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## **Daniel BAUGHAN - Convict 717**

### **“His indeed was a sad end”**

From my dear brother  
Farewell my friends and parents dear  
I bid you all adieux  
With aching heart I write these lines  
I suffer much for you  
In sorrow I confess my faults  
and ever shall regret

To see my father weep for me  
I never shall forget  
My tender Mother sighed with grief  
Each sister shed a tear  
I am bereaved of all my friends  
No one my heart to Cheer

My tender father ever dear  
Bemoaned my wretched state  
He tried my liberty to gain  
But alas it was too late  
Now I hope these lines that I write  
Will give your hearts some ease

So breathe a prayer on my  
When I am on the seas  
I quickly shall be hurried hence  
And from you shall be driven  
And if we meet no more on earth  
Then may we meet in heaven

Daniel Baughan Leaving England 1851

"Oh yes" said my Mother's cousin, "We know all about him. His girlfriend stole from her employer- he got a handkerchief - and was transported as an accomplice". No one was sure when this had happened, or just how he was related, but the above poem, which had been handed down to her, gave me a starting clue. A few years later, the picture is a little clearer - and we have a rather different, and much more interesting picture, of the "innocent" outraged, and of his background. This particular innocent being my Grandfather's Great Uncle.

Daniel Baughan (pronounced "Boffin") was born in 1828 in the little hamlet of Armscot in the then south-eastern Worcestershire Parish of Tredington. His family seems to have been gradually decaying in wealth and social status - from farmers down to day labourers. His grandfather, another Daniel Baughan, had been a Farmer, Bailiff and Tenant of 80 acres of land in the village and open fields of Armscot. He was important enough to act as the trustee and accountant for the Parish funds that administered the open fields, and he and his wife still rest under a magnificent gravestone in Tredington Churchyard. His father,

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another Daniel, was a labourer and was excused from local Court duty on the grounds of "poverty". He is recorded as earning 6 shillings a week working for the same Parish funds administered by his father. Our convict Daniel, in his turn, was to earn his short living in England as a Shepherd and jobbing labourer.

The first record of his working life is as a small 9 year old boy watching the Parish sheep in the open fields - and earning 2 shillings a week for 20 weeks work. At the age of 13 he was earning 3 shillings a week at the same work. He must have had some sort of schooling for he learnt to write his name and read "imperfectly", but the hamlet was very small, only 900 acres - and as one of eventually 12 children to a poor labourer scratching a living, the priority was earning money.

In 1841, when he was 13 years old, the little family moved a mile south to another hamlet named Blackwell, which in 1851 had 234 people in 53 houses. They rented a cottage and garden at the south west end of the village for 2 pounds 2 shillings a year and settled down.

Another resident when they arrived was a 65 year old retired farmer named Thomas Gibbs. He was to die in 1865 and leave money bequests of some £4,340, plus 22 pieces of land in one village and 283 plots in various open fields. He lived in a small cottage with a succession of housekeepers next door to one of his sons and a large family.

In 1843, one of these housekeepers named Sarah Rigby became pregnant and was dismissed from her post. A common enough Victorian situation. Gibbs' house was a mere 500 feet from Daniel's own family home - and he was responsible. What went through their minds after this is impossible to say, but in October 1848 Mr. Gibbs realized that £101 18s 10d was missing from his bureau. Two and two were put together, enquiries were made, and Daniel was remembered paying off a bar bill at the Red Lion Beer House 200 feet from Gibbs' house. Then it was also remembered that he had bought a horse for £15.10s. in cash and he was arrested by the local constable three days after the discovery. He found on Daniel two skeleton keys which did open the bureau - but no money.

Three days later he was brought before the local magistrate, the Rev. Henry Townsend (a local landowner and Rector) and sent on for trial to the Quarter Sessions at Worcester in January 1849. His long journey was about to begin.

The formalities soon swept him away and by January 1849 he was costing the County Prison at Worcester some 6d. a day for "food, clothes, bedding and fuel". Before long he was to cost more in administration than the total amount he had stolen!

He was tried before local MP, Baronet and future Lord Hampton and Cabinet Minister Sir John Somerset Packington in the still extant Shire Hall court buildings in Worcester. He pleaded not guilty, but the argument of only receiving the stolen money didn't wash - and along with nine more (7%) of the prisoners at that sessions he was sentenced to transportation, in his case for 10 years. He was aged 21 years.

His Journey did not begin in a particularly grand style. The records show that the Governor of the prison had to hire a "Private Omnibus" to take Daniel and his eight fellow transports to the Railway Station as the Prison's own was in such a bad state of repair. At any rate, they reached Millbank Prison in London on the 22nd of January. Daniel was to spend seven months at this huge establishment which had been Britain's first purpose built Penitentiary in 1816. It was designed for a regimen of solitude, labour and a controlled diet for about six months - from whence the trained prisoner would then move to a public works establishment and transportation. Daniel's seven months here were uneventful, he apparently had

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no visitors and had 5 routine changes of cell, all faithfully recorded. Whilst here he received his formal notice of Pardon for his offence on condition of transportation for seven years. At this time, August 1849, that had to be to Western Australia.

He was then (7th August 1849) moved down the Thames a few miles to the floating Hulk "Justitia" at Greenwich. Ultimately, eight of the nine sentenced to transportation at Worcester with Daniel were to serve time on this hulk with him. He was to spend twenty-three months here, earning £3 6s. at Dockyard labour. His behaviour was surprisingly listed as "good" considering the appalling reputation the hulks had for vice, filth and crime. If the twenty-three year old shepherd had not met real criminals at Millbank, he would most certainly have done so here. During this time his sister Leah married back in Worcestershire - and the poem was supposedly written to his far off family.

Life on the hulks ended on 4th July 1851 when he was loaded onto the hired Transport Ship "Minden" off London. This two year old vessel had been built in Sunderland and was part of the merchant fleet owned by Mr. Duncan Dunbar of Limehouse, a fleet which ultimately carried a third of all transports to Western Australia. She was new and fast - having broken a record to Bombay on her maiden voyage. The next few years had seen her working the trade routes to India. This snappy vessel was 137 feet long in keel and 33 feet broad at her widest. She had a hold 23 feet deep, one covered deck seven feet high which acted as the prison, the surface deck, along with a poop deck at the stern. She had a gallery at the back, a lion figure head and three masts. When fully loaded some 459 people were to crowd into this small space!

She moved out of the Thames and westwards along the coast, first to Cowes near Southampton where prisoners from Parkhurst on the Isle of Wight and the Hulks at Portsmouth were loaded. Then on to Portland for the same, and finally to Plymouth on 14 July for final preparations. Here, her Captain, Robert Dawson Crawford and his crew of 41 men and apprentices readied the ship, prepared the 43 men of the Pensioner Guard with their 73 wives and children, and organized the 302 convicts on the lower deck. The surgeon, Dr John Rowland Gibson, began dealing with his sick cases, and the Religious Instructor, Augustus Barry, settled down to work.

They set sail for Western Australia on the 21st of July 1851. They were to take 85 days.

### **The route is known in some detail**

The only detail of the route that is known for certain is that during these twelve weeks they called in at Madras in India and took on a new crew member. The Surgeon's Journal provides more details of the movement through the tropics, in that some 48 people fell ill on the journey. The main infectious illnesses were, unsurprisingly, catarrh and diarrhoea - with a wide range of other conditions - from bruising to pregnancy of a Pensioner's wife. There were only 4 deaths on the voyage, one 26 year old convict of fever, one 14 ship's boy of dysentery and "brain fever" and 2 Pensioner children, aged 1 and 2 of colic and scrofula. To balance this there were two births at sea. Overall, therefore, health was good and conditions healthy.

Daniel's behaviour on board was listed as being very good, and he was apparently "zealous" in his activities as a superintendent of the school on board. What that says about his education is unknown, but he had taken on board a small box with pen and ink as his only listed possessions.

They reached the Gages Roads at Fremantle on the Swan River on October 14th, 1851. Events now moved routinely. The Comptroller General of Prisons visited on the first day and found that all was well.

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The Pensioner Guard and the Convicts wrote letters of thanks to the Surgeon for his treatment and "lenient punishments" and the crew and convicts began to disembark. The ship was soon to load up with horses for freight back to Madras, and was eventually to reach London in July 1852 after working her way through Cape Town making money for her owners on the return leg. Surgeon Gibson sailed for South Australia on the Louisa in December of that year, but Daniel Baughan, along with the 300 other surviving convicts, was left in a very new world.

He was described at this point as being "aged 23, 5'7" in height, light brown hair, grey eyes, long visage, fair complexion, healthy appearance, no marks, an unmarried Shepherd without children". He, along with most others, received his Ticket of Leave on the 24th of October, a mere 10 days after arrival. He had obviously been classified as being of good character, and was now, under supervision, out on the labour market in the expanding colony.

Sources record that he fulfilled his primary obligation to repay Government the cost of his shipment. He married in November 1853 In February 1854 he received his Conditional Pardon.

His wife, Caroline Morley, came from a prosperous family from Chittering. Her father, Henry, had been in the Colony for 23 years at the time of the marriage, and at one time employed 14 Ticket men like Daniel. How Caroline and Convict Daniel got together would be an interesting line of enquiry! Their first child Joanna was born at Upper Swan in June 1855 and died only in August 1948. Their second child William in January 1858 at Chittering, as was the third child Emma, born in March 1859. She was to die in 1936.

Up to this point Daniel had been living in the comparatively well settled Swan Valley, near to his wealthy and settled parents-in-law. Why did the little family took the tremendous jump of moving some 260 miles to the north, to the area around Geraldton, specifically to a property named Sand Springs which lay to the east. This area had only been opened to European settlement in 1852, and it was owned by George Sewell of Chittering, who had it cleared and worked long distance via Conditional Pardon men and their wives.

In January 1861 Daniel made a sworn deposition in a land dispute explaining that on the 6<sup>th</sup> April 1860 he arrived from the Swan to take up land belonging to Mr Sewell. He was to cultivate 40 acres for three years and was given a lease of 20,000 acres. He began to cultivate on the 12<sup>th</sup> June 1860.

He also had interests developing in the Kockatea Springs area, some 60 miles to the east, in areas still teeming with native people and land conflicts. In June 10<sup>th</sup> 1861 he applied for a lease at Bundear Spring near to Kockatea. In time he had three large leases in this area, one of 7,700 acres at Indarra Spring, costing about £7.14.0 a year, another 10,000 at West Kockatea and yet another 10,000 at West Bundear - the latter two costing a total of about £10.0.0 a year.

Their little family continued to grow, as Daniel Henry was born in October 1861 at Sand Springs. Up to this point Daniel had been described as a Farmer and Yeoman on all the certificates, although the Dictionary of Western Australians records that he worked as a Shepherd and employed a Ticket man himself. He seems therefore to have had reasonable employment and to have been doing well.

We can see no problems for him until April 1862 when his wife Caroline died of heart disease and the Police Inspector at Geraldton had to register the death in Daniel's absence. What can he have thought on return to find his wife dead and four small children? Family tradition records that he wrote to the Morley family, who found out about the death 14 days after the event. Caroline's 56 year old Mother, Sarah,

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quickly organized herself and set off on the long route north alone with a horse and buggy. It took her 9 days to reach Geraldton, organize the children, and bid farewell to Daniel. In the 1940's his 90 year old eldest daughter could still recall his sorrow at their departure. Was he ever to see them again? They made the journey safely, and although the youngest child died soon after, the two daughters settled well with their grandparents at Chittering and then Guildford - eventually marrying and producing families of their own.

What happened to Daniel after his children had moved away? It is difficult to say - he obviously continued working somewhere, but in December 1863 he married again, still saying that he lived at Sand Spring. He married Catherine Bridgeman, the daughter of Joseph and Catherine, a farming couple of Greenough. They had only been in the colony for four years and by now Daniel was an old hand, having been around for twelve long years.

At this stage my initial enquiries lost track of him, but recently, with the help of friends in the Western Australian Genealogical Society, his movements and fate have been revealed.

The year of 1864 was to prove traumatically violent in the area with increasing conflict between settlers and aboriginal people. Many shepherds on isolated stations lost their lives, and on 12<sup>th</sup> March 1864 a local diarist recorded “*Heard from him that Daniel Baughan got shot in the thigh*”. Then in March the Police in Geraldton summonsed a man at Daniel’s “outstation” after a journey of four days between the town and Daniel’s old and new stations. About 1<sup>st</sup> October another shepherd found in an aboriginal camp a “*kangaroo bag, containing articles as Government Gazettes etc, which they had previously stolen from D. Baughan's station, addressed to him.*” and articles appeared in the Perth papers appealing for more police protection in the area, quoting his station as a geographical location !

Three distinct sources create a picture of his death. Firstly, Daniel was reported missing in the Geraldton Police Records :

*18th August 1865 Pc. Heggarty, To the bush to try and find a man lost named Daniel Baughan - lost on Tuesday, 15th. Inst.*

Then secondly an interview conducted in 1973 with Mr. Tom Blayney of Eridu on the Greenough River in which he was talking about his Father's time,

*"Bawn... he and Harry Eaves were riding back across the sand plain and he had a dog with him, Baughan, well, they split up there, .. he was crossing down, well he was going to Sand Springs, but he thought to catch a kangaroo for the dog, and he started chasing, he had a pretty good mare, but she turned over and broke his hip, and it's coming on late, so he crawled into the river, with a broken hip, he got water there, he tried to cut his dog's throat with his knie, but he died at Ellendale, oh Christ yes, he broke his hip, he dug a hole and he was in it, with the water to try and cool the heat of it,"*

The third and most reliable source to date comes in further entries in the above mentioned diary, kept by Major Logue of Ellendale Station - which are so graphic that they are worth quoting in full:

*Saturday 19th August 1865. Heard ... that Baughan had got thrown from his horse near Lucky Well (or Hill) and broken his leg and had crawled or walked on shin(s) from there to the horse spring where Bob had found him and he and Green had gone out to fetch him home in the cart. The cart did not return till about midnight.*

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Sunday 20th. Baughan very restless and unable to sleep. Kept his leg well bathed and sent a policeman to look for (Dr.) Elliott, also sent young Bridgeman for Mrs Baughan.*

*Monday 21st. (Dr.) Elliott arrived about 2am and by (?Oil?) light we set and fixed his leg. (My) self sawing a part of the bone with a tennant saw by (Dr.) Elliott's directions. (Dr.) Elliott remained all day, went to the garden in the afternoon. Mrs Baughan came at night with her brother and is to remain with Baughan.*

*Tuesday 22nd. A lot of people from the (Greenough) Flats ... see Bau(ghan?).*

*Thursday 24th Sent Dougherty off for the Dr in the night as Baughan is worse and gangrene has set in in the foot.*

*Friday 25th (Dr.) Martin came about 10am and remained till after dinner but would not amputate the leg. Sent young Wells for Dr Elliott at night.*

*Saturday 26th (Drs.) Martin and Elliott amputated Baughan's leg above the knee. I fear he will not get over it.*

*Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> Basil Smith here, brother in law of Baughan*

*Monday 28th Baughan was taken very much worse at 8pm and sent for me. I read a prayer with him and got him calmed down a little. I fear he will hardly live the morning.*

*Tuesday 29th. Baughan no better this morning, has wors(ened).*

*Wednesday 30th Baughan died about 12 o clock noon.. Mrs Baughan and Mrs Smith went in our cart with Wells who is going for a load of flour to Maley's.*

*Thursday 31st (My) Self and Ellen rode to the (Greenough) Flats, got caught in a shower near Walkaway. Fine rain all afternoon and night. Got wet again coming back from Grey's. Met Mrs Baughan, her father, mother and brother in law all waiting for the arrival of the <sup>1</sup>funeral which is to take place his evening.*

The burial site confirmed in the Blayney interview which continues:

*" well, he's buried in the Greenough Cemetery, he died at Ellendale, ... died about 62 or 3, .... old Harry Eaves, there was some bricks and an old headstone, sort of thing, he said to me "do you know whose grave that is ? That's Dan Baughan's grave" .... in Greenough Cemetery, you could see it now if you went there, no nothing (on it).. "*

The "Enquirer and Commercial" of September 6th 1865, gives a further summary but also shows how information was subject to time lag when covering the huge distances involved.

*"Geraldton. A serious accident befel a man named Baughan while riding in the bush. He was thrown from his horse and broke his leg and it is said, altho very much injured, walked his way for miles till he was discovered and taken to a settler's homestead. Written at Geraldton Aug 28th 1865."*

The edition of September 13th, some 15 days after his death reports:

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"The poor fellow Baughan who met with the accident while hunting in the bush and whose leg was  
amputated the other day has sunk under it and expired. His indeed was a sad end."*

Indeed !

As always, all the errors in this account are mine - and will be gratefully corrected for anyone who wishes to point them out. I have full references and acknowledgments if anyone wishes to see or use them. Does anyone know how I can track him down further?

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