

CAHTERINE WADE & HER FAMILY

by

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Catherine Wade, (not to be confused with a Catherine Wade from Esperance, Tasmania) John's Wade's widow, was a capable woman. John, her husband, who arrived as a convict with David Collins in 1804 had died in 1829. For early colonial standards he had done quite well. Now that he was gone, it had been left to Catherine to manage the land and the family alone, like so many pioneering women. She was not daunted by the problems placed before her as a widow and the mother of a large family. By all accounts she appears to be a rather forceful and dominating woman, certainly very much the matriarch of the family. It is probably the reason why her boys, John and George and three daughters, left Tasmania never to return.

Catherine was daughter of Catherine Clark, who had settled with Richard Morgan (they never married) at Kangaroo Plains; indeed were the first settlers on the eastern shore, having arrived in October 1806 from Norfolk Island. The solid barn at Rosny belonged to the Morgan family.



The Moran Barn, Rosny. 2020. Erected (circa) 1813. Reg Watson photo.

Catherine Morgan was born on Norfolk Island and married John Wade Feb 21, 1808 by pioneer priest, Rev Bobby Knopwood. They lived on the property *Kidbrook*, now in Sorell.

In August 1829, soon after the death of her husband, she applied for an additional grant of land at Pitt Water, stating that she possessed 300 acres by grant and 600 acres by purchase. She had capital to the value of 1,656 pounds and 15 shillings with which to develop her property. She listed fully all her implements and other particulars of buildings, fences, etc, erected. Her oldest boy was then fourteen

years of age and she had a free overseer on the land. The application was referred to the Land Board and their recommendation was that she should be granted an additional 500 acres. This recommendation received the sanction of the Lt Governor Colonel George Arthur. Suzanne Lester, authoress of *"Spring Bay Tasmania"* (Chapter four) states, "*Catherine Wade born on Norfolk Island of convict parents and married to John Wade of Pittwater, claimed in 1829 the 500 acre Ryton, Prosser Plains as an original grant. " Ryton is described in the same book as being located at Buckland. (to quote)"Cornelius Driscoll, a solicitor, resumed the grant in 1847 to clear legal difficulties in the settlement of the property of Catherine Wade. Catherine Wade was born on Norfolk Island in 1790 to convicts parents and came to Van Diemen's Land in 1806. After her successful application for a grant of 500 acres at Prosser Plains her husband died in 1829. She was a woman of standing and competence and managed the family farm at Pittwater and the new grant."*

Catherine died on July 2, 1877 in Launceston (34) The Examiner report stated:

"Mrs Wade, a very old resident died under rather singular circumstances at her residence in Balbour Street on Monday evening. She would not have anyone in the house with her, although she had been in bad health for some time past and receiving treatment as an outpatient at the hospital. About 4pm on Monday one of her relatives after knocking some time forced the door open and found Mrs Wade lying on the floor in a very exhausted state.

"She was quite insensible and said she fell out of bed on the previous Saturday and had been lying on the floor since unable to rise or call for assistance loud enough to be heard.

"She was replaced in bed and medical assistance obtained but she died about 7pm.

"Mrs Wade was nearly 90 years of age and we believe had been over 70 years in Tasmania having come from Sydney with her parents to Hobart Town shortly after settlement of the colony.

"It has not been considered necessary to hold an inquest."

There are reports that Catherine married twice after John's death; firstly to Thomas Hill 11th August 1840 at Holy Trinity, Hobart and secondly to James Moodie or Mudie, 25th October 1843, in Hobart. Yet, the news report quoted above, describes her as "*Mrs Wade*". I tend to think that the latter marriages are of another Catherine Wade.

John and Catherine's children were:-

Catherine (1809); Ann (1811); Mary (1813) John (1815) Henry William (1817) George (1818) Margaret (1822) and James (not sure of birth date).

Ann married on the 23rd August 1832, to John Robinson. They were married in St David's Cathedral, Hobart. Witnesses were John Wade of Sorell (obviously John Wade junior) and Sophie Smith of Kangaroo Point. The Rev. Bedford performed the ceremony. John Robinson was a member of the crew of the "*Bee*". Apparently there was a dispute among the crew and when it sailed again on the 1st September 1831, John was not on board, having parted company. Ann and John went on to have nine children.

George was born in 1818 and with brother John, left Tasmania in the year 1840 for Wellington, New Zealand. Tragically George drowned the following year during a shipwreck in Cook Strait near Pari-Pari, aged 23 years and presumably unmarried.

Henry William was born 1817, died in Sydney in 1894 and never married. It was recorded that he was living at "*Kidbrook*" in 1842.

John Junior, as we learnt, left with brother George in 1840, bound for New Zealand to Kaikoura County. John stayed in that country becoming involved with the whaling industry. He with brother George imported cattle and horses from Tasmania as well as six sets of whaling gear.

John Jnr married Mary Ann who died in Wellington, the following year of consumption, aged 22 years. John obviously married again for he went on to have a reasonably large family. "Wadestown" a suburb of Wellington is named after Wade. John became an alderman of that New Zealand city. Meanwhile, John Junior, in 1849 moved to California to partake of the gold rush and died in San Francisco in 1885. The newspaper, *San Francisco Call*, referred to him as a lawyer by profession. His life before 1840 is of interest. By 1835 he had come of age, and being the eldest son, inherited the uncultivated part of his father's farm. He soon argued with the Board of Assignment when they refused him convict help. In 1837 he argued with the local government respecting the conduct of District Constable Laing. Wade claimed that Laing's drunken habits rendered him unfit to perform his duties. He instanced several occasions when Laing had neglected his duty being too drunk. The Government was inclined to believe that Wade's charges against Laing were the results of private quarrels. However, the matter was referred to the Police Magistrate, William Breton, of Richmond. The matter seems to have passed into oblivion.

John Jnr also had an address at 74 Liverpool Street, Hobart. (source Lands and Surveys Department). His children were: Margaret bn New Zealand, 1846; John bn N.Z. 1847, civil engineer and surveyor; Ann Wade bn 1848; George Wade bn N.Z. 3/March 1848; William Wade bn Calf. 1856; Catherine (Kitty Bn Calf. 1858; Janet (Nettie) bn Calf. 1860; Lucy bn. Calf. Dec 1863; Emily Bn Calf. Oct 1865; Beatrice Bn. Calf. 1868; Elizabeth (Elsie) Bn. Calf 1870 (adopted).

JOHN WADE JUNIOR'S New Zealand career warrants some mention. In 1842 he was elected an Alderman of Wellington. He was the "*first native of an Australian colony who has arrived at that honor.*" (Colonial Times 8th November 1842 P.3.C.5). "*On this occasion he was chaired and carried through the town, with a band playing 'see the conquering hero comes' which shows the estimation in which he is held in his adopted land. Mr Wade has married in New Zealand and his success in business has been very great; he ranks A1 as an Auctioneer, and is proprietor of five whale fisheries.*"

No male line of the Wade's is to be found in Tasmania after 1840.

Mary, born 1813, married Feltham Bold Watson, but she died in 1861; whereupon Feltham married her spinster sister, Margaret, who was born in 1822. A third sister married into the Watson family, that of course being Catherine, born 1808. She married Brereton Rolla Ross Pembelton Watson.

John Wade senior had married Catherine Morgan. As John Wade had come to Tasmania with the first permanent settlement in 1804, his father-in-law, Richard Morgan had come to Australia to New South Wales on the first fleet when it reached Botany Bay on the 18th January 1788 under the command of Captain Arthur Phillip. His wife (although it appears they did not marry), Catherine Clark was a Second Fleeter.