

# **CROKER PRIZE FOR BIOGRAPHY 2021**

## **2103 Why Did Stefano Haskitt Change his Name to John Stanton?**

**By Lynette Stanton**

## Why did Stefano Haskitt change his name to John Stanton

I came across the following names while I was researching my convict ancestor: STEFANO HASKITT, STEFANA HASKITT, STEPHANO POWSEITCH, STEFANO HASKETT, STEPHANE HASKETT, STEPHANO HASKETT, STEPHAN HASKITT, STEPHENS HASKETT, STEPHANO HASKITT, STEPHEN HESKETH, JOHN STANTON, JOHN POSICK, JNO POSECH, STEFANO PAUSICCIO, STEFANO POWZZEITIC

Stefano is my 4<sup>th</sup> great grandfather on my paternal side. From what I have been able to gather in my researching of him he had many aliases, maybe some of the names had been transcribed wrong. His birth name may have been Stefano Haskitt who was born in Palermo, Italy in 1782. It is rumoured that he was a Sicilian fisherman who was captured by the British and this is how he came to be in England.

I found 2 records on ancestry library about his trial: 1. Stefano Haskett (Stephano Powseitch) sentence was other. <sup>1</sup> 2. Stephano Powseitch ([Stefano Haskett) sentence was recorded as death. The location of the trials was Middlesex September 1812. <sup>2</sup> On 11<sup>th</sup> July 1812 he stole a watch, chain, two seals and a waistcoat from Savery George who lived in the same dwelling house of Antonio Corsetto. Stefano then sold the property to Johanna Paredo. <sup>3</sup> The life sentence meant transportation. While waiting to be transported to Botany Bay, Stefano Hasket was transferred to the *Retribution* a hulk moored in Woolwich on 6<sup>th</sup> January 1813. <sup>4</sup> He came to Australia on the ship *Earl Spencer* setting sail in May 1813 and arriving in Port Jackson in October 1813. <sup>5</sup> *Earl Spencer* was built in 1803 in London - Thames, 672 ton,

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<sup>1</sup> [https://search.ancestrylibrary.com.au/cgi-bin/sse.dll?\\_phsrc=Awg45&\\_phstart=successSource&usePUBJs=true&indiv=1&dbid=1590&gsfn=stefano&gsln=haskitt&cp=0&gskw=convict&msydy=1813&msrdy=1812&\\_F0004ABB=Transportation&\\_F0004B77=1812&new=1&rank=1&uidh=2yd&redir=false&msT=1&gss=angs-d&pcat=36&fh=1&h=961028&recoff=&ml\\_rpos=2&queryId=2ce1ff8cbf29ff086d4eae2508a6a56a](https://search.ancestrylibrary.com.au/cgi-bin/sse.dll?_phsrc=Awg45&_phstart=successSource&usePUBJs=true&indiv=1&dbid=1590&gsfn=stefano&gsln=haskitt&cp=0&gskw=convict&msydy=1813&msrdy=1812&_F0004ABB=Transportation&_F0004B77=1812&new=1&rank=1&uidh=2yd&redir=false&msT=1&gss=angs-d&pcat=36&fh=1&h=961028&recoff=&ml_rpos=2&queryId=2ce1ff8cbf29ff086d4eae2508a6a56a)

<sup>2</sup> [https://search.ancestrylibrary.com.au/cgi-bin/sse.dll?\\_phsrc=Awg45&\\_phstart=successSource&usePUBJs=true&indiv=1&dbid=1590&gsfn=stefano&gsln=haskitt&cp=0&gskw=convict&msydy=1813&msrdy=1812&\\_F0004ABB=Transportation&\\_F0004B77=1812&new=1&rank=1&uidh=2yd&redir=false&msT=1&gss=angs-d&pcat=36&fh=0&h=961405&recoff=&ml\\_rpos=1&queryId=2ce1ff8cbf29ff086d4eae2508a6a56a](https://search.ancestrylibrary.com.au/cgi-bin/sse.dll?_phsrc=Awg45&_phstart=successSource&usePUBJs=true&indiv=1&dbid=1590&gsfn=stefano&gsln=haskitt&cp=0&gskw=convict&msydy=1813&msrdy=1812&_F0004ABB=Transportation&_F0004B77=1812&new=1&rank=1&uidh=2yd&redir=false&msT=1&gss=angs-d&pcat=36&fh=0&h=961405&recoff=&ml_rpos=1&queryId=2ce1ff8cbf29ff086d4eae2508a6a56a)

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.oldbaileyonline.org/browse.jsp?name=18120916>

<sup>4</sup> [https://search.ancestrylibrary.com.au/cgi-bin/sse.dll?\\_phsrc=Awg48&\\_phstart=successSource&usePUBJs=true&indiv=1&dbid=1989&gsfn=stefano&gsln=hasket&cp=0&msbdy=1782&\\_81004261\\_date=1812&new=1&rank=1&uidh=2yd&redir=false&msT=1&gss=angs-d&pcat=36&fh=0&h=145430&recoff=&ml\\_rpos=1&queryId=15e04396151068220ad87c571a772edb](https://search.ancestrylibrary.com.au/cgi-bin/sse.dll?_phsrc=Awg48&_phstart=successSource&usePUBJs=true&indiv=1&dbid=1989&gsfn=stefano&gsln=hasket&cp=0&msbdy=1782&_81004261_date=1812&new=1&rank=1&uidh=2yd&redir=false&msT=1&gss=angs-d&pcat=36&fh=0&h=145430&recoff=&ml_rpos=1&queryId=15e04396151068220ad87c571a772edb)

<sup>5</sup> *The Digital Panopticon* Stefano Haskitt, British Transportation Registers, May 1813, Record ID btr111322 (<https://www.digitalpanopticon.org/life?id=btr111322>). Version 1.2.1,

required 56 crew and mounted with 16 guns. The average sentence for convicts aboard was 11 years, 108 life sentences and 200 convicts.<sup>6</sup> William Mitchell was the commander. Four convicts died on the voyage. The surgeon on this voyage was D. Mackenzie. It took 126 days to sail here.<sup>7</sup> When he arrived in NSW, Lachlan Macquarie was the governor, this was also the year that Blaxland, Lawson and Wentworth navigated the Blue Mountains. Stefano was described as: 5 feet 5 ¾ inches, dark complexion, black hair and blue eyes aged 30 and a sailor from Italy.<sup>8</sup>

Stephen Hasketh was listed as a Seaman when he was sent to Windsor NSW in October 1813 assigned to William Cox Esq. In 1814, Governor Lachlan Macquarie approved Cox's 'voluntary offer of your superintending and directing the working party' that would build a road crossing the Blue Mountains, between Sydney and Bathurst. The completed dirt track was 12 feet (3.7 m) wide by 101 ½ miles (163.3 km) long, built between 18 July 1814 to 14 January 1815 using five free men, 30 convict labourers and eight soldiers.<sup>9</sup> I wonder if he was one of the 30 convict labourers. John Posich was sentenced to 1 year in Newcastle in November 1815 along with 5 other prisoners aboard the *Estramina*.<sup>10</sup> On 15<sup>th</sup> May, 1816 John Posich (Powitz alias J Stanton) a former servant of Rev Robert Cartwright was given remission of his sentence and allowed to travel from back to Sydney from Newcastle aboard the *Lady Nelson*.<sup>11</sup>

From my investigations I can only surmise that Stefano married the same woman twice. After receiving permission to publish their banns in December 1819 John Posich (Stefano Haskitt) married Mary Stanton (Elizabeth) both convicts<sup>12</sup> in the Church of England Parramatta NSW BDM 952/1820.

John Stanton (John Posich, Stefano Haskitt) married Mary Stanton in St Marys Roman Catholic Church in Sydney 332/1829.<sup>13</sup> Mary Stanton *aka* Reilly arrived onboard *Elizabeth*

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<sup>6</sup> <https://convictrecords.com.au/ships/earl-spencer>

<sup>7</sup> Bateson, Charles, *The Convict Ships, 1787-1868*, Sydney, 1974. Page 173 ISBN 0-85174-195-9

<sup>8</sup> [https://www.ancestrylibrary.com.au/discoveryui-content/view/30546:2024?tid=&pid=&queryId=ba3c8c355d74c99558ae584d6e8b3e82&\\_phsrc=gqD15&\\_phstart=successSource](https://www.ancestrylibrary.com.au/discoveryui-content/view/30546:2024?tid=&pid=&queryId=ba3c8c355d74c99558ae584d6e8b3e82&_phsrc=gqD15&_phstart=successSource)

<sup>9</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William\\_Cox\\_\(pioneer\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Cox_(pioneer))

<sup>10</sup> [https://search.ancestrylibrary.com.au/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv=1&dbid=1905&h=149694&tid=&pid=&queryId=10ed4fd647917312b9b5610e2cacbce7&usePUB=true&\\_phsrc=gqD1&\\_phstart=successSource](https://search.ancestrylibrary.com.au/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv=1&dbid=1905&h=149694&tid=&pid=&queryId=10ed4fd647917312b9b5610e2cacbce7&usePUB=true&_phsrc=gqD1&_phstart=successSource)

<sup>11</sup> [https://search.ancestrylibrary.com.au/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv=1&dbid=1905&h=56305&tid=&pid=&queryId=10ed4fd647917312b9b5610e2cacbce7&usePUB=true&\\_phsrc=gqD3&\\_phstart=successSource](https://search.ancestrylibrary.com.au/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv=1&dbid=1905&h=56305&tid=&pid=&queryId=10ed4fd647917312b9b5610e2cacbce7&usePUB=true&_phsrc=gqD3&_phstart=successSource)

<sup>12</sup> NSW Registry of Births, Deaths & Marriages

<sup>13</sup> NSW Registry of Births, Deaths & Marriages

in 1818. When she arrived in the colonies she was forwarded to the Female Factory in Parramatta and was noted as Margaret Staunton.<sup>14</sup> She was tried in County Mayo, having forged notes in paper, and sentenced to 14 years. Jno Possech was

residing in Windsor in the 1814 Census and Population books 1811-1825<sup>15</sup> In the New South Wales and Tasmania, Australian Convict Musters in 1825 Stephen Asketh (Stephen Haskett) was listed as living in NSW, estimated birth year 1807.<sup>16</sup> Stephane Haskitt resided in Castle Hill with his wife Mary, children: Margaret, John, Mary Ann and Annah (? Hannah) NSW for the 1828 Census. At the time of this census, he was a labourer, and his religion was Catholic. There were also 3 servants living there.<sup>17</sup> John (287/307/1823) and Mary Ann (452/480/1825) births were registered under the surname of Stanton in the NSW BDM. Stephen Haskitt was given conditional pardon on 20<sup>th</sup> November, 1830. He was recommended for this by Rev Samuel Marsden, Rev Robert Cartwright, John Palmer (magistrate) and Edmund Lockyer (police magistrate of Parramatta) Stephen Haskitt had held his TOL since 1820 at this time of pardon.<sup>18</sup> Stephano Haskitt was given absolute pardon in 1836 after being in the colony for 23 years. This pardon was given by Major General Sir Richard Bourke.<sup>19</sup>

John Stanton resided in South Coolah, Parramatta NSW in the 1841 census. In this census the household had 1 male aged between 14 and 21, 1 male 60 plus (I think this was him), 2 single

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<sup>14</sup> [https://search.ancestrylibrary.com.au/cgi-bin/sse.dll?\\_phsrc=RVq3&\\_phstart=successSource&usePUBjs=true&indiv=1&dbid=1905&gsfn=mary&gsln=stanton&cp=0&\\_81004401\\_date=1818&new=1&rank=1&uidh=2yd&redir=false&msT=1&gss=ang-s-d&pcat=36&fh=0&h=152315&recoff=&ml\\_rpos=1&queryId=97e4fbba2db85763433517a9f58d5ec5](https://search.ancestrylibrary.com.au/cgi-bin/sse.dll?_phsrc=RVq3&_phstart=successSource&usePUBjs=true&indiv=1&dbid=1905&gsfn=mary&gsln=stanton&cp=0&_81004401_date=1818&new=1&rank=1&uidh=2yd&redir=false&msT=1&gss=ang-s-d&pcat=36&fh=0&h=152315&recoff=&ml_rpos=1&queryId=97e4fbba2db85763433517a9f58d5ec5)

<sup>15</sup> [https://search.ancestrylibrary.com.au/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv=1&dbid=8813&h=66886&tid=&pid=&queryId=68a4fe5cb8c8ae371e335e8499eac89d&usePUB=true&\\_phsrc=RVq12&\\_phstart=successSource](https://search.ancestrylibrary.com.au/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv=1&dbid=8813&h=66886&tid=&pid=&queryId=68a4fe5cb8c8ae371e335e8499eac89d&usePUB=true&_phsrc=RVq12&_phstart=successSource)

<sup>16</sup> [https://search.ancestrylibrary.com.au/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv=1&dbid=1185&h=140166&tid=&pid=&queryId=453a9d5c62f712c644525c629aef22e&usePUB=true&\\_phsrc=RVq14&\\_phstart=successSource](https://search.ancestrylibrary.com.au/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv=1&dbid=1185&h=140166&tid=&pid=&queryId=453a9d5c62f712c644525c629aef22e&usePUB=true&_phsrc=RVq14&_phstart=successSource)

<sup>17</sup> [https://search.ancestrylibrary.com.au/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv=1&dbid=1224&h=2712&tid=&pid=&queryId=1c63914a5ad30e6027f124244e11361f&usePUB=true&\\_phsrc=RVq16&\\_phstart=successSource](https://search.ancestrylibrary.com.au/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv=1&dbid=1224&h=2712&tid=&pid=&queryId=1c63914a5ad30e6027f124244e11361f&usePUB=true&_phsrc=RVq16&_phstart=successSource)

<sup>18</sup> [https://search.ancestrylibrary.com.au/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv=1&dbid=1657&h=50180&tid=&pid=&queryId=ba3c8c355d74c99558ae584d6e8b3e82&usePUB=true&\\_phsrc=gqD11&\\_phstart=successSource](https://search.ancestrylibrary.com.au/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv=1&dbid=1657&h=50180&tid=&pid=&queryId=ba3c8c355d74c99558ae584d6e8b3e82&usePUB=true&_phsrc=gqD11&_phstart=successSource)

<sup>19</sup> [https://search.ancestrylibrary.com.au/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv=1&dbid=1657&h=21309&tid=&pid=&queryId=ba3c8c355d74c99558ae584d6e8b3e82&usePUB=true&\\_phsrc=gqD17&\\_phstart=successSource](https://search.ancestrylibrary.com.au/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv=1&dbid=1657&h=21309&tid=&pid=&queryId=ba3c8c355d74c99558ae584d6e8b3e82&usePUB=true&_phsrc=gqD17&_phstart=successSource)

males, 1 male born in the colony, 1 free male person, 2 Roman Catholics, occupation-gardeners, stockmen and persons employed in agriculture.<sup>20</sup> John Stanton resided (freehold) in South Colo, Cumberland in 1856.<sup>21</sup> John Stanton Jnr (son) was listed as living with John Stanton Snr (freehold) residence in South Colo in 1861- 1862<sup>22</sup>



**Text on Headstone:**

Gloria in Excelsis Deo. Sacred to the memory of MARY STANTON died Augt 17 1830 aged 36 years also JOHN STANTON Husband of the above died Augt 29 AD 1861. Aged 80yrs May the- rest in peace Amen<sup>23</sup>

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<sup>20</sup> [https://www.ancestrylibrary.com.au/discoveryui-content/view/3617:1214?tid=&pid=&queryId=70be9221a91cc1888ee8a628a0293b43&\\_phsrc=gqD25&\\_phstart=successSource](https://www.ancestrylibrary.com.au/discoveryui-content/view/3617:1214?tid=&pid=&queryId=70be9221a91cc1888ee8a628a0293b43&_phsrc=gqD25&_phstart=successSource)

<sup>21</sup> [https://search.ancestrylibrary.com.au/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv=1&dbid=1310&h=47202&tid=&pid=&queryId=9d46450f718df9f51ae32b8ac08781f5&usePUB=true&\\_phsrc=gqD30&\\_phstart=successSource](https://search.ancestrylibrary.com.au/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv=1&dbid=1310&h=47202&tid=&pid=&queryId=9d46450f718df9f51ae32b8ac08781f5&usePUB=true&_phsrc=gqD30&_phstart=successSource)

<sup>22</sup> [https://search.ancestrylibrary.com.au/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv=1&dbid=1310&h=43010&tid=&pid=&queryId=446b347d2df9471029c7dbb4d9eb5143&usePUB=true&\\_phsrc=gqD28&\\_phstart=successSource](https://search.ancestrylibrary.com.au/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv=1&dbid=1310&h=43010&tid=&pid=&queryId=446b347d2df9471029c7dbb4d9eb5143&usePUB=true&_phsrc=gqD28&_phstart=successSource)

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/166303345/john-stanton/photo>