

Robert Redfern

Father of surgeon William Redfern

- Saddler in Belfast from 1795 to before 1801. Previously saddler in England (possibly Trowbridge) and in Dublin. Earlier census data from 1766 and newspaper notices suggested Robert Redfern originated from Belfast and was descended from the Redfern family in and around Londonderry.
- Northern Star 9/13/16 Jul 1795: "Robert Redfern, Saddler. Begs leave to inform his friends and the public, that he has commenced business in Castle-street, in the shop lately occupied by Mr. James Martin, and has laid in a large assortment of all kinds of materials in the Saddling...A journeyman and apprentice wanted... [Testimonial] I believe from the above Redfern's practice in England and Dublin, that he is very capable of the business. James Martin."
- James Martin was auctioning saddlery stock at "Martin's Manufactory" in Castle St on 17 Jan 1795 (Northern Star 2 Jan) and then moved to America. His saddlery opened 20 Nov 1786 (Belfast Evening Post) and the ad at this time said he had a large stockpile of leather goods suggesting he had been in business before.
- Redfern in Portugal Mar 1803-Feb 1805 when daughters born and son Joseph seeking refuge from Irish Problems. The French invaded Portugal 1807 and possible Robert returned to Belfast in 1808 with Joseph.
- 1845 Pettigrew Dublin Almanac: Robert Redfern, saddler and Miss Cunningham at Newcomen cottages, North Strand, Thomas City.
- 1848 A Robert Redfern signs petition to release political prisoner (William Smith O'Brien) and send him in exile.

ROBERT REDFERN, SADDLER,

BEGS leave to inform his friends and the public, that he has commenced business in Castle-street, in the shop lately occupied by Mr. James Martin, and has laid in a large assortment of all kinds of materials in the Saddling, Coach, Carr, and Car Harness line: And hopes by his carefulness and attention to business, to give general satisfaction to those who please to favour him with their commands.

N. B. Horses measured and neatly fitted. A Journeyman and an Apprentice wanted.

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I believe from the above Redfern's practice in England and Dublin, that he is very capable of the business.

JAMES MARTIN.

Northern Star, 13 Jul 1795

Robert Redfern (1769 - 3 Sep 1853 Campbell's River/Davis Creek, Bathurst)

Eldest brother of surgeon William Redfern

- Identified in William's will as his brother and also in Sydney newspapers.
- Profession saddler. Later free settler in Australia.
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- Northern Star 28 Apr 1797: "This day the following prisoners set off for Dublin, under a strong guard... all of whom were immediately brought out of gaol by a Military Guard without any civil officer and have since been confined in a Military Prison in this town: Robert Redfern..." The same names as in the Banishment Act.
- Freemans Journal 4 May 1797: Several carriages brought up to town on Tuesday list, from the North, eleven persons charged with High Treason, in custody of magistrates, and an officer of artillery, and escorted by a squadron of horse. The prisoners were lodged in the new county gaol, near Kilmainham. Their names are ...Robert Redfern [sic]."
- Kilmainham Gaol, Dublin 1 May 1797-22 Apr 1801. He was United Irishmen (Belfast, saddler, "divisional military committee"). Imprisoned for High Treason. "Treasonable Practices... bailed... transported". Did not list where transported.
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- Evening Mail (London) 7 Sep 1798: Pardon And Amnesty Bills in Irish Legislature allowed prosecution to cease if State Prisoners accepted exile to a foreign country not at war with His Majesty (e.g. USA). "Prisoners confined in his Majesty's Gaol of Newgate...Robert Redfern, of Belfast, saddler."

Pardon And Amnesty Bill is the Act 38th year of George III, Chapter 78, 1798.

38 George III c.78 "Preventing return of persons transported for rebellion ('Banishment act'): To prevent persons from returning to his majesty's dominions who have been or shall be transported, banished or exiled on account of the present rebellion, and to prohibit them from passing into any country at war with his majesty."

- Prison record: Kilmainham prison 1797
- Bath Chronicle 13 Sep 1798: "The following is a list of the persons in actual custody in Ireland, who have confessed themselves guilty of high-treason, and have solicited and received his Majesty's pardon, on condition of their banishment, transportation, or exile from his Majesty's dominions, to some foreign country not at war with his Majesty...Robert Redfern, prisoner in Kilmainham gaol."
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- First appeared in Philadelphia Directory 1817: "Redfern, Rob. saddler &c. 218 N Eighth"
- Made US infantry caps. 1819: 5,000 leather caps, 1821: 1,000 leather caps, 1822: 1,000 leather caps. An infantry cap survives in the collection of J. Duncan Campbell with "R. Redfern" on a yellow paper label pasted in the crown. <http://www.bonhams.com/auctions/17104/lot/3578/>
- Philadelphia Directory 1820-22: "Redfern, Robert 403 High"
- Philadelphia Directory 1823-24 (not after 1825,1828): "Redfern Robert, saddler & leather cutter, 403 High"
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- Philadelphia Directory 1829-31,33,35/36,37,39,40: "Redfern Mary, grocer 25 Laurel" "widow" in 1837.
- Records of Catholics in Philadelphia: 19 April 1818, Robert Redfern married Mary Meanis.

7 Aug 1820 US Census: Robert Redfern, Philadelphia North Ward. 2 of 9 under 16. No slaves.

- Colonial Secretary's Papers 28 Jul 1824: Permission from Lord Bathurst to proceed to Australia with immediate land grant. After William Redfern had met Lord Bathurst in person on Gov. Macquarie's recommendation.

- Historical Papers: Land grant is dated 28 Jul 1824.
- Sydney Gazette 10 Mar 1825: Robert and son William aged 19 arrived in Phoenix. Left England 16 Sept 1824-Cape Town-Hobart 2 Mar 1825-Sydney 5 Mar 1825.
- March 1825: 2000 acres granted

- Son William (1809 Philadelphia (from 1828 census, signed by Robert Redfern) - 10 Jun 1895 Sandy Creek, Aust) married in Bathurst 21/2/1860 to Julia Ryan and recorded his father was Robert, mother was Mary Williams, and he was born in America. Age 36 (~b.1823)
- William's son William Robert b.13 May 1861 said father was born in Philadelphia and aged 44 (~b.1817).
- William's death cert said aged 85 (~b.1810) and born Philadelphia.
- William's arrival in NSW, aged 19 (~b.1805).

- Nov 1828 census: Robert and son, Episcopalian religion (actually Catholic). His signature is that of a literate, educated person and very similar typography to brother William (same teacher?)
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- Gazette 22 Nov 1831: William Redfern Jnr. testifying in the murder of Captain Payne near Bathurst 'I have been much in the bush since I arrived in the colony, and often met bushrangers...'
- Brother William's codicil to will, dated 6 Mar 1828, waived 1000-pound debt Robert owed. Debt was for cattle and sheep.
- 1832 he referred to Robert Redfern, Bathurst, grazier.
- 30 Dec 1833: Gazette 9 Jan says R. Redfern's house was robbed in Bathurst. (Mrs Redfern? unknown marriage?)
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- 1835 Jail admission: YOB 1814, William convicted of cattle stealing/bushranging.
- Jan 1836: States he was born in 1813, aged 23 and came on Phoenix.
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- Govt Gazette 7 Dec 1836: William Redfern of Bathurst escaped gaol. Convicted on cattle stealing.
- Sydney Gazette 10 Dec 1836: "... William Redfern, who arrived free in the Colony, effected his escape from the Gaol at Bathurst in which he was confined under sentence of Transportation for Life for Cattle Stealing. Notice is hereby given that the above reward of 50 pounds or a conditional pardon to any prisoner who will apprehend or give such information as will lead to said William Redfern. Description: Arrived free. Aged 25 years. Height 5 feet 9 inches. Complex sallow. Hair brown. Eyes blue to grey. Visage thin and long. Nose aqualine. Whiskers none. Face smooth. Gait sloverly, slow and stooping."
- William Redfern apprehended in Hobart(?) and transferred Hyde Park Barracks 30 Dec 1837.

- Robert Redfern married Julia Collins 1840 at St Mary's Sydney, Roman Catholic.
- 2 Sep 1853: Will signed (left his mark even though he could write) leaving all property to wife Julia and son William.
- M.D. on Bathurst headstone -unlikely. (Might actually be a Wm Redfern joke that he could pay for his horse to get an MD.)
- Bathurst Press 10 Sep 1853: survived by wife and son. Aged 84.
- SMG 16 Sep 1853: Executors were Joseph Sewell and Patrick MacPhee, both farmers at Davis Creek. Will proved 5 Sep 1853.



US infantry cap c1819 by "R. Redfern". Sold for AU\$13,000 in 2009.