

Lesley Potter (M.A., B.Th.)

Midwives who worked in Sydney and the Hawkesbury, NSW 1788-1900

My research involves discovering who the midwives were who lived and worked between Sydney and the Hawkesbury, NSW from 1788 to about 1900. My particular focus is both the details of their personal story and their midwifery practice.

I am a retired registered nurse and midwife. Midwifery was the particular kind of nursing that I loved and I worked as a midwife for about forty years predominantly at Westmead Hospital. However, I have always been interested in history and literature and since retirement I have time to pursue my passions. Currently these are focused on the history of the early colony particularly concerning midwives and midwifery practice. I also have many other interests as a member of Randwick Soroptimist Club, The Gogos and Mamas Group (supporting Grandmothers in Sth Africa), swimming and golf to name but a few.

If you have information on any of the midwives listed below or can add names to my list please contact me to share information: catch63@bigpond.net.au

List of NSW Midwives

Convict Midwives:

Date of Arrival

Sarah ARCHER nee BURDO *	1788 [other spelling = burdoo, purdue, berdo]
Anne COLPITTS	1788
Phoebe NORTON	1788
Elizabeth BARNSLEY*	1790
Ann BURKE	1791
Ann REYNOLDS	1791
Margaret CATCHPOLE*	1801
Esther WELLS	c1819
Elizabeth SCOTT	1824
Mary CONNOLLY (conolly)	1828
Sarah Ann TEMPLETON nee SCOTT	1828
Elizabeth DONOHUE	?
Ann JONES	?
? Sarah MELON alias Fishburne	1831 [prisoner ? if convict]

Free Women

[A] women who arrived in the Colony in an effort to join their convict husbands.

Sarah COBCROFT *	1790
Elizabeth TURNLEY*	1829

[B] Bounty midwives: women who immigrated to Sydney

Mary Ann NEALE* (widow)	1835
Anne McLEOD* (widow)	1837
Elizabeth WHITE (married)	1837
Mary McDUGALL (widow)	1838
Charlotte SCOTT (widow)	1838
Mary McLEAN (widow)	1840

Catherine WARD (with family) 1840
? Sarah Ann HOPKINS* 1849

[C]Midwives who came free

Jane SIMS 1811
? Mary JONES c1822 [4 x mary Jones – 2nd Fleet]
? Jane MOIR 1823
Honora CROWLEY 1835 [Barbara Ellis – descendent]
Catherine WARD* 1840
? BATTERSHILL c 1874
Gertrude GISSING 1883 (trained in NSW)

[D]midwives who were born in NSW

Mary Ann GILKERSON nee CROWLEY 1832 – 1908 [Barbara Ellis – descendent]
Kathleen RUDD nee GILKERSON ? “ ”
Ann Gardiner nee Clarke 1842 – 1929 [Braidwood]
Susan FRANCIS 1877 – 1946
Emma Jane CALLAGHAN (Indigenous) 1884 – 1979

[E]*Unknown origins*

Hannah LISSON 1814 (muster)
Mary WHITE 1814 (muster)
Ann JONES c1820's
? McARTHUR c1824?
Mary MUMFORD ? 1830ish
Elizabeth DONOHUE c1839
Mary BIGHORN c1840's
Mary ROLLINS c1840'S
? FIELDS c1844
? MITCHELL from 1854
? WEEKES (or Weeks) from 1854
? COOPER clate 1850's
? SNOW c1865
? HARLE c1858
? ROWLINGS c1874
M. FULLAGAR c1902
Frances JENNINGS ?

[F]*Foreign Born*

Madame de SAINT REMY (French midwife) c1857