



## John Stanton

Circa 1797 – 19 Sept 1877

[*Photograph taken when Stanton was in his 73<sup>rd</sup> year - about 1869*]

John Stanton is believed to have been born about 1794 in Ireland, although no documented evidence of his place of birth has as yet been established. He arrived in Western Australia on 6 June 1829 as a Private with the 63<sup>rd</sup> Regiment of Foot aboard the *Sulphur*, one of the three ships which formed the first British Fleet to the Swan River Colony.

He is said to have served with his regiment during the Peninsular War and under Wellington at the Battle of Waterloo, however both are unlikely. The Peninsular War spanned the years 1807 to 1814 (in 1807 Stanton would have been aged only 10 years) and the 63<sup>rd</sup> Regiment was in the West Indies from 1811 until 1820. The Battle of Waterloo took place in 1815 while the 63<sup>rd</sup> Regiment was in the West Indies. Therefore, if Stanton did serve in either campaign it was not with the 63<sup>rd</sup>.<sup>1</sup> He was on the nominal roll of the 63<sup>rd</sup> of 31 December 1828, so he may have attested in Ireland while the Regiment was posted there between 1820 and 1825.<sup>2</sup>

His sister Jane (born about 1795) also came to the Swan River Colony aboard the *Sulphur*. Jane accompanied her husband John Mitchell who was a Private (and bugler) with the 63<sup>rd</sup> Regiment.<sup>3</sup> Jane Mitchell gave birth to a son, Joseph, aboard the *Sulphur* on 10 June 1829 while the ship was at anchor in Cockburn Sound. They had a second son, Robert William, born 1831. John and Jane left the colony with his regiment in June 1833.<sup>4</sup> Records indicate that John Mitchell was granted Perth Town Allotments V5 and V20 in William Street on 27 August 1833<sup>5</sup>, and Mitchell was to return to WA as an Enrolled Pensioner Guard in 1853 with his family.

Stanton arrived in the colony as a bachelor but in 1831 he married Harriet Sophia King. Harriet (nee Newman) had arrived in August 1829 with her husband David King aboard the *Calista* with their 5 year old son Henry and four year old daughter Mary Ann.<sup>6</sup> A third child, Sophia Harriet, was born in

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<sup>1</sup> John M. Kitzmiller II, *In Search of the "Forlorn Hope": A Comprehensive Guide to Locating British Regiments and Their Records (1640-WW1)*, 2 vols (Salt Lake City, Utah: Manuscript Publishing Foundation 1988)

<sup>2</sup> *The Military Establishment in WA 1829-1863*, E. Whiteley & C. Whiteley

<sup>3</sup> <http://membership.wags.org.au/1829-ships/98-sulphur>

<sup>4</sup> Heritage Council of WA

<sup>5</sup> *Perth Gazette & Western Australian Journal*, 31 Aug 1833

<sup>6</sup> Harriet Newman was born in 1804 in Downton, Wiltshire

the colony on 17 September 1829. Sadly, little Henry drowned in the Swan River in April 1830 and Harriet's husband David King died on 25 December of that year leaving 26 year old Harriet alone with two small daughters in one of the most isolated and, at that time, least civilized places in the world. This was clearly no place for observing the usual mourning etiquette and Harriet took what was probably the best option open to her in the circumstances. On 14 March 1831, less than 11 weeks after her husband David's death, she married John Stanton of the 63<sup>rd</sup> Regiment who had by that time been promoted to Sergeant.

John and Harriet's daughter, Catherine Bridget Stanton, was born on 10 October 1832 and was christened, in the absence of a Catholic Priest, privately on 28 October in Perth.<sup>7</sup> Another daughter Annette was born in 1835, followed by Emma Eliza in 1837.

On 27 August 1833, Stanton was granted Perth Town Allotment V19 in Murray Street (adjoining that of his brother-in-law John Mitchell). In 1833, when his regiment left the colony, Stanton requested his discharge and joined the colony's fledgling Police Force as a trooper.<sup>8</sup> In 1835 he accompanied an exploration party, led by Surveyor General J. S. Roe, beyond and to the south of the Perth hills.<sup>9</sup> When the party became desperate for water, Roe is said to have offered a grant of 200 acres for the first man to discover a fresh water supply. Stanton came across the springs near Pingelly which now bear his name.<sup>10</sup> He did not claim a grant of land at the site of the springs but chose instead property near the long pool of Deepdale near Toodyay.<sup>11</sup>

By 1836 he was carrying on business as a cooper in Murray Street, but advertised the sale of his "cooperage" materials in the Perth Gazette of 20 August that year.<sup>12</sup>

The Perth Gazette of 16 September 1837 (the year his daughter Emma Eliza was born) carried the following advertisement inserted by Stanton:

"NOTICE: I THE Undersigned, hereby give notice to all persons not to trust my wife, HARRIOT (sic) STANTON, as I will not be accountable for any Debt or Debts she may contract after this date. John Stanton. September 12."

In November 1839 Harriet Stanton was charged with being drunk and using "very abusive language" to a Mr Mason and his wife.<sup>13</sup> Similar advertisements to those above appeared on 30 March 1842 and 22 January 1845. English Marriage Law at the time required a husband to support his wife financially and made him responsible for her debts providing those debts were reasonable in terms of running a household.<sup>14</sup> The advertisements and Harriet's public indiscretion indicate that at best the Stanton's relationship was less than amicable and that they might well have been living apart by late 1837. In November 1837, 12 year old Mary Ann King (Harriet's daughter from her first marriage)

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<sup>7</sup> Batty Library, Perth

<sup>8</sup> The 63<sup>rd</sup> Regiment's company from Swan River Colony landed in Madras on 26 May 1834. *The History of the Late 63<sup>rd</sup> (West Suffolk) Regiment*, Maj James Slack, 1884. p. 73; <https://archive.org/stream/historylaterdwe00slacgoog#page/n3/mode/2up>

<sup>9</sup> Merle Bignell, *The Fruit of the Country: History of the Shire of Gnowangerup, Western Australia*

<sup>10</sup> Staunton Springs

<sup>11</sup> This property was bequeathed to Stanton's grandson John McKenna.

<sup>12</sup> *Perth Gazette & Western Australian Journal*, 20 August 1836, p. 747

<sup>13</sup> *Perth Gazette*, 16 Nov 1839, p.183

<sup>14</sup> <http://womenshistorynetwork.org/blog/?tag=married-womens-property-act>

was working as a servant to Richard Reilly in Guildford when the house Reilly rented from James Stokes burned down. Reilly was charged with wilful arson.<sup>15</sup>

Financially, Stanton was doing well. By December 1840, in addition to Town Allotment V19 (corner of William and Murray Streets and known as “Stanton’s Corner” or “Stanton’s Store”), he also owned Perth Town Allotment V27 in Wellington Street.<sup>16</sup> According to the *Perth Gazette* he contributed towards the cost of erection of both the Perth Wesleyan Chapel in 1841 and the (Anglican) St George’s Church in 1842. In February 1843 he advertised a carting service “on moderate terms” giving his address as Wellington Street and in August of that year he contributed towards the cost of assessments to “clay the paths” along St George’s and Adelaide Terraces, and Hay Street.<sup>17</sup>

With the arrival in Perth of Father Brady from the eastern states in 1843 the construction of St John the Evangelist, the first Catholic Church in Perth, began and building was completed in 1844. As mentioned earlier John and Harriet Stanton’s daughters Catherine and Emma (then aged about 12 and 7) were both baptised there in 1844.<sup>18</sup> There is also a record of the adult baptism of Henriette (sic) Stanton in 1845 which could be either that of Harriet Stanton (who was a protestant when she married in 1831) or that of their daughter known as Annette about whom I’ve been able to establish very little. The small Church of St John the Evangelist still stands in Victoria Square a short distance from St Mary’s Cathedral.

On 21 January 1851 Stanton was elected to the Committee of the Perth Town Trust.<sup>19</sup> On 11 February of that year he was granted a license for the Town of Perth for “a horse or bullock team”.<sup>20</sup> On 19 February 1851 his name appeared in the *Gazette* (along with those of James McKenna and others) giving notification to the Roman Catholics of Perth that a meeting would be held at the Commercial Hotel on the 22<sup>nd</sup> “for the purpose of presenting a farewell address to the Very Rev. D. M. Urquhart” who was about to leave the colony for Europe.<sup>21</sup> The proceedings of the meeting were reported in detail in the *Gazette* of 26 February.<sup>22</sup>

Harriet Stanton died on 19<sup>th</sup> June 1866. She would have been buried in East Perth on “Cemetery Hill” which was then the only cemetery in Perth. Although she was one of the first European settlers to arrive in the Colony in 1829 there does not appear to be a mention of her death or funeral in any of the Perth newspapers at the time.

John Stanton married again on 26<sup>th</sup> January 1867 at St Mary’s Cathedral, Perth, Frances Savage. The record of the marriage held at the Perth Catholic Church Archives notes that Frances Savage was “Widow of William Savage and a Protestant”. The ceremony was performed by Father Martin Griver, the witnesses were Stanton’s daughter and son-in-law James and Catherine McKenna.<sup>23</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> *Perth Gazette* 4 Nov 1837, p. 1000

<sup>16</sup> *Perth Gazette*, 26 Dec 1840

<sup>17</sup> *Perth Gazette*, 1 Feb 1843, p. 1 and *The Inquirer*, 9 Aug 1843, p. 6

<sup>18</sup> *Catholic Church Archives, Archdiocese of Perth.*

<sup>19</sup> *Perth Gazette*, 24 January 1851

<sup>20</sup> *Ibid*, 14 February 1851

<sup>21</sup> *Ibid*, 19 February 1851

<sup>22</sup> *Ibid*, 26 Feb 1851, p. 1 S

<sup>23</sup> *Catholic Church Archives, Archdiocese of Perth.*

Stanton's daughter Catherine married James McKenna (who had arrived from Dublin, Ireland in 1841) in 1849 and they had 10 children all born in Western Australia. Their son John McKenna was to become Chief Inspector of Police. After James' death in 1873, Catherine re-married James Lunney in 1874 and had another two children. Stanton's daughter Emma married Hugh McVeigh in 1856; they had 5 children before Emma's early death at the age of 28 in 1865. Mary Ann King, Stanton's step-daughter and daughter of Harriet, married John Charles Louis Langoulant in 1842 and together they had 12 children. Mary Ann's sister Sophia King married James McNamara (who had arrived in the colony with James McKenna in 1841 aboard the *Ganges*] in 1849; James and Sophia had 8 children.

John Stanton died in Perth on 19 September 1877 at the age of 80. He remained continuously in the colony from the time of his arrival in 1829 until his death and many descendants of his prolific offspring and step-children still reside in Western Australia.

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## NOTES

### **Extract from:** *DICTIONARY OF WEST AUSTRALIANS*

A Private in the 63rd Regiment, arrived at Swan River Colony per "HMS Sulphur" on 8 June 1829. A Veteran of the Peninsula War and Waterloo. Was promoted to Sergeant and discharged from the army in 1834. In 1835 owned Perth Town Lots V18 and V27. Was employed as a cooper in 1839 in the Perth district (Perth Gazette). Advertised goods for sale on 28 Sept 1839. In November 1840 signed a petition with his wife for a Methodist Minister's stipend. On 30 March 1842 announced that he would not be responsible for his wife Harriet's debts. On 26 October 1842 gave a subscription to the Church of England at Perth. In January 1843 advertised that he would take on carting. Later that year he gave Perth Town Lot V19 to Mrs Langoulant as a wedding settlement. On 22 January 1845 again announced that he would not be responsible for Harriet's debts. In August 1846 daughter Catherine was molested by George Barr, who was later tried and sentenced. In 1848 again transferred land to Mrs Langoulant. May have joined the police force after discharge from the Army. Was granted 200 acres at Avon Location 13 at Toodyay and bought Town Lot V19, V18 and V27. Qualified as a Juror in 1860 with 1,000 in real estate. Roman Catholic, wife Protestant.

### **Extract from:** *OLD TOODYAY AND NEWCASTLE*, Rica Erickson, Shire of Toodyay, 1974. p. 25

Within the boundaries of "Deepdale" was a small location of 200 acres (Location 13) which was granted to a soldier, James Staunton, who accompanied J.S. Roe, the Surveyor General, on an exploration over the hills. Desperate for lack of water, Roe is said to have offered a grant of 200 acres for the discovery of the springs which now bear Staunton's name. The soldier did not claim the land at that spot, as expected, but chose the site near the long pool of "Deepdale". (Circa 1836)" [Note: Appendix B of the above publication shows a list of original owners of Avon Locations and lists John Staunton (sic) 13/200.]

### **Extract from:** *THE MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT IN WA 1829-1863*, E. Whiteley & C. Whiteley

Private 63rd Regiment. On nominal roll 31 December 1828. Arrived on HMS Sulphur 8 June 1829. At headquarters 29 December 1829 and 1 March 1831. Stanton Springs said to have been named after him. Land grants for duties performed: Lot V19 (Murray and Wellington Streets Perth) November 1840; Deed No. 392 (CSO 27/124). Promoted Sergeant.

### **Extract from** "The Inquirer" September 26 1877, page 3 c.d.

"On Wednesday afternoon last Mr John Stanton died rather suddenly at his residence, Murray Street Perth, from rupture of a blood vessel. The deceased, who was nearly 80 years of age, arrived in the Colony as a sergeant (sic) of the 63rd Regiment in Her Majesty's Ship Sulphur on 8 June 1829, the first year of settlement of the Colony."

### **Extract from** *The People of Perth: A Social History of Western Australia's Capital City*, C. J. Stannage, Carroll's for Perth City Council, 1979.

"Stanton's store in William Street was one of the landmarks by which the people of Perth oriented themselves. Stanton had prospered from merchandising. He boosted his income further by renting out cottages nearby. Frances Huckle lived in one of Stanton's houses. She worked to maintain herself and her four year old boy. After a time she fell behind in her rent. Stanton had her furniture

removed. She was fined 6 shillings or was to serve a four day gaol sentence; in fact she was sent to gaol for seven days when she used violent language in court. It seems that Frances Huckle tried on several occasions to get the Magistrate to put her four year old son in the Poor House, but on each occasion her application was rejected. Six weeks after her first stint in gaol she was back in Court for beating her boy and threatening to kill him." [Perth Gazette, 22 August and 3 October 1862.]

*Note: Frances Huckle was also fined for throwing stones and breaking the windows of the building in William Street.*

## **GOVERNOR STIRLING'S GUARDSMAN**

Sergeant John Stanton

By HMS Sulphur, which arrived at Fremantle from London on June 6, 1829, there landed among her passengers Sergeant Stanton, with a detachment of the 63rd Regiment of Light Infantry, as a guard for Governor Stirling and his plucky band of pioneer colonists who had reached Gage Roads by the *Parmelia* on the 2nd of that month. Sergeant Stanton was the maternal grand-father of ex-Chief Inspector McKenna, whose retirement from the Police Force after 50 years' service took place about a month ago. For many years after Sergeant Stanton's retirement from the army, he was engaged in the business of coopering at Perth and Fremantle. During the year 1830 he accompanied Captain Roe in an expedition between Perth and Albany and discovered the Stanton Springs, west of what is now the town of Pingelly and owned by Mr George Bostock. Sergeant Stanton was a Waterloo Veteran and the possessor of several medals and clasps. He was the original owner of the block fronting Murray, King and Wellington Streets, a portion of which is occupied by G. Wood, Son & Co. and known to old residents as Stanton's Corner. At the time the photograph (inset) was taken Sergeant Stanton was in his 73rd Year.

### **Extract from NOTES OF JOAN McKENNA (nee Ryan)**

"... The first settlers stayed a while on Garden Island. From the island a party including John Stanton rowed across to what is now known as the Ten Mile Well for fresh drinking water and found it very easily and so near the ocean front. As the small boat reached the mainland of WA John Stanton was the first man to jump on the soil with the cry "Never a man set foot on Swan River Colony before me". The Ten Mile Well still exists.

In 1834 John Stanton took part in the Battle of Pinjarra. ... (he) was in Surveyor General Roe's party exploring the York District. When near what is now known as Pingelly, the water position became desperate. Roe offered a reward to any man who could find water. Stanton noticed the movement of some birds, followed them and found Stanton Springs (more often on maps written as Staunton Springs). The spring still exists, the overflow varying from 6,000 to 8,000 gallons daily. The spring is on a farm known as "Stanton Springs" owned by G.J. Bostock, a man of pioneering stock and on one side an ancestor of Surveyor General Roe. The spring is adjacent to the old York Williams Rd. Stanton requested that the prize of some acres of land be held over until he found some land more to his liking. The exploring party moved on to Toodyay and, impressed with the country, Stanton claimed his reward."

## **Will of John Stanton**

**A MEMORIAL** to be registered of the Last Will and Testament of John Stanton late of Perth in the Colony of Western Australia, Land Proprietor, deceased which will bears date the Sixth day of September One thousand eight hundred and seventy seven and by which said will the said Testator did devise his Freehold hereditaments situate at Perth and known as "Perth Building Lots V19 and V27 unto his wife Frances Stanton during the term of her life with power to use or let the same to the best advantage keeping the same in good repair (fair wear and tear excepted) And after her death the said Testator did devise the whole of his aforesaid hereditaments known as "Perth Building Lot V27" with all buildings thereon to his grandson **John Stanton McVee** during his life and to his heirs forever. After the decease of his wife the said Testator did devise the whole of his hereditaments in Murray Street being a quarter of Perth Building Lot V19 with dwelling house thereon unto his grand-daughter **Annie Cousins** (the daughter of Hugh McVee and the wife of William Cousins) during her life and to her heirs forever. And the said Testator did leave and bequeath his Freehold estate situate on the Avon River (comprising two hundred acres more or less) to his grandson **John McKenna** during his life and to his Issues for ever. And the said Testator did bequeath to his daughter **Catherine Bridget Lunney** (late the widow of James McKenna and wife of James Lunney) the whole of his hereditaments known as Perth Building Lot V28 with all buildings thereon during the term of her life and after her decease the whole of the said Lot V28 with the property thereon to be sold to the best advantage for all concerned and the proceeds to be equally divided amongst her children including **Alice Savage** his step-daughter the whole to share alike (except John McKenna who is herein before provided for). All the rest residue and remainder of his real and personal estate whatsoever and wheresoever not otherwise disposed of by that his will the said Testator did devise to all his grandchildren then living at the period for distribution equally and appointed Benjamin Mason and Terance Farrelly to be Executors and his said wife Frances Stanton to be Executrix of his said Will and which said Will as the Execution thereof by the said Testator is witnessed by George Budd and William Izard of Perth both being present at one and the same time and the same is hereby required to be registered by Charles George Harvey Cooper of Perth aforesaid Clerk to Messrs Stone and Burt of the same place, Solicitors. As witness his hand this Eighth day of October 1877.