

## 2.1 MARY ANN'S LIFE WITHOUT SAMUEL 1830 to 1837

Mary Ann gave birth to her son Stephen in late 1830 most likely around the time Samuel had been jailed for his participation in the riots at Heytesbury on 25 November 1830. They were married on 27 September 1830 and she was pregnant at that time.

Her son Stephen was christened at Sutton Veny near Heytesbury on 20 December 1830 while Samuel was awaiting trial. By 5 January 1831 he had been tried, convicted and sentenced to transportation to Van Diemen's Land for a seven year period. By 6 February 1831 his ship, the *Eliza*, had sailed and Mary Ann faced the daunting prospect of fending for herself and raising her son without any income or support. She was 18 years old at this time.

We know little about how she coped with this task. There are a few options that give us some idea of how she might have managed.

The first and most likely option is that she went home to her parents, Thomas and Grace Brown, at Sutton Veny. This seems the most likely option and some support is provided by the christening of Stephen at Sutton Veny rather than at Heytesbury where she and Samuel were married. However, the two places were quite close.

While lacking detail, there is also some support for this option from an 1831 Census of Sutton Veny.<sup>1</sup> The household of Thomas Brown is shown to contain 3 males and 2 females with 2 males being over 20 and employed as agricultural labourers or farm servants. This could indicate that Mary Ann was there as the second female to her mother and her infant child Stephen was there as a male under 20 with the other males being her father and her brother. The census does not prove the option but neither does it exclude it.

A second possibility is that Mary Ann stayed with Samuel's mother Deborah and her family at Heytesbury. In 1831 we know that Jane, David and Harriett were unmarried as they were unmarried in 1841 when they were living with Deborah by then a widow.<sup>2</sup> Her husband William died in 1837 and he also would have been living there in 1831. Add to this that there were other siblings Sophia and Obadiah making for a very crowded household and therefore a less likely possibility of occurring. Robert by this time was 22 and could have found his own lodgings but may well have also been there.

A third possibility that rather than being with Deborah or her own family Mary Ann was taken in by Samuel's siblings in a separate location to Deborah. This would not have been unusual in those times. Indeed it was expected that women in such circumstances, caused by death of their spouse or in this case transportation for an extended period, perhaps never to return, would be taken in and cared for by other members of the family.

In the case of Mary Ann a likely person to assist was Samuel's twin brother Robert and while this might not have happened immediately it seems that this ultimately occurred. In fact while Samuel was in Van Diemens Land Mary Ann gave birth to three more children.

In the first instance we are aware of the father because the child was christened and the father named. He was Robert, Samuel's twin brother. On 20 January 1834 Robert Harford was christened at Heytesbury and the parents were named as Robert and Mary Ann. Coincidentally, this was within a month of Samuel gaining his Ticket of Leave, a step closer to being a free man.

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<sup>1</sup> Sutton Veny 1821 & 1831 Censuses Wiltshire Parish Records No.27, Wiltshire Family History Society.

<sup>2</sup> 1841 Census

The birth year of 1834 is particularly intriguing because when the family applied to migrate to South Australia on 2 August 1837 they are shown in the Emigration Register with two children a boy (Stephen) age 7 years and a girl age 3 years. As we learnt later from the 1841 Census of Adelaide the child's name was Sophia.

The age of three implies a birth year of 1834 and with Robert already being christened in January probably meant that his birth was within a month of that event. If this were the case there is a very strong likelihood that Robert and Sophia were twins as Sophia could have been born after 2 August 1833 and probably December 1833 and still fit with her age in the Emigration Register. Because Samuel and Robert were twins it could be expected that either of them would have twin children.

We have not located a birth or Christening record for Sophia and if she and Robert were twins the question arises as to why both of them were not christened at the same time. Perhaps the answer is that Robert Jr. was christened quickly because he was in poor health and in danger of dying. He died at the age of 4 days and was buried at Heytesbury on 23 January 1834.

In her book on the Swing Riots Jill Chambers<sup>3</sup> (sourced from Jenny Carollo) notes that the baptism register for Heytesbury has an entry for 29 October 1835 for the baptism of Elizabeth, the base born daughter of Mary Harford. This could indicate that Sophia also had the name Elizabeth or that a second female child had been born in Samuel's absence.

The fact remains that Samuel and Mary Ann brought with them only one daughter. This means that the child born in 1835 was either not Mary Ann's or that she may not have survived long enough to make the journey to South Australia or that she stayed in England with her father.

While transportation was very difficult for the convicts, there is no doubt that the life of the spouse was especially difficult. The convict always had work and lodgings and was usually well fed and Samuel had his Ticket of Leave and virtual freedom to move around the colony (and others with permission) by April 1834. Mary Ann on the other hand was probably a Pauper with continual difficulties in feeding herself and at least one child. Her life without Samuel was probably far worse than he endured in Van Diemen's Land. These difficult circumstances were foreseen and mentioned by the sentencing judges at the Wiltshire Commission trials.

Samuel the ex convict returned from Van Diemen's Land between May 1836 and August 1837. He would have saved a small amount of money from his employment in the colony but he would not have had much to his name.

The likelihood is that Samuel on his return would have been very upset with Mary Ann's behavior in his absence not to mention the high probability that he would have been furious and outraged by Robert's involvement with her. Not surprisingly, Robert was not a name used by Samuel for any of his later children and neither did any of Samuel's children use the name for their children.

Given the circumstances Samuel would have wanted to leave Heytesbury and take, as a minimum, Stephen with him. Mary Ann would not have been expecting Samuel's return as he still had up to another 18 months of his sentence to serve. We doubt there would have been any correspondence between them given their low level of literacy. His arrival would have been a surprise. We do not know if Mary Ann was still in a relationship with Robert or another man and if so there could well have been some difficulty in finalizing it.

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<sup>3</sup> Wiltshire machine Breakers Vol.2 Jill Chambers

Given the potential complications, the time taken for Samuel to return, sort out his marital situation and then apply for free passage was about twelve months which in the circumstances was relatively short.

**Samuel** application for free passage to South Australia is recorded in the Register of Emigrant Labourers as No. 1294 on 4 August 1837. His place of residence is shown as Heytesbury, his age as 28 (this indicates that his birth was between this date and his christening on 12 November 1808) and his wife's as 24 with a boy aged 7 years and a girl aged 3 years. They had been allocated to the *Navarino* with Embarkation No. 676.

Register of Emigrant Labourers applying for a Free Passage to SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

No.	Application made to	Date of Entry	Name	Trade or Calling	Residence
1291	Superintendent	August 2	Henry Donnelly	Labourer	33 Pleasant Hill St. Sydney
1292	"	"	Thomas Moran	do	21 Street St. do
1293	"	" 4	Charles Collins	do & Gardener	White Meadow St. Richmond
1294	"	"	Samuel Hayford	Labourer	Heytesbury
1295	"	"	Mary de la Roche (widow)	Emp. & Cook	Wellbeck Street

**Emigrant Register left hand Side**

[See Regulations for the selection of Emigrant Labourers.]

Married or Single	Man's Age	Woman's Age	CHILDREN				* Charge for the Passage of the Children, by whom defrayed	REMARKS	Approved by the Commissioners	Embarkation No.
			Boys		Girls					
			No.	Ages	No.	Ages				
✓	27	"	"	"	"	"				
"	19	"	"	"	"	"	<i>St Navarino</i>	app.	675	
M	32	50	3	55-3 years	"	"				
"	28	24	1	7 years	1	3 years	<i>St Navarino</i>	app.	676	
✓	"	29	"	"	1	9 years	<i>do</i>	"	677	
M	29	24	"	"	"	"	(Cont) <i>St Mary Emma</i>	app.	678	

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