

Samuel Gatward of Luton - Transported twice (Bermuda and Australia)

[Get caught stealing and see the world!]

Timeline

Born – Luton, Bedfordshire – 8 Mar 1800

Married - Sarah Deamer at St Mary's Church, Luton on 28th Sept 1821

Children - All registered in Luton Baptist Church Register on 15 Feb 1828

Catherine Gatward (Kate) born 30 Jan 1823

Lucy Gatward born 18 Jan 1825

Elizabeth Gatward born 15 Jan 1827

1821, 1st court appearance - stealing wheat, acquitted

Mar 1827 Bedford Lent Assizes 1827 – Felony, convicted – Death commuted to 7 years Transportation

Transportation to **Bermuda**, stationed on Prison Hulk Antelope 1827 -1832

Completed Sentence and returned to Luton 1833

Dec 1839 Bedford Quarter Sessions - Burglary, Convicted - Transportation to Australia for Life

Transportation to Australia – Aboard Convict ship **Maitland** departed Sheerness March 1840 arrived Sydney July 1840

Ticket of Leave - July 1846 restricted to Police District of **Cassilis, NSW**

Conditional Pardon – Jan 1852

Died - Unknown

This document was created by Terry Gatward of Sydney Australia in Sept 2017 from researched I have done over a number of years.

If Samuel is descended from the Gatwards of Potton then he was my 2nd cousin 4x removed.

Should you wish to contact me you can do so at the email address of gatwardhistory@gmail.com

Samuel Gatward 1800-?

Born — 8 Mar 1800 (but birth not registered until 30 Dec 1810) Luton, Bedfordshire 1800¹

Son of Samuel and Catherine Gatward of Luton, Registered in Luton Baptist Church Register.

[Samuel and Catherine possibly originate from the village of Potton, Bedfordshire]

[There was a Samuel Gatward of Potton, a carpenter who was transported to Van Diemen's Land, Australia as a convict on the Guilford (4) in 1820. Born around 1771. Arrested at Borough Market, Southwark in 1820 for uttering a forged bank note. Sentence to death but commuted to Transportation for life he worked as a carpenter on the convict labour gang in New Norfolk. He died in New Norfolk in 1836 – could this have been Samuel Gatward of Luton's Father or Uncle?]

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Court Appearance #1 1821, Samuel Gatward - stealing wheat, acquitted (*no records found, this is mentioned on his record during his 1839 court appearance*)

Court Appearance #2 Mar 1827 Bedford Lent Assizes 1827 - Samuel Gatward and John Barratt charged with felony.

Samuel Gatward of Totternhoe [*should be Luton*], labourer, convicted of felony on 13 March 1827, and presented for stealing one pair of sugar tongs value 6d and five spoons value 5s from Robert Scott.

John Barratt of Luton, labourer, also presented for receiving the items knowing them to be stolen. Plea: Not guilty. Verdict: Not guilty²

Samuel Gatward

Record ID: 3741

Committal Year:	1826
Reference Doc:	BLARS QGV10/1
ID in Reference Doc:	102
Age:	26
Gender:	Male
Height:	5 feet 2 inches
Hair Colour:	Brown
Complexion:	pale
Residence(town/village):	Luton
Residence(county):	Bedfordshire
Offence:	Burglary

¹ All Family history information from records sourced via ancestry.com available on the "Gatward Family Tree (Wicken-Therfield based)"

² All records of trials at Bedford courts obtained from <http://bedsarchives.bedford.gov.uk> accessed 2016

Committed By:	S.Crawley Esquire
When Committed:	18/12/1826
Trial Type:	Lent Assizes 1827
Type of Gaol:	Bedford County Gaol
Sentence:	Death 7 Years Transportation
How Disposed:	Delivered on board the Justitia at Woolwich
Discharge Date:	08/06/1827

13 Mar 1827, Burglary, death commuted to 7 years transportation

8 Jun 1827 Transferred to Prison Hulk Justita

21 Oct 1827 Transported to Bermuda

1827-1832 on board Prison Hulk Antelope in Bermuda

1832-1833 on board Prison Hulk Coromandel in Bermuda

Between 1823 and 1863 over 9,000 British and Irish transportees were sent to Bermuda, and employed principally in building the Royal Naval Dockyard on Ireland Island. The prisoners were selected on the basis that they were young and fit. The work was formidable, for the convicts were tasked with quarrying hard, marine limestone and using it to build an extensive breakwater. The convicts lived on seven hulks, decommissioned naval ships, which were moored off the Dockyard (Antelope, Dromedary, Coromandel, Weymouth, Tenedos, Thames and Medway). It was perhaps because of the terrible conditions on the hulks, and in particular their close confinement and association, that there were numerous riots and mutinies during the transportation era. 1,260 of the 9,000 convicts died while under sentence, from illness or accidents.³

Returned to England at conclusion of sentence in June 1833 on troop ship Rommeney

Court Appearance #3 31 Dec 1839 Bedford Quarter Sessions

Samuel Gatward of Luton, labourer, convicted of felony 13 March 1827, and presented for breaking and entering the house of John Craker and stealing 10 sovereigns, 20 half sovereigns, 40 crowns, 80 half crowns, 200 shillings, 400 sixpences and one watch value £3. (4 counts) Plea: Not guilty. Verdict: Guilty

Samuel Gatward, a small man of 5ft1 ¾ inches, aged 40 able to read and write, Protestant, Married with 3 female children, a Labourer from Luton, Bedfordshire was convicted of burglary at the Bedford Quarter sessions on 31st Dec 1839. Having previously been convicted for 7 years. He was sentenced to be transported to Australia for the period of his natural life.

Record ID: 6333

Comital Year:	1839
Reference Doc:	BLARS QGV10/2
ID in Reference Doc:	473
Age:	40
Gender:	Male
Height:	5 feet 3 inches

³ <http://convictvoyages.org/expertessays/convictsinbermuda> accessed May 2016

Hair Colour: Brown
 Eye Colour: Light hazel
 Complexion: Sallow
 Education: Read and Write Imperfectly
 Birth Town: Luton
 Birth County: Bedfordshire
 Residence(town/village): Luton
 Residence(county): Bedfordshire
 Offence: House Breaking and a 2nd charge of felony
 Committed By: Rev.W.McDonall and Dr.Bland
 Comments on Committal: recvd. 25th Nov fully committed 26th Nov. 1839
 When Committed: 26/11/1839
 Type of Gaol: Bedford County Gaol
 Sentence: Transportation for Life
 How Disposed: Put on board the Warrior
 Discharge Date: 13/01/1840

8 Jan 1840 Appears on the register of Hulks Warrior berthed at Chatham and Woolwich - Character – very bad.

22 Mar – 14 Jul 1840 Convict Ship Maitland - 618 tons. Departed Sheerness 22nd Mar 1840 under Captain Baker and Medical Surgeon Philip Toms (who kept a Medical Journal) bringing 303 male convicts. Arrived Port Jackson (Sydney) 14th July.

Samuel Gatward appears to have been one of at least 4 convicts arrived on the Maitland that were assigned to the area of Cassilis in the Upper Hunter Valley in NSW.

Cassilis is a pleasant little village of a hundred people which is located just off the Golden Highway on the Munmurra River at the top end of the Hunter Valley. It is 43 km north-west of Merriwa, 86 km north-east of Mudgee and 358 km north-west of Sydney. It was formerly known as Dalkeith and is in the County of Bligh and Police District of Cassilis.

All we know about Samuel Gatward was that he was assigned somewhere in the Police District of Cassilis. Research is continuing to locate the property.



Figure 1 Maitland Mercury Sat 19th Sept 1846

Gatesward (Gatward) Samuel	Maitland 1840	1846 19 September	Cassilis	MM
Obtained Ticket of Leave				

19 Sep 1846 Samuel had no record of any court appearances so he moved to the next stage of his confinement which was to receive his **Ticket of Leave** - A ticket of leave allowed convicts to work for themselves provided that they remained in a specified area, reported regularly to local authorities and attended divine worship every Sunday, if possible. They could not leave the colony. A convict was required to carry their ticket of leave at all times. It was only awarded to prisoners who had remained free from trouble and could be revoked.

Other Maitland passengers who obtained Ticket of Leave in Cassilis area:⁴

Green	John	Maitland 1840	1846 19 September	Cassilis	MM
Obtained Ticket of Leave					
Oliver	George	Maitland 1840	1846 15 April	Cassilis	MM
Obtained Ticket of Leave					
Phillips (Wheeler)	John	Maitland 1840	1844 26 October	Cassilis	MM
Obtained ticket of leave					
Pinner	John	Maitland 1840	1846 19 September	Cassilis	MM
Obtained Ticket of Leave					

Police district of Cassilis

New South Wales Government Gazette (Sydney, NSW : 1832 - 1900) Tue 21 Sep 1841 [Issue No.78] Page 1269 POLICE DISTRICTS, with a correction issued on 25th March 1845

30. CASSILIS.

Embracing the western portion of the County of Brisbane, and the midland and northern portions of the County of Bligh; bounded on the north from Mount Terrell by the Liverpool Range to Pandora's Pass; on the north west by the Coolaaburragundy and Erskine Rivers to the western boundary of William Lawson's grant; on the west by the crest of a range to a track leading from Guntawong to Cobra ; and on the south-west by this tracked road to Wildra Creek; on the south by Wildra Creek and a line bearing north-easterly to the source of the Goulburn River; and by the northern bank of this River to the eastern boundary of Mr Townsead's grant; on the east by the crest of the range dividing the valleys of Hall's Creek and the Werrendi and Gummum Waters to the Terrell Mount aforesaid.⁵

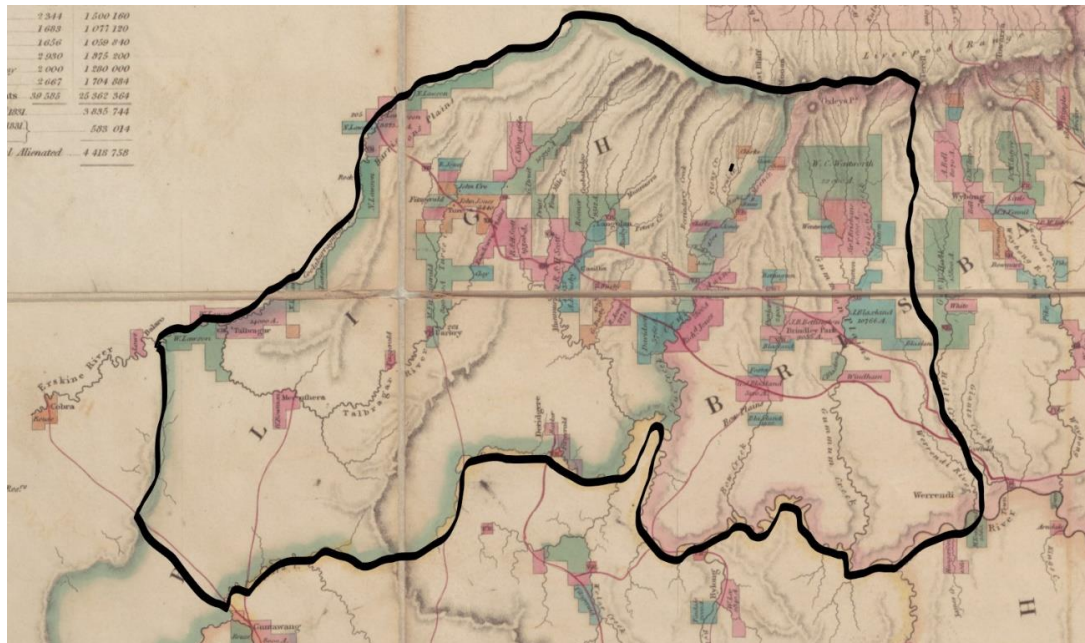


Figure 2 Map of Cassilis Police District taken from Robert Dixons map of NSW 1837

⁴ Source <http://www.jenwillets.com> Free Settler or Felon? 2003 – 2017 a site focussed on **Hunter Valley Ancestors** accessed 2016-2017

⁵ New South Wales Government Gazette (Sydney, NSW : 1832 - 1900), Tuesday 1 April 1845 (No.26), page 349

2 Jan 1852 the final stage of a sentence is the granting of a **conditional pardon**. This allowed convicts with life sentences freedom of the colony, but they were not allowed to return to the UK. Samuel Gatward was granted a conditional Pardon on 2nd Jan 1852 by NSW Governor Fitzroy. Samuel was aged 51.

Death - unknown

What happened to Samuel after he was granted the conditional Pardon?

He was now free to leave the Cassilis area.

It is possible that he would have headed to the NSW Gold rush which has started in 1850 and by 1852 was still raging.

A key centre for the gold rush was Hill end which was 100 miles or 125 km from the village of Cassilis.

In NSW Compulsory civil registration of births, deaths and marriages began in 1856.

Samuel's family in Luton

Luton is the largest town in the county of Bedfordshire. In the 19th century it was known for its hat making industry which dominated the town. It was a prosperous town where women as well as men could make a good living working within the cottage industry. The town grew strongly in the 19th century as industry dominated activity across the surrounding counties and was a driver of migration from farms. In 1801 the population was 3,095 and by 1850 it was over 10,000 and by 1901 it was almost 39,000.

Wife Sarah Dreamer

Possibly daughter of William Dreamer, she was baptised on 18 Sept 1801, Saint Mary Church, Luton

1851 Census shows Sarah and daughters living at 39 Langly St, Luton

- Sarah Head Married aged 49 Bonnet Sewer
- Kate (Catherine) Daughter Unmarried aged 28 Bonnet Sewer
- Lucy Daughter Unmarried aged 26 Bonnet Sewer

[Elizabeth got married in 1848]

Sarah died in March 1865 in Luton.

A marriage entry is recorded for Elizabeth Gatward in Luton in the Oct/Nov/Dec 1848 register – calculated age of 21. She married Thomas James Smith and possibly had 6 children.

A death entry is recorded for Elizabeth Gatward in Luton in the July/Aug/Sept 1853 register – calculated age of 26

A death entry is recorded for Lucy Gatward in Luton in the July/Aug/Sept 1856 register – calculated age of 31

1871 census shows Catherine Gatward living alone as head of household at 19 Windsor St, Luton aged 45 occupation Sewer.

A death entry is recorded for Catherine Gatward aged 67 in Luton in the April/May/June 1889 register.