

Biography of Ann Paget

By David Edwards

My great-great-grandmother Ann Paget's journey from Birmingham UK to Newcastle NSW started on 13 December 1845 when, aged sixteen, she was committed to a 'House of Correction' for 'disorderly conduct' at Solihull.

Less than a year later, on 19 October 1846, aged seventeen, she was '... convicted of stealing a chemise and other linen from a house in Park-Street, Birmingham ...'. Several previous convictions, and a list of summary punishments showing a history of petty crime ensured that she was sentenced to be transported for seven years.

Still aged seventeen, Ann arrived in Hobart Town, Van Diemen's Land on the fifth voyage of the convict transport *Asia* on 21 July 1847. The surgeon's report on her conduct during the voyage was 'Bad'. In her description as recorded in her convict record she had a 'large mouth'. This is a physical attribute, but it may well have also referred to her penchant for insolence to her superiors.

Her six month period of probation, extended by one week, was spent on the hulk *Anson*, moored in Prince of Wales Bay. On 10 April 1848 she was imprisoned for 2 months for 'Insolence & neglect of duty' and on 4 November 1848 she received ten days in the cells for 'Allowing a man in her room & insolence'.

Convict Daniel Moore applied for permission to marry Ann on 19 March 1849. This application was successful, but the marriage did not take place, as on 2 April 1849 Ann absconded, causing her existing seven year sentence to be extended by six months. Four months of this extension was served at the Cascades Female Factory. Daniel Moore is likely to have been the man in Ann's room, and her liaison with him must have continued, as by February 1849 she was pregnant, and would have remained in the Female Factory during her confinement.

Ann gave birth to an illegitimate boy Henry Thomas Paget on 4 November 1849. She did not name the father, but it is probable that he was Daniel Moore. Daniel again applied for permission to marry Ann on 30 July 1850. This application was also approved, and Daniel and Ann were married at St Georges Church, Battery Point on 26 August 1850. Their legitimate daughter Emma Ann Moore was born on 4 November 1851, making her exactly two years older than her brother Henry.

Daniel Moore was working as a fisherman at Spring Bay (now Triabunna) when Emma was born. Tragedy struck the family on 1 March 1852, when Daniel Moore died in Hobart, leaving Ann with two small children and no means of support. Emma Ann Moore was baptised at St Georges Church on 24 October 1852.

Life must have been hard for Ann and her small family. There is a terse entry in her convict record on 24 October 1853 which states 'Cut 24/10/53 Herself'. It seems that self harm is not a modern affliction, nor the mental distress that causes it.

The next mention of Ann and her children is on 28 July 1857, when an application is made for Daniel (aged seven) and Emma (aged five) to enter the Queen's Orphan School at New Town. It seems that following the death of her husband, Ann has legitimised Henry Thomas Paget by renaming him Daniel Moore. This application was referred to the Chief Constable, and his report is quite detailed.

Ann is described as a 'strong healthy woman and well able (if she thinks proper) to maintain one of the children.' After describing Ann as a 'woman of dissolute habits' who cares little for her

children, the Chief Constable goes on to recommend that only Emma be admitted to the Orphan School. This duly happens on 10 August 1857, with Daniel remaining in Ann's care. Emma only remains in the Orphan School for a few months, and is released into the care of her mother on 3 May 1858.

A second application is made for Daniel and Emma to enter the Orphan School on 5 December 1859. The covering letter accompanying this application mentions that Ann has a third child (name, age and sex not given). There are several errors in this application – the children's ages have been reduced significantly, and the time since Ann's husband Daniel died has been halved. The covering letter also states that 'her course of life has been loose'. While there is no extant report from the Chief Constable, neither Daniel nor Emma are admitted to the Orphan School.

How Ann and her family survived for the next seven years is unknown. It seems that the third child did not survive. Ann next appears in the records on 17 December 1866, when she marries William Garbett in Fingal TAS. William is thirty years old, and Ann states her age as 33 years – she is in fact 37. Emma Ann, now aged fifteen, is a witness to the wedding.

William, Ann, Daniel and Emma leave Tasmania and journey to Newcastle NSW, probably because of William chasing work. Ann's feisty character has not been tamed by this marriage – on 13 July 1869 she and William were charged with violent assault. The case, before magistrates Scott and Hannell, resulted in William and Ann being discharged.

On 25 October 1869 Emma Ann Moore, now known as Emily Ann, marries William Robert Sanderson. It seems that Ann was not at the wedding, as the permission of Helenus Scott, Police Magistrate, was required because Emily was only eighteen years old. Ann may have been absent because of William's work, or because of the involvement of Helenus Scott.

Emily Ann and William Robert Sanderson, a train driver, live in Wickham Newcastle and have a number of children. The first four children all die young, but the last three (Annie B., Elsie Emma & Myra Ellen) all survive. Emily Ann Sanderson dies on 24 October 1884, and is buried in Sandgate Cemetery, Newcastle.

Ann and William Garbett continue their tumultuous life, and appear in police records many times over the following years:

- Ann was a witness in an assault case at Adamstown on 4 April 1878
- William was charged with assaulting Ann on 14 June 1878
- William deserted Ann in Glen Innes on 22 June 1883 and was arrested in Wallsend on 19 November 1884
- On 19 January 1885 William, (presumably drunk) fell through a skeleton bridge on the Great Northern Railway behind the Bellevue Hotel at Wickham, breaking his ribs and injuring his leg
- On 28 September 1886 William was charged with being drunk and using obscene language

William seems to have disappeared from Ann's life after this. On 20 Jan 1894 she is living in Lindsay Street, Hamilton and advertising board and residence for two workmen. Her grand-daughters Annie, Elsie and Myra are now teenagers and it appears that she is in contact with them.

After federation of the Australian States in 1901, the Commonwealth Electoral Roll is created in 1903, and Ann Maria Garbett, living in Lindsay Street, Hamilton appears on it. Her occupation is given as 'home duties'. She remains on the roll until at least 1909.

By 1912, her health is failing. On 13 June 1912 she is admitted to the Newcastle Benevolent

Asylum for about two weeks before being discharged on 1 July 1912. She is re-admitted a week later on 9 July 1912, and dies there aged 82 on 9 August 1912. The cause of death is given as Mitral Regurgitation, Myocarditis and General Odema – in laymen's term this is probably equivalent to old age.

She was survived by her son Daniel Arthur Moore and her three married grand-daughters, Annie B. Robson, Elsie Emma Edwards (my grandmother) and Myra Ellen Wright, as well as nine living great-grandchildren.

Ann Maria Garbett nee Moore nee Paget was buried on 29 August 1912 at Sandgate Cemetery in the same grave as her daughter Emily Ann Sanderson nee Moore. Her son Daniel Arthur Moore, who never married and had no children, died in West Wallsend on 27 August 1931 and is buried in an adjacent grave.



The photo on the left of Emily Ann Sanderson's headstone in Sandgate Cemetery was taken in 1947.

There is no headstone for Ann Maria Garbett. The recent photo on the right shows how the headstone has been broken. Note that the prominent grave in the right background of the 1947 photo is still evident in the recent photo.

Ann Paget, a sixteen year old delinquent, a 'Bad' seventeen year old convict, a 'woman of dissolute habits', a woman whose 'course of life has been loose', the mother of three (two illegitimate) children and who was married twice, lived a long and adventurous life. As a respectable mother, grandmother and great-grandmother living in Newcastle, able to vote in state and federal elections, she must have reflected on her long and interesting life.

David Edwards September 2017

1978 words (includes references)

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