twin) Born 24 Oct 1869 Port Adelaide SA , died 22 Nov.1869, Port Adelaide, SA.

vii. **SARAH ELIZABETH WELLS**, Born: 11 Feb 1877 1877 Portland Estate, Port Adelaide, SA.

Died: 12 Mar.1940. Evanston, Cook, Illinois, USA ??

viii. **JOHN FINDON WELLS**, Born: 11 Apr.1880, Queenstown, SA.

Died: 1 Jul.1880, Portland Estate, Port Adelaide, SA.

Sarah Findon, as a 15-year-old, was a witness for her Uncle Charles, as was brother-in-law Henry March, when Charles married Margaret Eddy or Heddy on the 12 November 1850. We also gather from Charles' marriage certificate that he was employed as a bricklayer.

Very soon after their marriage in 1850, and gathered from the birth dates of their first seven children it appears that the family spent about 10 to 12 years on the goldfields of Victoria, as did Sarah and Henry as well. There is an unsubstantiated story that one of the Birds' struck it rich at the diggings and acquired a significant slice of Collins Street in Melbourne's CBD, only to lose it all to women, drink and gambling. According to the SA Birth Index 1842-1906, Charles and Margaret moved back to Adelaide in about 1860, where 5 more children were born, and where they lived across the Torrens River in North Adelaide:

CHARLES BIRD, (-5, Edward-4, Edward-3, Edward-2, William-1)

Bapt: 28 June 1830, Brigstock, Northamptonshire; d. South Australia

Lived: Adelaide, South Australia

Profession: Marriage Cert.-Bricklayer;

Married: 12 Nov.1850, Christ Church, North Adelaide, South Australia.

Witnesses: Charles' niece Sarah FINDEN and brother-in-law Henry MARCH.

MARGARET HEDDY,

b. abt. 1830, Ireland; d. South Australia

Children: of Charles & Margaret are:

- | | | |
|-------|-----------------------------------|---|
| i. | JAMES BIRD, | b. abt.1849; Died: 11 Dec.1893, St. Kilda Road Sth. Melbourne. |
| ii. | ELIZABETH BIRD, | b. 1852, Adelaide; Died: 6 Apr.1914, Sth. Melbourne. |
| iii. | UNKNOWN BIRD, | b. between 1852-1856; Died: ?? |
| iv. | SARAH ANN BIRD, | b. 12 Aug.1856, Castlemaine, Victoria; Died: 13 May 1873, Melbourne. |
| v. | WILLIAM BIRD, | b. 3 May 1858, Castlemaine, Victoria, Australia; Died: ?? |
| vi. | JOHN WILLIAM BIRD, | b. abt.1859, Died: 21 Sep.1909, Cusack Street, Wangaratta, Victoria. |
| vii. | WILSON BIRD, | b. 14 Apr.1860, Died: 16 Dec.1917, 11 Jenkins St. Northcote, Melbourne. |
| viii. | CHARLOTTE MAUD BIRD, | b. 15 Jun 1862 at North Adelaide |
| ix. | ALBERT BIRD, | b. 3 May 1864 at North Adelaide |
| x. | MARY AMELIA (MILLEY) BIRD, | b. 27 Jun 1866 at North Adelaide |
| xi. | WALTER BIRD, | b. 11 Apr 1868 at North Adelaide |
| xii. | HARRIET BIRD, | b. 14 Nov 1869 at North Adelaide |

Having been pardoned in October 1845 John must have continued working in Tasmania or Melbourne for a further three years before a shipping intelligence article dated 27 March 1849, in the Melbourne "Argus" newspaper, reports the barque "Wuzeer" departing Melbourne for Adelaide on the 24th with a John Bird as passenger. What a reunion it must have been after his transported convict ordeal for John to meet up with members of his family in Adelaide. To see again his sister Lucy and husband John Findon together with their daughter Sarah. What emotions must have been stirred when he renewed acquaintances with a now very grown up sister Sarah her husband Henry March and their first baby, Mary Ann. He was almost certainly present for the marriage of his youngest brother Charles to Margaret Heddy on the 12 November 1850, in the beautiful newly built and consecrated (1849) Christ Church in North Adelaide, overlooking the city of Adelaide across the Torrens River. But perhaps the headiest moment of his new-found freedom was just three weeks later on 3 December 1850, when he stood in the same church and married the love of his life, Margaret Malthouse. John's new sister-in-law Margaret Bird and brother-in-law, William Malthouse, were witnesses for this ceremony.

Having married the daughter of a family recently arrived from Yorkshire who lived in Hindmarsh, on the outskirts then but today an inner suburb and only a short walk from Adelaide's CBD, John and Margaret looked further afield and settled about 70kms south of Adelaide at Yankalilla on the Fleurieu Peninsular, where it is believed the Malthouse family also owned property in or near Normanville. Established in the 1830's this town grew rapidly between 1850 and 1870 and during this time Yankalilla became one of the five major towns in the colony of South Australia. A jetty was constructed at Normanville just three kilometers down the road to export the wheat grown in the district. The district council was officially proclaimed in 1854 and by the late 1860s the townships of Yankalilla and Normanville had three flour mills, five stores, two breweries, four blacksmiths, three hotels and five churches. This was where John and Margaret raised their family of eight children, and where John, as recorded on his death certificate, worked to support his family as a stone mason, a skill he more than likely acquired during his convict years. Local records state that John and Margaret operated the Yankalilla butcher's shop. They named their firstborn son both 'William' after her father and 'Edward' after John's. Their second son Hugh was a namesake of one of Margaret's brothers as was Dinah, their youngest, of Margaret's sister. (see details next);

Father: **WILLIAM MALTHOUSE**, b. 3 April 1802 Ripley (Ripon/Rippon), Nth. Yorkshire England. Mason & Farmer.
Lived: Family of 10 departed Gravesend, 13 June 1849; arrived Port Adelaide, 3 October 1849 aboard the "Macedon" and lived at Hindmarsh, Sth. Australia and also down the coast at Normanville, just 3Kms from their daughter Margaret and son-in-law John Bird at Yankalilla.
Died: 5 December 1883, Hindmarsh, South Australia, aged 81
Married: 23 June 1823, Ripley Yorkshire.

Mother: **ELIZABETH PREST**, b.4 October 1805 Aldborough, Nth. Yorkshire; d.3 May 1875 Hindmarsh, Sth. Australia.

Children:

| | | |
|-------|-----------------------------------|--|
| i. | ANNE MALTHOUSE, | christened 22 August, 1824, Hampsthwaite, Yorkshire |
| ii. | HANNAH MALTHOUSE, | christened 7 May 1826, Yorkshire |
| iii. | WILLIAM MALTHOUSE, | christened 13 January, 1828, Yorkshire |
| iv. | MARGARET MALTHOUSE, | christened 22 January, 1829, d. 11 Oct.1894. m. 3 Dec.1850, JOHN BIRD ; |
| v. | ELIZABETH MALTHOUSE, | christened 13 May, 1832, Sth. Stainley, Nth. Yorkshire |
| vi. | HUGH MALTHOUSE, | christened 11 May, 1834, Sth. Stainley, Nth. Yorkshire |
| vii. | DINAH MALTHOUSE, | christened 26 June, 1836, Sth. Stainley, Nth. Yorkshire, |
| viii. | SARAH MALTHOUSE, | christened December, 1838, Ripon, Yorkshire, |
| ix. | FRANCES (FANNY) MALTHOUSE, | christened March, 1840, Ripon, Yorkshire |
| x. | JOHN MALTHOUSE, | b.21 May, 1842, Rippon, Yorkshire |
| xi. | ALBERT MALTHOUSE, | christened, September 1844, Rippon Yorkshire |
| xii. | JAMES MALTHOUSE, | christened, June 1847, Rippon, Yorkshire. |

The Next Generation:

- Father: **JOHN BIRD**, (-5, Edward-4, Edward-3, Edward-2, William-1)
Bapt. 11 May 1817, Brigstock, Northamptonshire; d. ????
Lived: Yankalilla, South Australia
Profession: Stone Mason & Butcher
 (The shop known to have been the historic "butcher shop" still exists in the main street of Yankalilla.)
Died: 25 May 1893, at Yankalilla, South Australia, aged 72.
Married: 3 Dec. 1850, Christ Church, North Adelaide, South Australia.
Witnesses: John's sister-in-law of 3 weeks, Margaret BIRD & the bride's brother, William MALTHOUSE.
- Mother: **MARGARET MALTHOUSE**, daughter & one of 11 children of WILLIAM MALTHOUSE & ELIZABETH PREST.
 christened 22 January, 1829, Hampsthwaite, Yorkshire, England
 d. 11 Oct. 1894. Yankalilla, Sth. Australia, aged 65.
- Children:
- i. **WILLIAM EDWARD, BIRD**, b.6 Nov. 1852, Adelaide
 - ii. **SARAH, BIRD**, b.28 Jan. 1855, Adelaide
 - iii. **HUGH JOHN, BIRD**, b.17 May 1857, Salt Creek, Yankalilla
 - iv. **ELIZABETH, BIRD**, b.14 Oct 1859, Salt Creek, Yankalilla
 - v. **HENRY, BIRD**, b.31 Jan. 1862, Salt Creek, Yankalilla
 - vi. **WILSON, BIRD**, b.29 Apr. 1863; Salt Creek, Yankalilla. m. Annie Louise CAUDLE
 - vii. **AMELIA NEAL, BIRD**, b.16 Feb. 1865, Normanville
 - viii. **DINAH BIRD**, b.17 Jul. 1867, Salt Creek, Yankalilla



Yankalilla and Normanville on the Fleurieu Peninsula, South Australia

John's father Edward it seems, may not have fared so well. He died in Tasmania where he had been transported to serve his 7-year sentence. Thanks to Rayner Marsh who has shared a contribution by Margaret Gale included here together with other facts, is a "time-line" for Edward and his family.

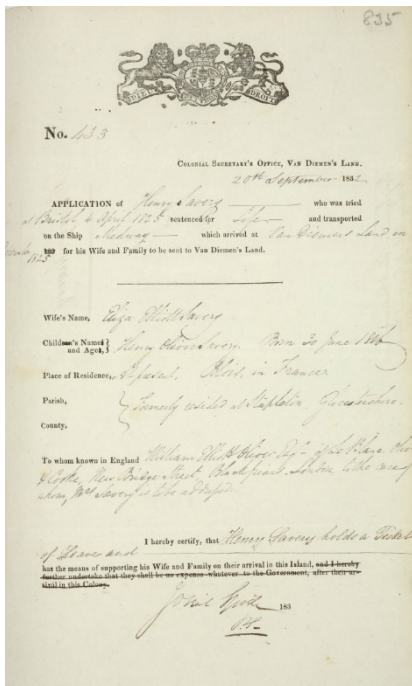
- About 1786 — Edward Bird is born to Edward Bird and Elizabeth Wilson
- 22 May 1809 — 23-year-old Edward married Sarah Whitwell, aged 20.
- 16 May 1833 — Thirteen-year-old daughter Elizabeth is buried, and about the same time it is thought that the youngest son, Sam died.
- 25 Feb. 1835 — Sarah his wife is buried.
- July 1837 — Son William and son-in-law John Finedon gaoled on poaching charges for 4 months, leaving 2 mothers with babies coping on their own.
- 19 Oct. 1837 — Son John Bird and friend Matthew Brown are charged with theft and receive a sentence of transportation to Australia for ten years.
- 05 Oct. 1838 — John and Matthew depart England on board the "*Gilmore*"
- 24 Jan. 1839 — John aged 21 & Matthew Brown arrive in Hobart
- Late 1843 — Edward is charged and sentenced to transportation to Australia for seven years.

- 12 Mar.1844 — Edward departed England on board the "*London*", (*This would have to be the same ship my own Chamberlain ancestors sailed aboard from Gravesend to Port Nicholson (Wellington, New Zealand) 2 years earlier in 1841/42—IJC*);
- 10 Sep.1844 — Edward arrived in Hobart VDL (*Tasmania*) aged 58 years, already past the life expectancy for adults of his era. He is noted as leaving behind siblings William and Lucy, and seven of his nine children, with son William having emigrated to New Zealand, and one daughter (*Elizabeth*) deceased.
- 10 Sep.1844 — On arrival in Hobart, Edward spent 15 months on gang probation, stationed at Maria Island. (*After being abandoned for ten years, the original Darlington station on the north coast was reopened in 1842 as a probation station. A second station was constructed in 1845 at Point Lesueur about 10kms to the south. Convicts at both were primarily engaged in agricultural work*);
- 15 Sep. 1844 — At Browns River; (*This station south of Hobart, was established to supply public works labour, building what is known as the "Channel Highway"*);
- 14 Dec. 1844 — At the Prisoners Barracks, (Known as Hobart's Campbell Street Gaol. Operated for 140 years from 1821 until about 1961);
- 17 Dec. 1844 — Stationed back at Maria Island, (Off the east coast of Tasmania);
- 14 Jun. 1845 — In the office at Long Point (probably Point Lasueur) until the 20 June;
- 10 Oct. 1845 — Edward emerged from gang probation labour;
- 31 Oct. 1845 — Son, John is pardoned and released.
- 20 Nov. 1845 — Edward is back at the Prisoners Barracks;
- 15 Dec. 1845 — Assigned to Mr Buckley, Hollow Tree (*about 40-50kms north-west of Hobart*);
- 02 Mar. 1846 — Son, Wilson Bird is charged and sentenced to transportation to Australia for ten years. Any records beyond this have yet to found.
- 15 Feb. 1847 — Edward is assigned to C McRoise? Hollow Tree 12 months;
- 16 Jun. 1847 — Daughter Sarah, with her brother Charles, having procured an assisted passage on board the "*Mariner*" and together with sister Lucy, husband John Finedon and their daughter Sarah depart the Downs on their voyage to South Australia.
- 23 Sep. 1847 — 100 days later, Sarah Bird, brother Charles, and sister Lucy and John Finedon arrive in Adelaide. Also on board we discover Sarah's prospective husband Henry March with his brother Matthew. Sarah and Henry marry soon after their arrival for their first child is born in 1848.
- 08 Jan. 1848 — Edward at Kangaroo Point – Office Probation Pass Holder 3rd class;
- 11 Jan. 1848 — Ticket of Leave, (*providing conditional freedom – see a TOL below*);
- 04 Jan. 1851 — Free Certificate.
- 03 Sep. 1859 — Edward Bird aged 73, died at Longford, just 7 days short of 15 years since his arrival in Tasmania.



Darlington Probation Station, Maria Island, Tasmania

With the coming of Europeans, Maria Island was used by sealers and whalers, became a significant penal settlement, probation station and then enjoyed an industrial boom in the late 19th and early 20th centuries before declining into a small-scale farming settlement. Finally, the island became a national park in its entirety, with no permanent human population. These days the island hosts, and boasts, a "4 day walk that will last a lifetime".



Tasmanian Ticket of Leave (TOL)—(not John or Edward Bird's)

"The Holder of this Ticket is required to attend Quarterly Musters at the nearest Bench of Magistrates in the District for which it is granted, viz.— on the First Tuesday in the months of January, April, July and October in each year: in failure of which the Ticket will be cancelled, and the holder recalled to Government Labour agreeable to the regulation on that head."

A Ticket of Leave's reverse side carried this message:

In theory, the probation scheme meant that all convicts were to be subjected to successive stages of punishment, commencing with a period of confinement and labour in gangs: at a penal settlement for life-sentenced prisoners, or at a probation station for all others. If they progressed satisfactorily through several stages of decreasing severity, they received a probation pass and became available for hire to the settlers. Gangs of pass-holders awaiting employment remained at the stations and continued to labour on public works. Sustained good conduct eventually led to a ticket-of-leave or a pardon.

In practice, the scheme was a disastrous failure, undermined by poor planning and administration, inadequate funding, huge numbers, and an unforeseen economic depression. With little demand for the labour of the pass-holders, the system was overwhelmed. For the prisoners, it brought increased misery and for the colonists it brought the worst of both worlds: The potentially corrupting presence of increasing numbers of convicts among them was no longer offset by their economic contribution. Far from achieving its reform objectives, the system bred idleness, disorder and vice, not least of which for contemporaries was an allegedly dramatic increase in 'unnatural crime'. The failure of probation turned the majority of colonists into implacable opponents of transportation itself.

Edward's death certificate states that he died of old age at Longford on 3 September 1859, aged 77 years. He was buried 5 September 1859, Christchurch Cemetery, Longford, Tasmania in an unmarked grave. Reading between the lines, we know that settlers in this district used free convict labour to build for themselves some fine houses and estates, some of which can still be seen. As a convict, Edward supplied his share of the free labour and chose (or was enticed) to stay on after his sentence had been completed in 1851, living his last remaining years in the employ of one of the local settlers. One hopes that he died knowing that his family were making better names for themselves in a land that had begun as a death sentence, but was now becoming the land of their opportunity, and that their dynasty would not be lost, but continue forward in these great south lands of New Zealand and Australia.

Reference Records:

HO 10/38 NSW & Tasmania Convict Muster 1806-1849 Tasmania Ledger Returns A-R 1846

HO 10/40 NSW & Tasmania Convict Muster 1806-1849 Tasmania Ledger Returns 1849

HO 10151 NSW & Tasmania Convict Muster Gilmore (Vessel) Tasmania List of Convicts (Incomplete) 1841

HO 10/59 NSW & Tasmania Pardons and Tickets of Leave 1834-1859 Pardons (Title) 1845-1846

HO 1/11 Australian Convict Transportation Registers 1791-1868

CON 18/1/8 Description Lists Male Convicts 1828-1853

CON 31/1/3 Pardon applications

CS05/173/4085 Appropriation Records, Prison Hulk Registers & Letter Books 1802-1849 p23.

Genealogy SA - South Australian Death Certificate Transcripts for – John Bird, John Findon & Lucy Findon

Genealogy SA - South Australian Marriage Certificate Transcript for – Charles Bird and Margaret Heddy

Genealogy SA - South Australian Marriage Certificate Transcript for – John Bird and Margaret Malthouse

Certified copies of Marriage and Death Certificates for Amelia Neal (Bird)

Certified copy of a Tasmanian death certificate for Edward Bird.

District Council of Yankalilla records

Mary Bird – Wiltons Galore—ISBN: 978-0-473-11318-6 published by Watson & Liddell in 2007, printed by Fisher Print Feilding.

Baptism 1794
 September 21 Joseph the S of John and Elisabeth
 Elisabeth the D of Thomas and Elisabeth
 Primory Robert the S of Thomas and Elisabeth
 Primory was born September the 23rd 179
 The year - 1792 - baptiss^d September 21
 October 3 Ann the D of Samuel
 and Elizabeth Mills
 October 20 Jane the D of
 Edward and Ann Crom
 December 21
 James, S of James and Anne
 Annies 1795
 March 8 Elisabeth the D of Thomas
 Elisabeth Wade
April 26 Elisabeth the D of every one's single burial
 Rebeck the D of John
 Chapman and Ann Stearns
Wife of Edward & Elisabeth born

The page contains the heading 'Baptism 1794', however, more than halfway down, the 1795 list begins with the year written in on the right-hand side of the page. The next line begins with 'march 8' which was a Sunday and contains one entry. The next entry begins with what appears to be 'April 26 which was also a Sunday and ends with the last line on the Baptism page and the third baptism for Sunday, April 26, 1795, written so small in comparison to the rest to fit it onto the page stating, with the 'W' missing off the left-hand corner of the page...

'lliam S of Edward & Elisabeth byrd'

The South Australian Register.

ADELAIDE: WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1847.

THE "RAJAH," THE "RACHEL," AND THE "MARINER" FROM ENGLAND.

In our last publication we could only announce the arrival of the two first-mentioned ships, the *Mariner's* identity not having been ascertained until the business of publication was all but complete.

These three arrivals, which have added to our population no fewer than 467 souls, named elsewhere, may be thus briefly particularised in this part of our publication.

page 3

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

ARRIVED.

Saturday, September 25.—The barque *Mariner*, 663 tons, Harland master from London and Plymouth. Passengers—Dr Bryden, surgeon superintendent in the cabin, and the following Government emigrants in the steerage: Thomas Arbon, wife, and infant son, Robert Arbon, Thomas Adams, wife, and five children (David, adult); Phillis Bliss, Ann Maria Bliss, James Burt and wife, Thomas Bridle, wife, and six children, (Sarah, Thomas, and Robert, adults); Sarah Bird, Thomas Blackhall, wife, and three children, John Britain, wife, and three children, John Brown and wife, John Barrett, wife and two children, Wm. Bonham, wife, and six children (Deborah, James, and Josiah, adults); John Butcher, wife, and seven children (Wm. Mary, Susannah, Rebecca, and Sarah Anne, adults); Catherine Briggs, Robt. Broughton, Samuel Broughton, Wm. Cadde, wife, and two children; John Cadde, wife, and five children, (Emma, Elizabeth, and Thomas adults); James Coles, wife, and two children, George Cranawell, wife, and four children, Joseph Drewer, wife, and three children (Sarah, Mary, and Daniel, adults); Sarah Dover, Emma Daniel, Henry Demy, George Drew and wife, Wm. Dover, wife, and three children, Edwd. Easter, wife, and one child, John Earl and wife, Jas. Fowler, wife, and three children, John Frinden, wife and child, Char. Bird, John Fairy, wife and two children, Saml. Gibson, wife, and eight children (Phillis, Mary Ann, Robert, Jane, and Wm adults); Sarah Greenacre, Benj. Green, wife, and five children (Wm., adult), Wm. Hardwick, Thomas Howard, wife, and three children (David adult) Henry Head, Wm. Gellings, Benjamin Halbard, wife, and four children, Knos Hutchings, wife, and two children, Wm. Henson, wife, and child, Wm. Hutchinson, wife, and child, Charles Harvey and wife, Robert Johnson, David Johnson, George Jolly, wife, and child; Harvey Lathan, George Laner, Robert Edwin Latham, Mary Ann Langley, Abraham Melton, Matthew March, Henry March, Mary Ann North, John Oaks, wife, and child; Charles Pitt, wife, and six children (Charles adult); James Pantou, John Pantou, wife, and seven children (Ann and Matthias adults); Jeremiah Painton, wife, and child; George Poole, wife, and child; John Peile and wife, Martha Peile, Reubin Pridmore, George Pridmore, Wm. Ridgway, wife, and three children; James Reynolds, wife, and child; Robert Budd, John Harris, Georganna Robbins, Thomas Stuckberry, wife, and seven children (Ephraim, John, Mary, and Hannah, adults); John Smith, wife, and five children (Jane and Susannah, adults); Charles Tucker, wife, and child; Sarah Tucker, Thomas Ward, wife, and three children; John Wyman and wife, Edith Westly, Wm. Woodhouse, Thomas Westly, wife, and three children; Thomas Brooke, wife, and three children (Mary adult).

S.A. Register newspaper passenger list for the barque "*Mariner*", arriving Adelaide Saturday 23 September 1847.

Shipping Intelligence.

ARRIVED.

March 24.—*Barbara*, schooner, 16 tons, Fullerton, master, from Geelong, with 19 casks tallow, 31 bales wool, 129 hides.

March 24.—*Marmion*, brig, 218 tons, Dale, master, from Shanghai via Singapore. Passengers—Mr. and Mrs. Hume and child, Messrs. Henry Munceer and Henry Gibbs, Henge and Grace, agents.

March 25.—*Spot*, schooner, 14 tons, Jones, master, from Geelong, with 12 casks tallow, 40 bales wool.

March 26.—*Sylvanus*, schooner, 73 tons, Moodie, master, from Hobart Town. Passengers—cabin—Mr. Marsh; steerage—J. Lucas, B. Naylor, John Howell, P. Smith. F. E. Beaver, agent.

CLEARED OUT.

March 23.—*Diom*, brig, 163 tons, Peake, master, for Sydney. Passengers—Cabin—Mrs. Jennings, Messrs. Morris and Couley. Steerage, —Mr. and Mrs. Harbottle, Mr. and Mrs. Barry, Mr. and Mrs. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. O'Connor, Messrs. Harwood and Littlejohn.

March 24.—*Wuzeer*, barque, 525 tons, Sutherland, master, for Adelaide. Passengers—Cabin—Mr and Mrs Symonds, Mrs George Allan, Messrs George Allan and John Coote. Steerage,—F. Finn, wife and child, A. Webb, wife and 2 children, Mrs Ellard and child, Joseph Nimes and wife, Thomas Nimes, wife and 3 children, John Thomas, wife, and 3 children, Mrs Gardner, Mrs M'Farlane, Mr. Long and wife, John Burniston and wife, John Davis and wife, Messrs. J. Hibbert, John Wideman, John Bird, Patrick Mahoney, John Nunn, W. Griddle, Christopher Peiket, William Humphries, William Griffiths, William Walters, Buckley, Phillips, and Wilmet.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/>

The Melbourne Argus Shipping intelligence for the barque "Wuzeer" sailing to Adelaide. <http://trove.nla.gov.au/>

TASMANIA

The Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 1999

Registration No.
541/1859

RECORD OF DEATH

DEATH in the District of LONGFORD

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Number | 547 |
| When - Died | 03 September 1859 |
| Name and Surname | Edward BIRD |
| Sex | Male |
| Age | 77 Years |
| Rank or Profession | Laborer |
| Cause(s) of Death | Old Age |
| Medical Attendant | NOT STATED |
| Informant | George Tucker NOT STATED Not Stated |
| When Registered | 03 September 1859 |
| Name of Registrar | RICHARD UNIACKE, DEPUTY REGISTRAR |

Burial:
3/9/1859 Christchurch Cemetery
Longford
Tasmania,
Unmarked grave.

Rayner

I CERTIFY THIS TO BE A COPY OF AN ENTRY IN A REGISTER OR
RECORD KEPT BY ME, GIVEN IN PURSUANCE OF THE ACTS OF
PARLIAMENT OF THE STATE OF TASMANIA THIS 14 FEBRUARY, 2014.



E. Ann Owen

Ann Owen DELEGATE FOR REGISTRAR OF BIRTHS DEATHS AND MARRIAGES



Genealogy SA

Helping find your family history



SOUTH AUSTRALIAN DISTRICT MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE TRANSCRIPT

| | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| Surname of groom | BIRD |
| Given Name(s) of groom | John |
| Surname of bride | MALTHOUSE |
| Given Name(s) of bride | Margaret |
| Year of Registration | 1850 |
| District Name | Adelaide |
| District Number | NR |
| Date of Marriage | 3 December 1850 |
| Place of marriage | Christchurch, Adelaide |
| Age and condition of groom | 29 years, NR |
| Rank, profession or occupation of groom | Labourer |
| Place and country of birth of groom | NR |
| Residence of groom at time of marriage | NR |
| Name and surname of groom's father | NR |
| Age and condition of bride | 21 years, Spinster |
| Rank, profession or occupation of bride | NR |
| Place and country of birth of bride | NR |
| Residence of bride at time of marriage | NR |
| Name and surname of bride's father | NR |
| Witnesses, with occupation and residence | William MALTHOUSE Margaret BIRD |
| Celebrant | W WOODCOCK |

NR - Not Recorded

This transcription has been extracted by Genealogy SA from copies of original District Certificates.


The transcription is not a copy of any such certificate. The transcription may inadvertently include errors due to difficulties in deciphering handwriting or other problems in transcription. If you have a query on the information in the above transcription please return email to saghs.research@saghs.org.au

For a Certified Copy of a Marriage Certificate please contact the South Australian Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages.

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SOUTH AUSTRALIAN DISTRICT DEATH CERTIFICATE TRANSCRIPT

| | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| Surname | BIRD |
| Given Name(s) | John |
| Year of Registration | 1893 |
| District Name | Yankalilla |
| District Number | NR |
| Date of Death | 25 May 1893 |
| Date and Place of burial, cremation or other | NR |
| Sex | Male |
| Conjugal status | NR |
| Age | 72 years |
| Rank, profession or trade | Mason |
| Usual residence | Yankalilla |
| Birthplace and length of residence in Australia | NR |
| Age at marriage or remarriage | NR |
| Name of spouse ** | NR |
| Number of Issue living & deceased, male (M) and female (F) | NR |
| Cause of Death | Senile Decay and Ulcer of Stomach |
| Place of Death | Yankalilla |
| Signature and Residence of Informant | Henry BIRD, Yankalilla |
| Description of Informant | Son |
| If female, within 3 months of birth of child | NR |
| When registered | 25 May 1893 |
| Place of registration | Yankalilla |

** If under 15 father is named, or if a married female husband is named until 1968

NR = Not Recorded

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