

## **Bio: Mary Ann Cameron Wylly**

Pamela Hutchison Garrett, 2018

Mary Ann Cameron Wylly was born 1808 in Nassau, Bahamas, the daughter of William Wylly and Matilda (or Martha) Mathews. She probably grew up at the Wylly family home outside of Nassau, New Providence, Bahamas. It is known that some of her brothers were educated in England, and it seems possible that Mary Ann and her sisters also spent time there.

Mary Ann Wylly was married to Benjamin Bayly, on the West Indies Island of St Vincent, in the town of Kingston, 2<sup>nd</sup> November 1826. This is where her older sister, Harriet Wylly Beresford was living. Benjamin Bayly was born 1797 in the county of Tipperary Ireland, the son of Rev Henry O'Neale Bayly and Anne Penelope Grueber. As a younger son of a large and prosperous family, Benjamin Bayly joined the 21<sup>st</sup> Regiment of the Royal North British (Scots) Fusiliers. The outline history of this regiment during the post Napoleonic period provides a clue to the movements of Benjamin Bayly and Mary Ann Wylly:

*The 21st Foot . . . served in the West Indies and Demerara (Guyana) from 1819 to 1827. This included dealing with an insurrection in the Maihaca District of Demerara.*

*Having returned home, the 21st Foot in Oct 1828, moved from Bath to Fermoy, Ireland. In Jun 1829 it was at Mullingar and in Jan(?) 1830 in Kilkenny. In Sep 1831 the regiment moved from Dublin to Warrington, Lancashire.*

*The 21st Foot went out to Australia in detachments in charge of convicts sent to the Australian colonies between 1832 and 1833. It was then stationed in Tasmania, with detachments in Perth and Swan River in Western Australia until 1839, when it proceeded to India.*

[source] Outline History - 21st Regiment of Foot; Genuki website.

It seems likely that Benjamin Bayly and his family traveled with the 21<sup>st</sup> Regiment to Tasmania in 1832-33, and there remained. It is not clear exactly when the Bayly family took up residence on Maria Island, off the Tasmanian coast, but it may have been their primary home during the 1840's. From 1825 to 1832 the island had served as a penal station; then, following a ten year shut-down, it was reopened as a "probation station" in 1842. During this "era" Benjamin Bayly was appointed Commandant (or Magistrate) of Maria Island.

Benjamin Bayly and Mary Ann Wylly were the parents of five identified children – Matilda Eliza Bayly, Benjamin Peddie Bayly, Thirza Ellen Bayly, William Chambers Bayly, and Henry Vincent Bayly. The youngest child was probably born after his father’s death in 1850. Mary Ann Wylly Bayly and her children removed to the town of Hobart, on the mainland. The 1903 obituary of Henry Vincent Bayly mentions his education at Hutchins School in Hobart; a boys school that is still in successful operation today.

Descendants of Benjamin Bayly and Mary Ann Wylly established themselves at the lovely home of Runnymede at New Town (located in present day Hobart). It is listed with Australia’s National Trust, and is today available for tours.

*Note - New Town is a suburb of the city of Hobart, Tasmania, about two miles north of the central business district of Hobart. One of the city’s oldest suburbs, it is now an inner city residential suburb. Many of its streets are lined with Federation style cottages. . . Some early buildings remain . . . St John’s Anglican Church in New Town has an unbroken record of use as a parish church, from the first service on 20 December 1835 up to the present.*

Benjamin Bayly died in 1850 and is buried at the old Maria Island Cemetery at Darlington, Glamorgan Spring Bay Council, Tasmania, Australia. Mary Ann Wylly Bayly outlived her husband by many years, and died at the family’s Runnymede home in 1892.

*Bayly.-On March 19, at Cross-street, New Town, Mary Ann Cameron, widow of the late B. Bayly, captain H.M. Royal Scots Fusiliers, and daughter of the late William Wylly, Chief Justice, St. Vincent, West Indies., aged 81.*

[source] The Mercury (Hobart Tasmania Australia); 26 March 1892; Trove website.

The Bayly family is survived by many accounts and records that would be of interest to descendants.

Do you want to know more?

[Link to Mary Ann Cameron Wylly in the database](#)

Further Reading:

The Archives of the Tasmanian library system house a Diary of Lt Benjamin Bayly. It is part of a larger Bayly family collection titled “Diaries, Letters, Photographs of the Bayly Family of Runnymede, New Town.” [More](#)

Historic Darlington, Maria Island. Benjamin Bayly is mentioned as Magistrate of the Island.

[More](#)

Runnymede - Beautifully preserved 1840 whaling captain's house and gardens. Just 8 minutes' drive from central Hobart, Runnymede has a rich collection of maritime artifacts that belonged to Captain Charles Bayley and his family, who made it their home for over 100 years . . [More](#)

The Thomas Nevin blog contains fascinating insights into colonial life in Tasmania, and is recommended. [More](#)

In particular, Bayly descendants would enjoy the blog article - [Elizabeth Bayley at Runnymede, New Town 1874-1875.](#)

History of Hutchins School, Hobart, Tasmania, Australia. [More](#)

**Bio of Mary Ann Cameron Wylly; written by Pamela Hutchison Garrett for John Markham of Chesterfield website; 2018.**