

## William Barrett, 7009 and 10009, *Clyde*

Researched by Marcia Watson

Name variations: Barret, Barrot, Barrat.

William's father was Benjamin Barrett, born in Helland, Cornwall, in 1812, the son of Thomas Barrett and Thomasin Jenkin. At the Quarter Sessions on 3 April 1832, Benjamin was charged with "for want of Sureties to Indemnify the Parish of Lanreath in Bastardy". The woman had not yet given birth, and Benjamin was to stay in custody in Bodmin Gaol<sup>1</sup>; he was discharged on 3 July 1832. He was an apprentice to husbandry.<sup>2</sup>

Benjamin moved to Davidstow, where he met Ann Ham, born in 1819, the daughter of William and Elizabeth Ham of Davidstow. They married on 22 June 1835. Their first child, William Ham Barrett, was baptised on 18 May 1836 in Minster, Cornwall. A daughter, Amelia Ham Barret, was born on 30 April 1839 at a cottage called Screws in Davidstow; her father, Benjamin, was a labourer.

Later in the year, on 25 September 1839, Benjamin was charged with deserting his wife and two children and leaving them chargeable to the Parish of Pelynt. He was sentenced to one calendar month hard labour. It was his second time in Bodmin Gaol. Baby Amelia died on 17 January 1840 in the Liskeard Workhouse, aged six months of debility, the daughter of Ann Barrett.

Ann and her son William moved back to live with her parents in Davidstow. On the 1841 census, living at Screws, Davidstow, were:

William Ham 45, his wife Elizabeth 50; their children William 16, Elizabeth 14 and Catherine 13; their married daughter Ann Barret 25, a servant; and her son William Barret 5.<sup>3</sup>

In 1844, Benjamin was in Bodmin Gaol again on 28 November for wilfully refusing to maintain his wife and child, whereby they have become chargeable to the Parish of Pelynt. He was sentenced to one calendar month hard labour. Ann was pregnant and unable to support herself. She gave birth to an illegitimate son, Charles Alfred Dunstan Barrett, in the first quarter of 1845. Charles was baptised at Davidstow on 6 July 1845, and the parish register says, "Ann was living separate from husband". Charles died on 24 August 1849 at Screws in Davidstow; no cause of death was recorded.

Ann gave birth to another child, Amelia Jane Keast Barrett, baptised on 30 September 1849, and again, it says she is living separately from her husband. Tragedy struck in 1850 when Ann Barrot, 31, wife of Benjamin Barrot, labourer, died in childbirth at Helstone.

The 1851 census shows William living in the Parish of Davidstow, in the village of Trevivian:<sup>4</sup>

William Barrett, 14, who was born in Minster, was one of three labourers working for William Hocken, 36, married, a farmer of 157 acres.

His sister, Amelia or 'Melia' Barrott, 2, a pauper, was living with her grandparents William and Elizabeth Ham and their children William 26, a farm labourer, and Elizabeth 26, a pauper.

At some stage, the grandparents were unable to look after Amelia, so she was placed in the Union Workhouse at Camelford. She died on 14 May 1859, aged 10, of Whooping Cough and Phthisis of 5 months. Her grandparents, William and Elizabeth Ham, were paupers living in Tregoodwell Village, Lanteglos in 1861.

William's father, Benjamin Barrett, intended to marry Jane Puckey as the banns were read in September 1851. However, the banns were reread in 1858, and a marriage was registered. Benjamin and Jane, at this stage, had four illegitimate children, the eldest of whom was born in 1844.

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<sup>1</sup> Bodmin Gaol records on Online Parish Clerks, Cornwall

<sup>2</sup> Benjamin Barrett - Aged 20, 5ft 5ins, eyes grey, hair brown, complexion fresh, cannot read/write, single. 3 Scars on forehead & mark of a wound on left wrist.

<sup>3</sup> TNA, HO 107/140/4

<sup>4</sup> TNA, HO107/1898

Benjamin, a colt breaker or horse trainer, lived at Polperro, Cornwall, with his family. Benjamin and Jane had another seven children by 1870.

### **Convict William Barrett.**

At the Cornwall Summer Assizes, Bodmin, on 30 July 1852:  
WILLIAM BARRETT, 13, neither read nor write, an orphan, was charged on 27 July 1852 with having feloniously stolen a watch, chain, and key, the property of Owen Connor. He pleaded guilty and was sentenced to three months of imprisonment.<sup>5</sup> His mother was dead, but he was not an orphan. Although the records say he was 13, William was 16 years old.

The following year, at the Cornwall Lent Assizes, Bodmin, on 19 March 1853.  
William Barrett, 13, charged with stealing on 17 January, at St. Teath, a knife, the property of Edward James Reynolds, and a pair of shoes, the property of James Tonkin. The prisoner, at the time of the robbery, had been recently discharged from employ at Tregardock mine in St. Teath, and the articles stolen were the property of working miners and were taken from the changing house. The boy appeared to go to the changing house to get his own clothes, took Tonkin's shoes and clothes, and left his less valuable own. The prisoner asserted that being dark at the time, he had mistakenly made the exchange. Concerning the knife, no evidence was offered. Verdict — Not Guilty.<sup>6</sup>

The Bodmin Goal register:

William Barrett, 13, was a labourer. His abode or birthplace was Davidstow, late St Teath, and he was not employed in the gaol. He was acquitted of stealing a knife from E J Reynolds and a pair shoes from J Tonkin. The notes say, "Letter to Grandfather".<sup>7</sup>

Four months later, he was tried for a similar offence at the Cornwall Summer Assizes, Bodmin, on 25 July 1853:

William Barrett, 15, charged with having stolen on the night of Thursday the 7 July, at Tregardock Mine in the parish of St. Teath, a pair of trousers and a pair of drawers, the property of Simon Magor, and also a pair of braces and a pipe, the property of Joseph Tabb. The prosecutors were, at the time of the felony, miners working at Tregardock Mine, and their property was stolen from the changing house while they were at their work underground. The prisoner was found Guilty, and a previous conviction, on 30 July 1852, was proved against him of stealing a watch and other property. He was now sentenced to Seven Years Transportation; the learned Judge told him that he passed this sentence so that he could be placed in an establishment where he could benefit from reformatory discipline and gain a good character.<sup>8</sup>

Bodmin Gaol Register:

William Barrett, 15, labourer, abode or birthplace is Davidstow, employed on the treadmill while in gaol. He was sentenced to 7 years transportation.

Bodmin, 28 July 1853. (part of a letter)

My Lord,

I beg leave also to state that I have sentenced a boy named William Barrett, convicted of larceny at this place after a previous conviction of felony to seven years transportation with a view of recommending that he should be sent to Parkhurst. He is a ... (the rest of the letter has either has not been filmed or is missing from the Archives)

25766. William Barrett, 15, single, can read, labourer, was convicted on 25 July 1853 at Bodmin of larceny as a servant after a previous conviction. He was sentenced to 7 years transportation, and transferred from Bodmin Gaol to Millbank Prison on 13 December 1853. After two months, he was

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<sup>5</sup> Penzance Gazette, 04 August 1852, p3; TNA, HO 27; Piece: 99; Page: 158

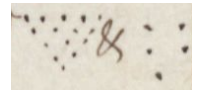
<sup>6</sup> Royal Cornwall Gazette, 25 March 1853, p7

<sup>7</sup> Bodmin Gaol, records on Online Parish Clerks, Cornwall

<sup>8</sup> Royal Cornwall Gazette, 29 July 1853, p7

sent to Parkhurst Prison on 13 February 1854. Two years later, on 5 March 1856, he was moved again to Portland Prison. Here, he was described as:

Aged 15, 5,3½ “, brown hair, dark hazel eyes, round face, fresh complexion, large scar on forehead, scar on the nose, slightly pock-marked, right little finger crooked, marked on the back of his left hand with dots in a triangle pattern. Presumably, he had tattooed himself and hence was right-handed. His father, Benjamin Barrett, a colt trainer, at Lansallos, Polperro. William was a labourer, Protestant and generally well-behaved, as he was listed as 1st class. He was discharged on License on 4 September 1856 from Portland, License No 6429.<sup>9</sup>



Then, at the Cornwall Epiphany Sessions, Bodmin, on 5 January 1858. William Barrett, 20, horse trainer, was found guilty of stealing, on 16 November last, at Bowden, in the parish of Lanlivery, a beaver hat and a chip hat, the property of Mr John Cory. A prior conviction was proved against him at the assizes in July 1853, when he was sentenced to seven years' transportation.<sup>10</sup>

At Bodmin Gaol:  
William Barrett, 20, single, horse trainer, abode of birthplace was Davidstow late Lanlivery, employed in gaol cleaning. Sentenced to 7 years transportation.

7806. William Barrett, 20, single, read and write imperfectly, a horse trainer, was charged with larceny after a previous conviction for felony at Lostwithiel in Cornwall on 20 November 1857. He was convicted on 5 January 1858 at the Bodmin Sessions and sentenced to 7 years transportation. He said his father was Benjamin Barret, a horse trainer at Polperro.<sup>11</sup>

William was in Bodmin Gaol for five weeks before being transferred to various prisons: Millbank on 12 February 1858; Pentonville on 8 March 1858, where he became a Catholic; Portland on 15 October 1858; left England on 21 November 1859 per *Sir John Lawrence* for Bermuda; on Tenedos hulk at Bermuda on 9 January 1860; then Boaz Island for almost 2 years. At Bermuda, he had severe attacks of colic; otherwise, his health was good.

He returned to England per *Sir George Seymour* on 27 September 1862 and went to Millbank Prison, then to Portsmouth on 15 November 1862, where he boarded the *Clyde* for Western Australia on 3 March 1863.<sup>12</sup>

William had spent 10 months and 29 days in separate confinement and four years, two months and 24 days on public works; his behaviour was good or very good.

William arrived at Fremantle on 29 May 1863.  
7009, 30, single, 5' 6", dark brown hair, dark hazel eyes, full face, sallow complexion, stout, a fitter and shot marks right arm, a scar on the forehead. A similar description to one taken in England, although he had grown nearly 3 inches.<sup>13</sup>

A month after arriving, he received a Ticket of Leave on 23 June 1863 and a Certificate of Freedom on 5 January 1866.

William married Maria Look/Looke in 1869 in Perth. Maria was the young girl whom Irish convict Philip Goodwin, 2276, attempted to rape in 1859 and was sentenced to 12 months. Their first two children were:

Amelia Ann, born on 16 June 1869, registered at Gingin.

Elizabeth/Eliza Ann, born on 27 April 1871 in Perth and died aged six months.

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<sup>9</sup> TNA, HO24/6; HO24/15;PCOM2/58

<sup>10</sup> Cornish Times , 09 January 1858, p1; TNA, HO27/119, p54

<sup>11</sup> TNA, PCOM2/109

<sup>12</sup> idem

<sup>13</sup> SROWA, Acc 128/1-32

Just before the birth of his second daughter, William was charged with stealing a horse at Guildford from Robert Wilson in January 1871. A newspaper account can be seen at <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/page/28522739>

In Fremantle Prison:  
10009. W Barrett, ex-convict, was convicted at the Perth Supreme Court on 6 January 1871 of horse stealing and sentenced to 7 years transportation. William was 39, married, could read and write, Catholic, and a Smith and Farrier. While in Prison, he received several short periods of bread and water for smoking in his cell, threatening the Master Smith and damaging Government property. On 19 November 1871 reported sick with crippled feet and received a pair of special boots.<sup>14</sup>

Maria was left with two children to support, although the baby died aged 6 months 1871.

On 30 April 1872, while in Prison, William, 40, received a kick from a horse in the right ankle and suffered much pain and was quite crippled. He was admitted to the hospital the following day and discharged on 21 May. On 29 July, he was admitted again; his ankle was still very painful, and he was lame. He was discharged to sedentary work on 24 December, still crippled but free from heat tenderness or swelling.<sup>15</sup>

His health problems continued when admitted to hospital on 8 June 1873 with Phthisis and discharged on 4 October 1873 to back into the Prison. For the past three months, he had been troubled with a cough and gradual emaciation. A respiratory murmur is feeble at the apex of both lungs, but no moist sounds are audible. He weighed 9 stone 8 lbs, but William said he weighed 11 stone 10 lbs months previous. Once his weight loss stabilised, and he was discharged back to Prison on 4 October 1873. He spent most of the latter few months of 1874 on the sick list with a cough. His ankle was still crippling him, and an elastic bandage was issued three days before his release to Ticket of Leave on 25 December 1874.

Maria Barrett, née Look, gave birth to Eva Lacy on 3 October 1873 at Perth, although the baby was baptised Maria Barrett<sup>16</sup> on 22 October in Perth. The father is named as Arthur Lacy, a sheep farmer. In January 1874, the following court case was mentioned in the newspaper:

Fredrick Lacey was summonsed to answer the complaint of Maria Barrett who charged him with, refusing to support his illegitimate child. Mr. S. H. Parker appeared on behalf of the defendant, and Mr. Dale the Officer in charge of the Poor House attended to watch the proceedings on behalf of the Government, The Bench ordered the Court to be cleared with the exception of parties connected with the case and reporters. After the mother had given her evidence and been subjected to a searching cross examination by Mr. Parker the case was adjourned until Saturday.<sup>17</sup> Around the same time, an Arthur Lacy was a witness in a high profile case of libel, Crowther v. Gray. Perhaps this is why the result of Maria's claim was hushed up and not reported in the newspapers; and why the wrong given name for the father (Fredrick Lacey) was reported.

William and Maria were reunited when William was released from Prison at the end of 1874. Cornelia Anna was born on 28 September 1875, but sadly, she died from anaemia on 2 August 1877. She is buried in East Perth Cemetery.

On 4 January 1877, he was committed for assaulting his wife and received six months hard labour. His previously granted privileges were revoked, and William was not to be released until his original and cumulative sentences were complete. What the Prison record didn't record was he was living with an underage girl:

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<sup>14</sup> SROWA, Acc 1156/CS15-16; Acc 1156/V10

<sup>15</sup> SROWA, Acc 1156/CS15-16, Acc 1156/M9-9A; Acc 1156/M32

<sup>16</sup> Possibly a mistake in the baptism register as the child was known as Eva.

<sup>17</sup> The Perth Gazette and West Australian Times, 30 Jan 1874, p3

WILLIAM BARRETT, Conditional Release Holder, Reg. No. 10009, by P.C. Lavery, on 3rd inst., at York; charged with violently assaulting his wife Maria Barrett. Sentenced, at York Police Court, on 4th inst., to six months' hard labor; also charged with a breach of Ticket-of-leave Regulations, by living in adultery with Jane Wilson, a girl aged 13 years. Judgment referred to His Excellency the Governor.

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On 23 October 1877, William was sent to Rottnest Island, returning the following year on 5 May 1878. He was discharged 'to freedom' on 7 May 1878.<sup>19</sup>

While William was in Prison, Agnes Cecilia was born on 25 July 1877. After his release, he and Maria had another daughter, Maude, was born in 1879 in York, and was buried in East Perth Cemetery on 16 February 1880.

The tumultuous relationship between William and Maria finally ended when this notice appeared in the newspaper in May 1880:<sup>20</sup>

I will not be responsible for any debts contracted by my wife, MARIA BARRETT, after this date, as she has deserted her home and children without any just cause whatsoever.

WILLIAM BARRETT

Witness – Amelia Ann Barrett, Perth 24 April 1880

From 1877 to 1886, various almanacs have a W. Barrett, blacksmith, living in York; he is possibly William. At some stage he moved further north, perhaps hoping the warmer and drier weather would help his lungs. He was said to have been suffering from Phthisis in 1873 when he was in prison.

Victoria Plains. A man named Barret was found dead in his room on the 27 November 1886, as he had been in ill-health for some time, an inquest was considered unnecessary.<sup>21</sup> His age was given as 57, although he was 51 years old.

### **Wife Maria Barrett née Look/e**

According to a newspaper report, Maria became the 'housekeeper' to ex-convict Richard Galloway at the beginning of March 1882. Richard Galloway lived in Beverley and charged Maria with larceny.

York Police Court, 5 October 1885.

Maria Barrett, was charged by Richard Galloway with the larceny of certain property. Richard Galloway being sworn, said—I am a dealer living at Beverley; Maria Barrett was my housekeeper. I left home on 19 September, to go to my farm at Moorumbine;<sup>22</sup> I returned on the 24th. Maria Barrett was left in charge. She had no authority to remove anything from my house; the house was closed when I returned; when I opened the house I missed some pompadour, and parasol. The parasol produced is my property; I also missed a brooch and a pair of earrings; I have another set for sale like those that were stolen. I also missed women's stockings, and a quantity of pompadour print. There are four pieces which I believe to be mine, a piece of blue striped print, some bleached calico, six towels, some unbleached calico, and a pair of sheets. I also lost an album (the one produced),

<sup>18</sup> Police Gazette, 10 January 1877, p3

<sup>19</sup> SROWA, CONS 1156/F2b; Acc 1156/R&R6A-7

<sup>20</sup> The Inquirer and Commercial News, 12 May 1880, p2

<sup>21</sup> Western Mail (Perth, WA : 1885 - 1954) View title info Sat 11 Dec 1886, p18

<sup>22</sup> Moorumbine is near East Pingelly, about 55km from Beverley.

three fancy dressing combs, and the crockery ware and bottle of oil now produced. The things produced were left in my house for sale by Mrs. Barrett. The goods were found in George Robbs tent about 1½ miles from Beverley; Mrs. Barrett was at the tent when I went.

By the Court—Mrs. Barrett has been my housekeeper 3 year and 7 months. I do not claim the photos with the Album. I had not given the Album to Mrs. Barrett, The property I have lost is worth £2, and I believe the property produced to be mine.

By the prisoner—I swear that the piece of pompadour belongs to me. I did not give you last April the parasol produced, nor did I give you the Album as a Xmas box.

Galloway continuing,—The prisoner- had no claim to anything unless it was made up, and then I allowed her to keep it, I told her she could make use of anything in the house for herself. I have always trusted Mrs. Barrett with money until last trip up country, when I took it with me. Mrs. Barrett did not purchase the calico and print in Mr. Monger's store in Berth. The calico produced has been in my possession for 3 years and 7 mouths. I have missed some money at times.

P. C. Dogherty being sworn, said—I received a search warrant from Mr Seabrook on the 5th inst., to search George Robbs place on the line. I executed the warrant. I searched for a quantity of articles, named in the warrant, supposed to be stolen by Mrs. Barrett from Galloway, who accompanied me. Prisoner was at the tent when I got there, and I found all the articles produced, Mrs. Barrett was living with Robb; she told me that she was going to leave Galloway and live with Robb. When I searched the hut the prisoner said she had got all the articles in the tent. Some of the things were in her box and some were on the bed where she was lying. She told me she had taken them from Galloway. I found at Mrs. Curtis's a piece of print which had been sold to her by Maria Barrett.

By the prisoner—You told me that Galloway had given you all the things except the calico, which you had sold in part payment for two goats. Galloway claimed all the articles produced as his property.

In defence the prisoner said that everything was given to her by Galloway excepting one piece of pompadour which she bought in Fremantle, the piece produced in Court being the same.

Sentence—14 day's imprisonment.<sup>23</sup>

The following year, 1886, Maria was raped. It is not known if she was still living with George Robb. A warrant was issued for 20 year old, Charley Walibun, a native of the Beverley district. At the trial at the Supreme Court in July:

Charlie Wallebun, an aboriginal native, was charged with having committed a capital offence upon a married woman named Maria Barrett at Everton Hill, near Moorumbine, about thirty miles from Beverley, on 11 June last. Mr Haynes defended the accused. The evidence, which was quite unfit for publication, was very strong against the accused, who was found 'guilty' and sentenced to death.<sup>24</sup> His sentence was commuted to life, and he was sent to Rottnest Island on 26 July 1886.

Maria married Richard Galloway on 12 December 1887 in York. Their daughter, Constance Galloway, was born in 1893 when Maria was about 44 years old.

At some stage, the family moved to Albany. Maria Galloway, 48, married, of Rolly [Rowley] St Albany, was admitted to the Albany Hospital on 28 November 1900 with debility, and discharged on 10 December 1900. Next of kin was noted as her daughter Mrs Prideaux, who had married in Albany in 1897. She appears on the electoral roll in 1910 in the same street as her daughter.

Richard and Maria appear to be living apart. He was on the electoral roll for Narrogin, a labourer, from 1914 to 1925, although he appears in the Narrogin Court in 1902 and 1904 charged with being drunk.

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<sup>23</sup> Eastern Districts Chronicle, 10 Oct 1885, p3; Police Gazette, 14 Oct 1885, p168

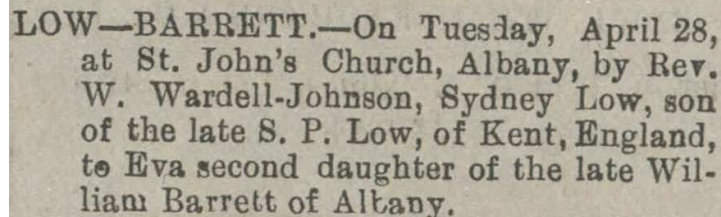
<sup>24</sup> The Daily News, 12 Jul 1886, p3, Police Gazette, June 1886, p108

On 25 April 1932, at North Fremantle, Maria, widow of the late Richard Galloway, formerly of Albany, and loving mother of Amelia (Mrs Broad, Moora), Agnes (Mrs L. Prideaux, Subiaco), and Constance (Mrs D. R. Marshall, Katanning); aged 85 years.<sup>25</sup>

### Surviving Children

Amelia Ann married widower Richard Broad at Newcastle in 1887. They lived in the Moora district. Richard's first wife died in 1882 when lightning struck their house at Round Hill in the Victoria Plains.

Eva Barrett married Sydney Low at Albany on 28 April 1896.<sup>26</sup>



LOW—BARRETT.—On Tuesday, April 28, at St. John's Church, Albany, by Rev. W. Wardell-Johnson, Sydney Low, son of the late S. P. Low, of Kent, England, to Eva second daughter of the late William Barrett of Albany.

Eva died in childbirth on 7 January 1903 at Ararat, Victoria, aged 28. Her daughter, Eva, died on 24 February 1903, aged 2 months in Albany. Sydney Low died in Victoria in 1939, aged 78.

Agnes Cecelia married Leonard Frank Prideaux at Albany in 1897. He was the son of convict Leonard Prideaux, who deserted his family and went to Adelaide and Melbourne before disappearing from the records. When her step-father, Richard Galloway, died in 1926, Letters of Administration were granted to her.

Constance Galloway attended schools in Albany in the early 1900s. She married Douglas Rae Marshall at Albany in 1914.

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<sup>25</sup> The West Australian, 26 Apr 1932, p1

<sup>26</sup> The Australian Advertiser, 5 May 1896, p2