



From Wiltshire to Tasmania

Hamen Cadby was born 1st May 1846 in Richmond, Tasmania. His parents were both convicts, John Cadby and Hannah Roberts née Jones. They were married 12th July 1846 in St. Georges Church Sorrell, Tasmania. They had a further two children, Thomas born 4th Sept. 1847 in Richmond and Matilda, born 28th Dec 1855 in Longford, Tasmania. Haymen as he is spelt in the records, was admitted to the Orphan School aged only 4 years old, 8th August 1850. He was discharged on 13th July 1860, but admitted again on 13th November 1861 due to ill health, I found a record of him being discharged from The General Hospital in 1862. It is also recorded here that he suffered ill health during his apprenticeship. He went firstly to William Carter, New Town and secondly, Thomas Watson, Swansea - both in Tasmania. Poor child was down as: Parents Unknown, but as I had done quite a bit of research I knew that this must be untrue.

Family Biography: His father John Cadby born and Baptised 21st May 1809 in Trowbridge, Wiltshire, England, son of Hamon and his second or even third wife, Susannah Cadby, née Chapman. My 2x great grandfather James Hamon followed plus two sisters, Keziah 1814 and Matilda 1817-1891 then Hammond 1820-1854 (died a soldier in the Crimean war). Keziah died aged 5 in 1818 and the mother died tragically in 1822. While trying to piece my Gt. grandmother's family together I discovered, through the help of a Researcher, that her father, James Cadby had been sent to Western Australia on The Stag in 1855, for attempted murder of his wife my 2x grandmother Mary Ann Cadby in Melksham, Wiltshire. This was shocking enough so I didn't bother researching his brother John at all. My discovery quite recently, that John was also sent over to Australia on The Lady Raffles, really shocked me. I had found, quite by chance, some old prison records, with Haymen, James and Matilda down as his siblings, this of course was quite correct, also the fact that he had come from Trowbridge, Wiltshire. I then searched for Cadby with alternatives selected and came up with the name spelt, "Cadley" which was a revelation, but certainly helped me to locate the records of the children John and Hannah had had. The name Hamen stood out a mile because it is so unusual and throughout my research have found it, in various guises in this particular family line in Wiltshire, England. John Cadby was sentenced 15 years, for Felony and Robbery Simple, on 15th October 1839 and he left Portsmouth, 17th March 1840. He was given over to Mr. Hilyard of The Fingal Party.

Hannah Roberts was born in Flintshire, Wales about 1824, she was sentenced 27th July 1842 at Mold Assizes, Flintshire, Wales, to be hung for poisoning with Arsenic, her Elderly Husband Robert Roberts aged 75. She was pregnant by her lover John Parry, whom she said bought the powder, and she didn't know what it was. She gave birth to a son William around November 3rd, 1842 knowing already that the sentence to hang had been commuted to life long Transportation. She left, Woolwich, London, minus her infant son, on the 16th November 1842 aboard the Emma Eugenia bound for Tasmania. There I found her listed as working in the Ross Female Factory. In the English Newspaper 1842 is a stunning account of her trial and reprieve, many people were sympathetic to her cause including a Welsh lawyer/ MP and an English Judge. A Prison record also shows that she had six siblings in Wales, Davy, Thomas, Hugh, Mary, Elizabeth and Margaret.

What happened to Hamen`s two siblings, Thomas and Matilda, in this sorry story, I have no idea at all. Were they adopted, died or simply disappeared into the mass? A Matilda Cadby is down as marrying an Alexander Cowie in the 1880`s but there were other Cadby`s also living in Tasmania at that time, so I can`t qualify it. Both Hannah and John`s Convict Records are on line, so I know that both received their Tickets of Leave, even though their lives were hard and not very savoury at times. Whatever, it is great to be able to say, That poor little Orphan, Hamen Cadby, was not without a family, he was most probably part of mine.

OPC Note:-

If anyone would like to add to this story please contact the Author Julie Gerber – her e-mail address can requested from the administrator of the website