



Chapter 13 – The Tattooed Glass Grinder

(1815 - 1836)

In November 1834 David and Elizabeth were assigned convict, Ann Shepherd (AKA Ann / Sheppard), who was to play a significant part in the Brown family's future affairs.

Ann was born in England c1815 to Thomas and Jane Sheppard⁴²¹.

She was tried and convicted on the second day of the first Session of the City of London Court for larceny offences in 1832 for stealing one pair of shoes. The shoes were valued at 2 shillings and 6 pence and were taken from the shop of a Mr. Charles Dando. Anne's accomplice in the venture was Martha Otter aged 12.⁴²²

It is worth noting the witnesses:

John Manson: *'I live with my father, who is a gentleman's servant. I was at Mr. Dando's shop on the evening of the 5th of November; I was at the door, and saw the prisoners come out. Shepherd took one pair of shoes and Otter took two pairs: I caught Shepherd while she was putting them under her shawl, and called to Mr Dando, but Otter got away.'*

Charles Dando: *'I am master of the shop. I was called, and took Shepherd who had one pair of shoes under her shawl – I saw Otter turning a corner; she got away then, but was taken the next day.'*

William Rogers (Police-constable C132): *'I took Shepherd, and found on her one pair of shoes.'*

Edwin Suffell: *'I am a pawnbroker. I have a pair of shoes, which was pawned by Otter on the 5th of November, for 1s. 6d.; she said her name was Mary Store, and that she had brought them for her father.'*

James Aldous: *'I am a pawnbroker. . I have a pair of shoes, which was pawned by Otter on the 5th of November, for her mother, No 21, St Anne's court; I have known her mother two years.'*

Otter's Defence: *'Shepherd asked me to go with her and buy a pair of shoes; she told me to wait at the top of the street - she brought two pairs; and told me to pawn them, and bring her the money; she then went, and got another pair, and the man came, and took her – I ran away, and told her mother.'*

**SHEPHERD – GUILTY. Aged 17.
 Transported for seven Years.
 OTTER -- GUILTY. Aged 12.
 Judgement Respited.⁴²³**

Ann's occupation at time of arrest in London is given as Glass Grinder.

Ann was held at Middlesex Gaol until delivered with other prisoners to HMA Buffalo on 29 November 1832.

The Superintendent of Transportation for the HMS Buffalo recorded Ann's description as follows:

Height	"4 ft 11 ½ inches",	Eyes:	"Chestnut",
Complexion:	"Fair",	Religion :	"Protestant".
Hair:	"Auburn",	Identifying marks:	"Small pockpit right temple, and scar back of left cheek," and a tattoo: "JO" upper left arm ⁴²⁴ .

⁴²¹ Pioneer Register, p18. Names of parents but not year.

⁴²² Martha Otter was found guilty but Judgement Respited. This usually meant being fined a shilling and being dismissed with the expectation that the offender such as a juvenile delinquent who was considered might benefit from placement with a reformatory institution which in some cases might be known a refuge for the destitute.

⁴²³ Item 78. Larcenies, & C., Second Day, First Session, 1832. City of London Court, Mayor Laurie Records.

⁴²⁴ 'O' may well stand for 'Otter' given the name of her companion in crime, Martha Otter. If so, the 'J' is likely to represent the initial of one of Martha Otter's relatives, possibly a brother, and Ann's love interest?



HMS 'Buffalo' sailed from Portsmouth on 12 May 1833. One hundred and forty six days en route, the 'Buffalo' arrived in Sydney on 5 October 1833 with 178 female convicts.

The 'Buffalo', while at Rio encountered the 'Ana' merchantman; and the 'Arabella', a convict ship. 'Both ships were bound for these Colonies'. Also, there was a packet from England while she was lying there, and bringing news to the 7th of June.⁴²⁵

Prior to the 'Buffalo's arrival, the Colonial Secretary's Office sent out circular No 33/39 (of 10 September 1833) to all the Police Headquarters at Windsor, Parramatta, Newcastle, Maitland, Bong Bong etc. ascertaining what placements might be available amongst their populace.

The Browns no doubt responded by submitting an application for one of the women to be assigned.

The day after arrival, the ship's surgeon, Dr. Hamilton sent a formal request to the authorities stating that four of the 'Buffalo's crew, sailors and marines, were in need of rest. He asked that they be admitted to the Government Hospital. Perhaps suffering from the demands of duty during a particularly rough voyage from Capetown, such as experienced by the Earl Cornwallis?

Once having arrived in Sydney it took an inordinately long time, at least sixteen days, to disembark the women prisoners.



Full size replica of HMS Buffalo on display in Adelaide due to its association with the settlement of that colony in a later voyage.

The following newspaper intelligence indicates the public interest in the arrival of the female convicts, and a sense of urgency that had developed:

	<i>The female prisoners on Buffalo are expected to be landed on Friday next.</i> Thursday. 17 October 1833	⁴²⁶
	<i>It is said, that the women per Buffalo will positively be landed this morning.</i> Monday. 21 October 1833	⁴²⁷

Once ashore, women convicts not immediately assigned for private service were taken from their transports and rowed by convict constables from Sydney to Parramatta. It is said that 24 women convicts were sent from Sydney to Newcastle by the evening steamer on that same day, Monday 21 October 1833. Ann is apparently one of the many who had to endure the trip to Parramatta to be housed at the 'Female Factory' there. The constables who rowed them were described in an 1883 article as 'among the most brutal and abandoned of men.' The women were up to ten hours on the passage to their new prison - Normally one of ever-changing scenes of beauty. However, according to the same article, they were 'exposed to all the

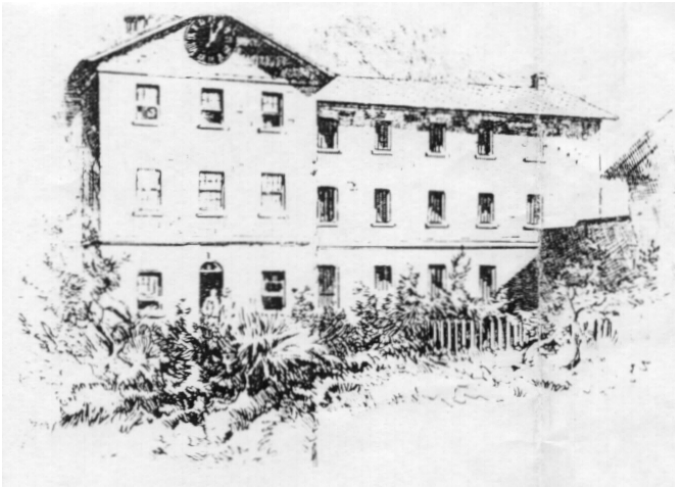
⁴²⁵ SH. Thursday, 10 Oct 1833. Ship News 3b.

⁴²⁶ SH. Thursday, Ship News, 17October 1833, Domestic Intelligence, p2e.

⁴²⁷ SH. Thursday, Ship News, 17October 1833, Domestic Intelligence, p2e.



temptations to which their own helplessness and their guardians ‘force and licentiousness could leave them’.⁴²⁸



Female Factory at Parramatta was established in 1804 and rebuilt in 1820

The ‘factory’ was described as a ‘splendid edifice of white squared stone standing a little way off from the town’ of Parramatta. It was walled round to a height of twelve feet. “In it were confined all the female convicts not actually assigned out to private service together with such who are under imprisonment for bad conduct.” When the factory was originally established in 1804, women were employed in the manufacture of wool, or spinning, picking oakum, husking corn, picking weeds, sail-making, caring for orphans, hospital nursing, dairying, midwifery, or in domestic service to the NSW Corps.

Within a few weeks after having endured the voyage to Sydney, and then Parramatta,

Ann was moved on to Newcastle.⁴²⁹ She and twelve other females from the Buffalo were taken back down the Parramatta River out through Sydney Heads and up the coast on to the Hunter River estuary. Water transport was still the most practical way for movement of goods and passengers between such centres of the Colony’s population. Indicative of this process is the following press report of the prior year:

‘40 female prisoners, for transmission to Newcastle, came down from Parramatta on Saturday morning, and

were immediately taken on board the Isabella Government Schooner,

and preceded to their destination.’

Monday, 8 October 1832⁴³⁰

From Newcastle Anne would have promptly been assigned to the Brown family at Jerry’s Plains. Most of the women assigned at the time were required for general work duties.

Ann’s qualities were soon recognised and appreciated by at least the eldest son of the Brown family, Thomas. Thomas in his short life was variously described as settler, grazier, farmer, and innkeeper.

It was inevitable that Thomas was going to be involved in the various projects that his father initiated to provide for the family. Typical of the times and the rural industry he would have begun his participation very early in life – and was a long doing the job of a man. Thomas’ mother appears to also have been supportive. Perhaps her appreciation was encouraged by the evident shortage of marriageable young women in the colony that was available?

Reasons to Celebrate

On 17 June 1834 David junior was granted a General Annual Licence to sell liquor at his roadside inn the ‘Green Gate’. William Vivers aged 35 of Hill End, formerly of Bulwarra, Patrick Plains;⁴³¹ and neighbour, Richard Hobden of Gravelly Flat near Jerry’s Plains; were stated as going ‘Surety’ for David’s Licence application and had paid fifty pounds each.

A son, Alexander (known as Alick), was born on 14 October 1834 to David and Elizabeth at Jerry’s Plains. David and Elizabeth, took their baby son Alexander to Sydney to be baptised on 4 March 1835, as a

⁴²⁸ The Sydney Illustrated News, 3 October 1889.

⁴²⁹ NSWSR Ref 4/2180 – Reel 590 *Item 509 on list*

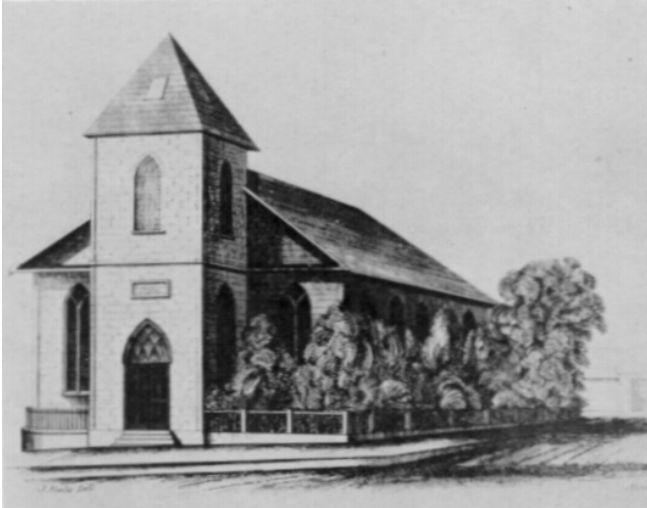
⁴³⁰ SH, Monday, 8 October 1832, Domestic Intelligence, p2.

⁴³¹ Came Free and linked with a Peter McIntyre of Patrick Plains in the 1828 Census who also came free and is shown as landholder of a significant 22000 acres.



Presbyterian at St Andrew's Scots Church, in Elizabeth St.⁴³² It seems most likely that the family went to Sydney by the now well established steamship service, as the quickest, most convenient, and least disruptive way for the mother and child.

This celebration in Sydney is likely to have been a special event. There can be no other reason. Its purpose is pointed. It was intended to be an opportunity for the Sydney members of the Brown family, including the Chisholms, to gather for a reunion? And for Elizabeth to catch up with folk from Watson's Bay, in particular her mother, Catherine. Such an occasion would have involved the patriarch of the family, David Brown senior.



St. Andrew's Scots Church Sydney, where David and family took their son Alexander to be baptised. From 'Sydney in 1848' by Joseph Fowles. Printed by D. Wall, Sydney 1848-50.

Things seemed to be going well for the Browns of the Hunter. This excursion to Sydney is likely to have been as much a celebration of things going well, as much as anything else. Perhaps the Browns' investment beyond the 19 counties had already yielded handsome dividends.

Towards the end of the year, if not already apparent, their son, Thomas' interest in Ann Shepherd would have generated some awareness that a marriage was in the offing.

Marriage

On 9 January 1835, the Governor of NSW received the application of David junior's eldest son, Thomas and Ann Shepherd, the family's assigned convict servant, for permission to marry. Ann being a convict still serving her sentence was required to obtain the Governor's consent. Though only 17 years old, Thomas gave his age at the time as 22 years, to make him appear three years older than his fiancée. Ann was then 19 years old.⁴³³ Approval was granted on 23 January. Given that the application was made under the auspices of the Church at which they were to be married, it appears likely that once news of the official approval was received, then the announcing of Banns would commence.

Legend suggests that David senior was living with or visiting the family at Jerry's Plains during 1835 prior to the marriage. He is reputed to have opposed Thomas' marriage to a convict, and saw it as some kind stigma on the family as a whole. A kinder view is that he may well have objected on the grounds of Thomas being so young. However, the legend doesn't even hint at this.

David senior would have been well aware of views expressed by people like Alexander Kinghorne, close friend of his son-law, James Chisholm, and father-in-law to his other grandson, young Jas Chisholm. Kinghorne had made quite an issue over whether the people he associated with were 'in every way a respectable individual' and had not 'undergone a conviction'. The family was proud of their connection to the Chisholm family, and remained aware of it for several generations. It is not difficult to envisage the old man being sensitive to this view and the family connection with the Chisholms and the attitude of those associated with the Chisholms.

On 30 June 1835, David junior's 'Green Gate' Inn began business as a licensed establishment. The family's thoughts at the time were on the coming wedding. The 'Green Gate' also had an adjacent general store that could well have been operating about the time David applied for his liquor licence. He was the licensee of the 'Green Gate' for the first three years, and then handed over the running of the inn to son, Thomas, in

⁴³² BDM Reference V1834 2898 Vol 45B 0. NSWSR Reel 5016, V1834 76 Vol 47 0. NSWSR Reel 5017 (NLA mfm 229)

⁴³³ Detail from photocopy of Banns register for that period.



1838. It would not have been unusual for David senior to have been in Jerry's Plains/ Patrick Plains for the commencement of this new family project.

The marriage between Thomas and Ann took place on 28 September 1835. Witnesses were a 'Richard Ward' of Patrick Plains and Thomas' mother, Elizabeth.

In giving her formal consent, Elizabeth showed that she had learnt to sign her name since her marriage to David. Elizabeth may have also learnt basic reading and writing skills since her marriage.⁴³⁴ It would have been useful to deal family and business matters that arose on David's frequent absences. Richard Ward made his mark.

A parent being signatory to a child's wedding, such as with Elizabeth, does not seem to be very common. It could be argued that she was there as Matron of Honour for her daughter-in-law. If so it could be seen as a sign of the two women having become close friends. However, the fact of her being signatory, also conveniently coincides with the fact that Thomas, was almost three years short of his majority, and legally in need of parental permission. Elizabeth effectively provided formal parental blessing to the marriage more direct than the Banns that had been announced over the prior eight months.

Elizabeth's involvement in the marriage in this way may be explained by the legend concerning David senior's supposed opposition to the union. Ann Shepherd's status as a convict is said to have been the cause of his hostility, and that led to a bitter argument with David junior and his family. By 'family', one could reasonably read this to mean young Thomas and his mother, Elizabeth.

Elizabeth's upbringing of continuous satisfactory association since childhood with convicts and ex-convicts is not likely to have made her sympathetic to any concerns expressed by her father-in-law about intimate connections with convicts. Her stepfather, Patrick Humphries is an obvious example! The event concerning a midnight confrontation with bushrangers in 1831 (see Chapter 9 - Settling the Hunter) showed she had a strong personality. In that particular event she was loyally, and ably, assisted by a government servant who was assigned to her household. The event also demonstrated Elizabeth's willingness to testify to the qualities of a person regardless of their status as convict or otherwise. The family dispute implied by the legend suggests that Elizabeth's witnessing of the wedding is a very gutsy and pointed statement.

Perhaps David senior had spent time with the Chisholms or the Browns at Erskine Street for an extended period that coincided with marriage arrangements at Jerry's Plains, and thus was not aware of events unfolding?

The old man could not but help remember the marriage of his other grandson, Jas Chisholm, to Elizabeth Kinghorne. The difference between what Ann Shepherd and Elizabeth Kinghorne brought to their marriages in terms of status and connection is in stark contrast.

It is not difficult to imagine the frustration, disappointment, and anger that might have arisen in David senior in consequence of his son's family having allowed the marriage in spite of his expressed wishes. His bitterness over the matter having got the better of him, David, at the age of 86 years, is supposed to have made a hasty departure to Sydney from Jerry's Plains. Travelling to Maitland by horse or carriage; and then by boat service; would have been the more comfortable way to do this. However, it is said that he returned on horseback, on his own. The epic ride, if it occurred, and at the age he was said to be, would have been sometime after 22 October 1835.⁴³⁵ The fact of the existence of the legend is of significance. All the information that exists about him suggests a tough spirited man, of robust health and active up to the last; a man capable of that particular feat.

Richard Hobden

Down the road from the Browns, Richard Hobden of Gravelly Flats near Jerry's Plains appeared in Maitland Quarter Sessions court on 6 May 1836 before 3 magistrates, Stewart, Campbell and Clarke. Hobden was

⁴³⁴ Thomas Brown's affidavit to Governor Darling in 1831 expresses his concern that his daughters be educated which points to the Brown family's encouragement of their women-folk being able to read and write.

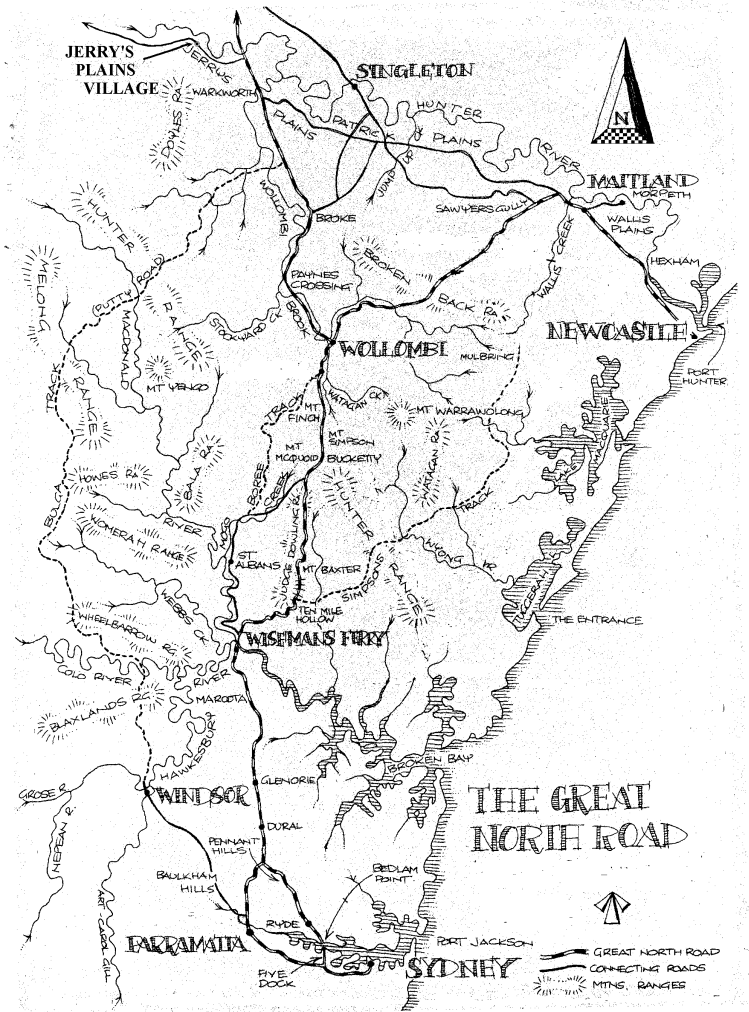
⁴³⁵ David was 86 at time of his burial on 22 October 1836. He therefore had his birthday during the previous 12 months.



one of the first to actually settle in the area. He had been convicted on 25 February 1836 on a charge of retailing of 'Fermented and Spirituous Liquors' without a licence on 18 February 1836 at his premises at Gravelly Flats. Hobden had a hut 'about fifteen or twenty yards from the house' where the liquor was sold to a constable who had entered the premises incognito for the purpose of entrapment.

Alfred Glennie, acted as advocate for Richard Hobden. He pointed out that the constables involved in the investigation had not specified that Gravelly Flat was in the 'Colony of New South Wales'. The conviction was quashed.

What David Brown junior, at his licensed 'Green Gate Inn', might have thought of his not too distant neighbour retailing liquor without a licence, and whether he or another innkeeper in the region had reported Hobden' activity to the authorities is a matter of conjecture. The fact that in 1834, Hobden had gone 'Surety' to the tune of fifty pounds for David's licence application is likely to have made David sympathetic to him.



Great North Road system circa 1836

The Great North Road, linking the Hunter Valley to Sydney via Wiseman's Ferry, and Wollombi was completed during 1836. It became the major overland route north from Sydney, and remained so until the opening of the Pacific Highway in 1930.⁴³⁶ The Bulga Road remained little more than a cattle-trail until 1940, when its upgrade would have assisted War time requirements.

The population of the Colony of NSW in that year of 1836 according to official census was 77,096, some ten-fold increase from when David senior arrived in the colony with his family.

Big Changes

News of the death of David senior's youngest son, Thomas (I), on 27 May 1836 in Sydney would have been received at Jerry's Plains. It is likely that if the old man, if not already in Sydney at this point, returned to assist in family matters arising from that event.

⁴³⁶ Much of the high quality construction was carried out under the supervision of Assistant Surveyor Percy Simpson, based at Wisemans Ferry between 1828 and 1832, and Heneage Finch, who was in charge of construction around Bucketty and Laguna in 1830-31. Simpson was an engineer who had a sound knowledge of the latest road construction techniques being developed in Europe. He had the most difficult sections to build, like the steep descents from the ridgeline to the Hawkesbury River at Wisemans Ferry. Much of the high quality work done under his command remains intact today - a tribute to his ability to lead an unskilled and unwilling labour force to produce such an engineering masterpiece. Not all sections of the Road were constructed to the same standard, the quality of work depending on the skills of the men in the gangs, their overseer, and the Assistant Surveyor in charge. - Explore the Convict Trail: The Great North Road. Tourism NSW (in consultation with the Road Transport Authority), 2001.



David senior's great grandchild, David (IV), son of Thomas and Ann, was born in Jerry's Plains in July 1836 and baptised on 12 July 1836 at the Church of England, Parish of Maitland.⁴³⁷ There was less than 21 months in age between this new arrival and his Uncle Alec. Thomas' occupation at the time was given as 'Farmer'.⁴³⁸

Push North from Jerry's Plains

The colonial occupation of the Namoi and its tributaries was now underway. It was a slower and more laborious process than other stages of white settlement, due to the remoteness of the area and the difficulties of maintaining communications and supplies. But within three or four years of Sir Thomas Mitchell's expedition of 1832, the northern and north-western parts of the Liverpool Plains filled up. This led to a growing number of conflicts between Aboriginal and the white invaders.⁴³⁹

During the winter of 1836 a party of mounted police from Jerry's Plains under the command of Sergeant Temple, conducted a campaign to clear the blacks out of the area north from Barraba to the Gwydir River. The axis of this campaign was some 75 kilometres to the east of the site of the Brown's 'Millie' property. The police were accompanied by a number of stockmen and squatters including Thomas Simpson Hall (1808-1870). The campaign is estimated to have caused about eighty deaths among the Aboriginal population in the region. Thomas Hall, native to the colony, and the son of the Brown's neighbours at Cattai; George Hall, had provoked the incident in April that year that led to the event.⁴⁴⁰

In the following spring, the occupation of the Gwydir began. A party of fifty stockman, shepherds, and hutkeepers drove several thousand cattle and sheep north in search of pastoral runs.⁴⁴¹ Many, if not most, of those who took part in these incursions of winter and spring, would have been the more ambitious landowners or desperate smallholders, their sons, and landowners employees, of the Hunter River region in the vicinity of Jerry's Plains.

It seems that George Bowman was one of those who took advantage of the 'Spring' drive. Based at Richmond, he and his overseer, William Waterford, took cattle from his Hunter River properties to the north of the Liverpool Plains. Waterford established a station on Bowman's behalf that became known as 'Terry Hie Hie', not far from where David Brown had his run, to be known as 'Millie'.

David junior's sons: Thomas 19, James nearly 17, and John 15 years old, were by now, well experienced in traversing long distances by horse and managing cattle. James and John are known to have become very much involved in Millie's creation and exploitation, and to have remained so for many years. The licence for the run was initially held in their father's name. David is recorded as having paid a licence fee for squatting rights in the Liverpool Plains for the first time, like many others, from 23 April 1837 for several years. The fee effectively acknowledged David's prior and continuing interest in grazing in this existing location.⁴⁴² It is not until March of 1838 that further evidence of the family's pastoral activity in that region is encountered, and that specifically relates to David Brown's Millie run.

David Millie run was centred on Waterloo Creek, upstream from Snodgrass Lagoon, about 60 kilometres north of present day Narrabri and 350 kilometres northwest of Jerry's Plains.

It was Snodgrass Lagoon that was found by explorer Mitchell in 1832. Ultimately, the south side of Waterloo Creek i.e. 'Millie South' came to be managed by David's son, John. The north side of the creek, known as Millie North, was leased by John's elder brother, James.

⁴³⁷ NSW SR Reel 5004, BDM Reference V1836 1224 20.

⁴³⁸ NSW SR Reel 5004, BDM Reference V1836 1224 20.

⁴³⁹ Waterloo Creek. P90.

⁴⁴⁰ In April of 1836, Thomas Simpson Hall of Cattai/Pitt Town, with a black guide from the Hunter River and several stockmen, had taken a mob of sheep and cattle up the track from Barraba to the Gwydir River in search of pastoral runs. As they neared the country of the Gwydir mob, Hall's guide became nervous, for he didn't know these people and was reluctant to proceed further. Hall decided to teach the guide a lesson and, levelling his fowling piece at him, 'discharged its contents of small shot in the buttocks of the Black!' The guide ran away and joined the Gwydir mob. In retaliation, the Gwydir mob attacked Hall's camp at Big River, killed a stockman, and wounded Hall and another man.

⁴⁴¹ Australians 1838.

⁴⁴² Governor Bourke wrote to the Colonial Official stating the futility of trying to stop the squatters - He decided to deal with the dilemma they posed by applying a licence fee. The Discover Australia series, 'The Governors'



The run adjoining Millie's eastern boundary was 'Malaraway', which was squatted on by John Eckford about the same time - John Eckford⁴⁴³ was a son-in-law of Peter Duff, David Brown's neighbour at Jerry's Plains.

Town Life

Back at Jerry's Plains the residents wrote to the Colonial Secretary in 1836 requesting a Post Office.⁴⁴⁴

A 'David Brown' is listed as resident of Darlington, St Patrick Plains (Singleton) in Post Office Directory of 1836. In addition to any investment potential that might have seen in that property, it is likely the residence was a practical consideration for the needs of the family. Aside from a place that any of the Browns could stay over, it may well have been David senior's way of residing close to his son's family but taking advantage of town comfort.⁴⁴⁵ It was also typical of David junior to acquire town land in a wide variety of locations for investment purposes as much as anything else.



The Passing of David Brown (1750 – 1836)



Five months after the death of his son Thomas, David Brown, the elder, died at the age of 86.

Legend states that David died at his home at Erskine Street, Sydney, in the company of an old servant Elkin (or Elgin).⁴⁴⁶ There are suggestions that Elkin was as much as companion as a servant. The story emphasises the lack of family presence, and that he was still embittered by events in Jerry's Plains associated with the Marriage of Ann Shepherd into the family. A little at variance to this is the very credible claim is that David died at James Chisholm's house in George Street.⁴⁴⁷

David was buried on Saturday, 22 October 1836. His son, David, is the only one of his children to survive him, Thomas having died 27 May of that same year. The Register of Scots Burial Grounds notes David's Scottish origin and that he was 'Father-in-Law of James Chisholm.'⁴⁴⁸ This was possibly intended to imply an extra element of distinction to David's character though he was reported in that same newspaper five years earlier as 'a respectable settler of long standing in the colony'. It also suggests that David was very closely associated with James Chisholm up to the time of his death.

The Minister of the Kirk at the time, who wrote the familiar notations, was Rev. John McGarvie who was the Minister at St Andrew's Scots Church in Clarence Street South near Bathurst Street. Rev. McGarvie probably got to know David from his time at Ebenezer.⁴⁴⁹ However, the Rev. McGarvie is more than likely

⁴⁴³ John Eckford's parents, Mary and William, had come as convicts on the Earl Cornwallis in 1801, and were based in Newcastle.

⁴⁴⁴ Elizabeth Baxter, P.O. Jerry's Plains, letter of 4 January 1981, to B & B Griffiths.

⁴⁴⁵ Elizabeth Baxter, P.O. Jerry's Plains, letter of 4 January 1981, to B & B Griffiths.

⁴⁴⁶ On Friday, 21 October 1836, the day before his burial?

⁴⁴⁷ Miriam Chisholm Papers NLA MS6207 Series 3 Folder 4. c September 1958

⁴⁴⁸ NSW BDM Reference *V18361112 102*.

⁴⁴⁹ In 1832, Rev. McGarvie "accepted an invitation to start a second Presbyterian congregation in Sydney and held services in the courthouse until St Andrew's Scots Church was ready 'for use of persons connected with the Established Church of Scotland'" It 'was opened for divine service on 13 September 1835 and he remained as its minister until his death.'" (per Australian Dictionary of Biography). This second Presbyterian church faced Clarence Street South (away from Kent Street)



to have drawn on discussion with the highly regarded James Chisholm as a source for his comments. Significantly, the minister has given the entry his full signature Rev. John McGarvie not Rev J. McGarvie perhaps suggesting some personal connection with David?

James was probably the only relative of David in Sydney at the time and for this reason is likely to have been in David's company at the time of his death, as claimed by the Miriam Chisholm.⁴⁵⁰ James may have been David's host at the time? He more than likely was the person who took charge of the funeral arrangements.



St Andrews Scots Church c 1907, Clarence St South.
 (Photo per City of Sydney Archives NSCA CRS 51/204)

Unfortunately, the location of David's final resting place is unknown. David was most probably buried at the Presbyterian Burial Ground in Devonshire Street - It dated from 1825 and was later the burial place of Rev. McGarvie himself. However, the Devonshire Street Cemetery was closed around 1900 to make way for Central Railway Station.⁴⁵¹

David Brown (1750 – 1836) Summed Up

He was a carpenter.

'a respectable settler of long standing in the colony'.

His focus was about improving the condition of his two surviving sons.

He didn't have to bother with obtaining the services of a notary as so many others felt obliged or necessary.

David had direct, informal, style of writing.

He was person who was confident, well educated, and used to writing letters.

An impromptu visit to the Surveyor-General is matter of fact.

While deferring to the Colonial Secretary and Surveyor-General's official status, one senses that David sees himself dealing with equals.

Father-in-Law to James Chisholm and well regarded by him.

⁴⁵⁰ Regretably, Rev. McGarvie doesn't say exactly where David died.

⁴⁵¹ Most of those graves in a condition that allowed for their removal were relocated to Bunnerong Cemetery by the government. Apparently, many of the early gravestones at Devonshire Street Burial Ground were badly weathered or destroyed because they were soft sandstone and suffered from the industrial pollution in the area, and so couldn't be identified. Some graves were moved to other cemeteries by the families involved.