

Joseph Redfern (1784 - 11 Nov 1844 Belfast)

Brother of surgeon William Redfern

- No records of Joseph known before 1809.
- It's assumed that Joseph lived in Portugal between about 1800 and 1808. His father was in Porto, Portugal in 1803 and 1805, Joseph was noted as a fluent speaker of Portuguese in an 1810 Dublin newspaper, Joseph's wife was Portuguese, and his daughter Anna was born in Portugal about 1810.
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- Many free Irish sought refuge in Portugal during the Irish Rebellion. The Belfast News-Letter reported in very late 1808 that the last British had left Portugal and had in arrived Belfast. The Peninsular War started 1807.
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- No Redferns in 1800/1807/1808 Belfast business directories.

AMELIA REDFERN was either born or baptized (it's not clear which) 14 November 1809 at St Patrick's in Belfast. The names of her parents were not recorded. No other records of Amelia are known.

- Belfast Newsletter Apr 1804: Bank Buildings being renovated into 3 shops on ground floor (1 is currently occupied). To let from 1 May 1804
- Belfast Newsletter Nov 28 1806: To let shop at Bank Buildings with stables and yard.
- Belfast Newsletter 6/10 Jan 1809: First known ads for JRs saddlery at Bank Buildings, Belfast. Similar ads continued weekly in various Belfast newspapers up until JR's death. Bank Buildings at 1 Castle St extant in 2015.
- Saunders News-Letter (Dublin) 27 Aug 1810: "Thursday, August 22. This day the court proceeded to the trial of Anthony Sylva, a Portuguese, Joseph Morris, and Joaquin Ferandere, Spaniards, accused of the murder of Robert Morrison [stabbed with a dagger], in this town on Easter Saturday last...Mr. Joseph Redfern, of Belfast, saddler, was sworn was an interpreter...The jury returned a verdict acquitting Morris and Ferandere, and finding Sylva Guilty. He was sentenced to be executed at Carrickfergus, on Saturday next."
Dublin Evening Post 30 Aug 1810: Antonio de Silva was executed at Carrickfergus on Saturday. Silva was asked by Mr. Redfern, interpreter, did he kill Morrison, he answered "calling to God his witness, he did not." He was 28 years of age, and left behind him in Portugal a wife and two children.

ELIZABETH CHARLOTTE FLEMMING REDFERN

- Joseph's wife Elizabeth Charlotte Flemming Redfern (1786 Portugal - 21 Oct 1864 Sheffield). Maiden name is unknown. Presumably married in Portugal about 1810.

ANNA REDFERN b. about 1810

- UK census recorded Joseph's daughter Anna was born in Portugal.
- 'Eldest daughter' Anna Redfern (1810 Portugal - died after 1864 prob. Sheffield) married Alfred Green (1796 Sheffield - 7 Jan 1856 Sheffield) on 17 June 1829. They had two children, Selina Redfern Green (1836 Sheffield – 25 Feb 1911 Brighton), spinster, and William Redfern Green (early 1840 Sheffield – mid-1893 Sheffield), who married and had two boys.

SELINA REDFERN b.1811/12 – died 18 May 1830 Belfast.

- Belfast Newsletter 28 May 1830: DIED – On the 18th instant, Selina, second daughter to Mr. Joseph Redfern, of this town, aged 18 years.

- Public Record Office Northern Ireland: 1819-1843 street directories recorded JR was saddler in Belfast.
- The Irishman 4 Jun 1819 (1st ed newspaper): reads 'JR Begs leave to inform the Public, that he has just received... which he purchased lately in London, and different manufacturing towns in England' Bank Buildings, Belfast.
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- The Irishman 17 Sep 1819: JR is selling gunpowder at his saddlery. Gunpowder is for pistols, rifles and shotguns. This is the only known ad specifically for gunpowder. He frequently sold military supplies for infantry and cavalry.
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- 25 Apr 1820 Belfast Newsletter: "Died. On the 3rd of last month at Trowbridge, Wilts. Mr. Thomas Redfern, Surgeon – a very skillful intelligent young man, nephew to Mr. Joseph Redfern of this town." JR's brother Thomas (d.1814) had a one child, Thomas (d.1820).
- 25 Apr 1820 Belfast Newsletter (***)same column as nephew Thomas): "Died. On the 18th inst., in this town, Mrs. Redfern [~1752-1820], aged 68 years, relict to Mr. James Redfern, Magherafelt." Aunty and uncle?
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- The Irishman 14 Sep 1821: JR, plaintiff v. John Sheil, defendant. JR had issued writs for unpaid goods to the value of £9 7s 6d
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- British Press 17 Sep 1822: Doctor William Redfern from New South Wales arrived O'Dienne's Hotel, Dublin. His visit to Ireland was less than a week after his official business had concluded. Presumably he was visiting his parents or siblings in Ireland and was likely accompanied by wife Sarah Redfern who was 3 months pregnant. William Redfern stayed in the UK until October 1823.
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- The Irishman 18 Oct 1822: JR's saddlery relocated from Bank Buildings to 83 Castle Street, Belfast.
- The Irishman 4 Jul 1823: JR is importing medical trusses (for hernia) and can "supply surgeons and druggists at the wholesale prices" "universally recommended by Medical Gentlemen". This is the only time JR specifically advertised medical products.
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March 1821 PRONI D3688/F/24: Letter from William Brown, Belfast, to his brother James, 73 Chesnut Street, Philadelphia. Thanks James for telling him of the return to Belfast of their brother Samuel, but informs him of Samuel's death during the journey and family disagreements over his possessions. The letter then relates news about the family in Belfast and refers to several business concerns in the town.

Mention is then made of family friends who had emigrated to America.

"I had a letter from William Thompson. Archibald is off to Columbus to look out for land. William and his sister remain in Washington all winter. The direction I have in care of Joseph Thompson, bricklayer, near the War Office, City [of] Washington. I think it strange they did not write to you according to promise. They were all well and had a good passage ... Mr Redfern would be obliged to you if you could find his brother. He is a saddler and formerly lived 43 High Street. Robert is his name. If you could find him I would thank you to call on him and see what he is about and send me word."

The Philadelphia Directory of 1821 recorded:
 Redfern Robert, saddler 403 High St
 Brown & Harris, painters &c. 72 Chesnut St

- Belfast Newsletter 10 Feb 1826: Joseph Redfern elected to 'Police Committee'.

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- Belfast Newsletter 19 Oct 1827: "that gentleman's [William Redfern's] sheep and cattle to the amount of £25,000. Dr. Redfern here alluded to, is we understand, the brother of Mr. Redfern, saddler in Belfast."
- Dublin Morning Register 20 Oct 1827: "The agent of Dr Redfern, effected sales last week of that gentleman's sheep and cattle, to the amount of 25,000/ Doctor Redfern formerly held the situation of magistrate in NSW and was officially connected with the medical department of that State. In resigning both situations, he received the strongest mark of the regard and esteem of Governor Macquarie, expressed in a proclamation in the Government Gazette. He is brother to Mr Jos. Redfern, of Belfast."
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- Belfast News 29 Jun 1829: "Married. On the 17th inst. at Belfast by the Rev John Chaine, in St Ann's Church and afterwards in the Catholic Chapel by the Right Rev. Dr. William Crolly...Anna, eldest daughter of Joseph Redfern, Castle place [this is JR's address in Belfast], to Mr Alfred Greene, merchant, Sheffield." Marriage also reported in Sheffield Independent 27 Jun 1829.
- 27 Oct 1832 Freeholders record (Electoral roll for male landowners): Joseph Redfern, saddler, at 13 Castle Lane
- Belfast News-Letter 6 Aug 1833: "Died. At his house, 18, Lothian street, Edinburgh, on the 17th ult. Dr. William Redfern, brother to Mr. Joseph Redfern, of this town. Dr. Redfern had lately returned from the Colony of New South Wales".
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- Belfast Newsletter 30 Oct 1829: JR's address No. 1 Castle Place.
- Belfast Newsletter 6 May 1831: JR's address No. 9 Castle Place
- Belfast Newsletter 15 Sep 1835: JR's saddlery shop in Castle Place next to Donegal Arms
- Jan 1837 Freeholders record (Electoral roll): Joseph Redfern, saddler, at 9 Castle Place
- Vindicator 4 May 1839: Ad said JR 'is about retiring from business'.
- 1842: JR's saddlery, No. 5 Castle St, Belfast.
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- 22 Aug 1842 Freemans Journal: Belfast Election "About eight o'clock a number of Orange rioters passed through High-street, and on coming to the house of Mr. Joseph Redfern, broke several panes of glass in his shop and drawing room windows. The general peace of the town, however, was interrupted."
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- Quebec Gazette 28 Sep 1843: "Joseph Redfern of Ireland" appointed Justice of the Peace for the district of Quebec.
- Belfast News-Letter, 19 Nov 1844: Died 'on the 11th inst. at his house, Arthur-square, in this town, Joseph Redfern Esq. aged 60 years.'
- Vindicator, 13 Nov 1844: 'At his house, Arthur-square, in this town, on Monday morning, Joseph Redfern Esq. aged 60 years. Mr. Redfern was a warm hearted and patriotic Irishman, and in early life was forced to leave his country for some time on account of his political opinions. During his absence he married a Portuguese lady [daughter also born Portugal], and soon after returned to Belfast, where he continued to reside at the head of a lucrative branch of trade, until his death.'
- Will was in Public Record Office of NI, but destroyed in 1922 fire.
- Vindicator 7 Dec 1844: late JR, saddle and harnesses being auctioned on premises in Arthur-Square.
- Vindicator 18 Dec 1844: "Joseph Redfern, late of Belfast... executors Eliz. C. F. Redfern [wife] and Anna Green [eldest daughter]."



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* See the Custom-House Entries for the last 6 months.