

Margaret Cosgrove's Voyage on the Duchess of Northumberland and who was Robert Redfern

The ship was full of women from Dublin. Newspapers of the time has said:

The Duchess of Northumberland depart Cork on 19th October with 249 female emigrants under the superintendence of Dr. James Eckford. Arrived in Port Jackson late February

The Duchess of Northumberland has arrived in the harbour with 249 young female emigrants from the counties of Dublin and Cork. Captain Jobbing and the gentleman who has been entrusted with their superintendence speak in the highest terms of the character of these girls during the voyage and most of them as in the case of those by the Red Rover, having testimonials of good conduct acquired in their native country. These girls have been gathered from the country parts of Ireland and principally consist of farm servants with a few house maids nurserymaids and dress makers.

Respectable and healthy appearance of the female emigrants by the Duchess of Northumberland from Dublin and cork. Useful and interesting set of young women well adapted to the wants of the Colony. Highest commendations of their conduct by the commander of the vessel¹

Major-General Sir Richard Bourke to the Secretary of State for the Colonies; dated Government House, Sydney, 8 May 1835 in an extract from his dispatch states:

"Two of the women were the wives of soldiers, and four of them those of convicts. This I presume could not have been intended, and that some imposition must have been practised to obtain a passage for these persons. The former are the wives of soldiers of the 21st regiment, named Coin and Hartnan, stationed in Van Diemen's Land. The names and description of the latter will be found appended to the letter of the principal superintendent of convicts, of which a copy is transmitted; and as great distress is often occasioned to the wives of convicts arriving here before the law allows of such indulgence to their husbands as will enable them to support a family, I trust that particular caution will be used by those who may hereafter superintend the selection of emigrants in the exclusion of women thus circumstanced, more especially as they may be brought out at the public expense as soon as is consistent with their own welfare, under regulations which have been long established."²

It is clear Margaret as a married woman and wife of a convict may well have not received assistance with her passage if here true identity had been known. This dispatch lists Margaret Cosgrove aka Cash as wife of a convict/ assigned servant assigned to Campbelltown

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<https://www.freesettlorfelon.com/searchaction.php?page=1&surname=&ship=duchess%20of%20northumberland%201835&firstname=>

² <http://www.theshipslist.com/ships/australia/duchessofnorth1835.shtml>

32	Cosgrove, or Cash, Margaret	26	-- Her husband an assigned servant on the estate of the late Mr Redford, Campbelltown.
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Bourke went on to say in his dispatch:

"I take this opportunity of entering upon other matters connected with female emigration, to which my attention is called by the despatch before referred to, of the 10th September last, No. 27. Adverting to the communication from the London committee, therewith transmitted, dated the 12th September I beg leave now to supply in the margin the name of the soldier's wife referred to in my despatch, No. 27 [Elizabeth Connaughton, wife of a soldier of the 21st Regiment Royal N.B. Fusiliers] of the 20th March 1834. It would not have been before omitted had I intended to give the committee the trouble of investigating a case for which there was probably no remedy. My only object in that and subsequent communications has been to induce more caution in the future selection of emigrants. I am fully satisfied that the best exertions of the committee are directed towards the successful accomplishment of their benevolent designs; but I am also aware, that from the very nature of their undertaking, they are liable to be deceived, and that they have been imposed upon is sufficiently proved by the description and conduct of many of the women whom they have sent out.

"I am further called on to reply to the observations in that despatch on the reports current in England regarding the treatment of the emigrants on their arrival in this colony. It is said they were 'placed in the lumber-yard, at that time stated to be in very bad repair;' and it is added, 'that the provisions served out to them were of the worst description, and that no attention whatever was paid to their comforts.'

"In reply to this statement, I beg leave to remark that in this colony there are very few public buildings which are not constantly required for the purposes for which they have been appropriated; and that to find accommodation of any sort for between 200 or 300 women in Sydney is a matter of some difficulty. The lumber-yard buildings were those which offered the greatest conveniences for the reception of the emigrants, and the intercourse which they required to keep up with the inhabitants in order to procure engagements. The inclosure of its walls at the same time afforded to those who were desirous of it some protection from the rudeness of ill-disposed persons. The apartments, though out of order, were safe, and furnished with the most needful articles for taking food and rest, and generally, I believe, superior in such accommodation to the ship the women had just left, and to the dwellings of many of them in the countries of their birth. There were also amongst them some who had been probably accustomed to better lodging and better fare that was provided them; but there had been no distinction made of cabin or rations during the voyage, and it would only have added to the dissatisfaction of the majority to have commenced it on landing. The complaint of badness of provisions is wholly without foundation, and the ration, composed as is stated in the margin, will probably be considered as furnishing not only what is required for mere sustenance, but for some degree of comfort.³

³ <http://www.theshipslist.com/ships/australia/duchessofnorth1835.shtml>

Clearly some people were not happy with their welcome. Where did Margaret go? Who was Thomas assigned to after Mr Redford died or was he indentured in fact to Robert Redfern. His Ticket of Leave says Redfern:

Cash Thomas	Margaret	31/1/29	31 December 1831	W. Brown
Cash Thomas	Sophia	31/5/35	10 April 1837	W. Redfern

His conditional pardon in 1845 says Redfern

NUMBER and DATE OF PARDON.	STANDING NUMBER	NAME.	SHIP.	MASTER.	YEAR.	NATIVE PLACE.
214		Barth John	Mangrove	Recommended by C. MacArthur		W. Wall
215		Cash Thomas	Sophia	R. Redfern		W. Wall

The ships indent circa 1829 says Robert Redfern but location is illegible

1443	Cash Thomas	21	Life	Robt Redfern	Sea View
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His bound indenture of 1829 also looks like Robert Redfern Camp(bell)town and it is difficult to

111 Cash Thomas 21 years old 5' 10" tall 16 January 1829
 small scar on right side of forehead
 do - R. eye not life more 5' 9" tall brown eyes blue hair
 blind in left eye - cut along right eyebrow and small scar on
 under side of forehead

read but we can see some details such as hair and eye colour, height and it does look like her was blind in one eye although this could be the next man.

Based on all of this it is likely Thomas Cash was indentured to Robert Redfern and not Redford. We know however that Robert Redfern did not die until 1853 so who was Governor Bourke talking about?

Were Thomas and Margaret together? One year later in 1836 their first son James was born in Rockley. He went on to marry Mary Kelly keeping the Irish alive in the Cash line! Thomas obtained his Ticket of Leave the next year in Bathurst.

So how did Thomas and Margaret end up in Rockley? There was a Robert Redfern of Campbells River and he died on 3rd Sept 1853 at Campbells River and one executor of his will was Joseph Sewell. This Robert had married Julia Collins in 1840 and had one son. He had married in Sydney

and his gravestone indicates he was 84 when he died or born in 1769. This would put him as 71 when he married Julia. Government Gazette tells us that 19th Feb 1838 Robert Redfern had 640 acres on Davis Creek Westmoreland. Along with Thomas Arkell, William Lawson, and WC Wentworth among others Robert signed a thank you article in the Sydney Gazette 6th Nov 1834 to the retiring Mounted Police chief for Bathurst Lieutenant McAlister. In 1844 Robert Redfern had 2000 acres parish unnamed near Mt Stromlo Bathurst.⁴ He had applied for the Davis Creek land in 1835.⁵ In 1829 he lists a runaway from his property Mr John Curran of Governor Ready but we don't know where the property was⁶. In 1832 there is a report o return of convicts which states R Redfern of Campbelltown⁷ Also in this year he is listed as assigned a convict in Bathurst, a barber called John O'Neill.⁸

1619. O'Neil John, Isabella (4), barber, to Robert Redfern, Bathurst

Campbelltown in 1827 was in fact Campbell Town as per the indenture document. *It was [Governor Lachlan Macquarie](#) who had founded and named Campbelltown on the afternoon of December 1, 1820. A crowd of fifty or sixty curious farmers watched as he marked out the site. "This ceremony having gone through, I named the township Campbell-Town in honour of Mrs Macquarie's maiden name, and on my pronouncing this name aloud, all present gave three hearty cheers in honour of the occasion..."; the Governor later wrote in his journal. His wife was a member of the powerful Clan Campbell of Cawdor.*⁹

The Colonial Secretary's Papers¹⁰ states:

REDFERN, Robert

1824 Allowed to proceed to New South Wales as free settler (Fiche 3106; 4/1839A
Jul 28 No.807 pp.287-90)

1825 Memorial (Fiche 3152; 4/1844A No.680 pp.167-74)
Mar 23

1825 On list of persons who have received orders for grants of land (Fiche 3266;
Mar 25 9/2652 p.99); on list of lands granted and reserved by Sir Thomas Brisbane
(Fiche 3269; 9/2740 p.25)

⁴ <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/230677848?searchTerm=Robert%20Redfern#>

⁵ <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/230654800?searchTerm=Robert%20Redfern#>

⁶ <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/2193308?searchTerm=Robert%20Redfern#>

⁷ <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/230388860?searchTerm=Robert%20Redfern#>

⁸ <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/230388886/12475416#>

⁹ <https://www.campbelltown.nsw.gov.au/AboutCampbelltown/History/Historyofoursuburbs/HistoryofCampbelltown>

¹⁰ https://colsec.records.nsw.gov.au/r/F47c_ra-rh-10.htm#P4358_151702

