

James FREESTONE

James Freestone was baptised on Sunday 3 May 1818 at St. Peter's Church of England in Oadby, Leicester. He was the son of John Freestone and Mary (unknown). John's parents were John and Elizabeth (Crane) who had married on 12 March 1787 at Oadby, John was born on 30 December 1788. James' baptism states that his father was a weaver, and his indent states he was a weaver also, no doubt apprenticed to his father.

On 21 March 1835 James committed a felony, which was to lead to his transportation from England to Botany Bay for 14 years. His crime "larceny on a canal" stealing one cwt. of bones the property of James Skelton, along with John Cornish. At the Easter Sessions in 1834 James was sentenced to three months hard labour, he had been privately whipped twice. James was convicted more than once, charged with breaking into a shop with Timothy Terry, and Job West stealing 70 knives. James Freestone pleaded guilty, Terry and West not guilty.

The Transportation Register (HO/11/10) states that James and John were transported to the Colony on 7 September 1836 on the *John Barry (4)* arriving on 17 January 1836. James' masters were Henry and David Perrier at Bathurst, John Cornish was sent to George Druitt at Penrith.

On 16 July 1844 James received his Ticket of Leave, No. 44/1843, he did not apply for his Ticket of Freedom. James left Bathurst, the year is not know, but on 24 February 1851 he married, in Muswellbrook, a 16-year-old Irish Orphan from Ennis in County Clare.

James and Anne's children were: Harriett, born 5 April 1852, married Thomas John Yates on 5 February 1873; James, born 25 January 1854, did not marry; John, born 10 May 1856, married Jane Polson on 24 October 1887; Bessy, born 20 February 1858, married Edward Whitten on 8 August 1881 (my grandmother); Mary Jane, born 6 October 1860, married William Marshall on 12 July 1882; George, born 21 October 1862, married Martha Shearer on 26 April 1886.

Ann died aged only 31 years, on 3 January 1866, and then on 14 April 1866, James married an Irish widow Alice Fitzpatrick, who had an 11-year-old son. Sadly her son was found dead on the Frogmore Road, Burrowa on 29 December 1886 from the effects of drink and exposure, he was not married.

James died on 20 March 1885, and is buried at Goorangoola, Singleton, with Ann. Alice died on 16 November 1880 and is also buried at Goorangoola.

Betty Aberdeen (member no. 375)