

William Carter - Scindian Convict #8

On 18 October 1847 at the Worcester Quarter Sessions, William Carter, 22-year-old butcher, and Henry Sheppard, 22-year-old groom, both from Somerset, were convicted of horse stealing and sentenced to 15 years' transportation. The men stole two horses and then tried to sell them. The thefts were treated separately. The first guilty verdict attracted a sentence of one month's imprisonment, however the second, taking into account the previous conviction, led to the sentence of transportation.

When William arrived in the Swan River Colony the Convict Establishment records described him as being 5' 6" tall, sandy inclined hair colour, hazel eyes, prominent visage, fair, freckled complexion and of stout appearance. He received his ticket-of-leave 24 March 1851 and in Fremantle, less than two years later, William married young Lucy Maria Nash, from Swindon, England, who had arrived with her older sister Jane aboard the *Mary* on 26 March 1852. William was issued a Conditional Pardon on 29 April 1854 and the same year their first child Mary Jane (known as Jane Caroline) was born. By the time their second child, son, Arthur George was born, William was working for himself as a butcher in North Fremantle. Sadly, Arthur lived for just 11 days and their next born, a daughter Fanny Maria, also died as an infant, aged 10 weeks in 1858. Surviving these tragedies, the couple went on to have seven more children, all born in Fremantle between 1859 and 1873.

Unfortunately for Lucy, William died in 1874, and with several young children to feed, she wasted no time in remarrying. On 16 November 1874, Lucy married her second convict husband, Horton Victor Bateman, in Fremantle at the Johnston Memorial Chapel. Horton came out to Western Australia as convict #5610 aboard the *Palmerston* arriving in February 1861. A Londoner, he had received a life sentence for forgery, and while he had worked as a clerk in London, in Fremantle he turned his hand to many trades including those of servant, carrier, tobacconist and printer. Bateman seemed to be frequently in court. In 1873 he was operating a livery stable and facing insolvency; in 1877, Bateman was described as a mild-looking, middle-aged man of respectable appearance when in court on charges of "poisoning with intent to murder" George Thompson, whom he was working for as a clerk. The case must have been dismissed as in 1878 Bateman was again in court on charges of larceny from a dwelling-house. Bateman testified at this time that the charge was trumped up in an effort to stop him from proceeding with a charge of malicious prosecution against George Thompson. Clearly the two had personal issues that were spilling over into the court. He was found not guilty due to insufficient evidence. During this tumultuous time, Lucy and Horton had two children Frederick William and Lucy Mary, who were born in Fremantle in 1875 and 1877 respectively.

Again, Lucy was to lose her husband. Horton died of heart disease on 3 May 1884, aged 52 years, and she was on her own. Sadly, for Lucy it seems that towards the end of her life she turned heavily to drink. She died on Monday 13 August 1894 on the verandah of a house in Swan Street, North Fremantle from cold and exposure. The house's occupants, not knowing who she was, assumed her to be drunk and left her to sleep it off, unfortunately finding her dead the next morning. The newspapers reported her to be a vagrant prompting this reply from her son Frederick William in the Daily News on Saturday 18 August 1894:

THE LATE MRS. HORTON BATEMAN.

To The Editor.

Sir.-Permit me to correct some of your statements respecting. the unfortunate woman, found dead at North Fremantle on Monday last. In respect to the memory of the deceased, and of her late husband, Mr. H. Bateman, I beg to state that I now hold the certificate of her marriage with the late Mr. Horton Bateman, at the Johnston Memorial Chapel, Nov. 16th, 1874, the late Revd. J. Johnston being the officiating minister, and the ceremony witnessed and authenticated by two highly respectable persons still living in this town. On behalf of her sons, daughters and friends who contributed to her support, I assure you she was by no means a vagrant, as, independent of her own home, she had others available, at which she was always welcome, — Yours, &c, FREDERICK WILLIAM BATEMAN. Fremantle, August 15.

In another unfortunate twist for the family, Frederick Bateman died of typhoid four years later in August 1898, aged just 22 years. His sister Lucy Mary married Joseph George Flint in Fremantle in 1902 when she was 25 years old. They had three children, George, Victor and Elizabeth. Joseph was the son of *Belgravia* convict #8852, Thomas Flint, who had arrived in Western Australia in 1866. Joseph and Lucy were living at 289 Duke Street in Northam when Joseph died in August 1948. Lucy remained in the same house until she died in March 1969. Their son George had pre-deceased them both, dying in December 1940 leaving behind a wife and two daughters.

William and Lucy Carter's eldest child, Mary Jane was married as Jane Carter to John Welby, in Subiaco on 8 November 1871. John was Norwood convict # 9608, a watch-maker, who had arrived in Western Australia in July 1867. John received his ticket-of-leave on 18 June 1869 and advertised his trade as a Watch and Chronometer Maker in the Herald newspaper in Fremantle from July 1869. He employed London watch-maker, engraver and jeweller, Chlom Reichburg, *Lord Dalhousie* convict #7520, who had been the head of two separate forgery rings operating in London and Birmingham and was convicted in April 1862, one of five Russian Jews who had attempted forgery of Russian rouble bank notes. (Reichburg had arrived in the Swan River Colony on 28 December 1863 and had received his Conditional Pardon in April 1868).

Welby's business premises were in High Street, Fremantle. He had secured his conditional release by 21 November 1871 and continued to operate his business from this time. He had an interest in the pearling industry for a number of years and also had the honour of crafting and engraving a silver trowel that was used by the Hon. John Forrest to lay the foundation stone of the Presbyterian Church in Fremantle on 26 March 1890. At this time the family were thought to be living in Claremont/Butler's Swamp. Jane and John Welby had four daughters, Edith Eveline (1871), Ethel Constance (1873), Beatrice Maud Thomasina (1875), and a stillborn daughter born in 1878. Their son John Jnr was born in 1884 but sadly died aged just 14 months in 1886. John Wellby (sic), died aged 55 years on 12 March 1895 in Northam, where he had lived and worked for about 2 and a half years. Jane 'Caroline' died on 14 January 1929 in her 75th year having outlived her husband John by more than 30 years.

William and Lucy's other surviving children were:

Frederick William was born in Fremantle in 1859. It is not known if Frederick married and he is thought to have died on 24 December 1924 in Claremont aged 65 years.

Jessie Maria was born in Fremantle in 1860. Jessie married Harry Moore Sargent in Fremantle on 30 April 1891. Their children were Alan, Arthur, Jessie and Dorothy. Jessie Maria died in Fremantle on 19 July 1918 aged 57 years, and at time of her death, the family residence was 24 Price Street, Fremantle. Harry was then the chief officer of No 2 Dredge, Naval Base. Harry died 13 March 1941, in East Fremantle, aged 78 years.

George Henry 'Ned' Carter was born in Fremantle, in 1863. George married Phoebe Elizabeth Criddle at Dongara on 23 March 1893. The couple had eight children, six sons and two daughters, born between 1894 and 1910. George died 19 February 1955 in Hollywood aged 91 years and Phoebe Elizabeth Carter died almost exactly 5 years later on 17 February 1960 at Subiaco aged 90 years.

Albert Henry Carter was born in Fremantle in 1865. No details have yet been found about his life or death.

Caroline Carter was born Fremantle in 1868. She married Benjamin Augustus Place in Fremantle on 25 June 1886. The couple had eight children, three sons and five daughters born between 1887 and 1906 in Fremantle. Sadly, the two youngest sons, both died as the result of accidents. Harold George was ten years old when he died on 21 October 1906 in a "yachting disaster" following a boat overcrowding incident on the Swan River. Henry Douglas 'Doug' died as the result of a motorcycle accident, aged 23 years in 1925. Benjamin worked as an engineer for the Fremantle Harbour Trust and died following a "severe operation" on 24 July 1926 at 23 Bronte Street, Daglish aged 63 years. The family had previously lived at 99 Keightley Road in Subiaco. *The Westralian Worker* reported on Caroline's death aged 78 years on 29 October 1946. She had apparently been ailing for some time and had been living in Subiaco with her single daughter Doreen who worked as an organiser and typist for the Cleaners and Caretakers' Union.

Lillian (Lily) was born 10 May 1869 in Fremantle. She married Italian emigrant James Caporalette in Fremantle in 1888. They had twelve children and some of the births were registered under the name Caporalette and others under the name Cottrell (likely the anglicised version of their father's name). James had his name recorded as Caporalette in the Electoral Rolls but his work, death and burial records identify him as James Cottrell. James worked as a lumper on the Fremantle wharfs. He died in August 1926 aged 63 years. The family were living at 178 King Street in East Fremantle at this time. Lily died on 21 March 1959 in East Fremantle, aged 89 years.

Victor Horton Carter was born in Fremantle in 1873. He never married and was an 81-year-old pensioner living in a shed at the 289 Duke Street property of his half-sister Lucy, when he was found deceased on 5 January 1953. Lucy had been bringing him a cup of tea at 6am when she made the discovery. The post-mortem concluded that his death was due to internal haemorrhage caused by duodenal ulcers.

William Carter lived in Western Australia for twenty-four years following his arrival in June 1850 and his extended family story reveals several inter-connections with other convicts. This was quite a common occurrence with the offspring of convicts often marrying within the "convict class".

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Sources:

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NB: With grateful thanks to Sue White and Diane Evans – Midwest Convict Database