

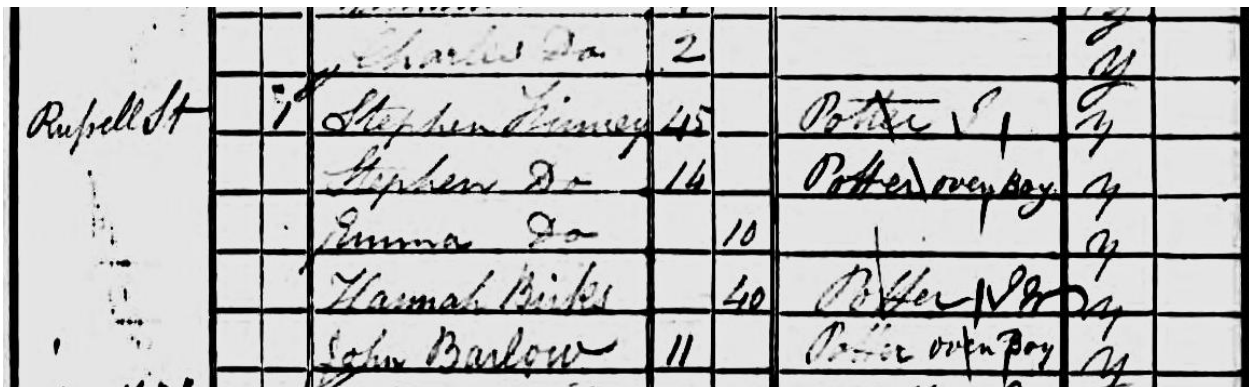
## John Barlow 3699, Adelaide

Researched by Marcia Watson

Also known as John Finney.

John was born about 1830, and his mother was called Anna or Hannah. Unfortunately, Barlow and Finney are common surnames in Staffordshire. The 1841 and 1851 census records mentioned are only possibly records for John and his mother.

On the 1841 census, John may be living in Russel Street, **Longton**, in the borough of Stoke on Trent, Staffordshire. The dwelling had two parts, with Stephen Finney and his children, Stephen and Emma, living in one section, and Hannah Birks and John Barlow in the other. John was a potter- oven boy. <sup>1</sup>



Russell St	Charles Da	2			
	Stephen Finney	45		Potter	1
	Stephen Da	16		Potter oven boy	1
	Emma Da	10			1
	Hannah Birks	40		Potter	1
	John Barlow	11		Potter oven boy	1

In June 1842, John Barlow appeared in Staffordshire Midsummer Sessions held at Stafford. William Davies, aged 14, and John Barlow, *alias* Finney, aged 13, severally pleaded guilty to stealing three books and one silk handkerchief from the dwelling-house of William Myatt, at Caverswall. Both the prisoners, notwithstanding their early age, had been previously in gaol; Davies having been convicted of felony, and his companion sent to prison as a reputed thief. The Court sentenced each of them to transportation for seven years. They will be sent to the Reformatory. <sup>2</sup>

John Barlow *alias* Finney, 13, a potter, from **Lane End**, was committed to Stafford Gaol on 27 June 1842, charged with stealing from a dwelling house. He could read and write imperfectly. Convicted at Staffordshire Midsummer Sessions on 28 June 1842 of stealing books and a silk handkerchief, he was sentenced to 7 years' transportation. While in Stafford Gaol, John was disorderly. On 14 November 1842, he was transferred to the *Justitia* hulk at Woolwich and removed to the *Euryalus* hulk at Chatham on 16 February 1843. Three months later, on 19 May 1843, he boarded the *Asiatics* for Tasmania. According to the gaoler, John was once imprisoned as a reputed thief, had a good disposition, and was orderly. <sup>3</sup>

Longton and Lane-End are two townships, or liberties, forming one flourishing market town now commonly called Longton, and about 8km SE of Newcastle-under-Lyme.

### Tasmania.

John Barlow, *alias* John Finney, was convicted at Stafford Quarter Sessions on 28 June 1842. He was 4'4¾", aged 14, with a pale complexion, a round head, dark brown hair, dark brown eyes, had moles on right cheek, scar over left eye, scar on nose, moles on left arm, several scars on left hand, several moles on right hand, Protestant, could read and write, single and a labourer.



<sup>1</sup> The National Archives (TNA) UK, HO107/991/5

<sup>2</sup> Staffordshire Advertiser, 02 July 1842, p3

<sup>3</sup> TNA, PCOM2/401; HO8/76; HO8/75; HO8/128

He was convicted of breaking into a house and stealing a book, a handkerchief and some bread. He had previously been in prison, one month for vagrancy. Wm. Davies is on board for this offence. Barlow is his proper name. His native place was High Street, Stafford. It is unknown whether Strafford is the town or the county. He said his mother, Anna, is at his native place, and it appears from the record that he has no brothers or sisters. <sup>4</sup>

On the 1851 census, there is a Hannah Barlow, servant, widow, 46, born Ipstones, Staffordshire, living at High Street, Newcastle under Lyme, which is about 6km from Longton. <sup>5</sup> She is possibly John's mother.

John spent 2 years at Point Puer at Port Arthur, a reformatory for boys who had been transported from Britain. It closed in 1849.

On 16 March 1847, he was sent to New Town farm near Hobart, and a few days later, on 30 March 1847, he received a Ticket of Leave. His Certificate of Freedom was issued on 30 June 1849; his sentence had expired. <sup>6</sup>

John returned to England, possibly by March 1851. There is John Finney, 19, unmarried, potter-ovenman, born in Longton, Staffordshire. He was a visitor at Market Lane, Stoke upon Trent, Staffordshire. Could this be John Barlow, *alias* Finney?<sup>7</sup>

John was definitely back in England by 1853, when a newspaper reported: "Over the last two or three weeks, a gang of thieves has infested Newcastle, committing various burglaries and other depredations."

On Friday, 25 November 1853, the shop of Mr Joseph Griffiths, provision dealer, in Higherland was robbed. The thieves forced down one shutter and broke one window, and, through the opening, took out two cheeses, some loaves of bread, a quantity of bacon, eggs, and other articles within reach. On Sunday, the provision shop of Mr Enoch Harrison, on the Green, was broken into, and three cheeses weighing about 20lbs each, several pieces of cheese and a quantity of butter and starch were stolen. They effected an entrance by opening the shutters and taking out part of the window. On Monday night, several attempts were made to break into the shop of Mr Dobson, a provision dealer in the Ironmarket, but were not successful. They did, however, break into the house of Mrs Porter, shopkeeper in Merrial Street. Early on Tuesday morning, the thieves walked into the house of William Hawkins through an unlatched door and stole four loaves of bread, a gold ring and various articles of wearing apparel.

On Tuesday night, the Police apprehended Robert Jackson jun, besom maker, and John Barlow, collier. The following morning Robert Jackson sen, also a besom maker and father of Robert jun was taken into custody on suspicion of being concerned with one or more of the robberies.

On Thursday, the three prisoners were brought before the Mayor and two others. The Constable said he went to the house of Jackson sen in Penkhull Street, where he met the other two prisoners and took them into custody. During the search of the house, he found a piece of cheese, which was identified by one of the prosecutors as having a distinct, peculiar quality similar to that stolen from his property.

Jackson sen was apprehended at the Black's Head public house in Lower Street, kept by Mary Scarratt. Several pieces of cheese of similar quality were found. Mary Scarratt was a very unwilling witness, but admitted that Jackson jun and Barlow had been drinking there on Saturday night, and that Barlow had slept at the Black's head. On Monday, Barlow brought two cheeses to the public house, and David Green, who lived there and was brewer, purchased them from Barlow for 7s.

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<sup>4</sup> Tasmania Archives Office, CON 14, CON 18, CON 33

<sup>5</sup> TNA, HO107/2001

<sup>6</sup> The Cornwall Chronicle (Tasmania), 14 July 1849, p772

<sup>7</sup> TNA, HO107/2007.

Evidence was given that the younger Jackson and Barlow were seen leaving the elder prisoner's house together.

All three, who denied the charge, were committed for trial at the next Borough Sessions.

The three prisoners were then charged with entering the house of William Hawkins and stealing four loaves of bread, a pair of boots, a quantity of wearing apparel, a toothbrush, a pack of cards, and other articles on Tuesday morning. During a search of the elder Jackson's house on Tuesday night, the Police found two loaves of bread; the marks on the tops had been scraped to obliterate identifying marks. In Barlow's pockets were found nineteen shillings in silver, a toothbrush, and a pack of cards. The prosecutor clearly identified the articles and the boots on Barlow's feet as part of the stolen property. Some of the clothing was found at the house, and Barlow was wearing some of the property when taken into custody. Barlow denied all knowledge of the robberies and property found, and it was deemed sufficient to justify his committal for trial.<sup>8</sup>

At their trial in January 1854, Mr John Chidley, the head turnkey at the County Prison, said the records show that Barlow, *alias* John Finney, had been convicted in 1842 of robbery in the neighbourhood of Longton and sentenced to 7 years transportation. He said he had not the slightest doubt he was the same person.

Barlow said: "You don't know me; I have never been sent out". Thomas Stevenson, who had been recently in prison, said that while walking in the yard, Barlow had told him he was a returned convict, having been convicted of burglary on the Common near Longton 12 or 13 years ago, adding, "but none of the officers knows me". Mr Chidley said the prisoner had the same marks upon him as described in the register in 1842. He was sentenced to 14 years for the robberies.

On the second charge of breaking into the shop of Enoch Harrison and stealing cheeses. Barlow again denied all knowledge and called David Green as a witness. Green denied that Barlow had sold him cheeses.

At the end of the trial, Jackson sen was sentenced to 3 months without hard labour, on account of his age. Jackson jun received 4 years. Barlow's sentence remained unchanged at 14 years' transportation, from the first charge.<sup>9</sup>

The Prison Registers show that John Barlow *alias* Finney, 24, single, can read, labourer, convicted 6 January 1854 at Newcastle under Lyme Sessions of housebreaking and sentenced to 14 years. He was received at Wakefield Prison on 20 February 1854 and transferred to the *Warrior* hulk at Woolwich on 1 November 1854; John was Class 2. He had been previously transported and twice summarily convicted. John boarded the *Adelaide* on 4 April 1855, arriving at Fremantle, Western Australia, on 17 July 1855.<sup>10</sup>

On arrival in Fremantle, he was issued number 3699 and a physical description was recorded. 3699. John Barlow, 25, 5'4¼", dark brown hair, hazel eyes, round face, fresh complexion, middling stout, cut on bridge of nose and blue dots on left wrist, miner and single.<sup>11</sup> John was entitled to a Ticket of Leave on 6 July 1858.

John was on the casual sick list while in Fremantle Prison.<sup>12</sup>

25 August 1855: vomiting blood

30 August 1855: giddiness, diagnosed as vertigo

17 October 1855: Diarrhoea

28 December 1855: bowel complaint.

On 3 June 1856, he was given 3 days' bread and water, and his class was suspended for 3 months.

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<sup>8</sup> Staffordshire Advertiser, 03 December 1853, p4

<sup>9</sup> Stafford Advertiser, 14 January 1854, p7

<sup>10</sup> TNA, HO23/16

<sup>11</sup> State Records Office WA (SROWA), acc128/1-32

<sup>12</sup> SROWA, Acc 1156, M14-16

22 January 1856, sent to North Fremantle depot

3 June 1856, returned to the Convict Establishment

10 July 1856, sent to Fresh Water Bay depot

26 January 1857, returned to the Convict Establishment and was sent to Albany the same day.

1 April 1857, he was appointed a Constable

Breaksea Island is one of two islands is about 12km south-east of Albany, at the entrance to Frenchman Bay.

The preparatory work for a Lighthouse, using pre-made cast iron sheeting, commenced in May 1857, with materials transported via the schooner *Prince of Wales*. The lighthouse was built on the island in 1858. A tragic event took place in October 1857; similar tragedies still occur today when fishing on the coastal rocks.

Convict Establishment W.A., 31 October 1857.

To the Hon, The Acting Comptroller General.

Sir, I have the honor to communicate a report received last night per Albany mail to the effect that Pro. Pris. 3699 John Barlow disappeared from Breaksea Island on the 5th instant - being supposed to have drowned from the rocks while fishing.

Assist. Warder Palmer in charge of the Party on the island in reporting the circumstances on the 6th instant to S.A S. Thompson at Albany states:

On the afternoon of the 5th instant while Sergeant Nelson and myself were in search of the sheep, P.P. 3659 J. Green came to inform that he had a fear Barlow was drowned; that he had found his Jacket and a handkerchief containing crabs for bait, and Barlow's fish line broken. Immediately on hearing this, the Sergeant and myself repaired to the spot, and found Green's statement correct. There was every appearance of Barlow having had a large fish at the line; and the probability is that by a sudden jerk, he must have been precipitated into the water.

"I am fully justified in asserting" continues Palmer, "That escape from the island was impossible, as the short space of time elapsing from the time the mens tasks were completed till ½ past 3 p.m., when Barlow was first missed, would have been insufficient to enable him to effect such a purpose. Sergeant Nelson and myself made a thorough survey of the waters round to see if a boat could be discerned with the glass, but nothing could be seen".

S.A.A. Thompson and the Sergeant of Police at Albany went over to Breaksea Island on the 9th instant and made a personal investigation with respect to the circumstance.

Reg. 3659 John Green stated that having finished work at 3 p.m. on the 5 October (he not being on task work) he went to dinner and having ascertained from P.P. 3336 J. Oliver that Barlow had gone to the south side of the island to fish he (Green) immediately after dinner took his fishing line, and went down to the place stated. As he was going down, he saw Barlow's fishing rod sticking up in the rocks, but Barlow was not to be seen. He (Green) called out several times, but no answer was returned. Having stopped a quarter of an hour about the place he (Green) returned to the Camp, and told Oliver that he feared Barlow was drowned.

Oliver and he went back to the place but being unable to find any further trace of Barlow returned and reported the circumstances to the Assist. Warder.

P.P. 3336 J. Oliver stated that on 5 October he was at task work with the rest of the men getting the large plates belonging to the light-house up the hill. They finished their labor at 11 a.m. Barlow went out to fish about 12 noon, and about 3 p.m. Reg. 3659 J. Green came and asked him (Oliver) where Barlow was. He (Oliver) told him that he had gone to the south side of the island to fish. The remainder of his statement corroborates that of Green.

P.P. 3583 Jacob Wright stated that on 5 October he was employed at task work and finished his days work between 10 and 11 a.m. About 11 o'clock he (Wright) went to the south side of the island and stopped there about 20 minutes waiting for Barlow who had promised to follow him. The sea was rough and Barlow did not come. He (Wright) then left to get some mutton birds, and returned to the Camp about 3p.m. when he heard that Barlow was missing.

The foregoing is a full account of Senior Assist. Superintendent Thompsons report in regard to the disappearance of P.P. 3698 J. Barlow from Breaksea Island.

It would appear that three hours and a half must have elapsed from the time when Barlow was last seen at the Camp - viz. by Oliver at 12 noon - to the time when he was actually missed from the island - viz. by Green at ½ past 3 p.m.

Enclosed is Barlow's Caption from which particulars in relation to his prison history will be gathered.

I have &c, H.M. Lefroy, Deputy Superintendent.<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> SROWA, Acc 1156, Superintendent of Fremantle Prison to Comptroller-General, C5, 11.5.1854 - 31.5.1855, image 463, letter A3/1039; Comptroller-General to the Colonial Secretary (C22-C23), Letter 918.