

RICHARD RUSH

1799-1846

We know from the first two editions of “A Humble Beginning” that Richard Rush was born on 20th February 1799 in a village called Orsett, in Essex, England. He married Maria Steel on the 5th of October 1819. We also know that Maria died on 22nd April 1827, either during or shortly after the birth of John George.

Little else was known about Richard Rush prior to his arrival in the Hutt until early in 1842 when he married the recently widowed Cecilia Rodgers.

Convicted

However, we have now discovered that Richard Rush was in fact a convict who was tried and sentenced at the January 1832 Quarter Sessionsⁱ in Chelmsford (just north of Aveley) for Larceny, the offence being “pig stealing”. Richard’s occupation (trade or calling) on his Convict Transcript states “ploughs, reaps, milks, sows”, which means he was probably an agricultural labourer living on a landowner’s property, and working on the farm.

Conditions in England

In an effort to understand why Richard was forced to turn to crime to feed his family, we read the recently published book “The Immigrants”ⁱⁱ, where the author states that large numbers of the rural poor were forced to live at starvation level. William Cobbett, who quartered the countryside on horseback in the 1820s, wrote:

“The labourers seem miserably poor. Their dwellings are little better than pigbeds and their looks indicate that their food is not nearly equal to that of a pig. Their wretched hovels are stuck upon little bits of ground on the roadside... In my whole life I never saw human wretchedness to equal this ...”

Essex was a fertile farming area on the north bank of the Thames River, north east of London, with a population in 1821 of 289,424. But by the 1830s, desperate and hungry people were finding extralegal means of eking out their existences. Rural crime rates were linked to the relationship between wages and good harvests, and in 1829, Sir Robert Peel established England’s first police force in effort to stem the rising tide of crime and violence. It was also the period during which transportation for criminal offences was greatly extended, and by 1831, 34% of those convicted at assizes were being sentenced to transportation. Most of the crimes committed at that time were crimes

against property. In towns and in metropolitan London theft, fraud and picking pockets were favourites; in the countryside, it was more likely to be poaching.

The failed harvests of 1829 and 1830 and poor weather during the autumn of that year saw spontaneous and widespread rural protests, with the consequent government stamp-down with new laws, a police force, and harsher penalties.

Quarter Sessions

So it is against this background of poverty that Richard Rush found himself before the Court of Quarter Sessions (January) accused of stealing.

His criminal record shows that he was actually accused of stealing 3 sows valued at £3.15s, 3 pigs valued at £3.15s from William Squire of Little Burstead, and a John Woodward of Laingdon accused him of stealing 3 quarts of white wheat and nine sacks. The date of the crime was “the 7th day of September in the 2nd year of William IV”.

He was found guilty, and convicted along with another person called William Wood.

The transcript of Richard’s conviction shows the penalty he was given:

“Richard Rush being now convicted of Larceny and ordered and adjudged by this court pursuant to the Statute in that was made and provided to be transported beyond the seas for one term of seven years to such place as His Majesty with the advice of his Privy Council shall think fit to declare and appoint.”

From a study of the actual records of that period, common offences and convictions were housebreaking, stealing money and clothes, stealing a donkey, highway robbery, picking pockets, false pretences, and robbing master – Life; stealing bees, axes, boots, purses – 14 years; stealing pigs, fowls, a brass boiler, a great coat, a watch, a handkerchief, a glass – 7 years.

Transported

Once convicted, people were held in local prisons or prison hulks until space was found on the transportation ships leaving for New South Walesⁱⁱⁱ. Richard was held at Chelmsford Prison, and was finally placed on the ship “Planter” which left Portsmouth on 16 June 1832. On board were 200 male and 200 female convicts.

Transported convicts were handed over to the master of a ship at the beginning of the voyage and formally transferred into the custody of the

Governor of the colony who was receiving them. Indents, or Indentures, were the documents used to record the transaction on arrival.^{iv}

Life on board

Conditions on board the convict ships were grim. Convicts were housed below decks on the prison deck and often further confined behind bars. In many cases they were restrained in chains and were only allowed on deck for fresh air and exercise. Living conditions were cramped and they slept on hammocks. Very little information seems to be available about the layout of the convict ships, but a few books do contain artists' impressions and reproductions of images held in library collections.

Although the convicts of the early transportation ships arrived in relatively good condition, the same cannot be said for those that followed. Cruel masters, harsh discipline and scurvy, dysentery and typhoid resulted in a huge loss of life.

After the English authorities began to review the system in 1801, the ships were despatched twice a year, at the end of May and the beginning of September, to avoid the dangerous winters of the southern hemisphere. Surgeons employed by the early contractors had to obey to the master of the ship, but on later voyages were replaced by independent Surgeon Superintendents whose sole responsibility was for the well being of the convicts. As time went on, successful procedures were developed and the surgeons were supplied with explicit instructions as to how life on board was to be organised. By then the charterers were also paid a bonus to land the prisoners safe and sound at the end of the voyage.

The "Planter" which carried Richard Rush and his fellow convicts from England to Australia, probably stopped off at Gibraltar before passing through the doldrums, down to Cape Town in South Africa, and then dropping into the Southern Ocean to face the perils of the 'roaring forties' to get the benefit of the prevailing winds, often encountering icebergs and gales, resting at any one of the South Australian penal settlements of Adelaide and Port Phillip in Melbourne, before arriving in Botany Bay 121 days later on 15 October 1832, having covered a distance of around 12,000 nautical miles.

Details about all convicts were carefully recorded, right down to the colour of their eyes and hair, and distinguishing marks.

**Transcript of
List of Male Convicts by the ship Planter,
Robert Laurence Fraser, Master**

Standing No of Convict	32-2087
Indent No	13
Name	Richard Rush
Age	31
Reads	None
Writes	None
Religion	Protestant
Status	Married
Children - males	3
Children - females	1
Native Place	Essex
Trade or Calling	Ploughs, reaps, milks, sows
Offence	Pig stealing
Tried	Essex Quarter Session
When	3 January 1832
Sentence	7 years
Former conviction	None
Height feet	5
In	2 ½
Complexion	Brown
Colour of hair	Brown
Colour of eyes	Blue
Particular marks or scars	Small mark of a burn on lower left arm, dimple in chin, two small moles near left side of nose

You will note from this record that he was quite short, with brown hair and blue eyes, and had 4 children. This is a surprise, because up until now we only ever knew about John George Rush, whom we assumed was the only child born in 1827.

Richard's other children

Now we discover there were three other children, and efforts^v to trace them have recently been undertaken.^{vi} We now know the names and dates of birth of the other three children listed in his criminal records:

- Richard Rush, born 29 November 1820 in Dunton
- William Rush, born 7 April 1822 in Dunton
- Maria Rush, born 26 October 1823 in Dunton

No birth records for John George Rush have yet been discovered.

There was also a child called Sarah, whose mother was listed as Maria Steel, born on 14 May 1819, but no father was named in the birth records. However, a Sarah Rush aged 18 years married Sam Higgins in Dunton on 7 August 1837, and the father was listed as a John Rush (Richard's brother perhaps?). Richard was in Australia at the time, so perhaps the name was invented! Richard married Maria on 5 October 1819, who presumably had 5 month old Sarah. Since Sarah was not Richard's natural daughter, she is not listed among the 4 children on his criminal records. Also, the 1841 Census records list an Aaron Rush aged 4 years in Langdon Hills. Who were his parents?

The Hunter Valley

On arrival in Botany Bay, Richard Rush was assigned to a Hunter Valley landowner Andrew Loder (or Leoder) who farmed in a district known as Patrick's Plains near Singleton. Other convicts were also assigned to Mr Loder from the Planter.^{vii}

Information from Family History Society Singleton Inc^{viii}, received in November 2000 states that the area was originally called St Patrick's Plains being discovered on 15th March 1820, two days before St Patrick's Day. The word Saint was dropped about 20 years later. The first District Council was Patrick's Plains and the Electoral Rolls show the area as Patrick's Plains until the 1980s when the name was changed to Singleton. Singleton^{ix} had been a town since 1836 in the District of Patrick's Plains.

The 1836/7 Muster^x records Richard Rush as being at Andrew Loder's property Mt Pleasant, Patrick's Plains, being 100 acres, portion 45, parish of Whittingham, Co. Northumberland. Loder was a member of the area's discovery party.

In an Extract from "Singleton - Municipality and Shire 125 years on", 1866-1991 the discovery of the Singleton district is described:

"The earliest journey to the north from the Hawkesbury of which any record is available was that conducted by William Parr in October-November 1817. Parr, a mineralogist in the employ of the Government, was accompanied on the trip by four men, one of whom was Benjamin Singleton. They travelled generally north-west and reached a small stream (probably the headwaters of Doyle's Creek) before the shortage of rations and bushfires forced them to return.

Benjamin Singleton, profiting from what he had learned with Parr, made the next trip in April 1818, accompanied by three men and a native.

On the twelfth day they "fell in with upwards of 200 natives who had never seen a white man before". They told Singleton he was within two days of a big river and good land to the north-east, but the party

returned without proceeding further for they feared betrayal by the blacks.

On 24th October 1819, John Howe set out on the first of his trips. He was accompanied by George Loder, John Milward, three convicts and a native who succeeded in reaching the Hunter River about four miles west or seven miles upstream from the present township of Jerry's Plains. As they were running short of supplies they decided to return to Windsor.

It was on the 5th March 1820 that John Howe set out on his second expedition that was to lead to the discovery of St Patrick's Plains. His party this time was larger, consisting of George Loder Jnr, Benjamin Singleton, Daniel Philips, Andrew Loder, Thomas Dargin Jnr, Philip Thorley (all free) and Jeremiah Butler (ticket of leave), Nicholas Connelly, Samuel Marshall, Frederick Rhodes, James House, Robert Bridle (convicts), Myles and Mullaboy (natives). The explorers this time bore further to the east and on 15th March reached the Hunter River in the vicinity of Whittingham, after crossing an extensive plain which Howe named "St Patrick's Plains". They made their way slowly downstream arriving at Wallis Plains on 21st March.

During the years 1821 to 1825, 283 land grants were made along the Hunter Valley, totalling 369,351 acres. By 1828 the agricultural life of the colony was centred on the Hunter. For the work in discovering the route to the area, Howe and all free men in his party received grants. Grants were apparently given with great freedom and people of all types appear in the lists. They were the true pioneers who took up their land and set about carving out a home in the new region; there were the professional and prominent men from the capital who treated this as a business and sent their workmen to set up a new station, and there were those who sold their grants as soon as possible, often to neighbours without ever seeing them."

A message posted to the Hunter Valley Genealogy list on the internet seeking information about Richard Rush received several responses. Greg Ball from Queensland replied:

"I can give a couple of clues about the Patrick's Plains area of the 1830-1850 period. My father was born there and he said that his father spoke of very dense timber in some parts, however there were some good sized areas near the river which had little or no timber. This is borne out by the fact that Ben Singleton advertised in the Sydney press that he would shepherd livestock on Patrick's Plains for a fee. Singleton, who founded the town of the same name, ploughed a furrow from his inn (The Barley Mow) to the first school in Whittingham, so that the children would not become lost in the thick timber. This was a distance of two miles or more. The Hunter river had very little sand in it in the early days - it had a gravel bottom,

and when John Howe reached it in 1820/1 near the junction of Doyles Creek, he caught a fine fish for lunch. It is now all sand.”

A further email from Greg Ball explains how Richard Rush may have ended up there, given his occupation in his conviction records:

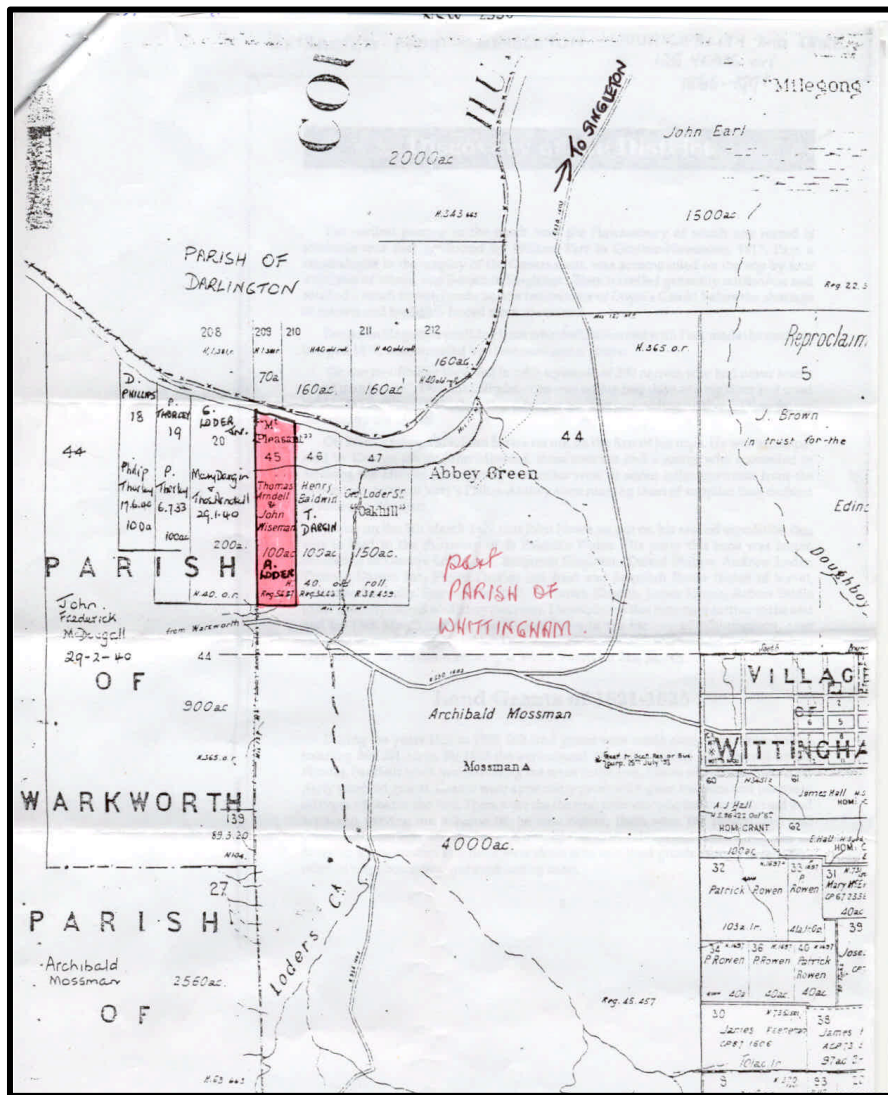
“Patrick’s Plains, aka Patrick Plains, was an ill-defined area of the mid-Hunter River in NSW. Both of the above names are used by the Registry of Births Deaths & Marriages for NSW, however the name ceased to be used from about 1900 onwards, except for the local government shire of Patrick’s Plains. Even this was abandoned some 20-30 years ago. It is now Singleton Shire. There would have been only isolated settlements in the area in the 1830-1840 period and Richard Rush would have been allocated to work for one of the settlers - perhaps as a shepherd or agricultural worker,”

A response from Faye Sheridan in Sydney said:

“I had a look today at the library and the Patrick’s Plains area was the Singleton area of NSW. If you look on the website of the Singleton Family History Society it is very informative about the area. They publish a Patricks Plains Gazette and the website features articles from it.

The internet address is www.xroyvision.com.au/singleton/sfhspage.html. They also perform family history searches for a small fee.”

A research request to the Singleton Family History Society revealed the information about Patrick’s Plains previously mentioned, including a map of the area where Loder’s farm was located shown on the next page.



Living conditions in the area in the 1830s were hazardous and challenging, and the settlers' lives were beset with many hardships – floods, droughts, and bushfires. There were the difficulties arising out of distance – distance from authority, distance from markets and from medical aid. Combined with bad roads were tracks and trails that had to be blazed, and the fear and insecurity arising out of the presence of sometimes hostile natives, and sometimes friendly bush-rangers. By the end of the 1830s the population of the area was just over 2,500 consisting of a large number of convicts, and government employees. Apart from a church, hotel, school, and a mill, the town of Singleton did not really become established until the 1840s.^{xi}

Three methods of house construction were used in the early settlements: wattle and daub, timber slab and brick nog, using timber and clay available in the area, with an earthen floor. Richard Rush and the other convicts would have been put to work constructing these dwellings before setting up the farm. In fact, the Loder farmhouse “Abbey Green”, situated 5 kilometres south of Singleton, was not built until 1861 by Andrew Loder’s grandson George Thomas Loder III, and it still exists

today, although it cannot be seen from the road. Apparently the Loders treated their convicts well, and were enormously successful in raising merino sheep and Hereford and polled angus cattle. In 1868 the family began a meat preserving works complete with cannery. In 1851 George Loder acquired his grandfather's original property and bought an adjoining 4000 acres, and the family's last tie with the property was severed more than 30 years ago when descendants Mr and Mrs Duncan Hedley retired and finally sold the land.^{xii}

Ticket of Leave

The record of a convict's arrival in the Colony is called a convict indent. On arrival, the first major event in a convict's career was assignment, with males often being assigned as labourers to private settlers. After several years of satisfactory service, convicts were entitled to apply for a Ticket of Leave (a form of parole) and with continued good behaviour they would eventually obtain a Certificate of Freedom or Pardon.^{xiii}

Richard Rush's Ticket of Leave details are shown below:^{xiv}

Transcript of TICKET OF LEAVE	
No 36/1978 dated 26 December 1836	
Prisoner's No	32/2087
Name	Richard Rush
Ship	Planter
Master	Fraser
Year	1832
Native Place	Essex
Trade or calling	Ploughs, reaps, milks, sows
Offence	...
Place of Trial	Essex QS
Date of Trial	3 Jan 1832
Sentence	Seven years
Year of Birth	1799
Height	Five feet 3½ inches
Complexion	Sallow
Hair	Light Brown
Eyes	Blue
Allowed to remain in the District of Patricks Plains	
On recommendation of Patricks Plains Bench	
Dated August 1836	

Notice the discrepancies in height and complexion between this document and the Transcript.

Censuses and Musters

Information on an internet site^{xv} about the background of Censuses and Musters reveals that New South Wales was the initial Australian colony, formed in 1788 as a place to send convicts, after the scope to send them to North America had ceased. Transportation to “the east coast of New South Wales or some one or other of the adjacent islands” was a fairly common sentence, for what we would today regard as fairly trivial offences.

Because of the need to keep track of the convicts, who were usually assigned to work gangs or as servants to farmers or other settlers, from 1795 the convict population was “mustered” annually, physically counted and various other details updated. The accuracy of these various musters was acknowledged as variable, at the time.

The soldiers, officials, free settlers and their families were generally recorded at the same time.

The NSW State Records^{xvi} website records that:

“at various times, the Government of the Colony conducted a census or muster of the inhabitants of the colony. These may have been for a specific purpose such as assessing landholdings or as a general ‘head count’ of the population. These muster and census records can contain valuable information concerning a convict’s residence, employment and family circumstances.”

The “General Return of Convicts in New South Wales, 1837” indicates a date of 31 December 1837. However, unlike earlier musters, it is not the product of mustering people at various places over a month or so. It is a wholly clerical reconstruction, based on the 1836 census (which does not survive), updated for new arrivals through 1837. Ages appear to be those of 1836. Some other updating has taken place, however, most thoroughly for initial letters A-G, and particularly to update the names of assigned masters through 1837, with some updating for 1838 or even 1839. Entries with initial letters K, X and Z have not survived. The volumes were forwarded to London in December 1839.

The details shown are: Name, Age, Ship of Arrival, Year Arrived, Where Tried, Master’s Name (to whom convict assigned), District, Remarks (generally current convict status – ticket of leave etc).

There are two entries in the “General Return of Convicts in NSW 1837” for Richard Rush, the first one being our ancestor, who is recorded as being at Patrick’s Plains in 1837:

	Convicts Names	Age	Ship	Year	Master	District	Page
22149	Rush Richard	38	Planter	1832	Leoder A	Patrick's Plains	34
22148	Rush Richard	18	Charles Kerr	1837	Collier Captain	Petersham	7

Certificate of Freedom

A Certificate of Freedom was a document stating that a convict's sentence had been served, and was usually given to convicts with a 7 or 14 year sentence. Convicts with a life sentence could receive a Pardon, but not a Certificate of Freedom. The Certificate of Freedom number was sometimes annotated on the indent or noted on a Ticket of Leave Butt.

Richard Rush served his time, and one week short of seven years in New South Wales on 9 October 1839, received his Certificate of Freedom.^{xvii}

The details are shown below:

Transcript of Certificate of Freedom	
No 39/1749	
Date	9 October 1839
Prisoner's No	32/2087
Name	Richard Rush
Ship	Planter
Master	Fraser
Year	1832
Native Place	Essex
Trade or Calling	Labourer
Offence	...
Place of Trial	Essex QS
Date of Trial	3 January 1832
Sentence	Seven years
Year of Birth	1800
Height	5 feet 2 ¾ inches
Complexion	Brown
Hair	Brown
Eyes	Blue
General remarks	Small mark of a burn on lower left arm, dimple in chin, two small moles near left side of nose
Held at Ticket of Leave No 36/1978 dated 26 Dec 1836 surrendered	

Notice the discrepancies in year of birth and height from the original Transcript.

Sydney to Wellington

Having been released from his conviction, Richard was free to leave, and we assume he came to New Zealand sometime between February 1840 and March 1841 probably as a crew member aboard a migrant or trading ship from Sydney. Searches of internet records of shipping departures from Sydney and arrivals in Wellington have so far failed to reveal exactly which ship Richard would have travelled on, as most records show only paying passengers' names. Children, servants and crew are not named. The internet site www.cyndislist.com/austnz.htm gives a 30 printed page list of links to general resource sites, including convict and passenger lists. A comprehensive search of these links has not yet been undertaken.

Richard obviously could not (or would not) return to England, and the fate of his children, except for John George, is unknown. We also wonder if the children he left behind ever knew what happened to their father, and whether he was in contact with them after he left England.

We have located other Rush names from the Childerditch area of Essex, not far from Aveley, and wonder if they are related but so far no link has been established.

Meeting Cecilia

The newly widowed Cecilia Rodgers must have met Richard Rush soon after his arrival in Wellington, and they were married presumably early in 1841, since their first daughter Sarah Ann Maria was born on 13 January 1842. Three more daughters were born to Richard and Cecilia between 1843 and 1846.

Richard's son John George was 15 when he arrived in Wellington sometime in 1842 aboard the "Esther", a schooner which plied the eastern Australian coast from Botany Bay to Tasmania and New Zealand for several years. John George might have been in Australia looking for his father and may have discovered that he had gained his freedom and gone to Wellington.

Richard was murdered in Lower Hutt on 15 June 1846, aged 47 years.

Full details of his death and his New Zealand family are recorded in Chapter 2 of *A Humble Beginning*, 2nd edition.

A further newspaper^{xviii} report on Saturday 20 June stated:

"The funeral of the late Richard Rush, whose barbarous murder by the rebels was recorded in our last number, took place on Thursday afternoon. The body was interred in the Public Cemetery, and was followed to its last resting place by a considerable number of settlers. The Rev R Cole performed the burial service."

It is intended to raise a subscription for his widow and children and we earnestly solicit the attention of our fellow settlers to the appeal made to them in this day's Spectator on their behalf."

The charitable assistance of the Inhabitants of Port Nicholson is requested on behalf of the widow of the late Richard Rush who was murdered at the Hutt on Monday last. The unhappy event is fully before the public. The unfortunate widow being left with four young children (and nearing confinement with the fifth) dependent on her for support.

Subscription lists are lying at the bank: Mr C Mills, Lambton Quay; and at Barrett's Hotel.

Wellington, June 20, 1846

Life in early Wellington

A recent publication "Wellington, the First years of European Settlement 1840-1850"^{xix} gives a fascinating insight into early life and conditions in Wellington from 1840. The reader will find out what Richard Rush must have contended with in his trade as a carrier between the Hutt and Wellington. It describes the main route out to Petone as "a narrow track along the foreshore, really useable only at low water; even then strong winds could send spray flying across the track. To add to the fun, the streams at Ngauranga and Kaiwharawhara had to be forded." Paintings show the extent of the bush which dominated the landscape in the mid-1840s. Further on in the book, there's a graphic description of the native unrest in the Taita area in the early months of 1846, including several skirmishes and murders prior to Richard's death.^{xx} There is also mention of the incident on 25 August 1840 where Charles Rodgers and several other men were drowned off Petone Beach.

Richard Rush Jnr

We are still uncertain if the Richard Rush convicted of sheep stealing in 1836 was related to our Richard Rush. He could have been his eldest son going by the age of 18 stated in the 1837 Muster. He was convicted at Chelmsford, Essex, in the Quarter Session of 18 October 1836 and sentenced along with a Robert Ray of stealing two sheep on 18 October 1836.

“Richard Rush being now convicted of sheep stealing is ordered and adjudged by this Court pursuant to the Statute in that case made and, provided to be transported beyond the seas for the term of his natural life to such place as His Majesty with the advice of his Privy Council shall think fit to declare and appoint.”

He was transported on the Charles Kerr which sailed from Spithead on 8 June 1837, arriving in New South Wales on 9 October 1837, a journey of 123 days. On board were 250 male convicts. The ship's commander was Captain Arnold Harford and the ship's surgeon John Edwards.^{xxi}

Internet searches of the State Records of New South Wales have failed to find any records of a Ticket of Leave or Certificate of Freedom for young Richard Rush. What happened to him? Research continues.

Other family convictions

Sarah Rush, on 15 October 1833, at Bradwell Near the Sea, for Larceny by a servant – guilty. Sentence – “solitary confinement at Gaol of Springfield for 1 week and to be once privately and severely whipped.”

On 26 and 27 November 1833, Christopher Rush of Braintree was along with 3 others convicted of “rioting and assault” and received one month hard labour at Springfield Gaol.

Acknowledgements

Brian Sharp made two weekend trips from London to the Chelmsford Essex Public Records Office, and Maureen Sharp made a day trip to Singleton from Sydney.

RICHARD RUSH - TIMELINE

20 February 1799	Born in Orsett, Essex
5 October 1819	married Maria Steel in Bulphan, Essex 2 sons and 1 daughter born between 1820-1826
early 1827	John George Rush born (exact date unknown)
22 April 1827	Maria Steel died in Dunton, Essex, cause unknown
3 January 1832	Quarter Session trial – accused of stealing a pig – “Larceny”, at Chelmsford (just north of Aveley)
16 June 1832	depart Portsmouth on “Planter” bound for Botany Bay, Australia
121 days	(200 males, and 200 females – convicts) Robert Laurence Fraser, Master Alick Osborne, Surgeon Superintendent
15 October 1832	arrival in Sydney (Standing No of Convict 32-2087)
7 years	at Patrick’s Plains (just out of Singleton, Hunter Valley, NSW), assigned to landowner Andrew Loder
26 December 1836	Ticket of Leave No 36/1978
9 October 1839	Certificate of Freedom No 39/1749
1840-March 1841	to New Zealand (exact date and ship unknown)
1841	Richard marries Cecilia Rodgers (exact date unknown)
13 January 1842	Sarah Ann Maria born in the Hutt Valley
1842	John George arrives in Wellington on the “Esther” from Sydney (exact date unknown)
1 October 1843	Cecilia Eliza born in the Hutt Valley
1 August 1845	Isabella born in the Hutt Valley
15 June 1846	Richard killed in Lower Hutt, aged 47, buried Bolton Street
10 August 1846	Isabella dies aged one year, buried Bolton Street
1846	Ann born in the Hutt Valley (exact date unknown)

ⁱ The Quarter Sessions were an assembly of the Justices of the Peace of a county, whose job it was to judge suits and administer the affairs of the area. A statute of 1388 laid down that 'Justices shall keep their sessions in every quarter of the year at least', from which the name of the court is derived. They were held at Easter, Trinity (Midsummer), Michaelmas and Epiphany (January), and were presided over by the sheriff or his deputy. The Order Books are the formal records of the Court, giving the justices' decisions and edicts.

ⁱⁱ Simpson, Tony. *The Immigrants. The Great Migration from Britain to New Zealand, 1830-1890.* 1997:Godwit Publishing Ltd, Auckland

ⁱⁱⁱ Some 1040 ships carried convicts from England and Ireland and other places to Australia, and it is thought that about 165,000 departed from the ports of embarkation, and that about 3,000 died en route. Several Australian websites contain the names of the ships and the numbers of passengers, port of departure, place of disembarkation and date of arrival, and links to other information: www.southernx.com.au/conship1.html. The link [Indexes for Convicts Transported to Australia between 1788 and 1868](#) contains information on how to access indexes for all convicts who were transported to Australia between 1788 and 1869. You should be aware that it is highly unlikely that in tracing what may have happened to any individual convict, that you will be able to find information on all the events in his or her penal servitude, as there are gaps in the records, especially with assignment records, tickets of leave, and certificates of freedom.

^{iv} From www.carmen.murdoch.edu.au/community/dps/convicts/ships.html

^v Research undertaken at the Essex Public Records Office in Chelmsford by Brian Sharp, June 2001

^{vi} Other internet sites give passenger and crew list information, shipping arrivals and departures, and passenger diaries: <http://www.blaxland.com/ozships/>

^{vii} 14012 James Jones, from Planter, 1832, assigned to Loder A at Patrick's Plains

^{viii} Singleton Historical Society, www.singleton.nsw.govt.au

^{ix} Singleton is a town steeped in history. Following the discovery of this part of the Hunter Valley by John Howe and his exploring party in 1820, the fertile area of Patrick's Plains was quickly settled. Benjamin Singleton, one of the original settlers, was granted land around the site of the present town. The main road to the Upper Hunter crossed the river at this point and Singleton gradually developed facilities which served the local rural community. In 1835, Darlington Post Office was renamed Singleton and in 1841 the town was officially known by that name. The original layout of Singleton was markedly different to other Australian towns. Streets were laid out diagonally rather than on the square. There are thus many acute street intersections and a variety of interesting streetscapes.

(From <http://www.singleton.nsw.govt.au/visitors/histbldg.html>)

^x The General Return of Convicts in New South Wales, 1837 is an alphabetical list of convicts giving their name, age, ship and year of arrival, name of employer and district.

^{xi} Whitelaw, Miss Ella: [A History of Singleton](#) (a typed booklet from the Singleton Museum)

xii Fink, Elizabeth Hunter Regional Estate Project “The Built Environment of the Shire of Singleton” August 1977 (includes photograph and description of Abbey Green)

xiii The State Records of New South Wales are now available on the internet for searching. In the article [Index to Certificates of Freedom, 1823-69](http://www.records.nsw.gov.au/publications/cf/index.introduction.htm), www.records.nsw.gov.au/publications/cf/index.introduction.htm, the convict system and records in New South Wales is explained, together with links to indexes and other records.

xiv Faye Sheridan kindly visited the library in Sydney where these records are held in August 2000, photocopied the original handwritten transcripts and posted them to New Zealand.

xv <http://carmen.murdoch.edu.au/community/dps/convicts/census.html>

xvi <http://www.records.nsw.gov.au>

xvii Reference to Richard Rush’s Certificate of Freedom can be found by searching the State Records of New South Wales – Certificates of Freedom (www.records.nsw.gov.au) Query string: Surname – Rush, First name – Richard, Vessel – Planter. Examples of other Certificates of Freedom are found on www.records.nsw.gov.au/publications/convicts.cfexamples.htm

xviii New Zealand Spectator and Cook Strait Guardian, Saturday June 20, 1846

xix McLean, Gavin. *Wellington, the First years of European Settlement 1840-1850*. Penguin Books, Auckland, 2000.

xx On page 26 of “A Humble Beginning”, 2nd edition, in the article ‘Sagacity of Dogs’, there is mention of a man called Gillespie and the reaction of his dog after his murder. In “Wellington, the First Years” on page 79, it says: “*Blood was finally spilled on 2 April when a Ngati Rangatahi raiding party killed Andrew Gillespie and his son north of Boulcott’s Farm. For several weeks an uneasy calm prevailed in the Hutt. Greys ‘vigorous policy’ had heightened tension. By May Almon Boulcott’s farmstead marked the northernmost advanced post of the 58th Regiment when at dawn on 16 May Te Mamaku’s men struck Lieutenant G. H. Page’s detachment. They tomahawked the sentry, then swept into the farm. In a short, sharp engagement, fast, accurate British firing made up for being surprised and, helped by nine mounted militia, Page’s men drove off the Maori. Each side lost ten men. More skirmishing and deaths followed ...*”

xxi From www.blaxland.com/ozships/passengr/sc/chaskerr.htm - a list of every convict on board the Charles Kerr 1837, giving name, age, birthplace, crime and sentence.