

George Best 1214

- Born: 1758, Sussex England
- Christened: 28 Aug 1791, On board the 'William and Ann' on way to Australia as a convict
- Marriage: Martha Chamberlain on 17 Sep 1797 in St Johns Anglican Church, Parramatta, Sydney, NSW Australia
- Died: 3 Jul 1836, Castle Hill, Sydney, NSW Australia at age 78
- Buried: Jul 1836, St Johns Church of England Cemetery, Parramatta, Sydney NSW Australia

General Notes:

George Best was convicted at Maidstone, Kent, on the 15th March 1790 for stealing a watch. He was sentenced to death but this was later changed to transportation for life, he arrived in New South Wales on the 28th August 1791 on board the "William and Ann". George spent his early years in the colony on a prison farm at Toongabbee where he became overseer and seedsman, after only five years of service he was granted a pardon on the 1st May 1797.

George's wife Martha was also a convict who had arrived on the "Indispensible" in May 1796, they married in 1797, and settled on a 30 acre grant along Seven Hills Road which was purchased in the early 1920's for the construction of the Masonic homes, this building is still being used by community groups in the district.

George and Martha raised a large family, all born in wedlock and all soundly educated. Although uneducated themselves they sent some children to a boarding school in Sydney and engaged private tutors for the others. Such luxuries were possible because George was one of the most successful farmers in the colony.

In 1832 the family had established a pastoral station on the south bank of the Murrumbidgee River where Wagga Wagga now stands, working it in conjunction with the properties at Seven Hills and Yass. This station along with others in the area in 1835 were in trouble for illegal "squatting" because the region was beyond the Nineteen Counties, the "limits of location" prescribed by Governor Darling in 1829.

George also participated actively in the life of the colony, as a leading emancipist he gave evidence before the Bigge Commission, 1819-21, and returned to England in 1823 on the schooner "Sally" to give further evidence.

Records show that when George died in 1836 he owned 3155 acres, some at Seven Hills and the rest in the Yass district.

Noted events in his life were:

- source. Lee-Anne Kenane @ genes
- fact. George Best was born in 1757. He was a farmer in Sussex, England. On 24 November 1789 he burglarised the home of William Cheeseman the Elder in East Peckham, Kent, and stole a watch, its case, chain and key as well as a steel seal. The indictment against George Best records that he was a labourer of the Parish of East Peckham, however, a contemporary newspaper reported that George Best had to be brought by a writ of habeas corpus from Surrey to face the charges laid against him in Kent. George Best was tried at the Lent Assizes in Maidstone, Kent, in 1790 and sentenced to death. The sentence was commuted to transportation for life. Martha Chamberlain was indicted for stealing various items of clothing about 10:00pm on 23 May 1795 from the room of John Cox at 22 New Compton Street, St Giles, London. Her accomplice, John Jones, was also indicted. Martha Chamberlain was committed to Newgate Goal and tried at the Old Bailey, 1 July 1795. Martha was sentenced to transportation for seven years. John Jones was also transported. George Best arrived in Sydney 28 August 1791. By 1793 he had become the

taskmaster/overseer at the Government Farm at Toongabbie. In 1796 he received his first grant of land, 30 acres at Toongabbie. In 1797 George Best became the father of a son by Martha Chamberlain, a convict who had arrived in Sydney 30 April 1796. George and Martha were married on 17 September 1797. George Best received a conditional pardon in 1800 and an absolute pardon in 1804. The 1828 census shows George Best as holding 805 acres, of which 70 acres were cultivated. He also owned 19 horses, 340 cattle and 1,140 sheep. In 1832 he appears to have been running an Inn in his home at Toongabbie. Martha Best nee Chamberlain died 14 March 1833 and George Best died 3 July 1836. They are buried together in the burial ground of St John's, Parramatta. Transported for life arrived 1791 aboard the William and Mary. Convicted at Maidstone Kent 1790

George married Martha Chamberlain on 17 Sep 1797 in St Johns Anglican Church, Parramatta, Sydney, NSW Australia. (Martha Chamberlain was born in 1778 in London England, christened in May 1796 on board the 'Indispensible' (Convict), died on 14 Mar 1833 in Seven Hills, Sydney, NSW Australia and was buried in Mar 1833 in St Johns Church of England Cemetery, Parramatta, Sydney NSW Australia.)

Martha Chamberlain 1214

- Born: 1778, London England
- Christened: May 1796, On board the 'Indispensible' (Convict)
- Marriage: George Best on 17 Sep 1797 in St Johns Anglican Church, Parramatta, Sydney, NSW Australia
- Died: 14 Mar 1833, Seven Hills, Sydney, NSW Australia at age 55
- Buried: Mar 1833, St Johns Church of England Cemetery, Parramatta, Sydney NSW Australia

Noted events in her life were:

- source. Lee-Anne Kenane @ genes
- fact. Transported for 7 years aboard the Indispensable aged 21. Convicted 1.07.1795 middlesex london See Notes for George Best.

Martha married George Best on 17 Sep 1797 in St Johns Anglican Church, Parramatta, Sydney, NSW Australia. (George Best was born in 1758 in Sussex England, christened on 28 Aug 1791 on board the 'William and Ann' on way to Australia as a convict, died on 3 Jul 1836 in Castle Hill, Sydney, NSW Australia and was buried in Jul 1836 in St Johns Church of England Cemetery, Parramatta, Sydney NSW Australia.)

Robert Holt Best 1214

- Born: 27 Aug 1812, Castle Hill, Sydney, NSW Australia
- Marriage: Clara Brien on 26 Dec 1836 in St Johns Anglican Church, Parramatta, Sydney, NSW Australia
- Died: 26 Sep 1853, "Flowerdale" Wagga NSW at age 41
- Buried: Sep 1853, "Flowerdale Private Cemetery" Wagga NSW

Noted events in his life were:

- Baptism, 27 Sep 1812, St Johns Church of England, Parramatta, Sydney, NSW Australia.
- Robert married Clara Brien, daughter of Daniel Brien and Mary Ann Parker (Alias Wilcox), on 26 Dec 1836 in St Johns Anglican Church, Parramatta, Sydney, NSW Australia. (Clara Brien was born on 10 Nov 1821 in Seven Hills, Sydney, NSW Australia, christened on 2 Dec 1821 in St Philips Church of England, York St, Sydney, NSW Australia, died on 6 Sep 1900 and was buried in Sep 1900 in "Flowerdale Private Cemetery" Wagga NSW.)

Clara Brien 1214

- Born: 10 Nov 1821, Seven Hills, Sydney, NSW Australia
- Christened: 2 Dec 1821, St Philips Church of England, York St, Sydney, NSW Australia
- Marriage (1): Robert Holt Best on 26 Dec 1836 in St Johns Anglican Church,

Parramatta, Sydney, NSW Australia

- Marriage (2): Edward Charles Pearson on 4 Dec 1856 in South Wagga Wagga, NSW Australia
- Died: 6 Sep 1900 at age 78
- Buried: Sep 1900, "Flowerdale Private Cemetery" Wagga NSW

General Notes:

Records show Clara's husband Robert was one of the Murrumbidgee's first settlers, in 1832 he took up a run which he called "Wagga Wagga". Wagga means a crow, and Wagga Wagga means many crows. His back station was called Sandy Creek. Clara and Robert with family moved to Wagga Wagga in 1847, they were flooded out by the big flood in 1852, and they then built "Flowerdale", which may still be seen beside the road leading south to Albury. Records show most of the family are buried in a private cemetery on the property at Flowerdale.

In 1856 Clara remarried a Edward Charles Pearson at the private residence of Frederick Anslow Tompson (C.P.S.) in South Wagga Wagga. Edward is also buried at Flowerdale.

Noted events in her life were:

- Baptism, 2 Dec 1821, St Philips Church of England, York St, Sydney, NSW Australia. Clara married Robert Holt Best, son of George Best and Martha Chamberlain, on 26 Dec 1836 in St Johns Anglican Church, Parramatta, Sydney, NSW Australia. (Robert Holt Best was born on 27 Aug 1812 in Castle Hill, Sydney, NSW Australia, died on 26 Sep 1853 in "Flowerdale" Wagga NSW and was buried in Sep 1853 in "Flowerdale Private Cemetery" Wagga NSW.) Clara next married Edward Charles Pearson on 4 Dec 1856 in South Wagga Wagga, NSW Australia. (Edward Charles Pearson was born in 1825 in Portsmouth, Hampshire England, christened on 18 Nov 1833 on board the 'Edward Caulson', died on 18 Dec 1887 in Sandy Creek, Wagga Wagga, NSW Australia and was buried in Dec 1887 in "Flowerdale Private Cemetery" Wagga NSW.)