

Ad CHARLES TRACE CARTER b.Shouldham Thorpe 4.5.1851;d.Northam 5.9.1878

=m= Northam 1874 Ruth Blake b.England 3.10.1854;d.4.10.1936

CHARLES, born in Shouldham, Norfolk, was the fourth child of Robert and Phoebe Carter. Charles was born five months after his father was arrested and six weeks after he was convicted at the Spring Assizes at Norwich. His paternal grandmother was Tabitha Trace, sometimes spelt Traice, and hence the second name. He arrived in W.A. with his mother, brothers and sisters on the *Hamilla Mitchell* in April 1859. Charles married Ruth Blake, the daughter of William and Susan Sherlock. She was seven years old when she arrived in W.A. on the *Burlington* in April 1863, with her mother, two brothers and two sisters.

Charles Trace is said to have had a farm near Burlong Pool, Northam, but it is likely that this was leased. However, like other members of his family, he did own a town lot in West Northam. He was clearing this land (in Wellington Street, near where St. Joseph's Convent now stands) at the time of his death. While burning-off, he collapsed and fell into the flames and died as a result some days later. Charles was reputed to be a good horseman, but a week before his death he had sustained a bad fall from a horse and suffered concussion; this was thought to have caused his collapse at the fire.

An account of his death was given in the 21st September, 1878 issue of the *Eastern Districts Chronicle* and was written by the recently contracted correspondent based in Northam, Mr. H. Morrell. It read:

"A terrible accident occurred here last week. A poor fellow named Charles Carter, son of an old resident, was burning trees in the bush at night and fell in the fire in a fit. He fell upon his face and hands, which were most frightfully burnt. How long he remained in the fire is not known; he was heard groaning by Corporal Burnside, who found him trying to grope his way home, his clothes being all in a blaze. Oh, it was a fearful sight! God grant that it will never be my lot to witness other fellow creatures in such a state. Dr. Hope was telegraphed for, and was speedily in attendance, and did all that was possible to be done to relieve his sufferings. The poor fellow lingered for two days, which must to him have been two days of terrible sufferings, as well to his many friends who could but witness without the power of relieving them.

"He was buried by the Rechabites and was followed by a large number of both Good Templars and Rechabites as well as the general public. After the Church services had been most impressively read by the Rev. S. Brown, the usual Templar address was read by Bro. W.J. Clifton, J.P. On Sunday last a most impressive and able funeral sermon was delivered by the Rev. S. Brown at which a more than usually large congregation attended. The wife of poor Carter will receive £35 from the Rechabite funeral fund."

The Rechabite were a Temperance Lodge, in some ways the forerunners of medical benefit schemes; members paid a small fee for medical and other benefits.

In the last ten years of her life Ruth lived with daughter Julia and Charles Hicks, and then for a year she lived with Sarah Anne Johnston in a McNess homes in Burnside Avenue, Northam until her death. She used to go occasionally with Charles and Julia to the Citadel hence the photograph in the Salvation Army uniform.

Seven years after Charles' death, Ruth married Ernest Beard of Northam on the 12th February, 1885 and had another eight children



Portrait Charles Carter



Ruth Beard nee Blake in Salvation Army uniform

Ernest Beard 1885, Alfred Beard 1886, Susan Beard 1888, Charles Beard 1890, Ruth Beard 1892, Hilda Beard 1894, Annie Beard 1896, Jessie Beard 1899

Ruth's father, like Robert Carter, was a convict (4617) and later became a small farmer at Northam.

William Blake's trial, at the Lewes Assizes, lasted for seven hours and was reported in two of the papers in Sussex.

The Sussex Advertiser. Tuesday, 18th December, 1855.

"Arson at Racton

"William Blake, 43, labourer, was charged with feloniously setting fire, on the 6th Nov., 1855, at Racton, an oat rick, two wheat ricks, and a stack of hay, the property of Grantham Bowler.

"Mr Johnson conducted the case; the prisoner was undefended.

"The case for the prosecution was this:- The prisoner some two or three years ago applied for work to the prosecutor, who occupies Laudington Farm in the parish of Racton. Prosecutor declined to employ him- and this it was inferred had excited a malicious feeling in the mind of the prisoner, who was represented by the learned counsel as a person of a sullen temperament. Early on the morning of the 6th Nov. certain stacks on the prosecutor's farm were discovered to be on fire - and as they were situated at different parts of the farm, and the flames in each broke out in intervals sufficiently long to allow a person to get from one to the other, not the least doubt remained that the fire resulted from the act of an incendiary. An oat rick near the homestead was the first discovered on fire - then two wheat ricks situated about three-eighths of a mile from the oat rick - and afterwards a hay stack about a quarter of a mile from the wheat ricks. On examining the locality, the tracks of one person were distinctly seen going in the direction of the oat rick, next, across the fields to the wheat ricks, then on to the hay stack, and afterwards beyond it to a stile leading on to a road. In a field between the oat rick and the wheat ricks some sheep were folded and the incendiary had thrown down the hurdles and let the sheep into the field. A labourer of the prosecutor's, named Lee, was called up a little before two in the morning named, and having informed his master, the latter set him to watch as to prevent person from going in the vicinity of the tracks, and sent off young Lee to Westbourne to give the alarm.

When suspicion fell upon the prisoner his boots were taken off and compared with the tracks(sic). They were found to correspond in every respect, the most prominent circumstance being that the prisoner in walking turns out the right foot very much more than the left, which peculiarity of gait was observable in all the traces of steps left by the incendiary. This was the strongest fact in the evidence against the prisoner, but there were two other circumstances bearing somewhat against him. First, the prisoner, who lives at Westbourne, it was proved, was in the road near his cottage

THIRD DAY, SATURDAY.

WILLIAM BLAKE, laborer, charged with feloniously setting fire on the 6th of November. 18 5; at Racton, a certain rick of oats, stacks of wheat, and a rick of hay, the property of Grantham Bowler.

Thomas Lees in the employ of the prosecutor, deposed to being called up on the morning of the 6th of November, at 2 o'clock, and discovering a rick of oats on fire at the homestead, he called his master, and shortly afterwards saw two wheat ricks on fire at a quarter of a mile distance, also belonging to his master, and afterwards, still further on, a rick of hay just a light. His master sent him to the hay rick, to keep people away, so that any foot tracks might be traced.

George Bridger Wilkes deposed to being called up and fetching the engine, and the prisoner came into the homestead shortly after they got there, and helped to serve the engine.

William Coat deposed to being called by last witness, and running to the fire calling fire as he ran, and when near the prisoner's house, hearing some one say "where is the fire," I saw no person and thought the voice came from the road, but could not see any one, after I got to the fire, I mentioned what I had heard, and prisoner said it was he that asked from his window.

Mr. Bowler prosecutor deposed to having found foot-marks near the hay stack on the morning of the fire, and also foot-marks at other places; there were only two he could swear to as corresponding with the prisoners boots, and those only from the distinct impression of four nails on the right side. He also saw the prisoner helping at the fire.

The superintendent of police was called to corroborate the fact of the tracks corresponding with the boots of prisoner.

The prisoner in his defence said, on the night in question he went home early in the evening to keep his boys in, as it was the 5th of November, and he was fearful they would get out into mischief with the fireworks. He was in all the evening, and went to bed at half-past nine o'clock and was waked about three o'clock by the cry of fire, which he heard three times, and heard his neighbour, Churcher, say "shall I bring my bucket." He himself got out of bed and opened his window and asked the man who was crying fire, where it was. He was then about eighteen yards past the house. He (the prisoner) then asked his next door neighbours, Poat, if they heard the cry of fire and where it was. They said they did and told him. He then dressed and went to the fire with his bucket to help, which he did until eight o'clock in the morning.

He called a witness of the name of Mrs. Poat, who said she lived next door to prisoner, and heard his voice as he went to bed on the night in question, telling his wife not to be long before she came to bed. He was then going up stairs, which go over a cupboard in her (witnesses) house. She (witness) did not go to bed until eleven o'clock and as her husband was very ill, did not go to sleep at all that night, and must have heard the prisoner go out if he had done so. She did not hear the prisoner move until the cry of fire was raised and then he asked if they heard it and where it was.

The daughter of the last witness corroborated her mother's statements.

His Lordship summed up at great length, and the Jury (evidently to the surprise of the listeners in the body of the court) pronounced a verdict of Guilty.

His Lordship passed a sentence of 15 years transportation beyond the seas. On hearing his sentence the prisoner was paralyzed for a few seconds, and then painfully stammered out, "I am done! I am done! but I am as innocent as any of you gentlemen," and would have said more, but was hurried down into the cell by the turnkey of Petworth prison.

The above trial lasted seven hours, and concluded the present assizes.

Lewes Times 20th December, 1855

Registry Number Col. Off. Letter	No. of Appli- cation	Convict's Name	Ship in which Transported	Names of Persons included in Permission	Residence	Married		Single		Children			
						Male	Female	Male	Female	Boys		Girls	
										14	Under 1	14	Under 1
CO 32 62	1148	Leach W.	Edwin Fox	Leach Mary J Fenny	Partney, Lincoln		45		12				
"	1149	Anderson Jas	do	Anderson Mary A Herbert James	22 nd Storey St Caledonian Row		45		14				
CO 86 62	1150	Blake William	Wile	Blake Susan Mary Jane William Kate Charlotte Henry Ruth	Hermitage Chichester Sussex		46		21				
									20				
									17				
									12				
										10			7

Application Register: Blake's request for wife and children to join him in WA. Ruth youngest. CO 386/154 page 170 on AJCP Reel 987

when the alarm of fire was given; and secondly, the prisoner said he had not been on the farm for 14 or 15 months - and afterwards inadvertently mentioned some circumstances which proved that he had been close in the vicinity of the farm, at least, a short time before.

"Though the facts of the case are thus briefly given, the case lasted seven hours. After this patient investigation, the Jury convicted the prisoner, and the learned Baron sentenced him to 15 years' transportation."

Second account in *Lewes Times* 20th December, 1855

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The Portsmouth prison record has all the information on his time in the English prisons. His convict number at Portsmouth was 3834:

"3834 William Blake aged 43; married with 6 children under age of 14; R/W neither; laborer; convicted for maliciously firing stacks (wheat, oats & hay) on 13/12/1855 at Lewes assizes; 15 years; committed for trial on 15 Nov. 1855 to Chichester prison. Prison Record: Petworth 21 days, Millbank 23 days, Pentonville 13 months 11 days; Conduct Petworth Well behaved, Millbank Good, Pentonville Good. Next of kin: wife Susan and 6 children from Westbourne; no prior convictions; Church of England; visited on 16/7/57; 28/8/57; 8/9/57. Reception dates Millbank 23 Jan 1857, Pentonville 15 Feb 1856, Portsmouth 30 March 1857. Time on public works. 1 year, 8 months, 21 days. Removed to Western Australia *Nile* 8 Sept 1857 for public works."

William Blake has more information about him on the public record in Western Australia. In the State Records Office his Acc 128 entry:

"farm labourer, married with 6 children, 5'4½", light brown hair grey eyes oval face fresh complexion cut left arm cut right thumb"

Also Acc 1156R Vol 8 has him: "Received 2 January 1858". After his arrival seems to have spent 6 months in the medical establishment and on three separate occasions was on bread and water for a day. He received his ticket-of-leave eighteen months after arriving on 20th July 1859.

Nearly four years later, on 8th April 1863 his wife Susan arrived on the *Burlington* with five of their six children, the eldest daughter staying in England.

Charles Carter and Ruth Blake had three children:

Ada Henry William Carter b.1874-1946	had	5 children
Adb Julia Carter b.1876-1952 (Hicks)		12 children
Adc Wesley Trace Carter b.1878-1954		7 children

Ada HENRY WILLIAM CARTER b.Northam 4.1.1874;d.Northam 30.7.1946 =m=
Northam 28.9.1897 **RHODA ELIZABETH BEARD** b.Northam 1.1.1877;d.Northam 8.11.1953



Rhoda Elizabeth Beard 1949



Iris Fazey and Rhoda



Henry and son Fred

HENRY was the eldest child of Charles Carter and Ruth Blake, and was four years of age when his father died and eleven when his mother married again. The year his father died a town lot had been bought in his name on 20th August, 1878. This was lot N.90, of five acres, thirty eight perches, situated in Charles Street.

Henry worked at farm labouring jobs up until about 1920 when he obtained work on the Kalgoorlie pipeline. Certainly towards the end of his working life he was an inspector of Kalgoorlie pipeline and he accomplished this job on his pushbike. He rode his bike one day from Northam to Meckering and on the next in the opposite direction to Clackline or Cumberbine.

Rhoda Elizabeth's parents were Fred and Ruth Beard (nee Christmas), her grandparents were Cornelius and Sarah Beard who were from Gloucester, England and had come to W.A. on 8th August, 1857 on the *City of Bristol* with their two children, Fred aged three and baby Sarah. On the same ship were Moses and Mary Beard whose son, Ernest (then one year old), was later to marry Henry's mother, Ruth, after the death of his father Charles Carter. Rhoda's sister Ruby also married into the Carter family. (See Acaf). All the males in steerage on the *City of Bristol* were either agricultural labourers or labourers. The passenger list has 56 couples, 31 single males, 59 single women and 53 children.

Henry and Rhoda had five children:
Iris Muriel Carter 1898-1979 (Fazey) 4
Charles Henry Carter 1902-1961 6
Frederick Augustus Carter 1905-1956 1
Norman Carter 1910-1928
Allen Sherlock Carter 1913-1914
a total of 11 grandchildren



Family at picnic



Henry & Rhoda with Brian and Allen Fazey 1931



George Fazey & Henry Carter



Henry and bike, ready for his daily inspection of the Kalgoorlie pipeline