

CROKER PRIZE FOR  
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1805  
TRANSPORTED TO NEW  
SOUTH WALES – A NEW LIFE  
FOR DANIEL LEWELLYN

## Transported to New South Wales – a New Life for Daniel Lewellyn<sup>i</sup>

The 1827 Lent session of the Lancaster Assizes opened on 10 March. Among the prisoners to be tried were Daniel Llewellyn, 25, and two co-accused charged ‘with having uttered at Westleigh, a forged Bank of England note, for the payment of one pound’.<sup>ii</sup> All three were found guilty and sentenced to death,<sup>iii</sup> but they did not hang. Instead, some ten weeks later at Kirkdale Sessions in late May 1827, their capital sentences were commuted to transportation for life.<sup>iv</sup>

Daniel’s new life began in the Retribution Hulk at Sheerness – a short stay, as his record there is marked ‘New South Wales 1 June 1827’<sup>v</sup> and the *Prince Regent* sailed from Deal a week later, arriving in Sydney on 27 September 1827.

Did Daniel tell his daughters about his early life in England, how he felt during his trial and imprisonment, his reasons for attempting to use a counterfeit bank note and what his journey to Australia was like? I think not. The story of his former life that was passed down to later generations of his family was that Daniel had been an army officer, Captain Llewellyn, who had served with Colonel Henry Dumaresq in the Napoleonic Wars. Henry Dumaresq, brother-in-law of Governor Darling, came to Australia in 1825<sup>vi</sup> and, it was said, Daniel came at the same time. It was only in 1983 that his descendants learned otherwise when my aunt and uncle visited Mrs Nancy Gray in Scone and were shown information about Daniel in both official records and material held by the Scone and Upper Hunter Historical Society.<sup>vii</sup>

The only skerrick of truth in the family story was that Daniel had a slight connection to Henry Dumaresq and, more particularly, to his brother William. The muster of the *Prince Regent* on 3 October 1827 shows Daniel assigned to ‘W Dumaresq St Heliers’.<sup>viii</sup> The property St Heliers, near Muswellbrook, was owned by Henry Dumaresq but Henry went to England in June 1827 and did not return until 1829. In his absence it seems that his brother inspected incoming convicts and selected ones he thought suitable for St Heliers, which was being managed at the time by Archibald Bell.<sup>ix</sup> In the 1828 Census of New South Wales Archibald Bell was described as ‘tenant and overseer to Captain Dumaresq’, with a land holding of 10,000 acres, which probably accounts for Daniel Llewellyn, ploughman, being shown as assigned to Archibald Bell, rather than William Dumaresq.

William Dumaresq was to play a significant role in the transformation of Daniel from a convict ploughman into the manager of St Aubins, William Dumaresq’s large station property near Scone, and an important member of the Scone community. By 1840 he had become the Superintendent at St Aubins,<sup>x</sup> while he was still a convict, albeit with a Ticket of Leave. He received a Conditional Pardon on 1 July 1841, recommended by William Dumaresq. By 1848 he was on the New South Wales Electoral Roll and was one of 21 electors who petitioned William Dumaresq to re-nominate for the Legislative Council in July of that year.<sup>xi</sup>

Daniel remained in the Upper Hunter Valley until early to mid-1856. By then some of the big squatter runs in more outlying parts of New South Wales were being broken up as towns were established and settlers purchased blocks for farming. Land for the town of Armidale

was taken from William Dumaesq's squatter run, Tilbuster, from 1839<sup>xii</sup> and farming blocks were also sold near Armidale. Daniel Lewellyn became a farmer with five portions of land just east of Armidale with frontage to Tilbuster Ponds.<sup>xiii</sup> Items in the local newspaper show that he encountered the ups and downs of rural life. He offered rewards for the return of lost horses<sup>xiv</sup> and threatened to impound about a hundred head of cattle which were 'infesting' his farm, unless they were claimed by their owner.<sup>xv</sup> He received praise for the quality of his potatoes, with the comment 'In fact we think they are about as good as any New England, or even the Green Isle itself, could be expected to produce'.<sup>xvi</sup> His ploughing skills were acknowledged in 1860 when he and four others were nominated for a committee to arrange and judge a ploughing match in Armidale.<sup>xvii</sup>

The last mention of Daniel in the newspapers was on 2 June 1866. It was his death notice – 'At Tara, Bendemeer, the residence of his son in law, Mr. Robert Scholes, on the 29th May, MR. DANIEL LEWELLYN, aged 66 years'.<sup>xviii</sup> He had been in New South Wales for nearly forty years (not 5 minutes as recorded on his death certificate!).<sup>xix</sup> He had prospered, married and had two daughters. His wife died when the girls were in their mid-teens<sup>xx</sup> but he lived to see them become the wives of graziers, Robert and John Woolner Scholes,<sup>xxi</sup> the eldest sons of Joseph Scholes, a leading citizen of Armidale. He has no descendants with the Lewellyn surname, but his name has been carried on as the given name Llewellyn (spelt with double 'L'), used at least once in each generation, for both boys and girls.

While being dispatched to the other side of the world for the rest of his life probably appalled him at the time, it is unlikely that, had he stayed in England, Daniel would ever have become an estate manager, owned land and been able to vote. The pronouncement of 'transportation for life' was a truly life-changing event.

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<sup>i</sup> Daniel's surname appears in many variations – Lewellyn, Llewellyn, Llewelin, Llewellen, Lewelling. Lewellyn is the spelling he used.

<sup>ii</sup> Report on the Lancaster Assizes, *Lancaster Gazette*, 10 March 1827, p. 3, accessed online through Findmypast, 12 May 2018

<sup>iii</sup> Report on the Lancaster Assizes, *Lancaster Gazette*, 17 March 1827, p.3, accessed online through Findmypast, 12 May 2018

<sup>iv</sup> Report on Kirkdale Sessions, *Liverpool Mercury*, 25 May 1827, p. 6, accessed online through Findmypast, 12 May 2018

<sup>v</sup> England & Wales, Crime, Prisons & Punishment 1770–1935, HO8 Home Office, Convict Hulks, *Quarterly Return of Convicts under Sentence of Transportation on Board the Retribution Hulk at Sheerness ... for the Home Department from 1<sup>st</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> June 1827 both inclusive*, accessed online through Findmypast, 12 May 2018

<sup>vi</sup> Nancy Gray, 'Dumaesq, Henry (1792–1838)', Australian Dictionary of Biography, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/dumaesq-henry-2003/text2447>, published first in hardcopy 1996, accessed online 6 May 2018

<sup>vii</sup> Unpublished letter dated 7 April 1983 from my aunt to my mother, now in my possession

<sup>viii</sup> Society of Australian Genealogists, Microfilm Reel 7010, *Muster Roll of 180 Male Convicts arrived in Sydney Cove on the 27<sup>th</sup> September 1827 on board the transport ship Prince Regent the 4<sup>th</sup> ... Muster held on board the said ship 3<sup>rd</sup> October 1827 by Alex<sup>c</sup> McLeay Esquire Colonial Secretary*

<sup>ix</sup> Archibald Bell Jnr (1804–1883), best known for his crossing of the Blue Mountains now known as Bells Line of Road

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<sup>x</sup> Address and occupation shown in the baptism record of his elder daughter, Ann, at St Luke's, Scone, on 31 May 1840 – handwritten extract from the baptism records provided to my aunt by Mrs Nancy Gray, Scone and Upper Hunter Historical Society, April 1983, and now in my possession

<sup>xi</sup> <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article12911043>, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 11 July 1848, p. 3

<sup>xii</sup> John Ferry, *Colonial Armidale*, University of Queensland Press, 1999, p. 149

<sup>xiii</sup> County of Sandon, Parish of Armidale (sheets 2 and 3) (Parish Regional Charting Maps)/ Rev: 26 Sep 2007: <http://hlrv.nswlrs.com.au>, shows Daniel Lewellyn's portions 122–126

<sup>xiv</sup> <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article189656783> and <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article188981445>, *Armidale Express and New England General Advertiser*, 1 November 1856, p. 3 and 18 December 1858, p. 3

<sup>xv</sup> <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article189959072>, *Armidale Express and New England General Advertiser*, 8 August 1857, p. 3

<sup>xvi</sup> <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article189959064>, *Armidale Express and New England General Advertiser*, 8 August 1857, p. 3

<sup>xvii</sup> <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article188961411>, *Armidale Express and New England General Advertiser*, 24 March 1860, p. 3

<sup>xviii</sup> <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article187929725>, *Armidale Express and New England General Advertiser*, 2 June 1866, p. 3

<sup>xix</sup> NSW Registry of Births Deaths and Marriages, death of Daniel Lewellyn 2741/1866

<sup>xx</sup> NSW Registry of Births Deaths and Marriages, death of Anne Lewellyn 1994/1857

<sup>xxi</sup> NSW Registry of Births Deaths and Marriages, marriage of Ann Lewellyn and Robert Scholes 1234/1858; marriage of Jane Llewellyn and John Woolner Scholes, 1138/1861