

*Bridget Kearney*¹
(*uxor Bridget Wheeláon, Bridget Blackmore*)

<i>Place Tried</i> Co. Kildare	<i>Date Tried</i> 3 January 1849
<i>Offence</i> stealing a cow	<i>Sentence</i> 7 years
<i>Prosecutor</i> Mr Kidd, Kildare	<i>Previous Convictions</i> 1 – stealing a cow (6m), drink (3d)
<i>Gaol Report</i> middling	<i>Surgeon's Report</i> bad
<i>Station of Gang</i> Anson	<i>Class</i> 3 rd from 6 February 1850
<i>Other Information</i> 6 months on the town	

<i>Religion</i> Roman Catholic	<i>Literacy</i> neither read nor write
<i>Marital Status</i> single	<i>Trade</i> country servant
<i>Age</i> 21 ^a	<i>Native Place</i> Co. Roscommon
<i>Height</i> 5', 4' 11"	<i>Complexion</i> fresh, fair
<i>Head</i> round	<i>Hair</i> brown, dark
<i>Visage</i> round	<i>Forehead</i> high
<i>Eyebrows</i> dark	<i>Eyes</i> blue
<i>Nose</i> medium	<i>Mouth</i> large
<i>Chin</i> round	<i>Marks</i> face freckled, burn mark on right arm
<i>Family</i> father Pat; mother Peggy; brothers Pat, John & Thomas; sister Catherine	

16 April 1849	Received at Grangegorman Depot, Dublin at 10am. ²
5 August 1849	Put on <i>Australasia</i> sick list for a scald (off 11 August, cured). ³
3 January 1851	Contracted as PPH to Lazarus Levy, Murray St, Hobart, 12m at £8 pa. ⁴
10 February 1851	Absconded from the service of Mrs Brown, Fitzroy Place, Hobart. ⁵
11 June 1851	Tried at Hobart PC, brought up from 10 June on remand to make inquiry as to her service, ^b charged with absence without leave from the service of Mrs Brown, Fitzroy Place, Hobart from 9 February until 9 June when apprehended in the Government Domain, Hobart & falsely representing herself to be a free woman; sentence 4m HL, Cascades FF, being her first offence in the colony, recommended to be hired in the interior being a country servant. ⁶
2 July 1851	Charged at Cascades FF with breach of regulations; case dismissed. ⁷
3 July 1851	Charged at Cascades FF with breach of regulations; sentence to remain in separate apartments. ⁷
5 August 1851	Charged at Cascades FF with being noisy in ward; admonished. ⁷
19 August 1851	Charged at Cascades FF with disorderly conduct; sentence 2d SC & not to be employed on any billet. ⁷
2 September 1851	Charged at Cascades FF with singing in the yard; discharged. ⁷
29 September 1851	Charged at Cascades FF with quarrelling at mess table; admonished & remanded to E division. ⁷
13 October 1851	Charged at Cascades FF with disorderly conduct; sentence 48h bread & water. ⁷
10 January 1852	Illegitimate son John Kearney born at Cascades FF. ⁸
2 April 1852	To Cascades FF, Hobart. ⁵
16 August 1852	Charged at Cascades FF with improper conduct in church; sentence to be kept in separate apartment on Sunday next. ⁷
18 August 1852	To Queen's Orphanage, New Town, then to Cascades FF. ⁵
21 January 1853	Charged at Cascades FF with disorderly conduct, breach of regulations & profane language; sentence 14d SC, punishment dress & hair cut. ^{5,9}

^a Age given as 25y on *Australasia* sick list.

^b Until enquiries were made, her service was unknown.

10 February 1853	To R Usher, New Norfolk. ⁵
5 April 1853	Absconded, having received a pass from her master R Usher of Back River for the New Norfolk PO where she did not arrive. ¹⁰
19 April 1853	Ticket-of-Leave granted. ⁵
10 May 1853	Application for permission to marry Robert Wheeldon, FS (<i>Isabella</i> 2) (approved 11 May). ¹¹
June 1853	Mustered in Huon district, resident with Mr Jackson, North West Bay. ^{c,12}
6 June 1853	Married as 25y, servant, spinster, to Robert Wheeldon, 40y, sawyer, bachelor, ^d at St Joseph's RC Church, Hobart; witnesses Thomas Walker & Eliza Walker (nee Mullam, <i>qv</i>). ¹³
December 1853	Mustered in Huon district, resident with Grey, North West Bay. ¹²
3 February 1854 ^e	Son Thomas Wheeldon, sawyer's child, born at North West Bay; baptised 17 March 1854 at St Joseph's RC Church, Hobart; ^f sponsors John Kelley & Mary Vesey. ¹⁴
June 1854	Mustered in Huon district, resident at North West Bay. ¹²
December 1854	Mustered in Huon district, resident with husband at North West Bay. ¹²
8 December 1854	Tried at Kingborough PC, housewife, with husband Robert Wheeldon, labourer, charged with disturbing the peace at North West Bay on 4 December; fined 5s each, fines paid. ¹⁵
13 March 1855	Husband Robert Wheeldon, labourer, tried at Kingborough PC charged with being drunk at North West Bay on 12 March; fined £1 with 5s to informant. ¹⁶ Tried at Kingborough PC, housewife, charged with misconduct as a prisoner of the Crown in making use of obscene language & being out after hours on 12 March; sentence 1m HL, Cascades FF; sentence remitted vide petition with A King. ^{5,16}
19 March 1855	To Cascades FF, then to infirmary. ⁵
22 March 1855	To Cascades FF, Hobart. ⁵
June 1855	Mustered in Huon district, resident with husband at North West Bay. ¹⁷
3 January 1856	Free by servitude.
9 January 1856	Certificate of Freedom sent to Kingston. ⁵
12 March 1857	Daughter Margaret Wheeldon born in Franklin district; baptised 15 August 1857 at Port Cygnet; sponsors Patrick Carney & Catherine Carneys. ^{18,19}
27 March 1859 ^h	Son Robert Wheeldon born in Franklin district; baptised 17 April 1860 at Port Cygnet; sponsors William Casey & Margaret Virgoe (nee Behan, <i>qv</i>). ^{18,20}
c1861	Son William Wheeldon born (not baptised). ¹⁸
12 October 1862	Son Barclay Wheeldon born in Franklin district; baptised 12 February 1865 at Port Cygnet; sponsors Thomas Carney & Catherine Carney. ^{1,18,21}
3 February 1864	Husband Robert Wheeldon charged at 6:30pm at Franklin PO with being drunk & disorderly in a public place at Dover on 3 February; detained till 9:30pm, fined 10s. ²²
16 October 1864	Daughter Catherine Wheeldon, sawyer's child, blind, born at Folkstone; baptised 12 February 1865 at Port Cygnet; sponsors Thomas Carney & Catherine Carney. ^{1,18,23}
3 March 1865	Husband Robert Wheeldon sawyer, charged at 6:30pm at Huon PO with being drunk & disorderly in a public place at Dover on 3 March; property of a knife; fined 10s. ²⁴
August 1866	Family moved from Port Esperance to Hobart. ¹⁸

^c Residence also given as Browns River.

^d Robert stated he was married – wife Millicent – when transported.

^e Date given as 28 January 1855 on Queen's Orphanage application and 28 January 1854 on baptism record.

^f Queen's Orphanage application stated baptised RC by Revd Murphy at Browns River.

^g Bridget's name was given as Bridget Carney on the baptism record, so the sponsors are likely to have been her brother (or father) Patrick and her sister Catherine. A Patrick Kearney arrived free on the *Reindeer* on 25 November 1855, but no Patrick Kearney arrived as a convict. A Catherine Kearney arrived on the *Lady Kennaway* on 30 May 1851 as the wife of a military pensioner. Neither Catherine Kearney transported on the *Greenlaw* nor Catherine Kearney transported on the *Earl Grey* was Bridget's sister.

^h Date given as 27 March 1858 on baptism record.

ⁱ These sponsors may also have been relatives of Bridget. Thomas could have been her brother (not the convict Thomas Kearney transported on the *Cadet* 1) and Catherine her sister.

3 September 1866	Husband Robert Wheeldon admitted to Hobart Hospital. ^{18,25}
23 September 1866	Husband Robert Wheeldon, 44y, ^j sawyer, died of granular degeneration of the kidneys at Hobart Hospital. ²⁶ Resident at Lower Collins St, Hobart. ²⁶
1 October 1866	Application for children Barclay Wheeldon, 4y, Catherine Wheeldon, 2y, Margaret Wheeldon, 8y, Robert Wheeldon, 6y, Thomas Wheeldon, 10y, & William Wheeldon, 5y, to be admitted to Queen's Orphanage, New Town; father dead (Robert, William & Barclay admitted 16 October ^k). ¹⁸
January 1867	Daughter Catherine Wheeldon, 2y, died at Hobart Hospital; buried 5 January at St David's CE Cemetery, Hobart. ²⁷
1 September 1868	Application for son Robert Wheeldon to be removed from Queen's Orphanage; permission denied. ¹⁸
13 November 1868	Tried at Hobart PC charged with being drunk & disorderly in a public street on 12 November; fined 5s or 24h SC. ²⁸
24 May 1869	Married as 36y, widow, to Charles Blackmore, 58y, labourer, widower, at the residence of Revd JW Simmons, Elizabeth St, Hobart; witnesses RG Gray & Eliza Pretty. ²⁹
1 December 1870	Sons William Wheeldon, 9y 2m, & Robert Wheeldon, 11y 8m, employed as general workers under outdoor inspector, weeding, cleaning paths, etc at Queen's Orphanage, New Town. ³⁰
26 May 1871	Tried at Hobart PC with Catherine Franklin charged with feloniously receiving on 15 May 2 dresses, value 15s each, & other articles, value £2 in all, property of John Duig; sentence 4m HL; formerly resident at Hobart (discharged w/e 27 September). ³¹
29 January 1872	Son Thomas Wheeldon, labourer, 16y, native, RC, died of typhoid fever at Hobart Hospital; buried by friends. ³²
1872	Applied for release of sons William & Barclay Wheeldon from Queen's Orphanage, New Town. ³³
9 March 1872	Son Robert Wheeldon apprenticed to Peter Quinn, Jerusalem (apprenticeship expired 18 March 1877). ³⁴
6 June 1873	Application from James Robertson to have sons Barclay & William Wheeldon apprenticed to his service in Hobart; application to stand over in anticipation of a change in the apprenticing of children from the asylum. ³⁵
20 August 1873	Son William Wheeldon apprenticed to Rupert Dutton, Windermere, East Tamar. ³⁶
5 June 1874	Application for transfer of son William Wheeldon as an apprentice from Rupert Dutton to Medmer L Goodwin (transferred 8 September). ³⁶
August 1874	Application from husband Charles Blackmore for discharge of son Barclay Wheeldon presented to Queen's Orphanage Board (refused 11 September). ³⁷
27 November 1874	Apprenticeship of son William Wheeldon re-transferred to Thomas Wooten ^l (apprenticeship expired 1 July 1878) (approved 4 December on recommendation of Mr Mason). ³⁶
20 October 1875	Son Barclay Wheeldon, 13y, apprenticed to Denis Riley, Franklin as a general servant (apprenticeship expired 1 November 1880). ³⁸
6 April 1876	Son Robert Wheeldon, whilst apprenticed to Peter Quinn of Spring Hill Bottom, appeared at Richmond PC charged with driving a dray along the cross-road between Colebrook & Spring Hill Bottom after sunset on 29 March & before sunrise on 30 March without carrying a light; fined 5s & costs, in default 14d HL. ³⁹
13 September 1877	Committed for trial at Glenorchy PC for feloniously receiving. ⁵
14 September 1877	Admitted to Campbell St Gaol from Glenorchy PO under police escort awaiting trial. ⁴⁰

^j Age at death given as 52y in Purtscher, *Deaths at General Hospital Hobart*.

^k Date given as 18 October 1866 in *Report of Royal Commission into Charitable Institutions*.

^l Name also given as John.

- 27 November 1877 Tried at Hobart SC with Robert Douglas & Charles Burgoyne charged with having burglariously entered the house of George Pierce at New Town & stealing certain articles therefrom on 2 September, also with receiving certain articles, knowing them to be stolen; acquitted.⁴¹
- 2 November 1878 Tried at Bothwell PC, formerly resident at Hobart, charged with larceny; sentence 3m (2m & 1m) HL, Campbell St Gaol (admitted 6 November, discharged 1 February 1879).⁴²
- 6 November 1878 Arrived at Glenorchy PO under police escort from Bothwell on way to Campbell St Gaol.⁴³
- 12 February 1879 Arrived at Pontville PO from Bothwell under police escort; sentence 3m imprisonment.⁴⁴
- 13 March 1880 Charged at 10:25pm at New Norfolk PO with being drunk & disorderly, fined 5s, fine paid.⁴⁵
- 31 March 1880 Charged at 2pm at New Norfolk PO with being drunk & incapable; fined 5s, fine paid.⁴⁵
- 16 February 1882^m Daughter Margaret Wheeldon married Joseph Edward Balmforth at St David's CE Cathedral, Hobart.⁴⁶
- 31 July 1887 Son William Wheeldon married Eliza Barnes at York St Baptist Manse, Launceston.⁴⁷
- 23 June 1888 Son Robert Wheeldon married Eliza Davis at St Paul's RC Church, Oatlands.⁴⁸
- 28 February 1891 **Died** of senility in Oatlands district, 60y, farmer's wife.⁴⁹
- 15 June 1891 Son Barclay Wheeldon married Lavinia Jane Mansfield at Franklin.⁵⁰
- 15 September 1892 Husband Charles Blackmore, 82y, sawyer, died of senile debility at New Town Charitable Institution; buried in pauper section, Cornelian Bay Cemetery, Hobart.⁵¹



^m Margaret's step-father Charles Blackmore was a witness.

References

- ¹ AOT, CON 41/24 *Australasia* No.368 (Bridget Kearney); AOT, CON 19/8 *Australasia* (Bridget Kearney); AOT, CON 15/6 *Australasia* No.101 (Bridget Kearney); NAI, Prisons 1/9/4 No.1773 (Bridget Kearney)
- ² NAI, Prisons 1/9/4 No.1773 (Bridget Kearney)
- ³ AJCP, ADM 101/6 *Australasia* Sick List (Bridget Kearney)
- ⁴ AOT, CON 30/1 p.328 (Bridget Kearney)
- ⁵ AOT, CON 41/24 *Australasia* No.368 (Bridget Kearney)
- ⁶ AOT, LC 251/2 (Bridget Kearney)
- ⁷ AOT, CON 138/1 (Bridget Kearney)
- ⁸ AOT, RGD 33/4 1852/1063 Hobart (John Kearney)
- ⁹ AL&MFA, Beattie Papers, Record Book Women's Punishments 1852–1854, p.95 (Bridget Kearney)
- ¹⁰ *Hobart Town Gazette*, 19 April 1853 p.329 (Bridget Kearney)
- ¹¹ AOT, CON 52/6 (Robert Wheeldon & Bridget Kearney)
- ¹² AOT, POL 379/1 pp.130, 132 & 140 (Bridget Kearney)
- ¹³ AOT, RGD 37/12 1853/734 Hobart (Robert Wheeldon & Bridget Kearney)
- ¹⁴ AOT, RGD 33/5 1854/640 Hobart (Thomas Weldon); AOT, NS 1052/8 p.224 (Thomas Weldon)
- ¹⁵ AOT, LC 304/2 p.53 (Robert Weldon & Bridget Weldon)
- ¹⁶ AOT, LC 304/2 p.66 (Robert Weldon & Bridget Kearney)
- ¹⁷ AOT, POL 379/1 p.41 (Bridget Caerney)
- ¹⁸ AOT, SWD 26/9 (Thomas, Margaret, Robert, William, Barclay & Catherine Weldon); AOT, SWD 27/1 (Thomas, Margaret, Robert, William, Barclay & Catherine Weldon)
- ¹⁹ Purtscher, *Father John Murphy's "Saddlebag" Records* (Margaret Weldon); CCMA, FRA1 p.15 (Margaret Weldon)
- ²⁰ Purtscher, *Father John Murphy's "Saddlebag" Records* (Robert Weldon); CCMA, FRA1 p.30 (Robert Weldon)
- ²¹ CCMA, FRA1 p.60 (Barkly Weldon)
- ²² AOT, POL 377/1 p.67 (Robert Weldon)
- ²³ AOT, RGD 33/42 1865/640 Esperance (female Welding) ; CCMA, FRA1 p.60 (Catherine Weldon)
- ²⁴ AOT, POL 377/1 p.67 (Robert Weldon)
- ²⁵ Purtscher, *Deaths at General Hospital Hobart* (Robert Weldon)
- ²⁶ AOT, RGD 35/7 1866/6403 Hobart (Robert Weldon)
- ²⁷ AOT, RGD 34/2 1867/2392 (Catherine Weldon)
- ²⁸ AOT, LC 247/33 (Bridget Blackmore)
- ²⁹ AOT, RGD 37/28 1869/252 Hobart (Charles Blackmore & Bridget Weldon)
- ³⁰ AOT, HA 1871 No.63 p.4 (William Wheeldon & Robert Wheeldon)
- ³¹ AOT, POL 709/2 pp.91 & 157 (Bridget Blackmore); *The Mercury*, 27 May 1871 p.2 col.5 (Bridget Blackmore)
- ³² AOT, RGD 35/8 1872/748 (Thomas Weldon); Purtscher, *Deaths at General Hospital Hobart* (Thomas Weldon)
- ³³ AOT, SWD 53/1 (Mrs Blackmore late Wheeldon)
- ³⁴ AOT, SWD 32/1 (Robert Wheeldon)
- ³⁵ AOT, SWD 53/1 (Barclay & William Wheeldon)
- ³⁶ AOT, SWD 32/1 (William Wheeldon); AOT, SWD 53/1 (William/Wm Wheeldon)
- ³⁷ AOT, SWD 53/1 (Barclay/Barcklay Wheeldon)
- ³⁸ AOT, SWD 32/1 (Barclay Wheeldon); AOT, SWD 55/30 (Barclay Wheeldon)
- ³⁹ AOT, LC 445/3 (Robert Wheldon)
- ⁴⁰ AOT, POL 259/1 (Bridget Blackmor); AOT, GD 41/1 (Marge Blackmore alias Weldon)
- ⁴¹ AOT, RGD POL 709/2 p.195 (Margaret Blackmore); *The Mercury*, 28 November 1877 p.3 col.6 (Bridget Blackmore)
- ⁴² AOT, CON 105/1 No.6843 (Bridget Blackmore); AOT, RGD POL 709/2 pp.23 & 181 (Bridget Blackmore); AOT, GD 41/1 (Bridget/Brid Blackmore)
- ⁴³ AOT, POL 259/1 (Bridget Blackmor)
- ⁴⁴ AOT, POL 21/1 (Bridget Blackmore)
- ⁴⁵ AOT, POL 510/3 pp.11 & 13 (Bridget Blackmore)
- ⁴⁶ AOT, RGD 37/41 1882/205 Hobart (Joseph Edward Balmforth & Margaret Weldon)
- ⁴⁷ AOT, RGD 37/46 1887/635 Launceston (William Wheldon & Eliza Barnes)
- ⁴⁸ AOT, RGD 37/47 1888/821 Oatlands (Robert Wheldon & Eliza Davis)
- ⁴⁹ AOT, RGD 35/60 1891/599 Oatlands (Bridget Blackmore)
- ⁵⁰ AOT, RGD 37/50 1891/143 Franklin (Barclay Wheldon & Lavinia Jane Mansfield)
- ⁵¹ AOT, RGD 35/13 1892/1502 Hobart (Charles Blackmore); SRCT CB Pauper Section A No.533 (Charles Blackmore)