

Robert Gard

Born:	c. 1752, Montacute Swell, Somerset, England
Description:	Aged 66
Aliases:	Guard (convict record), Geer (marriage record)
Marital Status:	Married and father of 12 adult children
Occupation:	Not stated, likely farm labourer or shepherd
Religion:	Not stated, likely Protestant
Crime:	Milking cow and stealing milk
Trial:	Dorset Quarter Sessions, 13 Jul 1818
Imprisonment:	Hulk – <i>Captivity</i> at Portsmouth
Sentence:	Transportation for 7 years
Ship:	<i>Hibernia</i>
On Board:	Capt. John Lennon, Surgeon Charles Carter, 157 male convicts
Anchored:	Portsmouth, Hampshire
Departure:	20 Nov 1818
Arrival:	11 May 1819, Van Diemen's Land (Hobart)
Route:	172 days (5.7 months)
Free Pardon:	Free Certificate 27 Jul 1825 (by servitude 7 years)
Death:	3 Dec 1834, Pittwater, Sorell, VDL, aged 82

Robert Gard was well into his 60's when he was convicted of stealing milk from a cow belonging to John Smith of Allington. He was a married man with 12 grown children the youngest of which was Thomas Bennett Gard, who was also transported in 1822 aged 19.

He was assigned to James Gordon Esq, Magistrate at Pittwater where he remained for several years as a shepherd. He was known for his loyalty, hard work, and good character. His son Thomas was also assigned to Mr Gordon in the 1830's.

In 1824, Robert was awarded by the Agricultural Society, a new suit of clothes and £4. "*Robert Guard, assigned servant to James Gordon, Esq., for having lived with his master, with a good character nearly five years. The same, for his care of a flock of sheep, consisting of nearly 700, during a similar period.*"

In 1825, he applied to rent land and received a grant for 32 acres at Brighton the same year, possibly as a result on this application and the strong support of Mr Gordon. It doesn't appear that he ever resided on this land however his grandson, also Robert Gard (1832-1916) lived at Rosebank (cottage) on this land from about 1890 and it remained in the family until sold by a great-great-grandson in 1949.

He was still in the Pittwater area in 1832 when he signed a petition to the Surveyor General regarding the roads in the area. He died on 3 Dec 1834 aged 82. He was a farmer at Pittwater.