

The Extraordinary Faulkner's
Tale One – from England to Australia

[Deborah Faulkner](#)

b c1818 Anslow Staffordshire England

[George Faulkner](#)

b 1839 Walsall Staffordshire England

[Edmund Faulkner](#)

b 1842 Walsall Staffordshire England

Their journey from Staffordshire England to Victoria Australia
(This tale includes reference to family members: The Bates)

The Players:

- Deborah (Ann) Faulkner** b c1818 Anslow, Staffordshire England,
bap 10 June 1818 Rolleston, Staffordshire England
died 23 January 1856 Collingwood, Victoria Australia
daughter of Thomas Faulkner & Ann Allen of Anslow Staffordshire England
- George Faulkner** b 15 May 1839 Walsall Staffordshire England
bap 9 June 1839 St Matthew, Walsall Staffordshire England
died bet 1879-1903 probably Stawell, Victoria Australia
son of Deborah (Ann)Faulkner
- Edmund Faulkner** b March 1841 Walsall Staffordshire England
bap 11 April 1841 St Matthew, Walsall Staffordshire England
died unknown
son of Deborah (Ann)Faulkner
- John McLeod** b c1825 Scotland
married Deborah (Ann) Faulkner 9 February 1852 in West Derby, Lancashire England
- Mary Faulkner** b 31 May 1811 Anslow Staffordshire England
bap 9 June 1811 Rolleston, Staffordshire England
died 14 March 1900 Normanton-Le-Heath, Leicestershire England
daughter of Thomas Faulkner & Ann Allen of Anslow Staffordshire England
sister to Deborah (Ann) Faulkner
married Joseph Bates in 1831 Anslow Staffordshire England
- James Bates** b 4 January 1832 Anslow Staffordshire England
bap 3 February 1832 Cat Street Baptist, Burton-on-Trent Staffs England
died 22 December 1905 Prahran, Victoria Australia
son of Mary Faulkner & Joseph Bates
nephew of Deborah (Ann)Faulkner
cousin of George & Edmund Faulkner
- Joseph Bates** b c1838 Anslow Staffordshire England
died 27 October 1874 Richmond, Victoria Australia
son of Mary Faulkner & Joseph Bates
nephew of Deborah (Ann)Faulkner
cousin of George & Edmund Faulkner

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Tale One – from England to Australia

Setting the scene:

Deborah Faulkner was baptised in June 1818 in Rolleston and was born in Anslow, Staffordshire England to parents Thomas Faulkner and Ann Allen. Deborah was the younger sister of Mary Faulkner, first born child to Thomas Faulkner and Ann Allen.

Deborah's children were George Faulkner born in Walsall, Staffordshire England in May 1839 and Edmund Faulkner born in Walsall, Staffordshire England in March 1841.

Mary Faulkner was my 4th Great Grandmother and she married Joseph Bates in 1831, Anslow Staffordshire. Deborah Faulkner was my 4th Great Aunt and her two children George & Edmund Faulkner my 1st cousins, five times removed.

Unfolding the story:

Deborah Faulkner was unmarried at the time of both boys' births, and we are left to wonder if they shared the same father, which is possible given that she was living on independent means in the census of 1841, in Walsall, Staffordshire, calling herself Ann Faulkner, age 20¹ with sons George age 2 and Edmund age 3 months.² It is possible that Ann was her middle name or that she took the name of her mother for disguise of her situation.

On their baptism records, Deborah Faulkner was recorded as the mother of both these boys, and there was no father listed. Both children were baptised at St Matthews Church, Walsall. It is possible that the boys' father was supporting Deborah. For example, her sister Jane Faulkner is found in the Union Workhouse in 1851 with three illegitimate children and obviously had no external means of financial support. This would have been Deborah's fate if someone had not proved worthy of assistance to her and the two boys. (Jane Faulkner's children eventually moved to live with a number of her sisters but Jane's fate is unclear).

In order to further verify our findings, it is important to note that there was no other George Faulkner or Edmund Faulkner born close to this time in Staffordshire who meet our requirements.³

In the census of 1851 we find a Deborah Faulkner living in Great Crosby, West Derby Lancashire. She was working as a housemaid, age 32 and reported herself born in Anslow Staffordshire. Also working in the same household was John McLeod, age 26, Farm Bailiff, born in Scotland.

There is a marriage record for Deborah Faulkner and John McLeod in 1852. The marriage certificate reports Deborah's father as Thomas Faulkner, Labourer. I found no records (to date) of a Deborah Faulkner or McLeod after 1852 in Great Britain.

Deborah (Ann) Faulkner left Walsall after the census of 1841, presumably because she was no longer being supported financially. It appears that her sons George and Edmund went to live with family while she found herself employment elsewhere. It is interesting to note that she moved districts in order to find that work. Perhaps because she had been known as Ann and needed to dissociate herself with being an unmarried mother. Presumably, her independent means was no longer available to her. We do not know who her benefactor was, but given the ordinary existence of her working class family, we may make the presumption that it was the father or her children.

¹ Actually age abt 23

² Noted as 3 months old, but in fact about 3 weeks old

³ There was a George Faulkner born Stafford and living in Walsall much later but he is not of this line

The Extraordinary Faulkner's
Tale One – from England to Australia

In the Census of 1851 we find George Faulkner age 13, noted as born in Walsall and working as a servant in Brunstone, Staffordshire. We find Edmond Faulkner age 10, noted as born in Anslow, living with Deborah's sister and husband: Joseph Bates and Mary Bates née Faulkner - my 4th Great Grandparents. Also living with them was Ann Faulkner née Allen who was Mary and Deborah's mother and was widowed by this time.

It is possible that both George and Edmund went to live with Joseph & Mary Bates in Anslow. The Bates male children were also living and working elsewhere by the ages of 13 and this is why Edmund, age 10 was still at home but George was employed elsewhere, deemed capable of earning his own living by that age.

The Immigration

Joseph Bates and Mary Bates née Faulkner had three sons: Thomas Bates (my 3rd Gt Grandfather who moved to Wales); James Bates and Joseph Bates.

James and Joseph Bates immigrated to Melbourne Victoria on the postal ship *Lightning* in 1855. They listed themselves as farmers. Travelling with them was George Faulkner aged 16, also a Farmer and Edmund Faulkner aged 14.

Four cousins made the adventurous decision to sail to Australia.

But what assisted their decision? Gold had been found in Victoria and many people from Great Britain immigrated during this time. There were pamphlets and leaflets. There was a thirst for adventure. It was probably a mixture of all. Perhaps Deborah sent them letters, full of the wonder of Australia, for Deborah had been there for two years by the time her sons' immigrated.

Following the adventures of the Faulkner and Bates cousins, we come across information that confirms that c1853, John McLeod & Deborah McLeod née Faulkner sailed for Victoria Australia.

In 1856 we find a death record in Victoria, Australia for one Deborah McLeod. The informant was John McLeod and also listed were her two children: George Faulkner and Edmund Faulkner.

Deborah McLeod née Faulkner died of a fever at age 40⁴, her father was listed as Thomas Faulkner and it is noted that she had been born in Staffordshire England, and that she had been in Australia for 3½ years. We can only imagine the hardship, courage and adventure Deborah Faulkner faced in her lifetime.

From this point on we can follow the lives of both Bates boys, Joseph and James (separately researched and written) and also of George Faulkner and his marriage, his children and his life.

To date, we cannot trace either John McLeod or Edmund Faulkner further in Victoria Australia and it is likely that both man and boy moved to different States within Australia. The search continues and there are a number of research avenue to follow.

⁴ Deborah would have been aged abt 42

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Tale One – from England to Australia

George Faulkner
Staffordshire England to Victoria Australia

On 29 November 1860 George Faulkner married Mary Casey in Prahran, Victoria Australia. Mary Casey was born c1833 in Ireland. In order to set forth on a new life, George notes on his marriage registration that his parents were John Faulkner and Mary Bates and that he was born in Wasal, Staffordshire (no doubt a registrar's spelling error –Wasal for Walsall). Remember that his brother Edmund, and probably George himself ,had lived with Joseph & Mary Bates from just after 1841 to c1851. John Faulkner was his mother Deborah's brother. A new life, a new family – why not fabricate his parentage in this new world? His Mother Deborah had died 4 years earlier, and perhaps also, is brother Edmund.

George and Mary name their first child Edmund Faulkner and their third child Deborah Ann Faulkner.

The children of George Faulkner & Mary Casey:

Edmund Faulkner	b 1861 Collingwood Victoria Australia
Elizabeth Faulkner	b 1864 Stawell Victoria Australia
Deborah Ann Faulkner	b 1866 Stawell Victoria Australia
William George Faulkner	b 1868 Stawell Victoria Australia
Mary Jane Faulkner	b 1870 Stawell Victoria Australia
Martha Emily Faulkner	b 1873 Stawell Victoria Australia
Arabella Faulkner	b 1876 Stawell Victoria Australia

During his life in Stawell, George Faulkner's occupations were: Gardener, Market Gardener, Orchardist, and Vineyard & Garden Lease Owner.

On 27 Jan 1872 Pleasant Creek News (Stawell) reported that George Faulkner had taken on the lease for Vineyard and Gardens at Concongella Creek, Stawell. I believe this vineyard was established in 1866.

The Extraordinary Faulkner's
Tale One – from England to Australia

On the same date, George Faulkner placed an advertisement in the *Pleasant Creek News* :

**Concongella Gardens
George Faulkner**

Respectfully informs the residents of Stawell and neighbourhood that he has taken on lease the VINEYARD and GARDENS, at Concongella Creek, lately occupied by Mr W. ELDER. The Gardens contain every variety of FRUIT TREES, while the Vineyard is the Most Extensive in the District. As a place of resort for

Pleasure and Recreation,

It is unequalled in the neighbourhood of Stawell.

Mr W. Campbell's Conveyance leaves the Western Turf Hotel for the above place every Sunday Afternoon at 2 o'clock

Courtesy of Stawell Historical Society Inc
– with grateful thanks for their assistance in my research

The Extraordinary Faulkner's
Tale One – from England to Australia

The after-effects of the four Cousins' immigration –Faulkner & Bates

It appears that George Faulkner effected the most solid and prosperous livelihood of all the four young men that immigrated together on the Lightning in 1855, certainly within the initial twenty years. After this time, both Bates & Faulkner survivors created their own prosperity as time evolved.

Edmund Faulkner's history is yet to unfold as is that of his step-father John McLeod.

James Bates married Nancy Clark (born c1825 Ireland). Together they had four children. Two sons died in infancy and their daughter died aged 20, leaving only their son Joseph Bates to carry on the name.

Joseph Bates married Elizabeth Mullender (born October 1829 in Wolverhampton, Staffordshire) and together they had seven children. Joseph Bates died in 1874 age 36; Daughter Eliza died in 1874; wife Elizabeth Mullender died in 1881 age 47; their daughter Mary died two days earlier.

Their first child, Joseph Bates born 1861 became the head of the family at the age of 13 and was the informant on the majority of Birth and Deaths in his family and was witness to his sibling's marriages. What happened to Joseph? We lose track of him after 1888. His story is yet to be found.

The majority of deaths to both Bates families were caused by Phthisis – Consumption/Tuberculosis.

See separate research on both James Bates and Joseph Bates in Victoria, Australia.

If you belong to either the *Faulkner* or the *Bates* family line, I hope you will contact me.
I have further information on both family lines in Australia and United Kingdom.

Coming soon...

The Extraordinary Faulkner's
Tale Two: Staffordshire England

Please note: Information given is current at time of release.
Further updates will be recorded as found and this paper replaced.

“To forget one's ancestors is to be like a brook without a source, a tree without a root”
Chinese Proverb