

Jonathan G Harris - Background

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- **Posted 02 Sep 2012 by jaslee_1**

He was tried on 23 Mar 1825 for burglary at Horsham Sussex Assizes and was sentenced to be hanged. This was commuted to Transportation and he arrived on board the "Marquis of Hastings" 3 Jan 1826. He was assigned to W Thompson of South Creek. He obtained a ticket of Leave No 32/199 dated 19 Feb 1838 for District of Yass. He was allowed a Conditional Pardon Sep 1841. He was tried at Parramatta Quarter Sessions 16 Dec 1842 for stealing from a person and was sentenced to 15 years to a penal settlement.

Jonathan Harris (alias Alcorn) was born about 1799 in Uckfield, Sussex, England. He is shown in the IGI as having been baptised in Uckfield in that year. A hard copy of this record has not been obtained. His father was John Harris and his mother Hilda Nunman.

He was married to an Elizabeth Baker. The date and place of marriage are unknown. No effort has been made to establish this fact. He had six children by Elizabeth – Elizabeth, Henry and Jonathan born in England and, in Australia Sophia born 1/1/1832, Thomas born 28/12/1833 and George Jarvis about 1835.

Jonathan was convicted at Horsham Assizes on 23/3/1825 on a charge of burglary in the house of Thomas Amery Cobham and sentenced to death. (I have a copy of the indictment ASSI35/265/5). He stole a long list of goods to the value of £18.19.6. Unfortunately the depositions taken at his trial no longer exist.

He was reprieved from the death sentence and sentence to transportation for life to New South Wales. (Criminal Registers – Mitchell Library Reel 2772 Page 160). Jonathan was subsequently transported on the ship Marquis of Hastings. On this Ship's indents he is described as being 25 years of age, 5'6" tall, fair complexion, blue eyes and brown hair. The 1828 census shows him as being assigned to a Cha. Thompson of Bathurst(less).

His wife, Elizabeth, and three children arrived in Australia aboard the ship "Kains" which arrived at Sydney on 11th March, 1831. This information was obtained from information given by Jonathan's son Jonathan, who will now become Jonathan II, when he arrived on the convict ship transporting him to Tasmania. His wife, Elizabeth, died in 1836 and was buried on 3/4/1836 in the Parish of Narellan. This information was obtained from Burial Certificate 1836/880/20 for an Elizabeth Harris who lived near Goulburn and was a wife of a ticket of leave holder.

Information attached to Jonathan's application to marry Anne Grubb lends support that the Elizabeth Harris to whom the certificate applies was indeed Jonathan's wife.

Jonathan married Anne Grubb at Goulburn on 12/10/1840. A note, with the application for marriage papers, from Wm. Shelley, Jonathan's employer at the time certifies that "...the wife of Jonathan Harris died on or about four years last March". This note is dated 16th September, 1940. AO Reel 737 40/9218 Publication of Banns. On the marriage certificate Jonathan is

shown as being resident at the Tumut River.

There were two children of this marriage, William Thomas Harris born 12/9/1841 and George Robert Grubb Harris born 1/4/1843, both at Goulburn.

About August, 1842, Jonathan and Jonathan II, went to Parramatta with two bullock teams and an old man named A. King, who had in his possession an order for £47. Both Jonathans and two others, Cornick Berry and William Whitehouse were charged with stealing the order. Berry and Whitehouse were acquitted but Jonathan and Jonathan II were convicted on 10th September, 1842 and sentenced to 15 and 10 years transportation to Van Diemens Land respectively. AO Reel 2757. Apparently Anne must have been pregnant with George Robert at that time.

Jonathan II was transported on the 13th October, 1842 on the ship "Waterlily" and arrived in V.D. Land on 20th October, 1842. Jonathan was transferred to Cockatoo Island and was transported on the "Sir John Byng" on 14th October, 1843 and arrived in V.D. Land 28th October, 1843.

Because of his conviction, all of Jonathan's property was forfeited to the Crown. This consisted of 21 working bullocks, 1 cow and calf, 6 cows, 4 bullocks, 3 steers, 2 heifers, 4 calves, 1 bull, 1 yearling bull, 1 light bay mare, branded J-I, 3 bullock drays, yokes, bows, and bullock harness, a paddock of what (about 20 acres), and sundry small articles of household furniture. Govt Gazette 6/1/1843 Page 34. His wife, Anne, as expected, petitioned the Governor for any surplus money that may be left after the sale and discharge of debts. She mentioned in the petition that had five children and no means of supporting them. We can assume, I suppose, that these consisted of her own child, William Thomas Harris, the three children of Elizabeth Baker born in Australia, that is Sophia Harris, Thomas Harris, and George Jarvis Harris. They would have been 16 months, 11 years, 9 years and about 7 years old respectively. Elizabeth was already married (1839). Jonathan II, of course, was in gaol. Henry Harris, the son of Elizabeth Baker, could have been the fifth child or Anne may have been referring to the as yet unborn George Robert Grubb Harris.

To add to the confusion Jonathan II made the following statement when he arrived in V.D. Land "Arrived Sydney per Cains (Kains) when 8 years old. I came out to join my father who was transported to Sydney per Marquis of Hastings (I) in the name of Jonathan Harris. He is now, for this offence, sent to Cockatoo Island for 15 years. I have 3 brothers, Henry, Thomas and George, in NSW at Port Phillip. I have two sisters, Sophia (very young) and Elizabeth married to a man who keeps a public house near the Ovens river"

A document obtained from the Archives Office – Letters to Colonial Secretary 1843/18 – a letter written by Major Edmund Lockyer on 3rd January, 1843 reveals the following:

- Jonathan was employed by a William Shelley and resided on a small block which was a part of Grampian Hills owned by Shelley. This block was adjacent to Lockyers property "Lockyerleigh". These properties are near Goulburn
- A large amount of wheat belonging to Lockyer was stolen. Jonathan was known to be selling wheat to various persons, but had none growing himself at that time and he was suspected by Lockyer as having been the culprit.
- At about the same time an iron axle and wheels were stolen from a dray left in a paddock about a mile from Jonathan's hut. When questioned Jonathan continually looked at a place

called Sandy Creek. Lockyer returned with some of his men and searched the creek and found the axle and dray. No action was taken as there was not sufficient evidence to charge Jonathan.

- Jonathan was also employed by Shelley to transport goods from him to his other property at Tumut River – hence the reference to his place of abode on the marriage certificate with Anne Grubb.

- An employee of Lockyer's, John Stroud, was driving cattle to Mingay (about 40 miles from Gundagai) when he met Jonathan driving a team of bullocks. Three of the bullocks belonged to Lockyer. Jonathan was charged with stealing the cattle at the Supreme Court, Sydney (Have been unable to find any record of the trial). He was acquitted because of the non appearance of the principal witness, John Stroud. John Stroud was found some time later drowned in a creek near Jugiong in water that was only knee deep.

- Jonathan returned to his residence and ran a sly grog shop.

Jonathan married Mary Ann Squires in Hobart on 20th June, 1853. Interestingly the witness at his marriage were George Alcorn and Frances Alcorn. Mary Ann Squires was a convict per ship "Anna Maria". He was 50 (53?), she 25. He produced another eight children – total of 16 by three wives. The two eldest were born in Tasmania, the latter in 1855. The remaining children were born in Victoria., the first in 1858. Jonathan and Mary Ann therefore got to Victoria between 1855 and 1858. Jonathan died on 4th October, 1891 at Benalla in Victoria. The death certificate gives no details whatsoever of the children of his marriage to Anne Grubb. It could be that they were unknown to his son, Frederick by Mary Ann Squires, who was the informant.

Provided by Bob Norris of Cairns c2000

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• Jonathan G Harris - Confiscation of Property

Posted 18 Sep 2012 by jaslee_1

[V] OT1CE.—A Sale, in behalf of the Crown, of 1st the undermentioned cattle, drays, farm produce, and household furniture, late the property of **Jonathan Harris**, sen. and jun., convicted of Felony, will take place at Goulburn, at, noon of Saturday, the 28th day of January, 1843, viz:—21 working bullocks, 1 cow and calf, (> cows, 4 bullocks. 3 steers, 2 heifers, 4 calves, 1 bull, 1 yearling bull, 1 light bay mare, branded .1-1, 3 bullock drays, yokes, bows, and bullock harness, apaddock of wheat (about 20 acres), and sundry small articles of household furniture. Persons indebted to, or having claims upon the estate, are requested to pay over to, or prove their claims before me, at the Police Office, Goulburn, on or before the day of sale. (J EORGE STEWART, Police Magistrate. Police Office, Goulburn, :50th December, 1842.

