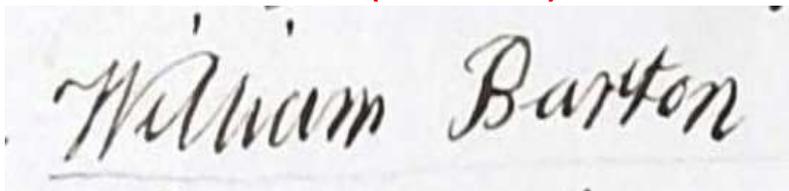


1809 -1880 WILLIAM BARTON FROM CONVICT TO PIONEER

Author David Bartonⁱ

PART 1

WILLIAM'S EARLY YEARS (1809 -1825)



(L) William Barton's signature on his marriage record to Elizabeth Seamour in 1839ⁱⁱ

William's father, Stephen Barton, when 30 years old, married Mary Wilstead on Boxing Day 1788 in St Peters Church Shorwell, where William's baptism would take place in 1809. Stephen and Mary worked as agricultural labourers and lived in a cottage one of the many described as 'ancient looking chiefly built of stone and mossed and ivied all over, up to the roof'.ⁱⁱⁱ Then Shorwell parish had a population of about 400 people and farming acreage of 8,857 acres. From records we know that Mary Wilstead was baptised in Chale, five miles away on the coast from Shorwell on Christmas Eve 1769. After 21 years of marriage Mary died aged 40 years and a few months after William, her seventh child, was born in 1809.

STEPHEN BARTON (1758–1818) and MARY WILSTEAD (1769- 1809)

Name	Relationship	DOB	Birthplace Marriage Death
Stephen BARTON	HEAD	1758	b. 22 Feb 1758 Shorwell. D.10 October 1818
Mary Wilstead	Wife	1769	b. Chale. Marries Boxing day 1788. Dies 1809
James	Son	1788	Chale.
Stephen	Son	1791	Shorwell
Elizabeth	Daughter	1793	Shorwell.
Thomas	Son	1796	Shorwell.
Mary	Daughter	1799	Shorwell
Hannah	Daughter	1803	Shorwell.
<i>William</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>1809</i>	<i>Shorwell. Dies 1880 New South Wales Australia</i>



(L) Farmlands around Shorwell. Island Tourism

Farm tenants were given little more than a yearly interest in their cottages and the cost of food and rent for William's parents was high.

the rate of wages was low on the Island, provisions dear, and the rents of cottages rather extravagant, being from 40 shillings to £2 15s per annum.^{iv}

William's father would turn his hand to a wide range of tasks, including ploughing and seed sowing, hoeing, weeding, mowing, spreading dung, threshing after the harvest, and hedging and ditching during the winter months. His children would have worked at picking up scattered seeds after sowing, helping him clean watch after animals and scaring birds from the fields.

A writer of the time commented on the life of agricultural workers living on the Island^v

Among the laborers of the Island, a general appearance of content and decency does away the idea of poverty and misery. They all seem comfortable and happy. Their dwellings are neat, snug, and cleanly, to which is attached a little garden, kept in nice order to grow potatoes. Their manners are civil, inoffensive, and uncorrupted by those vices which are generally found amongst the lower ranks of people in the neighbourhood of great towns.

This romantic description of a virtuous poverty obscures the fact that labourers on the Isle of Wight were poor and landless, with many living in distress.



L) Yafford Mill, Shorwell. Source: British Listed Buildings

In 1813, when William was 4 years old, his two elder brothers, James and Thomas, enlisted in the British army and were posted to Ireland^{vi}. By the time they returned back to Shorwell in 1818 their father, Stephen Barton, had died. William was 9 years old at the time of his father's death.

As a child of an agricultural labourer, William was put to work as soon as he could walk and by the age of 10 years, hired out as servant to a tenant farmer^{vii} who would provide him food and lodging. Any wages he might receive were a pittance. As he grew older William worked at ploughing and reaping on farms in the parish and carting and helping the miller at Yafford Mill in Shorwell^{viii}. We know of the names of

William's last employers on the Island in 1831. They were Elsbury & Dyer coal merchants in Chale (see page 5).

In 1815, at the end of the Napoleonic wars, the cost of food and rent for farm labourers had increased on the Island. Wages remained low, accompanied with little if any increase in parish poor relief, and poverty among many inhabitants was commonplace.

Isle of Wight County press Saturday 28 Feb 1885 pg. 6

REMINISCENCES OF NEWPORT IN THE 1820's - The weekly wages of an unmarried man was six shillings, if he had six children, he did not receive more than eight.

Hampshire Advertiser Sat 19 Jan 1828

Newport- The poor of the town and neighbourhood have this week been liberally supplied with bread & through the exertions of the gentlemen in the place

PART 2

WILLIAM AND LAWBREAKING (1828-1831)

Starting in 1828, when he was 18 years old, William's lawbreaking began to escalate. For his first conviction in October 1828 he received a public whipping, hard labour and prison; for his second conviction in November 1829 his sentence was prison, solitary confinement with hard labour and for his third conviction in October 1831, he was incarcerated on a prison hulk in Portsmouth, before he was transported to the Colony of New South Wales, sentenced to 7 years of penal servitude.

WILLIAM'S FIRST ENCOUNTER WITH THE MAGISTRATES

William's lawlessness was first brought to the attention of the Newport Borough magistrates, in June 1828 but in this case, he seems to have escaped punishment.

Date 7 June 1828 Midsummer Sessions National Archives Ref: MBC/31/77

William Barton & John Warne, both labourers of Newport. Offence: stealing 7 pounds weight of iron belonging to Jane Hardley; stealing 7 pounds weight of iron belonging to Henry Roach, John Hardley, John Jolliffe and William Thatcher; stealing 7 pounds weight of iron belonging to a person 'as yet unknown'.

William had the case against him dismissed and John Warne was convicted instead

Hampshire Chronicle Mon 4 August 1828 pg. 1

John Warne, for stealing a quantity of iron, two months hard labour.

Several months later in 1828 William appeared in front of the Newport magistrates again and this time he was convicted for stealing. The punishment he received was severe.

WILLIAM BARTON'S 1st CONVICTION (1828)

William aged 19 years. *6 months prison and a public whipping*

Winchester Gaol 25 October 1828 and discharged end April 1829.

(R) Horse hair was sold in bales by merchants and in 1828 was worth from 3s to 3s 6d per 1lb. The hair was used in sofas, chairs, mixed with wool in mattresses and used in plastering work.

Photo: morvanliving.com

**National Archives Ref: NBC/31/78**

Newport Borough Quarter Sessions. Indictments William Barton late of Newport. Offence: Stealing 4 pounds weight of horse hair and 4 pounds weight of hair belonging to Mary Tooley. Date September 1828 Michaelmas Sessions

Hampshire Chronicle Monday 27 October 1828

Isle of Wight Saturday Oct 25 1828 - Tuesday, the Quarter Sessions were held before Sir Richard Bassett, Mayor, T. Sewell, Esq. Recorder, the Rev P Geary, and Benj. Jolliffe, Esq Justices. Wm Barton for stealing horse hair, the property of Mary Tooley - six months imprisonment, and once publicly whipped

Hampshire Advertiser Sat 25 October 1828 pg. 3

William Barton - Imprisoned six months to hard labour

Hampshire Telegraph Monday 27 October 1828

stealing a quantity of horse hair, six months imprisonment, hard labour and once publicly whipped

PUBLIC WHIPPING

A description of a public whipping, through the streets in Newport in the 1820's, is best left to the testimony of one eyewitness.

Isle of Wight County Press Saturday 28 Feb 1885 pg. 6

REMINISCENCES OF NEWPORT: Sir, With your permission I propose to give a brief statement of my own native town and some of the changes which have taken place there during the last 65 years. In those so called 'good old days' it was not uncommon to see in front of the Town Hall one or two individuals with their feet confined in the stocks –

[the letter writer then goes on to tell the readers about a public whipping he saw in Newport in the 1820's] - I saw there a London pickpocket tied to a cart's tail , and lashed on his naked back with the cat-o-nine tails. I saw the effects of the first lash and the sight was so sickening that I was glad to get away – Signed Septuagenarian

(R) The Market Place Newport. Turner. C 1800 Tate Gallery

William would have had his hands tied to the end of the cart, stripped to his waist, and whipped along the length of a street in Newport, and usually near the scene of his crime. Having the public watch William's torment was an essential feature of his sentence, to shame him and deter those watching from committing similar crimes. To maximise this a public whipping took place on a market day when Newport was at its busiest.

Mary Tooley, from whom William stole the horse hair, was the daughter of William Tooley an Innkeeper of the Red Lion Inn and William's public whipping would have likely passed the street where the Inn stood. After his whipping William would have been sent to the mainland, arriving at Southampton Gaol, before being taken on a 14 mile journey to the County Goal in Winchester. There he would be incarcerated, to do hard labour, for six months^{ix}.



WILLIAM BARTON'S 2nd CONVICTION (1829)

William aged 20 years. *8 months in prison. 1 month hard labour, the first and last fortnight in solitary confinement.* Winchester Gaol November 1829 and discharged end June 1830.



(L) size of 1lb of cheese. Photo: Repeeron.com

Hampshire Telegraph Mon 2 November 1829 pg.4

Reported Newport: Newport Guildhall Quarter Sessions before the Right Hon. Lord Yarborough, Recorder; the Right Worshipful the Rev Peter Geary, Mayor; Sir Richards Bassett and other justices when the following prisoners were sentenced as under:

William Barton aged 21 for stealing 1lb of cheese the property of Jenny Woods— eight months imprisonment and 1 month hard labour, the first and last fortnight of which term in solitary confinement. He had previously been convicted of a felony.

National Archives Ref: NBC/31/82

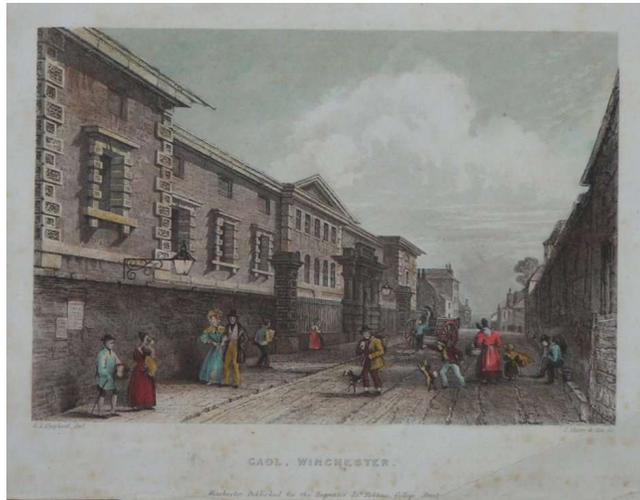
Indictments Newport Borough Quarter Sessions

Name: William Barton late Newport, labourer. Offence: Stealing 1 pound weight of cheese belonging to Jenny Woods, widow (having been convicted of felony on 21 October 1828)

William's conviction is also reported in the ***Salisbury and Winchester Journal*** Mon 02 Nov 1829 pg. 4

(R) the old Winchester Goal 1840
G S Shepherd
Hampshire Cultural Trust

William, when serving his 1828 and 1829 prison sentences, like Islanders at that time, would have been incarcerated in what was commonly called the County Bridewell or House of Correction at Winchester Gaol. ^x



WILLIAM BARTON'S 3rd CONVICTION (1831)

7 years transportation.

William aged 23 years old . Six weeks in Winchester Goal, from October 1831, and then transferred to the prison hulk *Leviathan* in Portsmouth in the last week of November 1831.



(L) William stole 2 bushels of coals. The photo left shows a cast bronze Imperial Bushel measure that holds one standard bushel.
Source the Queensland Museum

William, after he was released from prison for stealing cheese, reoffended three months later and on the 8 October 1831 was tried in the Grand Jury Chamber in the Castle of Winchester for stealing two bushels of coals.

60 *William Barton*, aged 23. Committed October 8, 1831, by Sir R. Simeon, Bart. and Rev. J. Worsley, charged with having, on the 1st day of October instant, at the parish of Chale, in the Isle of Wight, feloniously stolen two bushels of coals, the property of his employers, Peter Elsbury and John Dyer.—7 years' transportation.

A Calendar of the Prisoners In the County Gaol at Winchester tried at the General Quarter Sessions Holden at The Castle Winchester Printed on Tuesday Oct 18th 1831

William Barton age 23. Committed October 8, 1831, by Sir R Simeon, Bart and Rev J Worsley charged with having on the 1st day inst, at the parish of Chale*, in the Isle of Wight, feloniously stolen 2 bushels of coals, the property of his employers, Peter Elsbury* and John Dyer – 7 years transportation

Notes on above entry:

*Chale, parish adjacent to Shorwell, and the place William's mother Mary Wilstead was born.

*Peter James Elsbury and John Dyer ran a family coal merchant's business with John Dyer marrying Peter Elsbury's daughter Mary Elsbury in 1824. In 1840 Peter Elsbury left in his Will most of his estate 'to my partner in trade John Dyer'

Dorset County Chronicle Thursday 27 October 1831 pg.3

HAMPSHIRE – the General Quarter Sessions for this County commenced on Tuesday, at the Grand Jury Chamber County before R. Pollen Esq Chairman. The following prisoners were tried and sentenced as under:- Transportation for seven years: John Hiscock for stealing a watch – James Williams jun; for stealing eight geese – James Weston, for stealing two silver spoons and a coat – William Price and James Nevill for stealing a pig – **William Barton for felony**

Printed on the frontpage of the Calendar of Prisoners, in the month William entered Winchester Gaol, the prison surgeon, Giles King Lyford, notes:
No putrid or Infectious Disorder in the Gaoler House of Correction

PART 3**WILLIAM BARTON ON LEVIATHAN HULK**

Salisbury & Winchester Journal Mon 21 Nov 1831 pg. 2

During the week the following convicts found guilty at the last Quarter Sessions have been removed on board the Leviathan Hulk in Portsmouth Harbour: John Hiscock; James Weston; James Nevill, James Williams, William Paice and **William Barton**, transported for 7 years

(R) Entry in 1832 for William Barton in the Convict Indents (Ships and Arrivals Register) for 1788 to 1868 to NSW

The convict register for 1832 contains William's details used by the Colonial authorities to record him as a convict so as to be assigned for work once the *Lady Harewood*, the convict ship arrived in Sydney Cove.

Winchester Assize Tuesday 18 October 1831. Tried at Southampton*.

Offence details: stealing coal.

Quarter Sessions Midsummer 1830

Prisoner Number: 11022.

William Barton Age 23 Birth year 1809.

Height 63.25 inches (5 feet 2 inches).

Protestant.

Sentence term: 7 years.

Colony NSW. Ship: Lady Harewood.

**Note: re Tried at Southampton does not mean William's trial actually took place in Southampton. In the Prison Register, in which William's trial place is recorded, are the below words*

County of Southampton^{xi}.

The Prisoners in the County Gaol at Winchester.

Tried at the General Quarter Session

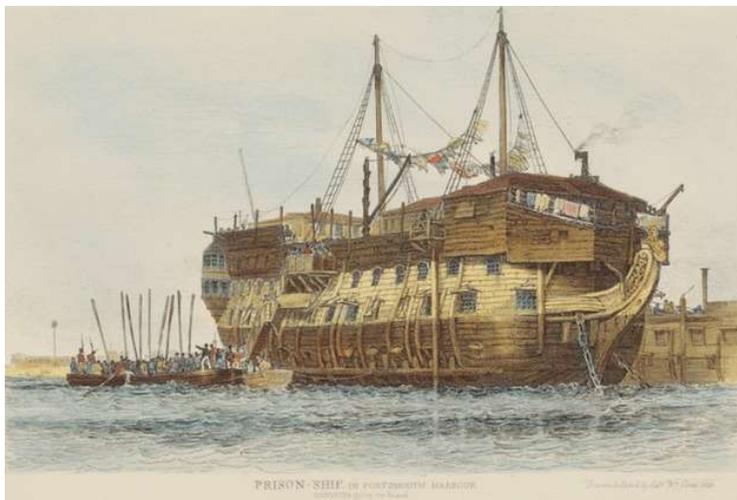
Holden at the Castle Winchester on Tuesday October 18, 1831

HMS LEVIATHAN



(L) Portsmouth prison hulks. The ships were moored in Langstone and Portsmouth Harbours, together with a hospital ship. The conditions on board the hulks were unhealthy and overcrowded, with little or no ventilation since the ports on the landward side were boarded over as a deterrent against escape. Source: National Maritime Museum.

William would spend 11 weeks waiting on his convict transport to New South Wales, and was sent from Winchester Gaol to the de-commissioned Royal Navy ship, *HMS Leviathan*, which functioned as a prison hulk. *Leviathan* was a 74-gun third-rate ship of the line of the Royal Navy, launched in October 1790. At the Battle of Trafalgar, she was near the front of the windward column led by Admiral Lord Nelson aboard his flagship, *HMS Victory*. In 1816, after the end of the Napoleonic Wars and like many other naval vessels, the ship was converted into a prison hulk, with its rigging removed, and moved to a mooring of prison hulks in Portsmouth Harbour. The *Leviathan* was mainly used to accommodate prisoners awaiting transportation to Australia.



(L) The *Leviathan* prison hulk in Portsmouth harbour. C 1828.
National Library of Australia

UK Prison Hulk Register *Leviathan* 1801-1836

Entry 1102: William Barton 23 years Where tried: 18 October 1831 at Winchester. Sentence: 7 years

Arriving at the hulk William washed and then was inspected, issued with clothing, blankets, mess mug and plate

and allocated to a work gang. The gangs spent ten to twelve hours a day working on stone collecting, timber cutting, embankment and dockyard work, while prison authorities waited for a convict transport to become available. The government at the time awarded private contracts to owners of merchant vessels to have them refitted and supplied as convict transport.

National Archives 1832 Ref: 101/45/3/1

CONDITIONS ON THE LEVIATHAN -The surgeon stated that the “prima facie view of prisoners especially those on the *Leviathan* was truly disheartening”; great number of them were emaciated, a sallow unhealthy aspect and not so clean in their persons – perhaps the appearance arose in great measure from the diet allowed aboard the hulk being indigestible and not sufficient nutritive

Like other convicts waiting on convict transport, William would not have been idle. A typical day began with a muster at a quarter to six. After breakfast, the convicts moved to the Portsmouth dockyards for work. Their leg irons were checked as they went on shore, where they were supervised by non-convict dockyard workers and first and second mates from the *Leviathan*. The convicts returned to the ship for the midday meal, then resumed their labours at the docks. At six o’clock in the evening, the convicts were returned to the ship.

7 YEAR SENTENCES

The Transportation Act 1717 simplified and legitimised transportation: convicts guilty of capital crimes, but commuted by the king, received 14 years sentences while those convicted of non-capital offences, like William, would receive seven years. Records show that a seven year sentence was handed down for stealing items such as silk, potatoes, a handkerchief, pickles, knives, a hairbrush, beans and six fowls and so on. A seven year sentence was also handed down for insubordination, purchasing stolen property and defending tenant farmer land rights in ‘agrarian rioting’.

During the Australian colonial period, from the First Fleet’s entry into Sydney Cove in 1788 to the last convicts arrival in Western Australia in 1901, an estimated 168,000 people were transported by British courts to the penal colonies located around the Australian coastline, with a total of 873,623 years of sentences. Over multiple voyages, 476 convict ships sailed to the penal settlements.

Two years after William arrived in Sydney, close to 5,000 convicts were shipped to Australia, the largest annually recorded convict import.

PART 4**LADY HAREWOOD AND THE VOYAGE TO NEW SOUTH WALES**

William was one of 200 convicts transported on the [Lady Harewood](#) to New South Wales. The ship left Portsmouth on 13 March 1832 and arrived in Sydney four months later, on 5 August 1832. The prisoners on this voyage had been tried in assizes throughout England and included Suffolk, London, Cambridge, Lancaster, Surrey, Sussex, Middlesex, Norfolk, Stafford, Essex, Winchester, Worcester, Wiltshire, Hereford, Warwick, Shropshire, Oxford and Leicester.

All the male prisoners, taken from county prisons, were sent to prison hulks in Portsmouth harbour. On 7 March 1832, two hundred prisoners who had been incarcerated in the *York* and *Leviathan* hulks were embarked at Spithead and boarded the *Lady Harewood* for the long and hazardous voyage to the southern hemisphere a distance of 12,950 nautical miles (14,902 miles).

National Archives: Ref ADM 101/4/5**Medical Journal of HM male convict ship Lady Harewood**

20 Feb to 17 Aug by John Inches, surgeon and superintendent during which time the ship was employed in a voyage to Sydney

Folio 16-17 Surgeon’s general remarks. We received 200 male convicts on board at Spithead on 7 March from the *York* and *Leviathan* convict ships and sailed on 15 March but was obliged to put back because of tempestuous weather after getting some way in the Channel. Sailed again on 25 March in perfect health

Folio 1: List of food and drink received by Mr. R W Stonehouse, master of the *Lady Harewood* and expended during the voyage [the below list must have been the surgeon's supplies for the sick bay] - 16 bottles of port wine; 6 pounds of preserved meat; 34 pounds of Pearl Barley; 20 pounds of tea; 14 pounds of sago; 10 ounces of ginger; 37 pounds of rice; 52 pounds of sugar; 27 bottles of lemon juice.



L) New South Wales Australia

The *Lady Harewood* would make three voyages transporting convicts to Australia, one in 1829 to Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania) and again in 1831^{xii} and 1832 to New South Wales. William was on the 1832 voyage.

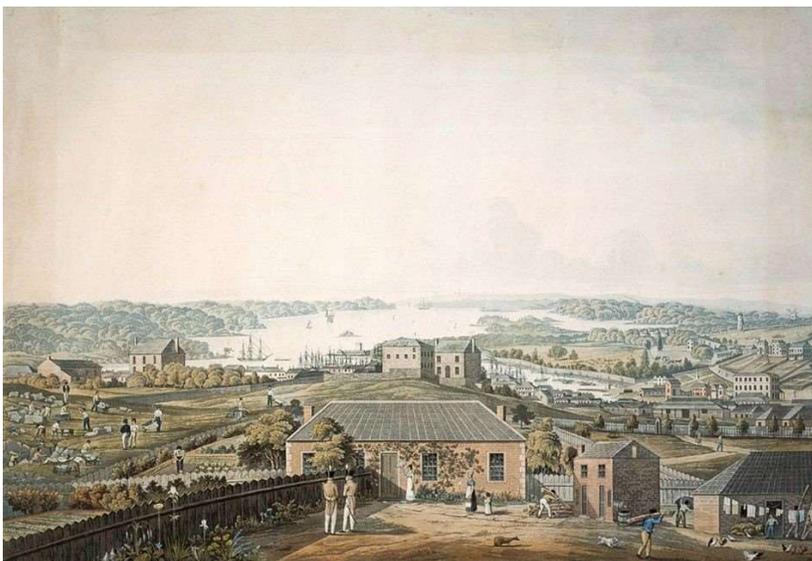
William sailed from Portsmouth bound for Port Jackson in Sydney Town; however, they were obliged to put back because of tempestuous weather after making only part way down the Channel. The ship set sail again on 25 March 1832, *not having had any illness amongst the convicts while at Spithead.*

They were fortunate, as cholera had already swept through the prisons and hulks of England and Ireland, causing many deaths.

The military guard on the voyage consisted of Lieutenant Donlan, 48th Regiment, and 26 rank and file soldiers of the 4th Regiment under the command of Lieutenant Lowth, 38th Regiment, whose wife accompanied him on the voyage.

Lady Harewood stopped for provisions at St Jago, Cape Verde Islands, off the coast of Senegal, West Africa^{xiii}. During the voyage, the prisoners were mustered twice a week on deck, and at the first signs of *spongy gums*, a symptom of scurvy, lime juice was given out. Despite this, one prisoner died of scurvy as the ship lay in Sydney Harbour on its arrival on 5 August.

The ship also brought with her 400 varieties of vines, with two cuttings of each, laying the foundations of Australia's wine industry. News of the grapevine cuttings arrival made the Sydney newspapers.



Port Jackson (Sydney) 1822
Source: State Library NSW

DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE. ***Sydney Herald* 13 August 1832**

COLLECTION OF VINES. The *Lady Harewood* has brought to this Colony one of the most valuable importations which has arrived for many years; it being a collection of more than 400 varieties of vines, with two or more cuttings of each.

This important collection has been selected from the Royal Garden of Montpelier, from the large collection of Luxemburg at Paris, and from the garden of the Duke of Northumberland ; in fact, every country in Europe, and every province in France, has contributed, its particular species, and among them are Hermitage, Frontignac, Vin de Nuits, Champagny de Boutin, &c. besides many others of the rarest and richest varieties. When in the beginning of the present century, a catalogue of the nurseries of Luxemburg (a garden which was formed by the fathers of the Chartreux 200 years ago and had received successively the collections of Chaptal) was published, it contained only 207 sorts of the vine. The cuttings have arrived in the best condition, nearly all the specimens being fresh, and most of them with sound and strong roots.

Such an extensive collection, and in such good order, may never arrive again, and therefore it is to be hoped that ground of proper quality has been prepared for them, and that these plants, the production of colder climates, and weakened by more than five months confinement, may be managed in such a manner, that the low temperature which we have during the nights, may not spoil them. Should proper care be taken, these three boxes of plants may in ten years become of many thousand pounds value to the Colony, and the parents of a countless progeny in the Islands of our adjacent seas, as well as in every part of this Country.

After William disembarked the *Lady Harewood* the ship returned to England, under Captain Stonehouse, with a range of cargo produced by the Colony: Animal hides, Casa seeds, Cedar planks, Light wood, Mimosa bark, Possum and bird skins, Seal skins, Sperm and whale oil, Whalebone and Wool.

PART 5

1832 WILLIAM BARTON SELECTED FOR WORK



(L) Spot marks where the *Lady Harewood* anchored off Shark Island,^{xiv}Port Jackson, at 9 pm on 5 August 1832. Atlas Map Sydney 1895

The *Lady Harewood* anchored off Shark Island, at 9 pm on 5 August 1832, in accordance with the colony's recently established quarantine regulations.

The next day, the convicts were brought into Sydney Cove, as no infectious illness had been on board since leaving Portsmouth.

***Sydney Morning Herald* Monday 30 January 1832**

During the past year the undermentioned ships have arrived [list of ships including *Lady Harewood* with 214 males]. It is expected that most of the prisoners

will become useful servants and mechanics and ultimately improved members of society.

(R) Hyde Park Barracks.
Source Sydney Living Museums

William was among the 199 convicts mustered on board the *Lady Harewood* by the Colonial Secretary on 9 August 1832. The men were landed at the Sydney docks on Saturday 18 August and marched up to the Hyde Park Barracks on Macquarie Street, where convicts were kept until they moved on to their places of work. They were reportedly *a robust healthy set of men and remarkably clean*^{xv}.



On the following Monday, the convicts were forwarded to their respective assignees, who were generally local businessmen or government agents, farmers on small acreages further afield of Sydney Town or squatters setting up sheep and cattle runs days away on the frontiers of settlement.



WILLIAM'S FIRST NIGHT IN AUSTRALIA

(L) William's first night spent in Australia, on Saturday 18 August 1832, was in a hammock at the Hyde Park Barracks in Sydney. The Barracks is recognised internationally as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and listed as *the best surviving example of large-scale convict transportation and the colonial expansion of European powers through the presence and labour of convicts*. Photo: Sydney Living Museums

The central barracks building was used as a dormitory where convict men slept in canvas hammocks strung from wooden rails in all 12 rooms. The Barracks was also place of secondary punishment and a depot for reassignment and trial.

The Office of the Principal Superintendent of Convicts was established on the site and after 1830, a Court of General Sessions established at Hyde Park Barracks administered punishments for barracks men and other government-employed convicts. Penalties included days in solitary confinement, working in gangs in irons, walking on the treadmill, or up to 150 lashes.

The court could also extend convicts' sentences by up to three years with hard labour and transfer men to other penal settlements in the Colony or Norfolk Island. The Barracks was finally closed as convict accommodation in 1848, by which time 8000 convicts had passed through it.



(Above) Convicts being assigned for work at the Hyde Park Barracks in Sydney. Source Sydney Living Museums

PART 6

WILLIAM CONVICT LABOUR FOR HENRY BADGERY

(R) Henry Badgery (1803 -1880).

William Barton's first master was Henry Badgery from Sutton Forest. He was born at Hawkesbury in the Colony in 1808, was the son of James Badgery, who arrived in Sydney in 1795 in charge of some livestock from England. Photo National Library

William was assigned to Badgery at the Hyde Park Barracks. His new master, a colonial pastoralist, came from a family in Devonshire, who arrived as free immigrants, in the early days of settlement in 1795. Badgery's property was at Sutton Forest, barely a hamlet then, but where he kept cattle and merino sheep that would form the basis of the development of the Australian wool industry.

In 1832 the bulk of the colony's convict workforce were assigned to landholders and business owners. Each settler was entitled to the services of one convict for every hundred acres received from the Colony's Lands Office and Henry Badgery owned 1920 acres.



Like all convict assignments, William's connection to Badgery was made known in the local papers and NSW Government Gazette where free settlers could read weekly on all movements made by *prisoners of the crown*, by their name, and the assignments they were given. When a convict absconded from their master a full description of their characteristics was published.

It is not too hard to imagine that, at the assignment muster held in the Barracks the very next morning after the *Lady Harewood* disembarked its load of convicts that Henry Badgery, upon inspecting William a young ploughman from the Isle of Wight, would have asked for William to be assigned to his estate in the Sutton Forest district. While many convicts could wait days or weeks at the Hyde Park Barracks in Sydney for an assignment it had taken William only several hours to be assigned to his new master. William had a broad range of agricultural skills that Badgery needed.

Listed against William Barton's name on the convict indentures was: ploughing, milking, reaping and milling.

Sydney Herald 9 August 1832

2677 Barton William, Lady Harewood, ploughman, milks, to Henry Badgery Camden

Bound Indentures 1832-1833

William Barton 23 Isle of Wight. Ploughman, reaps & Mills. Steals Coals. Tried Winchester 18 Oct 1831

A few months after William arrival in Sutton Forest, in 1832, Badgery sponsored the 6th Annual Ploughing Match, with prizes for farm servants, who were working for local landowners.

Henry Badgery's wealth was substantial as in 1834 the price for one acre of land, in the Sutton Forest area, was selling at 5 shillings. His nearly 2,000-acre property, called Vine Lodge, where William would work, was publicised in the New South Wales Government Gazette in January 1832.



(L) Vine Lodge

Source Exeter Village Association

NSW Government Gazette 1830

Henry Badgery's Exeter Estate 1,920 acres authorised by Sir Ralph Darling on the 15 September 1829 and given on the 15 January 1832. Quit-rent £16 sterling per annum commencing 1 January 1830.

From 1821 -1841 the growing Badgery family had expanded their land holdings to include Vine Lodge where William

worked as convict labour. By the time William had left Badgery's service there was a flourishing community living on the property. Vine Lodge had 33 residents, 13 convicts and other ex- convict workers.^{xvi}

CONTROLLING CONVICTS IN SUTTON FOREST

To keep control of the convict population in Sutton Forest it was regularly mustered and physically counted.

From 1832, until he received his Certificate of Freedom in 1839 (see following pages) William had to regularly attend a district muster of convicts with police constables taking notes of all attendees. Non- attendance could lead to punishment. The Magistrate at Sutton Forest would also be occupied in mustering ticket of leave holders for the district and inspecting the police corps which usually took place on the first day in certain months.

Sydney Herald Mon 2 January 1832

Saturday was the day appointed for mustering ticket of leave men at the Police Office which was crowded with holders of this indulgence

1832 IN SUTTON FOREST

When William arrived in Sutton Forest in 1832 just over 57% (312) of all males living in the district were convicts. The total population of Sutton Forest at that time was 680 persons and 20% (40) of the number were females.

The Sydney Gazette Saturday 2 June 1832

We have just met with a curious document, illustrative of the extent in which the inequality [of sexes] exists in one of our most promising agricultural districts.

A careful enquiry has recently been instituted at Sutton Forest

POPULATION OF SUTTON FOREST DISTRICT

Free marriageable females, 6 natives, 2 emigrant: **8**

Married childbearing women, most of them free: **49**

Married women, and widows past the childbearing age: **23**

Female children of all ages: **48**

Female convicts in service: **12**

TOTAL Females 140

Free marriageable males, or men in the prime of life of good repute and having the means to maintain wives: **36**

Single Ticket-of-Leave men all who have means of maintaining wives: **45**

Married Ticket-of-Leave men: **15**

Soldiers unmarried: **17**

Free married men, and elderly single men: **68**

Male children of all ages: **59**

Male Convicts in service: **240**

Male Convicts in road gangs: **60**

TOTAL Males 540

This presents a deplorable discrepancy, the proportion of single free males, including Ticket-of-Leave men, to single free females being no less than Ten to One!!

Looking at the low number of females in the district that were marriageable in 1832 one can imagine William's enthusiasm, when six years later in 1838 he met Elizabeth Seymour who had arrived at the local parsonage from the Female Convict Factory in Parramatta .



(L) Convict cap pre-1849.

The hat was given to convict men from 1820-1855. It was made of leather and by undoing the ties, flaps would drop down to form a brim. Source State Library NSW

Badgery, as a private land owner did not pay William for his work, but had to provide him with food and clothing and a place to live – probably in a wooden hut on his property. Badgery also did not *own* the convicts on his property and they could complain to the authorities if they had felt mistreated.

William, with other convicts assigned to Badgery, would cook his own food and was given plenty to eat.

After completing their sentences most convicts would aim to stay on in Sutton Forest and become a free worker and paid for their labour.

(R) Ticket of leave for William Barton

With good conduct, William serving a seven-year term, could qualify after four or five years for a ticket of leave, a document of parole issued to convicts who had shown they could be trusted with *some* freedoms.

1836 TICKET OF LEAVE

No. 36/1578 4 October 1836

Prisoner No. 32/1578

Name William Barton

Ship Ly Harewood

Master Stonehouse

Year 1832

Place of trial Southampton Quarter Sessions [trial took place in Winchester]

Date of trial 18 October 1831

Sentence Seven years

Allowed to remain in the District of Sutton Forest. Surrendered & torn up on obtaining Certificate of Freedom No. 39.

In 1836, four years after his arrival on the *Lady Harewood* in 1832 and his assignment to Henry Badgery as convict labour, William was granted his ticket of leave.

TICKET OF LEAVE.	
No.	36/1578 4 October 1836
Prisoner's No.	32/1578
Name	William Barton
Ship	Ly Harewood
Master	Stonehouse
Year	1832
Native Place	
Trade or Calling ...	
Offence	
Place of Trial	Southampton Q
Date of Trial	18 October 1831
Sentence	Seven Years
Year of Birth	
Height	
Complexion	
Hair	
Eyes	
General Remarks ..	
<p>Allowed to remain in the District of Sutton Forest</p> <p>On recommendation of <i>[Signature]</i> Bench,</p> <p>Dated <i>June 1836</i></p>	

Surrendered & torn up on obtaining Certificate of Freedom No. 39

Like all ticket of leave convicts, William was required to carry the document on him always. Convicts who could not produce their ticket of leave when requested, could find their ticket of leave cancelled and be returned to government service as prisoners of the Crown. Under his ticket of leave, William had to remain in the police district of Sutton Forest and still needed to attend and be counted at all convict musters.

The Sydney Government Gazette published weekly a list of Ticket of Leave approvals and cancellations; newly granted Certificates of Freedom; new convict assignments and convict transfers, between individuals and employers, as well as a comprehensive list of runaways with their descriptions, so that Constables and others could *lodge them back in safe custody* and also another list of those absconders apprehended during the last week.

Having checked the Sydney Gazette records I found no evidence that William Barton misbehaved or created a problem for Henry Badgery that needed him to report William to the Convict Office. On the 7 March 1839 William gained his Certificate of Freedom and at the time was working at the parsonage in Sutton Forest for the Rev John Vincent, and paid by him as a *free farm labourer*.

1839 CERTIFICATE OF FREEDOM

(R) William Barton's Certificate of Freedom in 1839

In 1839, on completion of his seven-year sentence, William was granted a Certificate of Freedom. On the certificate, William is described as a labourer, born on the Isle of Wight, with these features:

Complexion: Fair, ruddy

Height: 5 feet

Hair: Flaxen

Eyes: Blue

General Remarks: Scar on right of left eye.

Nostrils broad.

Breast hairy.

Tattoos: Woman A B M & other letters lower left arm. Anchor WD & seven dots back of left hand. MS on back right hand.

Had Ticket of Leave No 36/1578 4

Oct 1836 now surrendered.

CERTIFICATE OF FREEDOM.	
No.	39/361
Date,	7 th March 1839
Prisoner's No.	32/1598
Name.....	William Barton
Ship.....	Lady Harwood &
Master.....	Trunkhouse
Year ..	1832
Native Place....	Isle of Wight
Trade or Calling	Labourer
Offence.....	
Place of Trial....	Southampton S ^t
Date of Trial....	18 October 1831
Sentence.....	Seven years
Year of Birth	1809
Height.....	5 feet
Complexion	fair ruddy
Hair.....	flaxen
Eyes.....	blue
General Remarks	Scar on right of left eye Nostrils broad Breast hairy. Woman A.B.M. & other letters lower left arm Anchor W.D. & seven dots back of left hand M.S. back of right hand Held a Ticket No. 36/1578 dated 4 October 1836 now Surrendered

PART 6

1839 WILLIAM BARTON AND ELIZABETH SEAMOUR^{xvii}

THE OUTRAGE OF THE REV MR. VINCENT, THE FATHER OF A FAMILY OF DAUGHTERS

Life for William in Sutton Forest was not without risk. At times it could be a dangerous place with escaped and armed convicts living in the bush. An armed robbery took place at the home of the Rev John Vincent where William worked.

Sydney Times Saturday 18 November 1837

The outrage of the Rev Mr. Vincent, the father of a family of daughters besides others. One of our own children was among those who were shut up in a room with her female friends at the parsonage at Sutton Forest, while the ruffians were threatening Mr. Vincent with loaded pistols at his head, and all but pulling the trigger. They were put off, from their purpose by a faithful convict of Mr. Vincent, at the risk to his own life, shooting one of the bushrangers, who stood sentry outside. It excited the surprise of the Colony, and our personal grief, as the warm friend and admirer of Governor Burke, that this faithful servant was not even rewarded with a ticket of leave for his admirable tact in escaping from the house, procuring assistance, and killing one of the ruffians; himself a convict, and hitherto a dissatisfied and rather insubordinate

WILLIAM BARTON AND ELIZABETH WORK FOR REV JOHN VINCENT

William, now granted freedom and a paid farm labourer, was employed by the Reverend, working on the parsonage property, and Elizabeth was a household *Bond servant* working indoors. At the time John Vincent was a close friend of Henry Badgery, sitting with him on various district committees and both were Trustees of the fund to erect a new All Saints Church in Sutton Forest.



L) the Old Rectory, Exeter Road, in Sutton Forest completed in 1842. William and Elizabeth would have known this building. Requests for tenders to build the rectory were managed by Henry Badgery, William Barton's former employee. Photo: NSW Archives

As an early chaplain in the Colony the Rev John Vincent, born in Ireland (1789 -1854), had arrived in the Colony in 1828, with his wife, four daughters and a female servant. As the Chaplain in Sutton Forest, he was a Civil Officer of the

Crown, and appointed by the Governor on the recommendation of the Archdeacon. In 1833 he was sent to Sutton Forest by Bishop Broughton. From there he made regular quarterly visits south to Goulburn and the districts beyond. He provided private classes for gentlemen:

The Sydney Monitor August 1840

Latin, Greek, French and English languages and the various branches of Mathematics and Scientific and Polite Literature

In 1838 the Reverend had performed 19 baptisms, 14 marriages and 17 burials in Sutton Forest. He would remain in his post till March 1841, when he left Sutton Forest, and was sent by the Bishop to work in the districts of Penrith and Castlereagh.

Reverend John Vincent's account Sutton Forest Diocesan Report 1838

Stipend of £250; allowance for rent £60; allowance for horse £45 12s 6d - TOTAL £355 12s 6d

Rev John Vincent regularly used convict labour and each of his assignments of prisoners of the Crown were publicised in the Sydney Government Gazette

Sydney Government Gazette notices approving assignments to Rev J Vincent

1832 June: Bridget Connor: house servant and a needlewoman from the Female Factory

1832 November: Honor Stephens: a laundress

1833 February: James Kelly: an Ostler

1834 March: Gardener's labourer and two farm labourers

1835: 1 farm labourer and 1 stable boy

1837: 1 indoor servant, C & F Wilson. Total 3 laborers

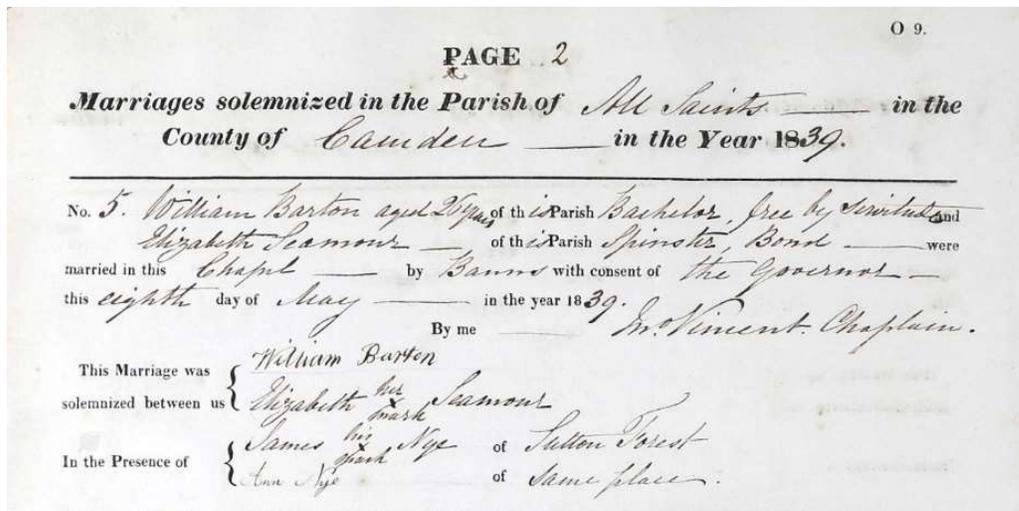
Not all convicts assigned to the Reverend proved successful. In August 1837 a William Walker, an indoor servant and jeweller from Jamaica, is listed as having absconded from Sutton Forest and his description is publicised in the Gazette.

MARRIAGE IN THE CHAPEL ALL SAINTS SUTTON FOREST (1839)

In January 1837 the Lord Bishop of Australia appointed the Rev John Vincent at Sutton Forest to be one of his Surrogates for granting Marriage Licenses within the Colony. This allowed William and Elizabeth Seamour, on 8 May 1839, to be married in the old wooden chapel of All Saints.^{xviii} in the parish.

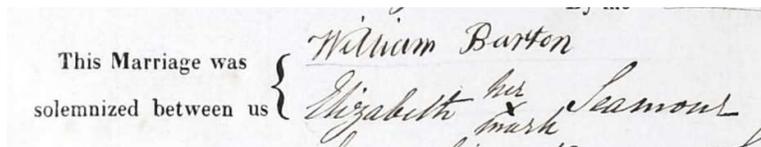
Nepean Times Sat 5 March 1919 Trove

DIOCESAN REPORT OF 1837 - we read that Sutton Forest, the clergyman officiates every Sunday morning, and in the afternoon at Berrima for the military and for the iron gang^{xix}; Sutton Forest contains 800 Protestants, but a small proportion of that number ever enter a church. The chapel is wholly unsuitable to a district so thickly populated and important in all its circumstances. It is satisfying to add, that through the exertions of the residing chaplain – the Rev John Vincent – the inhabitants have been induced to contribute a very liberal sum towards providing a more commodious place of worship



(Above) William Barton’s Wedding Certificate 1839 All Saints Sutton Forest.

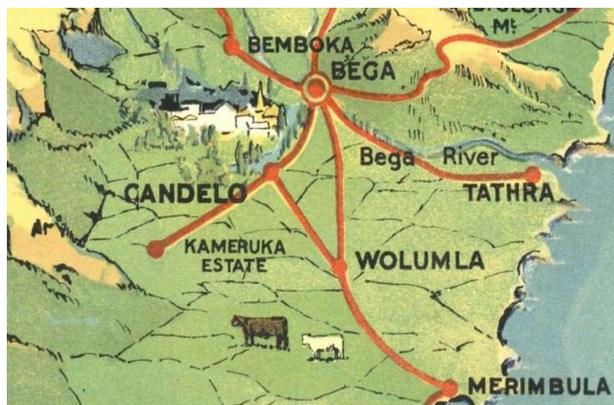
Elizabeth and William were married by Chaplain John Vincent. The Governor’s consent was needed for William’s wife to marry as she was still a prisoner of the Crown. William Barton, Bachelor *free of servitude* and Elizabeth Seamour, *Spinster, Bond*. The marriage certificate acknowledges Elizabeth is no longer a widow, but a *Spinster* supporting her assertion made to the Chaplain *that she is not a married woman*.



(L) On the marriage certificate William signs his own name and Elizabeth makes her X mark

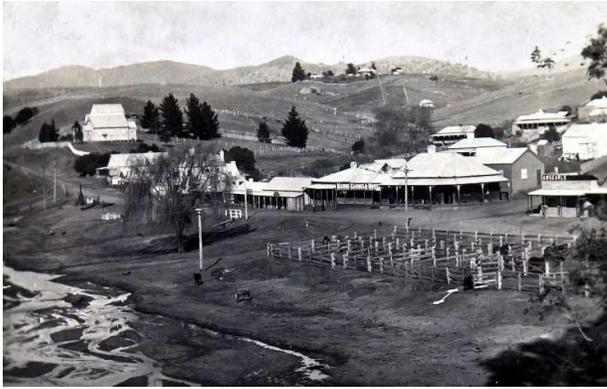
The marriage Witnesses are James Nye and his wife Ann Nye both of Sutton Forest. James Nye, born in Sussex, was transported in 1818 on the convict ship *General Stewart* and by December 1836 had earned himself a Conditional Pardon. Like William Barton he did farm work.

PART 7
1849 -1872 WILLIAM BARTON LAND PURCHASES IN THE BEGA VALLEY



(R) Candelo, in the Bega Valley, where William and Elizabeth lived after leaving Sutton Forest. Map: Mt Kosciusko Sydney to Summit map 1930s

By 1849 Elizabeth and William had left Sutton Forest, moving 240 miles further south to the Bega valley and in particular to the new settlement of Candelo. Their time spent with Henry Badgery and the Rev John Vincent, two well-known and highly reputable persons in the Colony, would have helped them find work.



(L) Candelo is situated about 15 miles from Bega, in the County of Auckland, in a parish of about 333 acres – Merimbula News & Bega Archives

By the time the family arrived in Candelo William's children had all grown up. Fanny was aged 26 years; William aged 23 years; Jane aged 20 years and Charles aged 16 years. They, like many others in Candelo, would have found work on the Kameruka Estate or on a local dairy farm.

It is likely William kept up some working relationship with Henry Badgery. In 1845 the Revenue Branch of the Colonial Treasury issued Pastoral Licences for cattle and sheep farmers wishing to *depasture stock beyond the limits of location* in the Bega valley and Monaro Plains. This allowed Badgery to own vast holdings, managed by stockmen and shepherds, in the area which he used for fattening sheep and cattle.

Sydney Morning Herald Sat 7 October 1848

[Henry Badgery] 16,000 acres with 500 cattle and 3,000 sheep at McLeay's Flat with further run of 16,000 acres at Dry River with 200 cattle and 300 sheep

WILLIAM'S LAND IN NUMBUGGA (1871-1872)

The Crown Lands Occupation Act 1861 saw large pastoral properties broken up into smaller Lots and sold at auctions in Bega. This Act enabled William and his son Charles to select land in Numbugga, nine miles from Bega, and a twenty mile distance from Candelo. Looking at the Crown Land Records, the Lots adjoined one another with frontage to the Bemboka River. Whether Charles or William ever built a dwelling on the land not known. Others at the time, who bid for Lots in Numbugga were known locally as *grazing farmers* as they provided agistment by taking in and feeding horses and fattening stock belonging to other property owners.

The Bega Gazette Thursday 22 August 1872

Selections on 15th

Ann Moran, 40 acres, parish of Numbugga; Daniel Langan*, 40 acres Kameruka, adjoining his former selection, Edward Connor 40 acres, Ooranook adjoining last selection; Philip Collins 164 acres, Bemboka; James Power's forfeited selection; Adeline Jane Kiss, 40 acres, Numbugga between **Charles Barton's** and Edward Connor's taking frontage to river; **William Barton, 40 acres Numbugga** adjoining Edward Connor's. Deposit £81

*Note: there is likely a family connection with Daniel Langan, mentioned above, and William Barton junior's wife named Catherine Langan whom he married in Queanbeyan in 1873

William and Charles made their bids at a Crown Land auction held in Bega and paid a deposit with a balance period within *3 years of the date of conditional purchase*. Improvements to the land would have been made by the family helping with falling timber, clearing scrub and fencing. Both William and Charles's land purchases could lapse, or be declared void, through non-payment of interest prescribed by the Act, and then offered for re-sale by competition at another auction.

Numbugga land was grassland with pastures in Numbugga gently undulating with some higher, but well grassed ridges towards the hills. A visitor on a journey from Candelo to Numbugga describes this area in 1877:

A Tour in the Southern Districts Australian Town & Country Journal Sat 27 October 1877 pg. 17

Taking a fresh departure from Candelo by a back track – on a hill a magnificent view is obtained of the chain of mountains, with various passes over them. To the right is seen the perpendicular cliffs,

rising some 30ft of Numbugga and the peak of Bemboka. In front of us the Nimitybelle post-track, to the left the new road to Bombala, and on the extreme left the old road to Eden

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE LAND WILLIAM AND CHARLES PURCHASED

Records show William and Charles Barton as the original selectors of a total of 120 acres of land. However, by 1892 the land had been passed on to a Ferdinand Beck^{xxi}.

Charles was the *original selector* of 40 acres on the 23 March 1871 and then another 40 acres on the 20 June 1872 and his father William the *original selector* of 40 acres on the 15 August 1872. While paying annual interest instalments, both would have made good use of the land by grazing and fattening stock^{xxii}.

NSW Gazette Friday 16 December 1892 Bega District

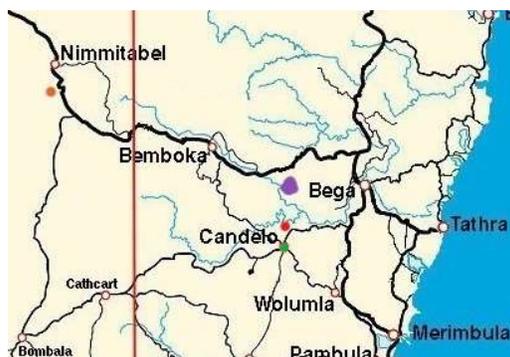
4132	.....	Larinton John (original selector, Wm. Haigh)	.....	do	.....	27	.....	40	0	0
71-	918	Beck Ferdinand (original selector, C. Barton)	.....	do	.....	24	.....	74	2	0
72-	3374	Kiss A. J. (original selector, E. Connor)	.....	do	.....	23	Mar., 1871	40	0	0
	3542	Beck Ferdinand (original selector, C. Barton)	.....	do	.....	13	June, 1872	40	0	0
	3544	Rawlinson and Bland (original selector, Joseph Poole)	.....	do	.....	20	.....	40	0	0
	3764	Lane Wm. J. (original selector, Raby Wilson)	.....	do	.....	20	.....	40	0	0
	5151	Kiss A. J. (original selector, E. Connor)	.....	do	.....	27	.....	320	0	0
	5153	Do	.....	do	.....	15	Aug, "	40	0	0
	5154	Beck Ferdinand (original selector, Wm. Barton)	.....	do	.....	15	.....	69	2	0
	6105	Rawlinson T. and Bland F. (original selector, Ed. Poole)	.....	do	.....	15	.....	40	0	0
			.....	do	.....	19	Sept., "	40	0	0

(Above) Gazette item showing Ferdinand Beck in 1892 was owing the government money for each of the 3 Lots and mentions his annual interest and instalment of £4. 10s on the Conditional Purchases had not yet been paid – it also refers to William and Charles as the original selectors of the land.

A notice placed in a Candelo newspaper, by the same Philip Collins, cited on the previous page in *Selections on the 15th* gives us a possibility that the Bartons also held land in Candelo. This could have been some acres or an allotment where they built a family home. In 1865 the sum of £8 would purchase one acre in Candelo making it possible for homes to grow their own food.

Collins Candelo Feb 1st 1866

Notice: All Cattle, Horses, and Sheep found trespassing on my pre-emptive lease of 960 acres adjoining my conditional purchase at Candelo will be impounded after this date. The boundaries of my pre-emptive are North, **Barton's**, Allan's and my purchases. *Philip Collins*



L) the purple spot marks Numbugga, on the Bemboka River where William and Charles leased three Lots of land. The green spot is Candelo where the Barton family lived and the red spot marks Kameruka.

Map: Bega Archives

The Bega Standard Saturday 27 September 1879 pg. 2

The amount of revenue received from the inhabitants of Numbugga entitles them to have their roads kept in good order enough to enable them to get their produce away, even as far as Bega [13 miles

away]. At the present state of affairs- should we have anything like bad weather – people's lives are actually in danger travelling between Numbugga and Bega. One resident narrowly escaped death by drowning, while attempting to cross the Bemboka river last week. He was anxious to get his butter to market, and decided to go by Kameruka for the sole reason that the road to town was unfit for horse and bullock team.

PART 8

WILLIAM BARTON SPRING FLAT AND NIMITYBELLE



(L) St Matthias Church Bombala where Elizabeth Fitzpatrick, the daughter of Fanny Barton, married David Joseph Bell in 1857. Being aged 19 years, and David aged 65 years, there is a story that Elizabeth attracted a dowry of 60 sovereigns^{xxiii}.

Photo: churchhistories.net.au

William died February 1880 at Spring Flat, on the station property of his granddaughter Elizabeth Bell nee Fitzpatrick. David Joseph Bell, the Spring Flat station owner had married Elizabeth the daughter of Fanny Barton and Michael Fitzpatrick, on 12 September 1876 at St Matthias Anglican Church in Bombala.

Details on the Bell-Fitzpatrick marriage certificate show that Elizabeth Fitzpatrick gives Spring Flat station as her *usual place of residence*, she likely was working there as a farm servant, and the marriage permission to marry the station owner is sought from her father, Michael Fitzpatrick as he was not aged 21 years. (Michael Fitzpatrick, on his wedding certificate to Fanny Barton in 1856 gave his occupation as *stock keeping*, shepherding, in the Monaro and likely working with William Barton, his father -in-law, at Spring Flat station).

(R) Map showing the road going to the High Country from Candelo to Bega and then up to Nimitybelle (Nimmitabel) on the Monaro Plains.

The red spot marks Spring Flat station where William Barton died.

Source: Mt Kosciusko Sydney to Summit map 1930s



WILLIAM'S WORK AT SPRING FLAT STATION NIMITYBELLE

Nimitybelle, one of the highest altitude towns in New South Wales, was established in the 1830's and surrounded by rolling plains and distant views to the Snowy Mountains. It takes a 50 mile journey from Candelo to reach Nimitybelle (now spelt Nimmitabel) and Spring Flat station. Farm labourers in Nimitybelle were scarce and William Barton, experienced at shepherding and riding after cattle, would have found shepherding work with accommodation at Spring Flat station that ran 2,000 sheep and 600 cattle. He had no problems finding this type of work with jobs advertised, by

station owners, throughout the 1870's seeking horsemen and shepherds. There is every possibility his wife Elizabeth accompanies him to Spring Flat station as her granddaughter is the wife of the station owner.

DESCRIPTION OF SPRING FLAT STATION

The below description of Spring Flat and Mount Cooper station tells us more about the principal informant (McKeachie) and one of the witnesses (David Joseph Bell) on William Barton's death certificate

Monaro Pioneers Database

MOUNT COOPER AND SPRING FLAT STATIONS

[Mount Cooper Station] carries 11 or 12 thousand sheep and a few hundred herd of cattle. About 2000 acres of the estate are purchased. The residence of the veteran Captain [McKeachie was a former sea captain] is a comfortable building and at a comfortable mile from the homestead Captain McKeachie has erected a capital school house at his own expense. Leaving Mount Cooper with a guide, Captain McKeachie sent, we took a northerly course for about 5 miles which brought us to Spring Flat Station, Mr David Bell's property. The station is watered by springs which jut out of the hillsides in all directions. The station is 9 square miles and at present carries 2000 sheep and 5 or 6 hundred cattle

PART 9

UNRAVELLING WILLIAM BARTON'S DEATH CERTIFICATE

DEATH TRANSCRIPTION from NSW Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages

<i>Transcription requested by</i>		JODIE BARTON	18-May-15
<i>Registration Number</i>	05618		
<i>Date of Death</i>	15 FEB 1880		
<i>Place of Death</i>	SPRING FLAT, BOMBALA		
<i>Name</i>	WILLIAM BARTON		
<i>Occupation</i>	LABOURER		
<i>Sex</i>	MALE		
<i>Age</i>	68		
<i>Cause of Death</i>	DROPSY		
<i>Duration</i>	3 MONTHS		
<i>Medical Attendant</i>	DR EVERSLED, 3 WEEKS PREVIOUS TO DEATH		
<i>Father</i>	-BARTON		
<i>Father's Occupation</i>	NOT KNOWN		
<i>Mother - Maiden Name</i>	ELIZABETH LAYMAN		
<i>Informant</i>	A.A. MCKEACHIE, FRIEND, MOUNT COOPER, NIMITYBELLE; REGISTERED 17 FEB 1880, BOMBALA		
<i>When Buried</i>	17 FEB 1880		
<i>Where</i>	MOUNT COOPER CEMETERY		
<i>Undertaker</i>	JOHN GELDWACKER		
<i>Minister</i>	NONE		
<i>Religion</i>	-		
<i>Witnesses</i>	DAVID J. BELL, EDWARD T. BARBER		
<i>Where born</i>	ENGLAND		
<i>Time in Colony/State</i>	ABOUT 45 YEARS		
<i>Place Married</i>	BUNG BUNG		
<i>Age at Marriage</i>	NOT KNOWN		
<i>Spouse</i>	ELIZABETH LAYMAN		
<i>Children of Marriage</i>	2 MALES 1 FEMALE LIVING 1 FEMALE DECEASED		
<i>Other Comments</i>			

Date of death: 15 February 1880

Place of Death: Spring Flat Station nr Nimitybelle

Occupation: Labourer, shepherding at Spring Flat station

Age: should read 71 years, born in 1809, matching William's baptism record.

Cause of death Dropsy: at the time dropsy was recognised as a sign of underlying disease of the heart, liver, or kidneys. Untreated dropsy was, eventually, always fatal.

Duration of illness 3 months: In November 1879 William became sick. William's wife Elizabeth, with other family members,

would have known about his diagnosis. Family relatives were living at Spring Flat Station and his other family members, in the Bega Valley, had time to reach Spring Flat close to the time of death.

Medical Attendant: Dr Evershed, Dr. Montague Frederic Evershed, 1840-1927. He arrived in Sydney, aged 29 years, in 1870 and came from a Sussex family of medical surgeons. He was

appointed Government Medical Officer in Bega and practised in the district for 54 years. The Doctor saw William 3 weeks *previous to death* in late January 1880.

Father: William's father is Stephen Barton (1758-1818) who was born in Brighstone and lived most of his life in the parish of Shorwell on the Isle of Wight. He died, aged 60 years, in Shorwell when William was 9 years old.

Father's Occupation: William's father was an agricultural labourer in Shorewell. Besides William's baptism record we know we have William's birthplace is Shorwell as in the Convict Bound Indentures it says William is a *ploughman, reaps and Mills*. There are well-known mills which operated from the middle of the 18th century. Records exist of William's other Barton family members on the Isle of Wight finding work as apprentices and carters to the miller.

Mothers - Maiden Name: the maiden name of William's mother is not Layman. It is Mary Wilstead and she was born in Chale Isle of Wight (1769 -1809). William's parents married at the Church of St Peters in Shorwell on 26 December 1788.

Informant A A McKeachie, friend: Andrew Agnew McKeachie (1826 -1883) born in Scotland is the *Informant* and *friend* on William Barton's death certificate. He was called *Captain* by the locals because he had been the Master of a ship called the *Martin Luther* in 1854. McKeachie is the owner of Mount Cooper station, a JP and the Nimitybelle Police Court magistrate. His wife Elizabeth was a daughter of David Joseph Bell at Spring Flat Station.^{xxiv}

When Buried: Tuesday 17 February 1880, two days after death

Where Buried: Mount Cooper Cemetery, Mount Cooper Road NSW 2631



(L) Gravestone wall at Mount Cooper with William Barton's headstone – Monaro Pioneers database

Undertaker John Geldwacker: the name here should be John Geldmacher (1819-1883). John ran the store in Nimitybelle and supplied funerary items such as coffins. He also built a flour mill in Nimitybelle. John died in 1907 willing the whole of his property to building a hospital in Nimitybelle
Source: Bega Budget 30 October 1907

Minister None: when William died the Anglican church in Nimitybelle was still in the throes of being built. An Anglican Minister from Bega describes how it took him a day on horseback to reach Nimitybelle by nightfall, with other clergymen in 1878, to make a visit to inspect the new site for a proposed Anglican church in Nimitybelle:

Monaro mercury Sat 12 October 1878 pg.3

Enroute - [The road up] the twists and turns the road takes bears testimony to erratic disposition of past and present road superintendents – and compels the traveller to go up hill as a sort of penance, and might suppose, for thinking of Nimitybelle

Religion - William was a Protestant, baptised in St Peter's Church Shorwell, and all of his children were baptised Anglicans.

Witnesses



(L) David Joseph Bell, owner of Spring Flat station, is seated bottom right. In 1876 he married Fanny Barton's daughter. Seated to his left is Robert Jamieson b. 1826 a coal miner from Dumfries Scotland; (top row L to R) Elizabeth Jamieson, wife of Robert; John Henry Bennett, a storekeeper and Monaro district magistrate; holding a cane is Dr Ashworth from Bombala -

Photo Monaro Pioneers Data Base

Witness 1

David Joseph Bell (1811-1886) was William Barton's employer. David was born in Dumfries Scotland. He arrived in the Monaro in 1839 as a squatter on 10,240 acres of good grazing land and by 1849 his acquisition is approved on a list of 172 squatters whose lands had been surveyed and published in the Government Gazette. On 27 April 1854 David acquired Spring Flat station and paid £160 for 160 acres around his home. David left an estate worth £12,400. Apart from Spring Flat station he owned two properties in Bombala

Witness 2

Edward Tomlin Barber 1850 -1916 was from Holts Flat Nimitybelle. He was shepherding with William Barton. Edward's name appears below in a news item when several persons appear in court claiming the ownership of one horse

The Manoro Mercury Saturday 30 October 1875

Horse Stealing - Edward Tomlin Barber [witness] deposed I am shepherding at Holts Flat; the horse bears three brands

Edward Barber is buried, with William, in the Mount Cooper cemetery

Where born: Shorwell Isle of Wight

Time in colony: should read 48 years in the Colony. William landed in Sydney on Saturday 18 August 1832

Place married: should read Bong Bong (Sutton Forest) and not Bung Bung. William and Elizabeth married on 8 May 1839 in the old wooden chapel of All Saints Sutton Forest.

Age at marriage: Williams age, given on the February 1839 Wedding Banns is 30 years

Children of marriage: 2 Males and 1 Female living (William, Charles and Fanny) and 1 female deceased (Jane in January 1880)

ELIZABETH BARTON (SEAMOUR) MAIDEN NAME IS LAYMAN

Age at marriage	NOT KNOWN
Spouse	ELIZABETH LAYMAN
Children of Marriage	2 MALES 1 FEMALE LIVING 1 FEMALE DECEASED

(L) Source: Elizabeth Layman on William Barton's death certificate

Spouse Elizabeth Layman: spouse name is correct on William's death certificate

Elizabeth Layman name is on William's death certificate as his spouse. Layman is a Dutch surname and commonly recorded in Holland at the time of Elizabeth's birth there in 1810: Layman, Leeman, Laman, Lyman, Laymon.

There are other reasons that support this Layman attribution

- No records exist of William's father, Stephen Barton on the Isle of Wight, marrying a Layman and neither is Elizabeth Layman the maiden name of William's mother. No other Barton men from 1550 -1809, and living on the Isle of Wight, married a Layman.
- On more than several occasions, and when asked by officials, Elizabeth referred to herself as a widow [Seamour], and she is described as a widow in prisoner and transportation records. The name Seymour/Seamour, is the name she gives when marrying William.
- 17 years after marrying William, in 1856, on her daughter Fanny's wedding certificate to Michael Fitzpatrick, Elizabeth is no longer using, or *letting it have known* by the family that her maiden name is Seamour.
- Elizabeth, with her daughter Fanny Fitzpatrick nee Barton and her granddaughter Elizabeth Bell, the property owner's wife at Spring Flat station, were fully aware of William's medical condition three months before he died. They knew William had been married to Elizabeth for 41 years and by 1880 also have known the maiden name of his wife, their mother and grandmother. They had time to share family information with one another and family members, were present at the time of William's death at Spring Flat station.
- It is entirely possible that Elizabeth was present at the time of William's death at Spring Flat station and *felt able* to provide her Layman maiden name to the *informant and friend* of her husband Mr. McKeachie who was a JP at the Nimitybelle Police Court.

EPILOGUE

William Barton's story on the Isle of Wight is deeply rural, stretching over many centuries, with work and family wound up in agricultural occupations and small village relations, rituals and pastimes. His parents worked for a yeoman farmer in Shorwell, lived as tenants in a tied cottage and were dependent in many ways on the fortunes and good graces of the minor Island aristocracy and church hierarchy. William was born in 1809, the seventh child of Stephen and Mary Barton nee Wilstead, with the family all packed together in one small labourer's cottage. His mother died shortly after his birth.

William's parents, his brothers and sisters subsisted on a diet of tea, potatoes, turnip greens, some cheese and bread. The French wars from 1803-1815 raised the price of food for William's father. Meat was unaffordable as his wages were only seven or eight shillings a week and he needed his wife and children to work to be able to pay rent^{xxv} and buy basic food items. Enclosure laws were in place on the Island that stopped labourers using common land to grow vegetables, forage for

firewood and even catch rabbits. If they did so they would face heavy fines, imprisonment or transportation.

When William's father died in 1818 his family became poorer than ever, and with the absence of his two elder brothers who had enlisted in the British Army, it would create a fine line for William between subsistence and penury.

William's lawbreaking started at the age of 18 years, in the same year his father died, and took place over a two year period. He appeared four times in front of the Newport Assizes for nonviolent crimes that included theft of iron, horse hair, cheese and coals - the last conviction resulting in his transportation sentence to the Colony of New South Wales.

When William was sent into exile, he would be the first ever person in his Barton family line, to have permanently left the Island where his relatives lived within walking distance of each other and would have known other local families living alongside them for generations^{xxvi}.

As a prisoner of the Crown, on arrival in Sydney, William was assigned as convict labour to Henry Badgery who was known as a *considerable farmer* with ownership of 1,920 acres in Sutton Forest. With good behaviour William obtained a ticket-of-leave enabling him to work for wages and live independently. William was hired *free of servitude* by the Rev John Vincent at the Sutton Forest parsonage where he met and married Elizabeth Seamour the Reverend's assigned convict from the Parramatta Female Factory. The year after William was married transportation to New South Wales was abolished.

William's life in the Colony was successful, in many ways better than the life he would have had led if he were not transported. One study shows that the children of convicts born in the Australian colonies grew up taller than they would have done if their parents had not been sent into exile^{xxvii}. Food was plentiful and affordable for William's family.



(L) Monaro Plains, where William Barton spent the last years of his life. The plains stretches from 60 miles north to south

Photo: Austourism

There is evidence that William's family were among the pioneers that first settled Candelo, where they held property. In 1871, William and his son Charles were given approval by the Department of Lands for pre-emptive leases on farm acreage in Numbugga on the Bemboka River.

William's family were also among the pioneers that worked and lived on the Monaro Plains.

William was born in the reign of George 111 when nothing travelled faster than a galloping horse and he died in February 1880, in the same month when the Colony heard, by submarine cable, of the first successful shipment of frozen meat arriving in London on the *SS Strathleven*. The ship also carried bales of wool from southern New South Wales.

The month after William died, two women in Shorwell, on the Isle of Wight, a Martha Newberry and Martha Cotton, were convicted at the Newport Assizes^{xxviii} for stealing turnip greens and were each ordered to pay 3d and 6s costs. Times had changed!

ⁱ **Note on the author:** I was born in Hampshire, in a small village midway between Southampton and Winchester and not many miles away from the Isle of Wight. William Barton is my 4th great grand uncle and the younger brother to Thomas Barton my 4th great grandfather. I came to Sydney in 1981, thinking I was the first Barton in the family to arrive in Australia and until recently not knowing a member of my Isle of Wight family had been sent here as a convict. Having spent holidays in the Southern Highlands and in particular Sutton Forest, where Elizabeth married William, I have tried to piece together their story. Some earlier parts of Elizabeth's story still remain hidden especially around her parentage, her connection with Holland and an earlier marriage. On this journey I hope I have been able to reveal some part of Elizabeth's bravery and willingness to confront uncertainty and provide a good life for her children.

ⁱⁱ **William Barton's signature** - William would not have been to school in the Isle of Wight. He likely learnt to write his own name after arrival in the Colony.

ⁱⁱⁱ **Description of Isle of Wight farm houses** - 1856 William Davenport IOW History

^{iv} **Cottage rents** - Wyndham, Henry Penruddocke 1793, *A picture of the Isle of Wight delineated upon the spot, in the year 1793.*

^v **Life of agricultural workers** - Warner, Richard, *The History of the Isle of Wight.* 1795

^{vi} **William's brothers enlist in British army** - Thomas (17) and James (19) both enlisted on the 30 Nov 1813 in Newport, Isle of Wight, in the 2nd Battalion 12th Foot Regiment. They were stationed in Ireland, and discharged in Limerick in February 1818, both returning to Shorwell.

^{vii} **Farm servants in Shorwell** - usually single unmarried men and women, moving from farm to farm in order to improve their skills. They earned little money on farms and estates such as Cheverton (462 acres); North Court and Woolverton (1,800 acres); West Court (430 acres); Little Atherfield (150 acres); Stone Place (55 acres); Yafford (48 acres) and Upper and Lower Billingham (118 acres). How little they did earn in wages, at most a few £'s a year, was mentioned in later news items as a 'miserable pittance.' Hampshire Advertiser 30 May 1846

^{viii} **Shorwell village** - Shorwell was a perfect example of a farming community in the early 19th century comprising agricultural labourers, male and female farm servants; the Parson and his clerk at the parsonage; dairymen and dairywomen; yeoman farmers leasing farms from landowners and then employing locals or renting pieces of land; gamekeeper; housekeeper; innkeeper; the Maltster at the Malt House; masons; a midwife; two Millers with workers at Shorwell and Yafford Mills; shepherd; shoemakers; smith and farrier; one tailor and a washing woman. (Source 1841 Census)

^{ix} **William taken from Southampton Gaol to Winchester Gaol** - I know the route William took as I grew up in Otterbourne, midway along the old road from Southampton to Winchester. It is likely William walked, under a military escort, the 14 miles distance from Southampton to Winchester.

^x **The County Gaol in Winchester** - Source www.prisonhistory.org

^{xi} **The County of Southampton** - on William's prison register. In 1447 Henry V1 granted Southampton a charter which made it a county of itself, separate for most purposes from the County of Hampshire. William was taken by boat from the Isle of Wight to Southampton, lodged in the town gaol, and there was registered as a prisoner before being taken to Winchester to stand trial. The old Southampton Gaol was abandoned in 1855

^{xii} **Lady Harewood 2nd voyage 1831** - the Lady Harewood, when entering Sydney Harbour, the year before William arrived, was the 1st ship ever to be pulled to its mooring in Sydney by a steam ship. It returned to England with *200 casks sperm oil, 76 casks black oil, 74 casks cocoa nut oil, 357 bales flax, 1700 hides, 84 planks cedar, 15 casks seal skins, 6 cases curiosities, 1 case bullion, 1 case seeds, 1 case jewellery, 1 case apparel* - Sydney Gazette 14 June 1831

^{xiii} **The route taken by the Lady Harewood** - leaving Portsmouth the ship travelled southward through the North and South Atlantic, around the Cape of Good Hope, at the southern extremity of South Africa, then east across the Indian Ocean, 30 - 40 degree south latitudes, along the southern coast of Australia and then northwards, along the east coast to Sydney Town

^{xiv} **Shark Island**, a 3.5 acre island sitting in Sydney Harbour, and 4 miles from Sydney Cove, where the *Lady Harewood* was inspected before landing its convicts at Sydney Cove. At the time Shark Island served as a quarantine station to prevent the introduction of cholera into the Colony following an outbreak in Europe.

^{xv} **Convicts from the Lady Harewood 'robust and healthy'** - Sydney Herald 13 August 1832

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- ^{xvi} **By 1841 there was a flourishing community at Vine Lodge-** source Exeter Village Association. See Vine Lodge today <https://www.vinelodge.lane.com.au/>
- ^{xvii} **Elizabeth Seamour** – Elizabeth was born in the Kingdom of Holland, during the Napoleonic Wars and grew up in Newry, County Down Ireland. She was convicted for vagrancy in Downpatrick, County Down. In July 1837 she was sentenced to 7 years transportation and taken to Kingstown Harbour Dublin where she would embark on the *Sir Charles Forbes*, a female convict ship that departed for Sydney in August 1837. Arriving in the Colony she was sent to the Female Factory in Parramatta before being assigned in 1838 to the Rev John Vincent in Sutton Forest as his Bond house servant. She met William Barton there and they married in May 1839
- ^{xviii} **The old wooden chapel All Saints Sutton Forest** - the old chapel had been opened and dedicated on 10 January, 1830, by Archdeacon (later Bishop) Broughton.
- ^{xix} **The Berrima Iron Gang** - guarded by British redcoats, the road gangs were among the Colony's worst criminals and were sent to the area, partly to get them out of Sydney, and to work in the quarries
- ^{xx} **Numbugga farmers** - One newspaper item mentions a Numbugga farmer keeping pigs. Bega Gazette 1866
- ^{xxi} **Ferdinand Beck** – *Ferdinand Beck of Bega deposed he had no occupation but lived on the proceeds of land and other resources* – Sydney Morning Herald Thurs 22 Sep 1887
- ^{xxii} **Charles Barton could have farmed all three Lots** – Charles, the Selector of 2 Lots in March 1871 and in June 1872 could have also farmed his father's Lot in August 1872. The Act provided the *amalgamation of adjacent sections made by parents and their children, so that improvements can be made*. The Herald quotes statistics to show at the end of 1872 that *3½ million acres of public land had been sold conditionally; £900,000 had been paid in deposits and that selectors now owe the Government about £2¾ millions*. The Bega Gazette Thurs 19 Feb 1874.
- ^{xxiii} **Information on David Joseph Bell's and Elizabeth Fitzpatrick's wedding certificate** - information given by the late Sheila Barber, Bombala Historical Society and related to Edward Tomlin Barber, one of the witnesses on William Barton's death certificate.
- ^{xxiv} **McKeachie obituary** - [The Manaro Mercury, and Cooma and Bombala Advertiser \(NSW\), Wednesday 11 April 1883](#)
- ^{xxv} **agricultural labourer needed his wife and his children to work to be able to pay the rent** - W H R Cutler *A Short History of English Agriculture*. With both William's parents dead at an early age his prospects were poor.
- ^{xxvi} **Barton family on the Isle of Wight** - Barton, an old English Saxon name, would have been in use on the IOW from the fifth century, when the island was considered part of Wessex and ruled by West Saxon kings. Around 900, the kingdom was divided into shires and the island became part of the shire of Hampshire. We could say that from Anglo Saxon times, for well over a thousand years, the Barton family has been living on the Isle of Wight and that this part of England is the Barton ancestral home.
- ^{xxvii} **children of convicts grew up healthier than if they had lived in England** - Source: www.digitalpanopticon.org.
- ^{xxviii} **stealing turnip greens and ordered to pay 3d and 6s costs** - Source: Hampshire Advertiser 17 March 1880