The rise and fall of John Retallack (1826-1890)
Revised September 12, 2015
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Figure 1. Studio photos of John and Caroline Retallack (courtesy of Wendy Gollan).

The arrival of John Retallack (Fig. 1A-B) in Adelaide from Cornwall, has long been a mystery because there is no record of his passage to Australia in ships mentioned in family records1-3: neither on the 1849 voyage of the “Himalaya”4, nor on the 1851 voyage of the “Caucasian”4. John’s date of birth is also uncertain: about 1828 is indicated by the age of 25 on his marriage license5 of 1853, but about 1821 by his death certificate6 age of 69 in 1890. Finally his Cornish town is uncertain, and given as either Redruth1 or Penzance2. Thus his Cornish ancestors and background have been a mystery.

John may have been the first Retallack to enter Australia, if he came on the “Himalaya”, and lack of a passenger record is unproblematic, because before 1852 only government sponsored passengers were listed7. Two others also came early, John Retallick as a convict to Moreton Bay, Brisbane8-17, on the “Bangalore” in 1850, and John Retallack as a free settler to Sydney19-26 on the “Joseph Somes”23 in 1852. These two other Cornish emigrants were older8,19, and still in Sydney, New South Wales26, and Toowoomba, Queensland16-17, respectively, when John Retallack began our branch of the family by marrying Caroline Rashleigh in Adelaide5 in 1853.

There were 14 John Retallacks in Cornwall with birthdates between 1819 and 1830, and all but one can be eliminated as the founder of the Retallack-Rashleigh line27-78. The John Retallack most likely to have been the South Australian immigrant may have been christened June 26 in the Bible Christian Church in Luxulyan, Cornwall to William and Lydia Retallack, and thus is listed in the Non-conformist Register rather than Church of England parish records79-80. The Bible Christian Church split from Wesleyan Methodism over interpreting the King James version of the Bible.
as the word of God to be taken absolutely literally in every sense. A less fundamentalist Bible Christian tenet was recognition of women as preachers. The Bible Christian Church was founded by William Bryant who was born in Luxulyan, Cornwall, of Wesleyan Methodist parents. His application to be a Wesleyan preacher was rejected and he broke away to form his own ministry in 1815, on an itinerant preaching circuit starting at Week St Mary, Cornwall, and then organized a foundational group of farmers in Shebbear, Devon. Originally known as the Bryanites, Bryant himself preferred the title of Arminian Bible Christians, following the doctrines of Arminius, a Dutch anti-Calvinist. By 1849, some 1333 Bible Christian missionaries had emigrated to found churches in North America, New Zealand and South Australia. Conversion of Retallacks to fundamentalist Christianity may go back to William Retallack’s parents, Richard and Amelia moving to Luxulyan by 1807, and encountering charismatic preachers in the Luxulyan Bible Christian Church. Emphasis on the bible is ironic because John Retallack was illiterate, as indicated by his later signature with an X on the birth certificate of his son Charles from 25th May 1868 in Angaston. The Bible Christians targeted especially underserved rural people and women, and their evangelical aspirations delivered information, purpose and funding for emigration to English-speaking colonies.

The paternal lineage of William and Lydia Retallack can be traced in Church of England christenings back to Mark Retallacke, born in 1535 and a church warden at St Columb Major in 1589. In the 1841 census, their son John Retallack age 15 (thus born about 1826) was a farm servant under farmer William Retallack age 35 (thus born about 1806) at Trewothack, St Anthony Parish, Kerrier Hundred, Cornwall. This William Retallack was not immediate family, because John’s parents William and Lydia had

Figure 2. The steamship Himalaya in 1854

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emigrated, perhaps as Bible Christian missionaries, to St Columbus, Ontario, Canada\(^1\), where their sixth child Amelia was born 18 August 1833. Other farm servants at Trewothack listed in 1841 were also unrelated: Joseph Mathews, Thomas Martin, Nicholas Pearce, Mary Chinn and Mary Dunn. William Retallack at Trewothack was not an uncle\(^1\), but a more distant relation, who may be the basis for John’s insistence late in life that he had an inheritance in Cornwall\(^86\). Trewothack village is also near Penzance (25 miles to the west), considered John’s city of origin\(^2\).

Passage of John Retallack to Australia on the “Himalaya” in 1849 (Fig. 2) rather than the “Caucasian” in 1851, is more likely, because he is unlisted on either ships list. Only sponsored passengers were listed before 1852 and the sponsoring South Australian Company required settlers be “real labourers, going out to work for wages in the colony, of sound mind and body, not less than fifteen nor more than thirty years of age and married”\(^1\). At that time John was the right age, but unmarried. By 1850 the marriage requirement had been dropped, but not the age requirement\(^88\). The “Himalaya”\(^89-90\) embarked from Plymouth on 1 August and arrived in Adelaide on 21 November 1849. He was apparently expected in Adelaide, where the post office advertised unclaimed letters for him in three lists\(^91-93\) advertised 31 December 1851, 31 August 1852, and 30 November 1852. Presumably these were letters from Bible Christian colleagues in England, and lay unclaimed because of his absence at the gold rush in Bendigo, Victoria, mentioned in unpublished family letters\(^2\).

The Victorian goldfields would have been a major attraction for a young unskilled labourer in the years 1851-1853, and took much of the labour force of Adelaide\(^94\). Nevertheless, Bendigo would have been very disconcerting for a fundamentalist Christian for a variety of reasons. Thievery, brothels, and widespread drunkenness\(^95-96\) would have been disturbing. The large numbers of Chinese at the diggings\(^97\) may also have evoked racist feelings rationalized as a mark of Cain. Crowding and lack of privacy would be trying for a country boy, as was the way that so much land was turned upside down (Fig. 3), and then reworked again by the Chinese. There were also ridiculously inflated prices for everything on the gold fields\(^99\).

Finally, the years 1851-1853 were increasingly troubled by miner unrest, culminating in the massacre of the Eureka Stockade of 3 December 1854. As recounted in newspapers\(^100\) It was in 1853 that the agitations on the goldfields had reached a height. Not only were the diggers dissatisfied with the iniquitous license fee of 30s per month, but the whole population was harrassed by the mode in which the authorities collected it and their tyrannical conduct also in reference to the sale of liquor….At a meeting held in Camp Reserve, near where Charing Cross now is, on the 6th June1853, the licensing system and the tyrannical proceedings of the camp officials were denounced in no measured terms. A memorial was prepared in reference to this and other questions, and, at the end of July it had been signed by 23,000 diggers of Bendigo and Castlemaine, 8,000 signatures from McIvor swelling it up to 31,000. The memorial was taken to Melbourne for presentation, Mr Thomson being one of the delegates, but the reply of the Lieutenant-Governor (Mr La Trobe) was, that the Government were not inclined to make any change in the existing laws. He was satisfied the diggers were mere grievance mongers, and that he knew what was his duty, and he would do it at all risks. If the
diggers troubled the Government, much more he would let them hear how cannon could roar." This prediction may have been enough warning for John Retallack to return to the Bible Christian congregation in Mitcham.

John thus avoided the climactic events of 3 December 1854, when a force of 276 police from Ballarat and soldiers from British garrisons 12th (East Suffolk) Regiment of Foot and 40th (2nd Somersetshire) Regiment of Foot approached a makeshift stockade near the Eureka gold lead and its 148 defenders who had raised the Eureka flag featuring the southern cross. The ragtag group of miners was no match for professional police and soldiers, and were routed within 10 minutes. Some 14 miners died inside the stockade and an additional eight died later from injuries. Most diggers were marched off to the Government camp nearby. With imposition of martial law armed resistance collapsed, but the Eureka stockade and its Australian flag have remained a symbol of Australian independence and democracy.

John Retallack may have spent some time in Adelaide in 1849, enroute to Melbourne and the Bendigo goldfields, but he was certainly back by 1853 in Mitcham, 11 km south of Adelaide (Fig. 4). The village of Mitcham, now a suburb of Adelaide, was a center of the Cornish community and of the Bible Christian Church in Australia. There John met Caroline Rashleigh (Fig. 5), his future wife, and step-daughter of a past minister of the Bible Christian Church.
Caroline’s story in the following paragraphs owes much to an account by Terry Moyle. Her father was John Rashleigh, the son of John and Margaret Rashleigh (née Allen), born 13th September, 1795, and baptized at St Keverne, Cornwall on 15th, November, 1795. John Rashleigh married Phyllis Symons, the daughter of Robert Symons and Elizabeth (née Richards), in 1821. John was a yeoman farmer at Porthkerris a cove on the south Cornish coast between Porthallow and Porthoustock in St Keverne Parish. John and Phyllis had six children. Their first son was John (born 1822), then John James (1824), Elizabeth (1826 died young), William Richards (1827), Elizabeth Symons (1829), Caroline (1832), and Thomas Henry (1833). The family had strong ties to the Bible Christian chapel at Porthallow. Some of the children were baptized by the Bible Christian minister there, but others were baptized at St Keverne church. John Rashleigh was bed ridden for several years before he died but Phyllis Rashleigh managed the farm and developed business skills that stood her in good stead later in Australia. John died on 19th July, 1833, and was buried at Manaccan on 23rd July, 1833.

Caroline Rashleigh’s stepfather, William Kinsman was born in Morenstow, north Cornwall, in 1799. He began his Bible Christian ministry in the Scilly Isles in 1825, and by 1833 he was preaching in Mevagissy. William may have left the Methodist ministry, but continued to preach for the Bible Christian church. He appeared in St Keverne in 1833, and perhaps ministered to the ailing John Rashleigh at
Fig. 5. The older Rashleigh-Kinsman girls about 1853, Elizabeth Symons (Rashleigh) Rowe, Caroline Rashleigh, Philippa Rashleigh and Mary Jane Kinsman (left to right). Rosina and Grace Kinsman are not pictured.

Porthkerris. On 14th August 1834, William Kinsman, bachelor of St Keverne, married Phyllis Rashleigh, widow, by licence at St Keverne church. Over the next ten years, Phyllis had six children with William Kinsman, five girls and a boy. Three of the children, Rosina, Grace and Philippa (Fig. 5), were baptized on 10th March 1843 at the family home at Porthkerris by the local Bible Christian minister. In both the 1841 and 1851 census returns, the Kinsman-Rashleigh family was at Porthkerris. Phyllis continued to manage the farm for fifteen years after marriage to William Kinsman. In the meantime, Phyllis’s eldest daughter Elizabeth Symons Rashleigh (Fig. 5) had married her boyfriend Francis Rowe, and had emigrated to South Australia. Elizabeth had sent glowing letters home about life in Mitcham, South Australia. For some years the Kinsmans lost money because of potato blight, which also decimated Irish potato crops at the time\textsuperscript{105}. As there was only a life left before the Porthkerris farm lease would end, they decided to emigrate to South Australia. On 11th November 1851, William and Phyllis together with their 6 children, plus William, Caroline and Thomas Rashleigh sailed from Plymouth on the 565 ton barque “Caucasian”\textsuperscript{4}. The passage was sponsored by the South Australian Company, but William Kinsman was required to pay an excess fare of £37, because he had a large number of children and his daughter Phillipa was blind. William and Phyllis gave their ages as 30 for the passenger list of the Caucasian, when they were actually over 53 years old. This was due to a requirement of the South Australian Company that sponsored passengers be under 30 years of age\textsuperscript{7,88}. Kinsman experience of
farming was also important to meet the South Australia Company’s occupation criterion. The Kinsman-Rashleighs arrived in Adelaide 8th February 1852.

The Rashleigh-Kinsman story in Australia can now be taken up from the memoirs of Thomas Playford\textsuperscript{102}, who married Caroline’s half-sister Mary Jane Kinsman (Fig. 5) in 1860. Thomas Playford was an orchardist and prominent politician: Member of South Australian Parliament for Onkaparinga 1868-1871, Premier of South Australia 1887-1889 and again in 1890-1892, and involved in planning the Federation of the Commonwealth of Australia, and drafting the Australian Constitution\textsuperscript{106}.

“I was most intimate with a family who came to Mitcham about the year 1852. For I married into that family. Some of the children were named Rashleigh and some Kinsman for Mrs Kinsman had been married twice. I heard the Rev. Kinsman preach twice in our little chapel, and thought he was a good preacher. He was a tall, well built man with pleasing serious looking face much liked by his children. In the meantime, gold had been found in Victoria and the men in the colony were flocking there. Mr Kinsman resolved to go also and take William and John Rashleigh with him. He stayed long enough to see the rest of his family settled, then departed by ship for Melbourne. He and the two Rashleighs duly landed in Melbourne and acquired horses and carts to carry their luggage to the diggings near Bendigo. They made a late start and camped for the first night not far from Melbourne. Mr Kinsman was troubled with a bad attack of dysentery and told the boys that they were to go on, and that he would walk back to Melbourne and procure some medical advice and medicine, and that he would catch them up later. William and John Rashleigh went on but he never turned up, and that was the last time he was seen alive by anyone according to diligent enquiry made by Mrs Kinsman and others. Phyllis was informed that a man answering to William Kinsman’s description had boarded a vessel bound for Port Adelaide but that he had died before the vessel reached the heads and was taken ashore there to be buried. However there is no record of his death or burial.” This informant may have been John Retallack as he, as well as “Elizabeth Symons and infant” (perhaps Elizabeth Symons Rowe) are listed as passengers on the steamship “Cleopatra”

\textbf{Figure 6. The steam ship “Cleopatra”\textsuperscript{109}.}
(Fig. 6) leaving Adelaide May 14 1853 for Portland and Melbourne\textsuperscript{107-108}. This trip of investigation was short, as John was back to marry Caroline in Mitcham\textsuperscript{5} on 7 November 1853.

The story of the Kinsman’s misadventures in the Victorian goldfields, shares many elements with Catherine Spence’s novel of 1854, \textit{Clara Morison: a tale of South Australia during the gold fever}, which takes the view of the women left behind. There is no evidence from Catherine Spence’s biography that she knew the Kinsmans or Rashleighs\textsuperscript{110}.

Playford\textsuperscript{102} continues “Poor Mrs Kinsman was thus left to fight her own way in life, mysteriously bereft of her husband. With the little money she had, she purchased some cows and sold milk and butter. She realized that there was an opening for a passenger conveyance to the city so she bought a cart and drove to town in the morning, returning in the evening 3 days a week. Later she obtained the mail contract in 1855. As the traffic increased she procured a bus and her son drove it. Mr James of the Norfolk Arms kindly gave her the use of his stables and despite competition from other buses the people of Mitcham supported her venture.” A bus in those days was a horse-drawn omnibus (Fig. 7).

Playford continues\textsuperscript{102}, “Soon after the Kinsman’s arrival in Mitcham, I fell in love with Mary Jane (Fig. 5), obtained her love, and we courted for seven years before we married. Mrs Kinsman died on Feb 21st, 1866, of gastric fever and was buried in Mitcham. I was one of the executors of her will together with William Rashleigh and Francis Rowe. We found that she was worth several thousand pounds which was divided up in equal shares among all her children except Phillipa, her blind daughter, who was

\textit{Fig. 7. Phyllis Kinsman and the Mitcham-Adelaide bus\textsuperscript{111} ca 1855.}
left for life with the interest of 550 pounds to keep her. I was the acting executor and since then have invested Phillipa’s money, paying her board and giving her pocket money to purchase books for the blind. Her sister Mrs Williams boards her for 18 shillings a week. However of late the interest rate has been so low so I have been compelled to take some of the capital to meet expenses, and if she lives many more years, all the capital will be used up.”

There is also an account of the Kinsmans arrival in Adelaide. “On landing at Port Adelaide they reached the city by means of a bullock dray and slept the night in a shed in Hindley Street, before continuing the next day to Mitcham where the family settled.” Mitcham was evidently a predetermined destination for William Kinsman as a centre for the Cornish community and Bible Christian Church in Australia. This congregation included John Retallack, then an old hand in Australia. He married Caroline only 20 months after her arrival on 7th November 1853, but curiously at St Michaels Church of England and Ireland, in Mitcham, Not the Bible Christian Church. On their marriage license, John is listed as labourer and bachelor 25 years old, and Caroline as spinster 21 years old. This may have been a forced marriage, and so refused by the Bible Christian Church, because their first son Seth was born on 17th July 1854 in Mitcham, only 251 days after marriage (normal pregnancy term is 266 days, and 1854 was not a leap year).

For the first 2 years, John and Caroline lived with Phyllis and the other Kinsmans. In 1854, John signed among 157 prominent citizens in the newspaper to the same political candidate as his future brother in law Thomas Playford. When John and Caroline departed for Angaston, John sold part interest in his Mitcham property to Phyllis Kinsman, so he was a man of some means by then.

Sometime around 1856, John Retallack and his family moved to Angaston, in the Barossa Valley, 77 km northeast of Adelaide, as an employee of George Fife Angas, founder of the South Australian Company. George Fife Angas was a devout non-conformist Christian, and his stated ambition was to found a society free of established churches and convicts where its members could enjoy civil and religious freedom. One of the largest groups persuaded to emigrate were Silesian German Lutherans under Pastor August Kavel, eager to escape religious oppression by King Frederick William III of Prussia. George Angas personally advanced £8000 to the Germans for emigration, and thus established German traditions, including wine making to the Barossa Valley. By 1851, George Angas had moved to Adelaide with his wife and youngest son, to a substantial estate of 4000 acres, “Lindsay Park”, with a spacious house, chapel, roads and bridges. Caroline and John Retallack would have fitted Angas’s employment criteria, Caroline being the daughter of a deceased minister of the Bible Christian Church and John with his farming skills.

At Angaston, son John, also known as Jack, was born to John and Caroline Retallack 19th April, 1857, and William a year later, 20th Aug 1858. Another son, Thomas was born 18th May, 1860, but he only lived 3 years and died at Angas Park. During his time at Angaston, John Retallack worked as a carrier. He was active on the local council promoting road improvements. He laid claim to title of crown property under the Real Property Act in 1859, and was appointed Crown Land Ranger for the district of Light in 1860.
On the 16th December, 1860, Caroline’s half sister Mary Jane Kinsman married Thomas Playford. The Kinsman children and Playford had attended Thomas Muggs school, which was operated from the Union Chapel. Thomas Playford was from a leading Adelaide family living in Mitcham, and the Rashleighs and Retallacks would have been socially elevated with such a marriage. Charles Retallack was born to Caroline and John in 1862, but only lived 15 months. Caroline’s and John’s first daughter was born at Nuriootpa, in the Barossa Valley on 4th April 1864, and christened Elizabeth. In 1865, they moved to Steinau, south of Angaston. Another son Thomas was born there in July 1866, followed by Charles on the 25th May 1868. In February 1866, both Caroline’s mother Phyllis and her eldest sister Elizabeth Symons Rowe died, and Caroline and John inherited money from Phyllis’s estate.

In late 1869, John and Caroline and their family moved to Gawler, 44 km north of Adelaide. Small farms had become available for selection around Gawler, and flour milling, foundries and the railway from Adelaide were established in town. Bullock teams were employed in moving copper ore south from the Burra copper mines. On 13 September 1872, another son James Retallack was born at Gawler, but he only lived 3 months. The last child born to Caroline and John Retallack at Lower Light in 1873 was Francis Rowe Retallack 1873, named after Caroline’s brother in law, who had been married to her eldest sister Elizabeth Symons Rowe (née Rashleigh), but following her death had remarried in 1867 to Amanda Box. Lower Light on the Samphire coast 52 km northeast of Adelaide, was the home of the Rowe family. Elizabeth had 6 children with Francis Rowe, who subsequently had a further 8 children with Amanda Box. Caroline was 41 and John 52 when the last of their 11 children was born after 21 years of marriage.

John and Caroline’s oldest son Seth Retallack was married 22nd December 1873 at the Wesleyan Parsonage, Norwood, South Australia to Sarah Constable. Another son John Retallack married Margaret McDonald 13th February 1883. Daughter Elizabeth married John Mannix, 14th July 1883 at Trinity Church Adelaide, and then moved to Western Australia. Son William married Amelia Edson 31st August 1887 at Norwood, South Australia.

Son Charles hauled foreclosed farm implements from Ororroo, South Australia, via the Warrego River to Mitchell, Queensland, as a youthful adventure in 1894. Charles founded a Queensland branch of the family with his marriage to Margaret Jane Dobbin 19th March, 1893, in Brisbane, and settling on Cocaigne Station near Mitchell, Queensland. Charles’ adventurous overland trip may have been inspired by the famous Bowen Downs cattle duffers, Henry Arthur (“Harry”) Readford (also “Redford”), George Dewdney (also “Doudney”) and William Rooke. Readford was the model for Captain Starlight of Rolf Boldrewood’s (1888) novel “Robbery Under Arms”. Rolf Boldrewood was the pen name of Thomas Alexander Browne, a contemporary writer and acquaintance of Catherine Spence. Realizing the difficulty of keeping track of cattle in this remote part of western Queensland near Longreach, Readford and his mates built yards at the back of Bowen Downs Station, mustering and drafting 1000 head of cattle, including a prize imported bull. They drove their mob through the Channel Country of the Barcoo River, Coopers Creek and Strezlecki Desert in March 1870, where only 9 years before Burke and Wills had perished, finally selling the cattle at public
auction at Blanchewater Station near Maree, South Australia. Months afterward, the manager of Bowen Downs noticed in an Adelaide Auctioneers Circular, the sale of a bull answering the description of their expensive imported sire\textsuperscript{126}. The thieves were tried at Roma and the crime proven, but the droving feat so impressed the jury that they returned a verdict of not guilty. “Judge Blakeney was visibly staggered. He stared at the jury as if he had misheard the verdict. “Would you mind repeating your verdict gentlemen.” “Not guilty.” Those who were close enough to the judge saw the blood rush to his face and his hands tremble as he fought for self control. When he spoke he made no attempt to keep the bitterness from his voice. “I thank God”, he said deliberately,”that the verdict is yours, gentlemen, not mine.” His hard eyes raked the figure of [Harry] Redford standing in the dock. “The prisoner is discharged.” And a cheering crowd led Big Harry to the nearest public house… Redford’s trial was but one instance of how bushman sympathies were overwhelming justice in Roma at the time. On 5 April 1873 the governor of Queensland ordered the criminal jurisdiction of the District of Roma be withdrawn for two years”\textsuperscript{127}

John Retallack died of heart disease and senile decay at the age of 69 in the Destitute Asylum, Adelaide, on 8th August, 1890, according to his death certificate\textsuperscript{6}. He was buried in West Terrace Cemetery, then the pauper cemetery on the banks of the Torrens River, west of the South Australian Museum. His wife Caroline died of heart disease and dropsey on the 8th of June 1896 in Forster, on the banks of the Murray River, 163 km east of Adelaide\textsuperscript{1}. At the end of his life, John had become estranged and disowned by the family, which is the last remaining puzzle of his life. The most likely break with John was when Caroline moved from Gawler to her brother-in-laws’s house in Lower Light to deliver daughter Elizabeth in 1873. John Retallack was an alcoholic, and becoming increasingly unreliable. He was considered delusional because in his final years he told the family that he was the son of a Cornish squire, but too ill to travel home to reclaim his inheritance\textsuperscript{86}.

REFERENCES AND NOTES.


2. Unpublished letter from Gertrude Elizabeth Retallack (daughter of John or “Jack” Retallack, at Toowong to Wendy Retallack, Epping, Sydney 28th July 1965 (collection of G.J. Retallack). John Retallack “came from Cornwall (Penzance). I don’t know the name of the ship, but he came to Angaston SA and worked on George Fife Angus’s estate, that is where the first Angus cattle was bred. I would think they were married and died there, also most if not all the children would be born in or about Angaston. He at one time went to the Bendigo gold diggings”


4. Unpublished letter from G.L. Fischer, Public Archivist of the Public Library of South Australia, to Wendy Retallack, Epping, Sydney, on 26 August 1965 has Caroline Rashleigh age 20 passenger on the Caucasian from Plymouth on 11 November 1851 arriving at Port Adelaide on 8 February 1852, accompanied by Thomas H. Rashleigh (18) and William R. Rashleigh (24). He could not find any record of John Retallack’s arrival in Australia (collection of G.J. Retallack).

5. Certified Copy of Registration of Marriage of John Retallack and Caroline Rashleigh 1853 District of Mitcham (collection of G.J. Retallack).

6. Certified Copy of Registration of Death of John Retallack 1890 District of Adelaide (collection of G.J. Retallack). John Retallack labourer died 8 August of senile decay, heart disease at age 69 (thus born about 1821) in the Destitute Asylum and buried in West Terrace Cemetery Adelaide (collection of G.J. Retallack)


8. On the 29th June 1847, John Retallack, age 34 (thus born about 1813), was charged with stealing a quart of barley and given a sentence of 7 years and transportation at Bodmin Quarter Sessions\textsuperscript{5}. He was married at the time and exchanged letters in gaol with his wife Mary Ann\textsuperscript{6}. On the 1st January 1850, the convicted John Retallack was deported to Australia in a fleet carrying 2400 convicts. John was transported with 302 others, on the barque “Bangalore”\textsuperscript{9}, one of 4 ships turned away from Port Philip,
near Melbourne, after they accepted 9 other ships with 1720 convicts. The “Bangalore” proceeded to Sydney, but New South Wales had not accepted convicts since 1840 and officially abolished transportation 1st October 1850. So the “Bangalore” continued to Moreton Bay and anchored there. John Retallick was one of 297 convicts who survived the passage and were granted their ticket of leave before disembarkation, because Brisbane had not been a penal colony since 1842. Technically then, John Retallick was an “exile”, rather than a “convict” in the usual Australian sense. There was some expectation of drunken riots, which had followed release of convict exiles in Brisbane from the “Mountstuart Elphinstone” in 1849, but the official report of Superintendent McLean was complimentary, and is quoted here. “I inspected such portions of the ship as were occupied by prisoners, which I found in all respects to be both clean and wholesome; the men themselves presented a very orderly and creditable appearance, fully bearing out the very excellent character given of them by the surgeon-superintendent, and with whose treatment during the voyage they expressed themselves perfectly contented. One remarkable fact is worthy of notice – that not a single punishment of any prisoner occurred since their embarkation. After the muster and personal description of the men were completed, persons were permitted to visit the ship, but only under a written order from the police magistrate, and in eight days from that period the whole number was engaged, with the exception of three, who, by concurrence of Captain Wickham, were landed at Brisbane and received into barracks: two of those men were clerks and the other a Jew, and were expected to be specially applied for. The wages obtained by the labouring portion of the men ranged from 13/- to 16/- a-year, and to mechanics and domestic servants were given 18/- to 30/- per annum, in each case with the usual rations. The readiness with which these men were applied for, and from various sources of information derived in the district, it is evident that there is still a great demand for this description of labour in the surrounding districts of Moreton Bay, and I am fully persuaded that had another vessel arrived with the “Bangalore” having on board the same number of men, they would have been eagerly sought for, and speedily disposed of. I may perhaps be permitted to remark that one agent alone at Brisbane had instructions from various persons to obtain 180 men, but of course was not successful in hiring so large a proportion from one vessel.” The demand is understandable, because these “wages” were very low, even for the time and including food and board. John Retallick found employment on Gowrie, now a village, but then the sheep station of Henry Huguba, on the Darling Downs, 1.37 km west of Brisbane. John Retallick was still there at Westbrook near Toowoomba advertising for a lost horse in 185015-17.


15. Forbes, D., 1900, Reminiscences of the early days of the present colony of Queensland which is soon to form one of the states of the Australian Commonwealth. Queensland Geographical Journal, v. 15, p. 50-62.


17. The Darling Downs Gazette and General Advertiser Thursday 30 June 1859 volume 2 issue 56 p. 3 ADVERTISEMENT £10 Reward. Stolen or strayed from One Mile Creek about three months ago a DARK BAY MARE branded JHB conjoined on die near shoulder, with a small white streak on her withers. The above reward will be paid on conviction of the thief if stolen; and £2 if strayed on delivery to this address. JOHN RETALLICK. Westbrook, May 20, 1859. (available online at http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/ accessed September 12, 2015)

18. John Retallick was christened at St Kevene10 in 1808, and in 1833 at Manaccan he married Elizabeth Nicholls “with the consent of parents” (she was only 19 and age of consent was 21)20. In the 1841 and 1851 censuses he was at Rosenthal near St Kevene as an agricultural labourer, as his family grew from 4 to 6. On 3 Feb 1852 the entire family of 9 boarded the “Joseph Somes” steamship in Wales and headed for Sydney, Australia21. According to the passenger document, Elizabeth already had two cousins in Australia. In 1860 he obtained a publican’s licence for the Queens Arms on Windsor road22. He died and was buried in Windsor23 in 1864.

19. Online Parish Clerks (Genealogy), 1808, 6 January christening of John Retallack in St Keverne, Cornwall, son of Anthony and Grace Retallack (online at http://www.cornwall-opc-database.org/)

20. Online Parish Clerks (Genealogy), 1833, 21 April marriage of John Retallack to Elizabeth Nicolls in Manaccan, Cornwall (online at http://www.cornwall-opc-database.org/)


25. The Empire (Sydney), Saturday 21 August 1860, issue 2675 p. 4 “PARRAMATTA. ANNUAL LICENSING MEETING. A meeting for the purpose of granting Publicans’ Annual Licenses, for the police district of Parramatta, was held on the 17th instant. Messrs. Keyes, Parnell, Jones, and Watson were present, and the following licences were granted - John Retallack [sic], Queen’s Arms, Windsor-road” (available online at http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/ accessed September 12, 2015).

26. Sydney Morning Herald, Thursday 24 July 1862, volume 94 issue 7529 p.6 ADVERTISEMENT MR JOHN RETALLICK [sic], of the Queen Arms Hotel, on the Windsor Road, twelve miles from Parramatta, and eight from Windsor, begs respectfully to announce to his friends and the public generally that his commodious premises have just undergone a thorough renovation and embellishment to render it a first class inn. From the balcony of the establishment the most magnificent views of the surrounding country is presented, the scenery is beautiful and the atmosphere healthy and invigorating, offering a choice spot for picnic and wedding party desirous of seclusion from the busy hum of the city. Coaches run twice a day from the Queen Arms’ Hotel to the railway terminus at Parramatta. The house is replete with every luxury, and the cellar contains the choicest description of wines, ales, and spirits anywhere to be found in the colony. J R invites but one call, when he is confident of giving satisfaction. (available online at http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/ accessed September 12, 2015).

27. Certified death certificate for 14 September 1864 of John Retallack farmer, age 57 (so born about 1807), son of Anthony Retallack and Grace Freeman, buried in Church of England Cemetery, Windsor, NSW after 13 years in NSW (so emigrated about 1851) leaving widow Elizabeth and 8 children (collection of G.J. Retallack).

28. The 13 other candidate ancestors born 1819-1830 are as follows. (1) John Retallack born in St Wenn in 1819, and at Black Moor in the 1841 census, but emigrated to South Australia in 1879 and died there in 1904, (2) John Retallack was a Camborne draper born about 1821, and listed there in the censuses of 1841, 1846. He married Mary Edwards in 1840, and may have been convicted of riot and assault in 1845. (3) John Retallack a farmer born about 1821 is in all the censuses from 1841 to 1871 at St Wenn, and was buried in 1871 at St Columb Major. (4) John Retallack a cattle dealer was born in Helston in 1822, and married there in 1844. He was still near there in the 1861 and 1871 censuses. (5) John Retallack was born in St Keverne in 1826, and is listed in the 1841 census, and was married there in 1860. (6) John Retallack was born in Colan in 1826 and buried at age 16 in nearby St Columb Major. (7) John Retallack of St Blaizey was born in 1826 but died of whooping cough at the age of three. (8) John Retallack born in St Columb Major in 1826, was still there in the 1841 census, but a copper miner with a young wife at St Leonards for the 1851 census. He emigrated as a single man to the Victorian goldfields in 1855, and died in Ballarat in 1866. (9) John Retallack was born in St Keverne in 1828, but was an orphan servant in the Lodge household in the 1841 and 1851 censuses. (10) He married in St Keverne in 1860 and was an agricultural labourer there in the 1861 census. (11) John Retallack was born in St Wenn in 1829, then a stream miner at Ennisvahr in the 1851 census. By the 1861 census he is married in Roche with 4 children, and added two more by the 1871 census. (12) John Retallack born in St Stephens about 1830 is on his parent’s property Ashwell Farm south of Launceston in every decadal census from 1841 to 1881. (13) John Retallack was buried in St Keverne or in about 1830 was a farm servant there in the 1851 census. He married Susanna Pentecost Lory in 1853, and is listed with her and family in various parts of southwest Cornwall in the decadal censuses of 1861-1891.

29. Online Parish Clerks (Genealogy), 1819 births and christening: John Retallack christened 2 May 1819 to Thomas and Mary Retallack at St Wenn (online at http://www.cornwall-opc-database.org/)


31. The Advertiser (Adelaide), Tuesday 12 July 1904, volume 47 issue 14,269 p. 4 Tuesday 12 July DEATHS. RETALLICK - On the 11th July, at her son-in-law’s residence, Mr. R. Perkins, Gilbert-street, Bowden, Elizabeth, relict of the late John Retallack, colodoner, 75 years (thus immigrated about 1879), aged 85 years (thus born about 1819); (available online at http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/ accessed September 12, 2015).


34. West Briton (Cornwall), Friday 24 April 1840, Marriage last Monday (thus 20 April) of John Retallack draper of Camborne and Mary Edwards at St Marys Church, Truro (available on online www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/ accessed July 6, 2013).

35. British Home Office, 1892, Criminal Registers, England and Wales, Series HO 26 and HO 27; The National Archives of the UK (TNA), Kew, Surrey, England: 1845 Cornwall County Sessions in Bodmin John Retallack at age 25 on 14 October 1845 (thus born about 1820) conviction for riot and assault for one month and sureties (available online in Criminal registers 1791-1892 at http://search.ancestry.co.uk ).

36. British Home Office, 1841, UK census returns series HO 107: John Retallack age 20 (so born about 1821) living with Polly and Thomas Retallack (ages 60 and 70) at Carpot, St Wenn Parish, Pydar Hundred (FreeCEN, UK historical censuses online, 2000; http://www.freecen.org.uk/ accessed July 6, 2013)

37. British Home Office, 1851, UK census returns series HO 107: John Retallack age 31 (so born about 1820) agricultural labourer living with Polly and James Retallack (ages 69 and 41) at Carpet, St Wenn Parish, Pydar Hundred (FreeCEN, UK historical censuses online, 2000; http://www.freecen.org.uk/ accessed July 6, 2013).


Online Parish Clerks (Genealogy), 1875 death registration: John Retallick Jul-Aug-Sept. at age 55 (thus born about 1820) in St Columb Major (online at http://www.cornwall-opc-database.org/)

40. Online Parish Clerks (Genealogy), 1822, births and christening: John Retallack 10 February at Wesleyan Church, Helston Circuit, Cornwall to John and Jane Retallack (online at http://www.cornwall-opc-database.org/)

Online Parish Clerks (Genealogy), 1844 marriages: 24 March marriage of John Retallack and Elizabeth Penaluna Ralph in Helston, Cornwall (online at http://www.cornwall-opc-database.org/).


44. British Home Office, 1871, UK census returns series RG10: John Retallack born in Helston and age 48 (thus born about 1823) cattle dealer and head of household for wife Elizabeth and two daughters in Gwealanglears, Wendron Parish, Helston Hundred (FreeCEN, UK historical censuses online, 2000; http://www.freecen.org.uk/ accessed July 6, 2013)

46. Online Parish Clerks (Genealogy), 1826 births and christenings: John Retallack christened 2 April 1826, St Keverne, Cornwall to Sarah and James Retallack (available online www.Cornwall-opc-database.org/ accessed July 6, 2013)


47. Online Parish Clerks (Genealogy), 1860 Marriage: John Retallack, labourer of Laddenwean and son of James Retallack, married 18 December 1860 to Elizabeth Cole widow and daughter of George Matthias labourer, witnessed by Thomas Odgers and Jacob Lazy (available online www.Cornwall-opc-database.org/ accessed July 6, 2013).

49. Online Parish Clerks (Genealogy), 1826, births and christening: 27 March 1826 christening of John Retallack at Colan, Hundred of Pydar, Cornwall to John and Dinah Retallack (available online www.Cornwall-opc-database.org/ accessed July 6, 2013)

50. Online Parish Clerks (Genealogy), 1842 Burial: John Retallack age 16 (thus born 1826) on 29 March 1842 at Fair Street, St Columb Major (available online www.Cornwall-opc-database.org/ accessed July 6, 2013)


53. Family Search Genealogy, 1826, Family Tree: John Retallack son of John Retallack (1793-1872) and Maria Bunt (1798-1860). (available online https://familysearch.org/ accessed July 6, 2013)


58. Star (Ballarat), Monday 5 February 1866, volume 11 issue 31 p. 3 “THURSDAY, 8th FEBRUARY. RARE OPPORTUNITY OF Securing a First-class Business Site in Ballarat West, Opposite the Star office, Sturt Street, and a few paces from the photographic rooms of Messrs Solomon and Bardwell. JAMES ODDIE and CO. have received instructions from the executors of the late Mr J. Retallack to sell by public auction, on the ground, on Thursday, 8th February, at one o'clock, all that piece of parcel of land, being portion of Allotment 11, Section D, parish of Ballarat, having a frontage to Sturt street of twenty-two feet by a depth of one hundred and thirty-two feet, together with the wooden buildings erected thereon, comprising blacksmith's shop and dwelling house, and the right of half of the adjoining gable wall. As an investment or a site for business purposes there is nothing comparable to it in the market. It is undeniably, retail business position No. 1. Title, Crown grant. Terms at Sale. (available online at http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/ accessed September 12, 2015)


60. British Home Office, 1841, UK census returns series HO 107: John Retallack age 11 (thus born about 1830) male servant in house of John and Sarah Lobb at Tregarn, St Keverne Parish, Kerrier Hundred (FreeCEN, UK historical censuses online, 2000; http://www.freecen.org.uk/ accessed July 6, 2013)

61. Online Parish Clerks (Genealogy), 1828, Marriages: 16 December 1828 marriage of John Retallack to Elizabeth Cole at St Keverne (available online www.Cornwall-opc-database.org/ accessed July 6, 2013)
62. British Home Office, 1861, UK census returns series RG 9: John Retallack age 34 born St Keverne (thus born about 1827) agricultural labourer was living with wife Elizabeth in Laddenwean village, St Keverne Parish, Helston Hundred, Cornwall (FreeCEN, UK historical censuses online, 2000; http://www.freecen.org.uk/ accessed July 6, 2013)

63. Online Parish Clerks (Genealogy), 1829, Marriages: baptism of John Retallack on 8 February 1829 to John and Ann Retallack at St Wenn (available online www.Cornwall-opc-database.org/ accessed July 6, 2013)


65. British Home Office, 1861, UK census returns series RG 9: John Retallack age 32 born at St Wenn (thus born about 1829) miner with wife Mary Ann and 4 children, eldest born in Luxulyan and others in Roche, living at Bilbery, Roche Parish, St Austell Hundred (FreeCEN, UK historical censuses online, 2000; http://www.freecen.org.uk/ accessed July 6, 2013).


68. Online Parish Clerks (Genealogy), 1912, Death registration index: John B. Retallack Jan-Feb-Mar age 82 (thus born about 1830) at Liskeard, Cornwall (available online www.Cornwall-opc-database.org/ accessed July 6, 2013).

69. 1841 census John Retallack age 12 (thus born about 1829) living with Elizabeth and Thomas Retallack farmers at East Tremollett, North Hill Hundred, East Hundred (FreeCEN, UK historical censuses online, 2000; http://www.freecen.org.uk/ accessed July 6, 2013)


74. British Home Office, 1851, UK census returns series HO 107: John Retallack age 21 born in St Keverne (thus born about 1830) was a farm servant in the household of Anna and John Glascot Vawdrey and their 8 children in Buzzurell, Gwinear Parish, Camborne Hundred, Cornwall (FreeCEN, UK historical censuses online, 2000; http://www.freecen.org.uk/ accessed July 6, 2013)


76. British Home Office, 1861, UK census returns series RG 9: John Retallack age 32 born in St Keverne (thus born about 1829) was married to Susanna (serving wife age 29 and also born in St Keverne) in the household of John Thomas of Wall, Gwinear Parish, Camborne Hundred, Cornwall (FreeCEN, UK historical censuses online, 2000; http://www.freecen.org.uk/ accessed July 6, 2013)

77. British Home Office, 1871, UK census returns series RG 10: John Retallack age 41 born in St Stephens (thus born about 1830) living with wife Susan and daughter Fanny in Camborne Parish, Camborne Hundred, Cornwall (FreeCEN, UK historical censuses online, 2000; http://www.freecen.org.uk/ accessed July 6, 2013)

78. British Home Office, 1881, UK census returns series RG 11: John Retallack age 52 born in St Keverne (thus born about 1829) living with wife Susannah and daughter Fanny in Weeth, Stithney Parish, Wendron Hundred, Cornwall (FreeCEN, UK historical censuses online, 2000; http://www.freecen.org.uk/ accessed July 6, 2013)

79. British Home Office, 1881, UK census returns series RG 12: John Retallack age 60 born in St Keverne (thus born about 1831) living with wife Susan in Meaver, Mullion Parish, Helston Hundred (FreeCEN, UK historical censuses online, 2000; http://www.freecen.org.uk/ accessed July 6, 2013)

80. 1826 England and Wales non-conformist register John Retallack baptized 16 July to William and Lydia Retallack at Bible Christian Church, Luxulyan Circuit, Cornwall


85. Certified copy of Registration of Birth of Charles Retallack District of Angaston (collection of G.J. Retallack).

86. British Home Office, 1841, UK census returns series HO 107: John Retallack age 15 (thus born about 1826) farm servant in farm of William Retallack at Chewerthack, St Anthony Parishes, Liskeard Hundred, Cornwall, (but no mother Lydia Retallack listed) (FreeCEN, UK historical censuses online, 2000; http://www.freecen.org.uk/ accessed July 6, 2013)


88. British Home Office, 1841, UK census returns series HO 107: John Retallack age 15 (thus born about 1826) farm servant in farm of William Retallack at Chewerthack, St Anthony Parishes, Liskeard Hundred, Cornwall, (but no mother Lydia Retallack listed) (FreeCEN, UK historical censuses online, 2000; http://www.freecen.org.uk/ accessed July 6, 2013)
87. Unpublished letter from Eric Retallack 15 September 1965. John Retallack claimed late in life that he needed “to have gone to Cornwall to claim an inheritance, but he was ill, and said he would die on the way over, so he did not go. He did die not long after.”


90. Adelaide register, Tuesday 26 January 1826, article volume 91 issue 26,546 page 12 of Tuesday 26 January 1926 has only one arrival of ship Himalaya between 1848.


96. Bendigo Advertiser, Friday 17 August 1860, volume 7 issue 1633 p.2, “EAGLEHAWK POLICE COURT. Thursday, 10th August, B860. (Before Mr. J. H. Alley, P.M, and Dr. Barnett, J.P.) LARCENY--James Watts was brought up charged with stealing a pair of blankets, value 25s, from the tent of a digger named Moyle, at Elysian Flat. The prisoner pleaded, guilty and was sentenced to three months imprisonment with hard labor. The same prisoner also pleaded guilty to a second charge of stealing a pair of boots from the tent of a minor (sic) named Retallack, and was sentenced to a further term of three months’ imprisonment with hard labor, the second sentence to commence at the expiration of the previous one.” (available online at http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/ accessed September 12, 2015)

97. Bendigo Advertiser, Wednesday 31 July 1861, volume 8 issue 1930 p.3, “DISTRICT POLICE COURT. Tuesday, 30th July, 1861. (Before Mr. M’Lachlan, P.M.) VIOLENT ASSAULT.-Thomas Mitchell and Henry Retallack were brought up on remand, on the charge of assaulting Frederick Drickman, at Ironbark on the night of the 14th of July. … The three witnesses examined differed from each other so greatly, that no jury would be found to convict the prisoners on such evidence, and the prosecutor had evidently perjured himself. The fact was it was a row in a brothel, and Drickman was the managing man. The young men had gone there intoxicated, and a row had been the result.” (available online at http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/ accessed September 12, 2015)

98. The Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News, Friday 25 August 1854, volume 7 issue 347 p. 2. THE CHINAMEN.—We are credibly informed that there are several Chinamen on these diggings, who have constantly in their employment from 50 to 60 of their fellow countrymen. These gentlemen are to be distinguished from the others by their adoption of some smart European dresses, and, whether it arises from the difference of costume, a longer intercourse with Europeans, or from natural energy, they certainly appear to possess a much greater amount of activity and animation than is usually observable in the Chinaman; and there are great numbers at present on Bendigo, to which fresh arrivals nearly every day are adding considerably. They are exceedingly persevering as diggers, though we believe they confine themselves almost entirely to the old workings.—Bendigo Advertiser (available online at http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/ accessed September 12, 2015)


100. The Northern Champion (Taree), Wednesday 18 October 1939, volume 27 p. 2. THEN AND NOW. If you think house hold commodities are dear now, what about the prices in years ago? ‘At Bendigo, in 1851-1853 a 200lb bag flour varied between £16 and £20, butter £5 per lb, onions £4 per lb, spuds £8 per lb, and cabbages from £3 to £10 each. (available online at http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/ accessed September 12, 2015)


108. Adelaide Observer, Saturday May 14 1853, volume 11 issue 516 p. 4, CLEARED OUT. Wednesday, May 11 –The steamer Cleopatra, 1,500 tons, F Cadell, master, for Melbourne. Passengers - Retallack


110. Illustrated London News, 1852, v. 21, July-December, p. 181


113. South Australian Register, Tuesday 11 July 1854, volume 18 issue 2436 p. 3, ELECTORAL DISTRICT OF WEST TORRENS.— REQUISITION to Mr. ALDERMAN REYNOLDS. We the undersigned, being electors of West Torrens District,
having witnessed with satisfaction your public consistency and zeal in the advocacy of those important political principles which we consider are calculated to advance the well being and prosperity of our colony, request that you will allow yourself to be nominated as a Candidate to fill the vacancy in the Legislative Council of South Australia occasioned by the resignation of C. S. Hare, Esq., and in which case we cordially tender you our support. 157 signatories including Thomas Playford and John Retallack (available online at http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/ accessed September 12, 2015)


115. Unpublished email Beth Hallam 19 Sept 1998 John Retallack was carrier at Angas Park in 1863

116. Unpublished email Beth Hallam 19 Sept 1998 John Retallack was carrier at Nurioopta in 1864

117. South Australian Advertiser, Tuesday 14 August 1860, volume 3 issue 649 p.3 Tuesday 14 August "ANGASTON, SATURDAY. AUGUST 4. Present -The whole Council. Mr. Holmes attended relative to alteration of road through sections 509 and 434; Mr. Clark, as Mr. Angas's agent to be requested to furnish information. Retallack was paid £11 9s. 4d. (available online at http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/ accessed September 12, 2015)

118. South Australian Advertiser (Adelaide), Monday 22 July 1867, volume 10 issue 2737 p.3, DISTRICT COUNCILS. ANGASTON, July 8.—Public Meeting of Ratepayers. Letter read from Mrs. Masters requesting road to be examined and repaired between Retallack's and Thom's. Mr. W. Clark waited on Council relative to roads beyond Tanawatta, offering to accompany any Councillors who might be appointed to inspect same. Messrs. Hams and Pepperell to visit the various roads (available online at http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/ accessed September 12, 2015)

119. South Australian Register, Tuesday 13 August 1867, volume 31 issue 6481 p. 3, DISTRICT COUNCILS. ANGASTON. July 27. Present— Messrs. Jepson (Chairman), Green. Harris, Pepperell, and Kieran. Messrs. Pepperell and Harris reported that they had examined the various roads mentioned last Council day, and that five chains of forming and metalling was required at Smith's Hill near Tarrawatta, and a large hole to be filled up or fenced. Also that a cutting and ford were required near Retallack's and the rocks removed near Kevan's. (available online at http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/ accessed September 12, 2015)

120. The South Australian Advertiser, Friday 17 June 1859, volume 1 issue 290 p.1, REAL PROPERTY ACT NOTICES WHEREAS the persons named and described at foot hereof have each respectively for himself made and subscribed declaration before the Registrar-General, setting forth that he is seized of an estate in fee simple in the lands set forth and described after his name at foot hereof, and hath made application to have the said lands brought under the operation of Act of Parliament No. 15 of 1857-8, entitled "The Real Property Act:" Notice is hereby given, that, unless caveat be lodged with me by some person having estate or interest in the said lands, or any of them, or by some person duly authorized on behalf of a person having estate or interest therein, on or before the expiration of the period herein below for each case described and specified, I will proceed as by law directed, to bring the said pieces of land under the operation of the said Act JOHN RETALLACK : Residence, Angaston ; Property, Section 778, Hundred Moorooroo, County ANGASTON (available online at http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/ accessed September 12, 2015)


125. K.J. Retallack personal communication to M.L. Retallack c. 1964.
