



Chainletter

News from the Founders & Survivors project at the Universities of Tasmania, Melbourne, Flinders, Monash and the Australian National University

A Tri-annual Newsletter

Issue No. 8, August 2011

Ships Projects

Have you ever wondered what happened to all the other people on the ship that brought your convict to Van Diemen's Land? Find out by taking on a ship project.

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Transcription Workshop

Our next Transcription Workshop, Saturday, 15th October, 2 pm, School of Population Health, University of Melbourne, 207 Bouverie St, Carlton.

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The Amazing Mina Jury

Steve Rhodes uncovered this extraordinary story among the Tasmanian-born families he has traced from the Victorian Pioneer Index.

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Private Tobin

Ann Brown reconstructs the life and career of an Irish convict imprisoned for desertion: a short but eventful life

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The Sherriffs

Judith Price looks at the harsh historical conditions that drove three brothers to commit crimes and be transported, and the successful lives they built after sentence

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Editorial

This second issue of Chainletter for 2011 announces the beginning of our ships projects and our next Transcribers' Workshop.

The Founders & Survivors database has now reached the stage where we can launch researchers into tracking what happened to all the convicts transported on a particular voyage.

We intend to induct volunteer researchers at the next Transcription Workshop that will be conducted by Colette McAlpine from the Female Convicts' Research Group (FCRG), Tasmania, on 15th October 2011, at the School of Population Health, University of Melbourne.

We invite both those who attended the first workshop and who began working on the women's ships for the FCRG, and those who would like now to commence working on a ship project of their own.

In this issue of *Chainletter* we introduce the ships projects and provide a preview of the research guide. The final guide will contain detailed guidance on transcription, research tips, sources and the simple coding we will ask you to do for us.

Email Janet McCalman if you wish to research a ship:

janetsm@unimelb.edu.au and enrol in the workshop through Claudine Chionh: clchionh@unimelb.edu.au.

The workshop has a cap of 25.

This issue also includes contributions from two of our volunteers, Steve Rhodes and Judy Price, who have been uncovering wonderful stories while searching for new convicts and their descendants, or while checking and authenticating contributions.

And one of our contributors, Ann Brown, has sent us the story of her ancestor, Michael Tobin—a story that was a complete surprise to her wider family.

Finally, Susan Hood from the Port Arthur Resource Centre continues her series on reading and interpreting convict records.

Volunteers' Corner

SHIPS PROJECTS

We are now ready to start the next phase of volunteer research—tracing the fates of individual convicts on a particular ship to Van Diemen's Land. Researching whole shiploads of convicts gives us a different perspective on the long-term outcomes of convict transportation. When we focus on those who left descendants, we are studying the successful and in many ways, the exceptional. We now know that whereas around three quarters of the 12,600 women convicts married or remarried in the colonies, less than 20 per cent of the men did. When you consider that not all married couples had children, or had children who survived to continue the family line, or even stayed in Australia, the core population of founders and survivors may have been only around 15,000 out of 73,000 people transported.

Ships studies are the most efficient way we can see how many convicts became founders and survivors, had families, returned to crime, did well, lived long, drank themselves to death, became people of property etc. etc. and how many simply disappeared from official sight. Of course, many, especially if they left Tasmania, changed their names and can only be found by their descendants. Many others are impossible to trace because they had common names and we haven't the financial resources to buy multiple death certificates on the off-chance of an identification. As it is, we are restricted by cost considerations to purchasing death certificates only from Victoria and New South Wales. We have access to causes of death for Tasmania through a special arrangement with the Archives Office of Tasmania, but we have signed an agreement that the data remains within the project and cannot be made public.

Ships studies also provide a cohort experience. Most ship loads carried convicts of a certain type from certain places—for instance, mostly Irish or mostly English rural—and the historical time of the convicts' convictions is critical to our story. Pre- and post-famine convicts from Ireland were very different, for instance. The convict ship voyage was also a shared experience that forged life-long alliances and enmities. And we have the doctors' records from the voyages so you can follow the convicts' health.

Therefore we hope that many of you will take up the challenge to study a voyage. The more ships we do, the better. Many of you will want to study the ship that brought your own ancestor/s, and if more than one want to do a certain ship, then perhaps you can form a team. The only other limitation is that there are some missing volumes of descriptions for the second half of the 1830s, which means that we will have no heights for those convicts. We need to work on voyages that are fully documented and preferably of ships that came to Tasmania only once, so that it is easier to match convicts in other records.

We plan to publish these ships studies through Melbourne University's instant book publishing service, so that copies are available on request. Many of you may be familiar with ships studies undertaken by others: e.g. Marjorie Tipping's pioneering study of the Calcutta, *Convicts Unbound* (1988) and Trudy Mae Cowley's *A Drift of Derwent Ducks* (2005) (see <http://www.researchtasmania.com.au/ADoDD/outline.htm>) and we encourage you to be ambitious! If you want to do a full historical study, please do. If you want to simply produce a list of convicts and their traced history—that is all we actually need for the project. Now read our research guide to see how we propose to work.

Next Transcription Workshop

Our second transcription workshop will be held at Melbourne University on Saturday, 15 October 2011 at the Centre for Health & Society, 4th Floor, 207 Bouverie Street, Carlton, commencing at 2 pm, with afternoon tea provided. **Please email Claudine Chionh clchionh@unimelb.edu.au. There are only 25 places, so book soon.**

Colette McAlpine of the Female Convicts Research Group in Tasmania, will again conduct the class. This workshop will concentrate on transcribing and interpreting conduct records and indents.

The workshop will also enable us to induct our new ships projects volunteers, so if you want to do work for the Female Convicts Research Group and/or take up the challenge to research a whole convict shipload, we would love to see you.

Swing Rioters Group

Leanne Goss and Jenny Ellison are busy working on the Swing Rioters, reconstructing their lives after leaving the convict system, researching their families and completing their death data and AIF descendants. They are making rapid progress, but would welcome another couple of helpers.

The Swing Rioters are particularly interesting because so many returned home to England, and we can now trace their lives and families through Ancestry and the censuses. We are also interested in what happened to the wives and children left behind 'on the parish'. It seems that many did not survive the loss of their husband, father and main breadwinner.

Those who arrived young and single, were among the most successful ex-convicts and their lives are fascinating.

If you are interested in the Swing Rioters, please email Janet McCalman on janetsm@unimelb.edu.au.

Ships Projects: a guide to research

Choosing your ship

First, you must choose your ship. You may wish to research the ship that brought an ancestor. This will give you a better sense of the context of your ancestor's experience and life after sentence. You may well be surprised at how atypical your ancestor was in being able to establish a new life and a lineage.

It is important that you choose a ship where the records have survived and where they are not too difficult to read. If your ship arrived during the assignment period before 1841, the conduct and description record will be available to you on the Founders & Survivors (FAS) website. Except for some late ships, the indent details should be transcribed for you on the FAS website.

If you choose a voyage that arrived in the later Probation period, you will need to work from the digitised volumes available on the Archives Office of Tasmania (AOT) website.

If you wish to choose any ship, we would prefer that you selected one that made only one voyage to Tasmania, as that makes record linkage easier for us.

How we will help you

First, we will give you staff access to the full Founders and Survivors (FAS) databases. For this we will require you to sign a confidentiality agreement so that we abide by the University's ethics protocols and the various states' privacy acts.

Second, we can provide you with a year's heritage subscription to Ancestry.com that will give you access to the Australian and UK birth, death and marriage records, as well as the UK censuses.

Third, we will supply you with an excel spreadsheet to enter the key data and to do some very simple coding (for which you will have clear instructions). And we will provide a detailed manual both online and in hard-copy to guide your research.

Fourth, we will offer workshops to train you in reading and interpreting the convict records and in our requirements for collecting the data.

Fifth, we will set up a buddy system for people who would like to work with a group (you can communicate via Skype for free) and for those doing women's voyages, as the Female Convicts Research Group (Tasmania) have a wealth of experience and access to the Factory records of births. We will repay them by sharing our findings with them for their own database.

Finally, we will purchase death certificates and occasionally marriage certificates to complete your research on a particular convict.

What you will be doing

From the Convict Records

1. You will enter key data about each convict in the excel spreadsheet: year and place of birth, place of sentence, family, height, occupation, religion etc—all of which you can obtain quickly from the convict's transcribed record on the FAS website. The workshop and the manual provided will help you with abbreviations and simple coding and we will provide help for identifying birthplaces and the standard abbreviations we use for the counties of England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales.

2. You work from the convict's imaged conduct record: for those who came under the assignment system (before 1841) this is on the FAS site in the convict's record; for those that came in the probation period, you will need to open up the relevant volume from the AOT site and work through it page by page. From this source you will find out when and how the convict left the convict system. A capital "P" in the margin means pardoned, but more important will be the year of tickets of leave (TL) or conditional pardons (SP) or freedom by servitude (FS). Remember, only those 'cut free' were permitted to leave the colony and return to the UK.

The conduct record will often also tell you if the convict died while in the system, or re-offended, although there are plenty of gaps in the records. But most importantly of all, the conduct record tells about the convict's experience in the penal system. We will provide training in interpreting and coding the conduct records in our workshops, but it is here that we can begin to measure the degree of rebelliousness, the suffering under harsh punishment, and the behaviour that might affect the convict's chances of rehabilitation. For instance, we are counting offences for drunkenness, and obviously the degree of severity of punishment: floggings, solitary confinement, working in chains, hard labour and for women, the dreaded hair shaving. There is already a clear correlation between the conduct record and life chances after servitude, both positive and negative. Sometimes, resistance to authority was a marker of strong character rather than of intransigence or aggressiveness.

Life after sentence.

The steps:

1. The key records that enable us to link convicts with birth, death and marriage records are the Permissions to Marry Index in the AOT and the Departures Index, and these would be your first searches. Supplement this with a confirmation of the marriage reference on Ancestry's Australian Marriage Index.
2. Search for a death in Ancestry's Australian Death Index, inserting the year of birth and allowing for subtle spelling changes and abbreviations of given names eg. Margt for Margaret, Jas for James, Jno for John. If there are no obvious matches go to...
3. Ancestry general search on UK records, inserting year and place of birth, preferably the parish as given in the convict records and the County. This may throw up sightings in the census returns for England or Scotland, and then you can search for deaths via Ancestry's

- English BDM. Contact a staff member for searches on Scotland's People as we have to pay for those.
4. If a convict married, can you find births of those children, deaths of their spouses, remarriages if their spouse died: all via Ancestry.com. Please paste the Ancestry reference to the certificate in the Sources box for each marriage event, or child's birth.
 5. Find the convict's record on the FAS and enter the data you have found OR if you find nothing, record in the Staff Comments that either you cannot trace the death or the name is too common or you have found a couple of candidates, pasting in the Ancestry reference so the staff can follow up the options.
 6. See if you can find any obvious AIF descendants, but don't spend too long on this, as it can be exhausting.
 7. If you find an inquest, we can obtain a copy of it.
 8. It is also worthwhile checking the Probate indexes if the convict seems to have owned property. Victorian Probate files are often too big to attach to the website so you can simply summarise the contents: what matters is the money, the property and the relationships.
 9. NEVER FORGET to search for your convict in TROVE and always GOOGLE him or her in case descendants have already done the work! Any new material can be put into the 'Other Biographical Material' box. You can cut and paste from TROVE or you can summarise the item. Court appearances are particularly important. Please always note the source: e.g. Mercury 5 Jun 1858.
 10. On your excel file, you will find directions to summarise the genealogical research you have entered in the FAS record. This enables us to analyse the data more easily. We will give you these detailed instructions when you are inducted.

What to expect

You will probably find a death record for around half the male convicts on the ship and perhaps even less for women. Don't feel bad about that. We will double-check each convict story when we validate, so if you've missed a record, we will probably find it.

We would hope that in later years, as more records become available online, that more will be traced and perhaps over time, descendants of convicts who changed their names, will contact us. This is a project that will never stop.

There are obvious difficulties with convicts with very common names and those with namesakes on the same voyage—which confused people at the time as well as ever after. We just have to cut our losses with those and make up for it with the volume of voyages we will research.

You will find some fantastic stories and characters. Do record them and they can be included in the final publication for your ship.

The Perils of the Voyage:

Scurvy remained a major problem for convict transports, but other health problems included skin and eye infections, respiratory disease and the inevitable sea-sickness and dysentery. Women convicts were more prone to sea-sickness and to dysentery. The surgeons' journals reveal quite remarkable medical care and attention, both to patients and to the hygiene of the ship. Most convicts were also reported to have been well behaved on the voyage, as though the care from the surgeon had a calming effect. But scurvy remained beyond the control of surgeons if voyages were prolonged and fresh provisions inadequate.

A Case of Scurvy

Page from the journal of Henry Walsh Mahon showing the effects of scurvy, from his time aboard **HM Convict Ship Barossa**, which was employed in transporting prisoners from England to New South Wales. c. 1841



Feature Articles

Euphemia Caulfield/Mina Jury: mistress of self-invention

Steve Rhodes, FAS volunteer

Steve Rhodes has been working through the Victorian Pioneer Index, following the family trees of people born in Tasmania who may have been the children of convicts. He has found some astonishing stories, but this is the most remarkable.

The convict ship *John Calvin* sailed from Dublin Ireland with 171 female convicts on board, including twenty year old Euphemia (Mina) (Mc)Caulfield.² She had been sentenced on the 22nd of June 1847, to seven years transportation for the theft of linen, and arrived in Van Diemens Land on the 18th of May 1848. She remained inconspicuous during her term of sentence, having a completely clean conduct record.³

Euphemia married Francis Jury, master mariner, on the 8th of October 1849, and their family grew as they began to prosper.⁴ For a time, Francis worked as the coxswain at Woody Island⁵, ran the Montpelier Inn in Hobart⁶, and then as a district constable.⁷ The family, which by now included ten children, relocated to Adelaide where Francis had taken up the position as a guard at the Yatala Prison⁸.

Tragedy struck on the 14th of April 1867, when Francis accidentally shot himself. His rifle slipped from his grip as he was picking it up from a table, causing it to discharge and fatally wound him. A statement of the events was taken from the dying Francis, forming part of the evidence at his own inquest.⁹

Immediately the community rallied around the grieving widow and her children, with two concerts organised for their benefit under the patronage of

Lady Daly, wife of the Governor of Adelaide, Dominic Daly, and the Mayor of Adelaide, Henry Fuller.¹⁰ The South Australian Parliament also carried a motion to provide Mina with £100 for her relief.¹¹

A few years later in London, a criminal case was unfolding that would become one of the longest, most expensive, and widely reported in Britain for the time. Arthur Orton, a butcher from Wagga Wagga, claimed to be the missing heir to the Tichborne Baronetcy, Sir Roger Tichborne, only to be suspected and prosecuted as an imposter. The trial lasted 188 days, took the judge 18 days to sum up and cost £200,000.¹²



Arthur Orton, *Vanity Fair*, 10 Jun 1871

In 1852, while still in London, Arthur Orton had been provided with a letter of introduction to Francis Jury, by his father, also Francis, as Orton's sister, Elizabeth, had married George Jury, the brother of Francis. The Jurys lent money to Orton to enable him to set up a stall as a butcher at the Hobart market, and on at least one other occasion, to see him through lean times. This connection to Arthur Orton saw Mina Jury called as a witness for the prosecution in the Tichborne Trial.¹³ So with the promise of



The *Illustrated Police News* (London), 5 Dec 1874

£1,000 expenses payment, Mina left for England, leaving her children behind.

When Mina failed to be paid what she considered had been promised, her life took a rapid downward spiral. She had shared lodgings with William Hopwood, a witness from Wagga Wagga, and claimed to be his wife. The pair had failed to pay rent for months, destroyed property, and pawned the furnishings and bedding from their rooms. The case against Mina failed and she vowed to proceed against those that had charged her, and pursue the Government for the £1,000 they owed her.¹⁴

Now posing as Madame Caradena on a sketching tour of England, Mina took lodgings at the Bate Hall Inn, Macclesfield, Cheshire. She again removed furnishings from her room and pawned them before being arrested by the local constable in the doorway of the pawnbrokers. She was identified as Mina Jury from the bundle of papers in her possession relating to the Tichborne Case. It was soon discovered that she was wanted in connection with a number of other robberies of a similar nature in Warrington and Stoke-on-Trent and was remanded in custody.¹⁵

Before facing charges, Mina was able to escape from her cell by screaming to her captor that she had been bitten by a rat. When the guard came in to investigate, she absconded, shutting the cell door behind her.¹⁶ Her freedom was short lived however, as she was recaptured in

Leek, Staffordshire the following day, and received a six month gaol term.

Upon release in 1875, Mina immediately faced the charge of stealing a pair of gold eye-glasses in Stockport, the crime having taken place prior to her escapades in Macclesfield. It was found she had a number of tickets from various pawnbrokers sewn into her sleeves, one corresponding to the stolen glasses pawned at Deansgate, and she was sentenced to a further three months' imprisonment.¹⁷

Meanwhile, Dr. Kenealy, who had defended Arthur Orton, was becoming increasingly enraged by the character and antics of some of the witnesses that appeared against his client. William Hopwood had faced charges of bigamy, and Mina Jury was on a crime spree across England. He correctly suspected that Mina was the same person as Mercivina Caulfield, who had been convicted of theft in Dublin in 1847 and sentenced to transportation, but was unable to find anyone in that city that could identify her.¹⁸

Shortly afterwards, Mina appeared at the Old Bailey, charged with the theft of surgical instruments in Hammersmith, Peckham, and Greenwich. Despite her protestations that she was the victim of a conspiracy by the supporters of the Tichborne claimant, she was found guilty and sentenced to seven years imprisonment.¹⁹

In 1881 Mina was released as a convict on license, and two years later she came to the notice of the authorities for not notifying her change of address. It then came to light that she had been representing herself falsely to a number of noblemen, including the Duke of Edinburgh, in order to obtain charity from them. Using the name Ada Menne Lempriere, she claimed to have met the Duke during his visit to Adelaide in 1866, and that she was the niece of Dominic Daly, Governor of Adelaide. Her knowledge of the royal visit and the Daly family, convinced Lord Kilmorey that she was genuine, and so he recommended her to the Duke. She claimed in letters to her victims that she had travelled from Australia to Alexandria, with her husband and son, who were killed by Arabs as they crossed the square. She had managed to escape to England, leaving all her possessions behind, and had since been 'laid up more than three months with brain fever, through fright and want of necessaries'. Mina received six months' imprisonment with hard labour for failing to report and had her license revoked.²⁰

At the end of that time, Mina was arrested as she left the gates of Millbank Prison, and again appeared at the Old Bailey charged with another theft, and the fraud committed on the Duke of Edinburgh and Lord Kilmorey. She was found guilty and received another twelve month term with hard labour.²¹

The cycle of imprisonment, release, and further charge continued until April 1885 when the trail finally goes cold on Mina Jury.²² It seems likely that she never returned to Australia and to her children that she left in the early 1870s. Some of the children were probably taken in by the family of George Jury, however some ended up as State Wards²³ and were sent to the industrial schools as neglected children.²⁴

¹ <http://foundersandsurvivors.org/pubsearch/convict/chain/ai11465>

² Con41/1/16

³ Ancestry.com.au

⁴ Colonial Times, 4 Apr 1855

⁵ The Mercury, 2 Dec 1862

⁶ Tasmanian births XL database

⁷ The South Australian Advertiser, 15 Apr 1867

⁸ The South Australian Advertiser, 16 Apr 1867

⁹ The South Australian Advertiser, 12 Jul 1867, & 27 Jul 1867

¹⁰ The South Australian Advertiser, 12 Sep 1867

¹¹ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tichborne_Case

¹² The Mercury, 02 Aug 1873

¹³ The Sydney Morning Herald, 01 Jul 1874, & 25 Aug 1874

¹⁴ The Mercury, 18 Jan 1875

¹⁵ The Argus, 11 Jan 1875

¹⁶ The Maitland Mercury & Hunter River General Advertiser (NSW:1843-1893), 12 Jan 1875

¹⁷ The Mercury, 04 Aug 1875

¹⁸ The Argus, 21 Aug 1875, & 18 Sep 1875

¹⁹ The Proceedings of the Old Bailey

²⁰ The South Australian Advertiser, 09 Jun 1883

²¹ The Proceedings of the Old Bailey

²² 22 & 17 Apr 1885

²³ Ancestry.com.au

²⁴ The Argus, 17 Dec 1878



The Tichborne Trial:
Scene in the Court House during the delivery of the verdict.

A short but interesting life: Michael Tobin

Ann Brown

In the early years of Melbourne the government in New South Wales was responsible for the provision of law and order for the township. As part of that provision they stationed elements of the armed forces in Melbourne. During 1844 soldiers of the 99th Regiment were part of that force. One of the soldiers in the regiment was Michael Tobin, and partly because of his service in that regiment I know a great deal of the story of his life, more than what is known of many others in our family history.

Michael Tobin enrolled in the 99th Regiment of Foot on 17 June 1842 and was given the regimental number of 1793. Recruit Michael Tobin was eighteen years of age, 5'8" in height and he enlisted at Chatham Headquarters in Kent. He was paid a bounty of three pounds seventeen shillings and sixpence and there was another bounty of eighteen shillings and sixpence paid to someone else presumably for recruiting him.² It was usual at that time for recruits to sign on for unlimited service. This was to change in 1843 when the period of engagement was for ten years.³

Within three months of enlistment, Michael was sent to Sydney as part of a detachment to reinforce an army garrison stationed there to keep the peace and guard the convicts. He arrived on 20th February 1843 on board the *Earl Grey* as part of a detachment of forty-three rank and file soldiers, three drummers, five serjeants, and two ensigns under the command of Major Last.⁴ The *Earl Grey* had transported prisoners as well as children, with two prisoners and two children dying on board.⁵ The 99th Regiment was 'scattered in detachments in various localities, either as guards over stockades or as contingent aids to the civil power'.⁶ The new arrivals were first stationed at

Parramatta joining five hundred and nine other members of the regiment.⁷

Between January and March 1844 Private Michael Tobin was stationed at Port Phillip. In Melbourne during the early days of that colony privates and NCOs were first housed in 'miserable huts thatched with reeds, built off Collins Street between King and Spencer, and by late 1842 the huts were rapidly falling into decay',⁸ so conditions for the soldiers were not ideal. Port Phillip itself was desirable enough however that 'between 1843 and 1847 a total of fifty-two privates' of the regiments stationed there had vanished, and 'only two had been found'.⁹



Colour sergeant, 99th Regiment of Foot

Between April and August 1844 Michael was stationed in Sydney and Parramatta, and then he was part of a detachment sent to New Zealand. Back in Sydney by Christmas Day 1844 he and two other privates in the regiment were arrested and charged with 'forcibly entering the Crispin Arms public-house' (in Clarence Street) 'with destroying property on the same premises...to the value of eight pounds' and also with 'being drunk and rioting in the streets'.¹⁰ The three were sentenced to six months' confinement at the George Street Barracks until 19th June 1845. For the following three months he also was forfeited thirty-one

days' liquor. Then for six months—October 1845 to March 1846—he was again stationed in New Zealand. During his time in New Zealand other members of the 99th Regiment were also in trouble with the authorities. On 1 December 1845 there was a mutiny of the 99th in Sydney and part of the 58th at Parramatta.¹¹ On 30th April Private Michael Tobin deserted 'in the face of the enemy' at Porirua.¹²

Porirua is on the west coast of the north island of New Zealand above Wellington and the British army was there to subdue a rebellion of Maoris led by Te Rangihaeata a local chieftain. The Maoris had been rebelling since early 1844 after cutting down the flagstaff at Kororeaka (a settlement in the Bay of Island area), and killing some troops from the 99th Regiment. The situation was rapidly deteriorating, with pillaging of crops and intercepting supplies as well as the murder of a settler and his son. Major Last and two companies of troops, one from the 58th Regiment and one from the 99th Regiment embarked to Porirua to establish a force in the rear of Te Rangihaeata in an imaginative offensive operation.¹³ It was during this time that Michael Tobin deserted. Not only had he deserted with two other soldiers, but he had struck Captain Armstrong and then broken into a public house while drunk. He had used up any leeway he had previously had with his superiors and was court-martialled in Auckland on 10th August 1846, sentenced to life imprisonment and transported to Tasmania.¹⁴

He arrived in Hobart on board the *Julia* on 2nd June 1847 and his physical details were outlined in the Blue Books instigated by Governor Arthur. His religion was Roman Catholic, he could read a little, his trade was labourer, six foot in height (taller than he had been when enlisting), fresh complexion, small head, sandy hair, no whiskers. His face was oval, narrow with a high forehead, light brown eyebrows, grey to hazel eyes with small nose and chin and medium mouth. He had a collection of tattoos including M.D. on his left arm for military deserter. The others were a

man and woman, the crucifixion, the sun and moon, a mermaid flying on his right arm, a woman sailor, a fine anchor and a fish. Quite a collection, but the left arm would have posed a problem if he had tried to hide his history.

Tobin was sentenced firstly to thirty months of hard labour, which he spent in a gang at Lymington. He was still not cowed, being found guilty of larceny in April 1848 which earned him a sentence of twelve months hard labour in chains, based at the prisoners' barracks. Four months after release he was cited for neglect of duty and insolence, his probation was rescinded and one month added to his sentence. In May 1850 he was assigned to S. Spurling in Macquarie Street, but absconded with a false Certificate of Pardon. Between November 1850 and April 1851 he was assigned to W. Serum of Macquarie Point. After a month in the prisoners' barracks awaiting assignment, he was sent to Mr Belcher of Hobart. In September 1851, while employed by Mr Belcher, he was found in a female servant's bedroom and sentenced to eight months hard labour and was only to be hired in the interior north of Hobart.

In March 1852 he was assigned to R. Allison of Macquarie Division. By September he was convicted of misconduct in hire and service, sentenced to six months' hard labour and located at prisoners' barracks. He seemingly was barely out of barracks and employed by J. Fitzgerald of Elizabeth Street, when he was found drunk and representing himself to be free, which earned him another three months hard labour. Released in July 1853, he was sent to Hobart Hospital, and warned that he was only to be hired north of Hobart once again. One month later he was assigned to Mr Davidson in Campbell Town where he stayed until December when he absconded again.

In April 1854 he was found guilty of larceny of one pound, absconded five days later, and was subsequently sentenced to eighteen months' hard labour in chains. In January 1855, whilst stationed at the Cascades three miles out

of Hobart, he was found guilty of larceny of an amount under five pounds, and his hard labour sentence was extended by eighteen months, thirty days of which was to be in solitary confinement.

In October 1855 he was assigned to Mr Rumney of [Clark/Clarence] Plains, where once more he was found drunk and sent for one month's hard labour. In March 1856 he was told that he must serve another two years, and in May of that year sent to Captain Light of Evandale. Light was not a large landholder, but rented a house and shop there.¹⁵ The month of August finds him again guilty of larceny under five pounds, another six months' hard labour. Released in March 1857 and behaving himself for two months, he was told he could apply for a Ticket of Leave in six months. In November 1857 he was employed by a Mr Akers in his tailor's store. Akers owned a house valued at Eighty Pounds on George Street, Launceston.¹⁶ The value of the house was more than average for houses in that street in 1858, so he was fairly prosperous. On 1st December Michael Tobin was granted his ticket of leave. So in all, he had served ten and a half years as a convict, much of it in hard labour, leavened with some periods of drunken behaviour and use of other people's money. In total his army and prison service had taken up sixteen years of his life.

On 28th May 1858 at St Joseph's Church Launceston Michael Tobin married a free settler Elizabeth Bracken who could not sign her name. Elizabeth had been born in Queen's County Ireland in 1838.

Michael, his wife Elizabeth and daughter Elizabeth Ellen who had been born in 1861 in Launceston are next sighted in Victoria when their second daughter Catherine was born in 1863 in Cambridge Street, Collingwood. Michael's occupation was tailor (courtesy of Mr Akers) and they lived in Collingwood and Carlton until 1867 when Michael died of consumption aged thirty-nine or forty. This was the life of one Irish-born man who came to Australia as a soldier,

served time as a convict, became free and died young, leaving a wife and two daughters. No one in later generations knew that Michael Tobin was a member of their ancestral family until I uncovered his marriage in Launceston over a hundred years later. Even his death certificate skirts over the fact that he had a convict past, stating that he had spent two years in Tasmania when in fact it was more than ten. His two daughters had died quite early, and were it not for the birth of a granddaughter in 1881 this ancestral line would not exist at all.

¹ United Kingdom, War Office Records 12/9805-0807 Muster Rolls 99th Regiment of Foot April 1842-March 1846

² R.H. Montague, *How to trace your military ancestors* (Sydney N.S.W., Hale and Ironmonger Pty. Ltd. 1989) 14.

³ [Australian Joint Copying Project (AJCP) reels] [Canberra: National Library of Australia, 19--] War Office Records: *Arrivals 20 February 1843*.

⁴ AJCP, [Canberra: National Library of Australia, 19--] Surgeons Journals: Reel 3193

⁵ Major de Winton, *Soldiering fifty years ago: Australia in "the forties"* (London: European Mail Limited, 1898) 45.

⁶ AJCP, War Office Records: *Strength and locations 1 March 1843*.

⁷ Michael Cannon, *Old Melbourne town: before the gold rush* (Main Ridge (Vic.), Loch Haven Books, 1991) 154.

⁸ *Ibid.*, 156.

⁹ *Sydney Morning Herald*, 6th January 1845

¹⁰ M. Austin, "The strength and disposition of the Army in Australia 1840-1850" in *Royal Australian Historical Society Journal*, (Vol 61-62, 1975-1977) 128.

¹¹ *Convict Record 934: Michael Tobin 1847-1857*.

¹² Tom Gibson, *The Maori wars: the British Army in New Zealand, 1840-1872*, (London, L. Cooper, {1974} 66.

¹³ *Convict Record 934: Michael Tobin 1847-1857*

¹⁴ Hobart Town Gazette, 1858 *Valuation Rolls*, 729

¹⁵ *Ibid.*, 381

¹⁶ Archives Office of Tasmania, *Convict Record 934: Michael Tobin 1847-1857*



The Sherriff brothers: hardy survivors and prolific founders

Judith Price

FAS Volunteer

The Sherriff family were typical of eighteenth-century England, forced to re-locate and learn new trades to survive the challenges of the industrial and agricultural revolutions. Earlier generations of the family had lived in Quainton, Buckinghamshire—a village little changed over the centuries and where the family enjoyed a reasonably secure life. Wills of these early generations indicate that they lived on the land and owned livestock. However, by the mid-eighteenth century, sons were being apprenticed to learn alternative trades and the families became part of the cottage industries of weaving, lace making and shoemaking. Accordingly, by the end of the century, later generations had re-located to the major manufacturing cities of mid-England.²

The Sherriff brothers, Benjamin, Humphrey and George, were sons of Christopher and Mary, nee Hopcraft, who married 5 November 1814 in Abthorpe, Northampton. The eldest children, including Benjamin, were born in Northamptonshire (September 1816), but in the early 1820s the family moved to Leicester—one of the major weaving centres of England—where Christopher worked as a framework knitter making stockings—and where Humphrey was born in February 1822; George in March 1825; Eliza in 1829 and Martha in 1831. Sadly for the family Mary, died about 1837 leaving Christopher with a young family to care for, and early in 1838 he married Elizabeth Ballard, a widow, also with a young family.³ This sequence of events could well have been the catalyst that directed the course of the Sherriff boys' lives.

The time of their father's re-marriage coincides with George and Benjamin's first convictions for stealing food. Twelve months later George re-offended, this time stealing a pair of boots. There being no tolerance for

repeat offenders, this second conviction earned George seven years' transportation and, after enduring a few months on the hulk *Euryalus*, he was placed on board the *Egyptian* bound for Van Diemen's Land. George was 14 years old. Some months later Humphrey was convicted for stealing two German silver boxes and served three months' hard labour in Leicester gaol. In February 1840 Benjamin, in the company of others, was arrested at Drayton and convicted of house-breaking and stealing money. As this was his second offence he too was transported, for life. The following month Humphrey also re-offended, stealing a bag of fat, and was transported for ten years.⁴

A possible reading of this sequence of events could suggest that following the upheaval caused by the death of their mother and re-marriage of their father, with four extra children to be housed and fed, the Sherriff boys were expected to move out and make their own way in the world. Obviously they were unable, or unwilling, to find employment and quickly turned to petty crime for survival. Another consideration is whether they deliberately offended in an attempt to make a new start elsewhere through transportation. Interestingly, their sisters, Eliza and Martha, were also convicted in June 1842 for stealing 9 yards of cotton. Eliza was sentenced to two months' hard labour and Martha to fourteen days in gaol.⁵ Perhaps they hoped to follow their brothers or maybe they were simply pursuing the *modus operandi* of the family?

Irrespective of the reason, Humphrey's arrival in Hobart Town on the *Hindustan (II)* in January 1841 saw the three Sherriff brothers in Van Diemen's Land. George had arrived in August 1839 and was sent to Point Puer, a penal establishment near Port Arthur, specifically built to house and reform

young male offenders. The daily routine included instruction in trades such as tailoring, shoemaking and boat building as well as literacy skills.⁶ (At the time of George's marriage in 1852 he was listed as a Tailor.) George had served two years of his sentence without any transgressions by the time Benjamin arrived on the *Duncan* in April 1841. Benjamin was assigned to Impression Bay but his record suggests he constantly struggled against the system and within a couple of months he absconded and was reassigned to Westbury, where ongoing transgressions over the years earned him repeated sentences of hard labour in chain gangs, twenty-five lashes and solitary confinement.⁷

Humphrey was sent to Port Arthur on his arrival in 1841 but was transferred the following year to nearby Point Puer and a reunion with his younger brother George. An interesting observation is that George's episodes of misconduct began after Humphrey's arrival! Notwithstanding these few transgressions, George received his ticket of leave in May 1844. Shortly afterwards Humphrey was transferred to the New Norfolk district, where he was commended for fighting a bushfire, and received his ticket of leave in 1846. It was revoked the following year after another infringement and he was sent to labour in the coal mines. April 1849 saw the completion of this punishment and his ticket of leave restored.⁸ By 1850 the Sherriff brothers had served their respective sentences and located in the Launceston/Westbury/Deloraine district of Tasmania where Humphrey and Benjamin would both settle and raise large families. George however had other plans.

In March 1852 George and Humphrey travelled as cabin passengers from Launceston to the Victorian goldfields where, according to family anecdote,

they enjoyed some success. Both were back in Tasmania by 1 June, and in August, George married Mary Ann Cockfield at St John's, Launceston.⁹ Before the end of the month the brothers, plus Mary Ann's brother Edward, travelled back to Victoria and after two months prospecting, again returned to Tasmania. George was obviously impressed with the goldfields district and made a number of trips across Bass Strait in the ensuing months until finally, in September 1853 he and Mary Ann, together with her extended family, made their final crossing.¹⁰ They first settled around the Sandhurst diggings and later moved to Creswick where they raised eight children. Ironically, after making at least five crossings between Launceston and Melbourne, Mary Ann was tragically drowned near Creswick crossing a local creek in a buggy. George remarried and had six more children. He died 29 May 1895 aged 72 years. His obituary remembered him as 'an old identity ...

highly respected throughout the district.'¹⁰

Humphrey settled in the Deloraine/ Westbury district where he and Lucy raised a large family. Lucy died after giving birth to their ninth child in 1867. Humphrey married Hannah Carr in May 1868 and had a further ten children. He farmed rented land in the Meander area before purchasing his own farm and died 7 August 1909 aged 87 years. Meanwhile, Benjamin married former convict Caroline Dine at Westbury in October 1852. Over the years Benjamin worked as a sawyer, labourer and farmer and he and Caroline raised ten children and were very involved in the local Baptist church community. Benjamin died 12 July 1896 in his 80th year. Their great grandson, Lance Herbert Barnard, followed his father as the Federal Member for Bass and served as Deputy Prime Minister in the Whitlam government. The brothers remained in contact with each other and

with their older brother John in Leicester, who expressed the hope of visiting them in Tasmania.¹¹

This 'snapshot' offers a glimpse of uncontrollable circumstances that can direct life's journey. The numerous descendants of the Sherriff brothers testify to the grit and perseverance of their ancestors and demonstrate what can evolve from such brutal beginnings.

1. Laurie Woods, *Sherriff 1525-1995*, privately published, c. 1996
2. *Ibid.*
3. Various reports of court sessions in *The Leicester Chronicle*, Leicester, between 1838 and 1840
4. *The Leicester Chronicle*, July 2 1842, p 1
5. Archives Office of Tasmania : CON 31-1-41; 200, 104, S, 80
6. *Ibid* : CON 33-1-8; 276, 214, C, 80
7. *Ibid* : CON 33-1-4; 222, 178, C, 80
8. Tas BDM 1852/1027 and Tas BDM 1013
9. Archives Office of Tasmania : POL220/1/1 p 613 and POL220/1/3 pp 138 and 277
10. Woods, *Sherriff*
11. *Ibid*

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In 1870-72, John Marius Wilson's *Imperial Gazetteer of England and Wales* described **Quinton** like this:

“ **QUINTON**, or Quinton, a village and a parish in Aylesbury district, Bucks. The village stands 4¼ miles S S E of Claydon r. station, and 6½ N W of Aylesbury; is large and widely scattered; was once a market town; is a seat of petty sessions; and has a post-office under Winslow. and an inn. The parish contains also the hamlets of Doddershall, Dereham, and Shipton-Lee. Acres, 5, 368. Real property, £8, 980. Pop., 929. Houses, 227. The property is divided among a few. Doddershall Hall is the seat of G. ...

http://www.visionofbritain.org.uk/place/place_page.jsp?_id=3711&st=QUINTON

Transcribing Tasmanian Convict Records, part 2

Sue Hood, Port Arthur Historic Site Resource Centre



Having focussed in a previous issue on the section of the Assignment period conduct records that present background information on the convicts transported to Van Diemen's Land up to 1840, this article looks at the section of that same record that predominantly provides details on offences committed following arrival in the colony. Again—these are the conduct records with references beginning with CON31 (males) or CON40 (females). As previously, I may draw on extracts from the book Transcribing Tasmanian Convict Records plus additional comment where applicable. Note that the book also contains abbreviations pertaining to a number of the items discussed below.

The section of the Assignment Period conduct record providing details of offences committed after arrival can be seen in Fig. 1—the letters in bold in the area in dark pink. It may also be interspersed with comments and references to freedoms attained.

Offence details were transferred by clerks from magistrates' bench books to the conduct record. They usually contain information in the following sequence: date/place of offence OR situation at the time/offence detail/sentence/magistrate(s) initials/approval details. This is a section of the records that contains many abbreviations and contractions. There can be variation from offence to offence with not all of this information listed and they are generally in chronological order but not always—no easy options for cutting and

pastings pre 1840! Offences out of order are often indicated by the use of an asterisk – what I like to call the 'colonial hyperlink' – the asterisk letting us know that something is amiss and we need to look for another one to see what it relates to. Keep an eye out for these. It can also make reference to a note (also

abbreviated. "P.W." referring to Public Works may or may not be followed by a place name. If not—his whereabouts are unclear. If a convict committed an offence at Port Arthur (PA), Macquarie Harbour (MH) or Maria Island (MI) – often this location is written after the sentence, in the location that a

Police Number	Name Ship / Arrival date Trial location and trial date / Sentence (years)	Transported for / Gaol report /Hulk report / Marital status / Stated this offence / Previous convictions / Surgeon's report / Native place / Religion / Details of spouse
Trial details	Date of offence / Location and/or situation / Offence detail / Sentence / Magistrate / Approval date (Note the Magistrate' initials may be before further sentence comments, but are usually in brackets.)	
	Levels of freedom (These may or may not be interspersed with the offences.)	

Location notations (These may also extend along the left hand side of the record and up along the top above name and number)

Figure 1: Record layout showing location of offences details

asterisked) further down the record, that belongs where the initial asterisk is located.

Looking at each section of an offence:

Date: Is usually written out in full and underlined at the beginning of a new offence. For those entering offences in a database, it pays to create a text field in addition to the date field for those dates that are unclear or not specific, e.g. "15/_?/1831" or "2_?/1/1826". This is good practice when entering a date for anything on the record.

Location/situation: The location where the convict was at the time of the offence (e.g. Bridgewater Chain Gang) and/or the person the convict was assigned to at the time (e.g. Smith), or the situation the convict was in (e.g. Ticket of Leave) is written after the date. Sometimes there is nothing written – especially on records showing offences pre-1820. Locations and levels of freedom may be

magistrate's initials often appear.

Therefore be careful not to confuse a magistrate's initials with any of these penal settlements. Note also that the Point Puer Boys' Establishment is often not identified as such. A boy may be incarcerated there and commit offences but the location **after** the sentence states Port Arthur. Clues to his location can be found by looking for references to 'stripes on the breech' in the sentence, comments about his 'fellow boys', knowing his age, or perhaps a reference to Point Puer in the sentence. An example is Walter Paisley 'Feb 16th 1836. General perverse conduct and obstinacy to the Commandant. 12 lashes on the breech. /Pt. Arthur/'. Walter was at Point Puer at the time and 18 years of age.

Many locations may also be abbreviated here, e.g. 'P.W.N.N.' (Public Works New Norfolk), 'B.W. Ch Gs' (Bridgewater Chain Gang). The name of a person the

convict was assigned to may or may not be followed by a place name, e.g. 'Smith, Pontville', or 'Jones, Launⁿ' (Launceston). Be careful of an example like 'James, Hamⁿ' (Hamilton), i.e. note the comma—the convict is assigned to someone called James at Hamilton NOT James Hamilton.

Offences: Many abbreviations and contractions may be written in the recording of a convict's offence and the most common ones can be found in the book. Locations may be abbreviated and words shortened—especially those frequently used such as: mis^t (misconduct), suspⁿ (suspicion), pofsⁿ (possession), ret^d (returned), dw^g (dwelling), stg (stealing), f^w p^r (fellow prisoner), inst (instant – in relation to a date), u^o (ultimo – also in relation to a date), and so on. Misinterpreting abbreviations and contractions in this area of the record can lead to errors of interpretation so take care and keep an eye out for the letter 'hanging' above contracted words. Good examples are 'felony' (felony) and 'felon^v' (feloniously), 'drunk' (drunk) and 'drunk^s' (drunkenness).

On an Assignment period record, if the convict was tried again at a major court for an offence, the offence description may be followed by the words 'Committed for Trial'. When you see this, look to the left hand column of the record (under the police number), and you may see references to a trial. Look for the one(s) closest to the date of the offence. You may see the abbreviations 'S.C.' (Supreme Court) or 'Q.S.' (Quarter Sessions) followed by a date and sentence. For example 'Q.S. 1 Aug 1834, Acq^d' meaning he was tried at the Quarter Sessions (location not listed) on 1 August 1834, and acquitted. Others may include a sentence of 7 yrs (or more or less). On checking for these details, then return back to the main offence details and occasionally further sentence information may be added. Note that sometimes a convict was tried at a court on more than one occasion for the same offence – perhaps a few days apart as they make determinations on the sentence. In addition, a trial reference may be made in the left hand column

that relates to an offence that is not listed in the main body of the record. When transcribing, such trial details will fit between other offences chronologically.

A final word needs to be said for those convicts who committed so many offences that their allocated record space was not enough to fit them all. If this is the case, look out for the abbreviation 'S.V' followed by a page number at the bottom right hand corner (usually) of the record – referring you to the supplementary volumes (CON32) of which there are 5. If from Vol. 1 – it won't say so, but Vols. 2-5 do. For example 'S.V. p.25' = Supplementary Vol. 1 p.25 (i.e. CON32/1 p.25), 'S.V.3 p.301' = Supplementary Vol. 3 p.301 (i.e. CON32/3 p.301). Note also that at present the CON32 references are not listed on the AOT website against a convict's record listing – therefore you need to keep an eye out for this reference if the convict's main conduct record is full, otherwise many offences may be missed.

Again convicted: Though a term seen more on the Probation period records (to be explained in a later issue) Assignment period records may show the words 'On New Book' followed by a number with a line above and below it. Some records only show the number. This indicates that another conduct record has been created for the convict and the number refers to its page number. It may be a CON35 document for instance.

Sentence and approval: This immediately follows the offence description and for some convicts may follow the words 'Committed for Trial' as described above. The initials of the magistrate may be found in brackets, followed by an approval note. A common notation is 'Vide LGD' (Vide (Latin for 'See') Lieutenant Governor's Decision) followed by a date. This notation can also appear as 'Vide Lt Gov Decⁿ', or 'Vide LG Decⁿ' or 'Vide L.G. Decisⁿ'. Sentences can also include abbreviations and contractions—an indication of how tedious it may have been to write out 'solitary confinement on bread and water' over and over again. Examples are: 'sc on b&w' (solitary confinement on bread

and water), 'hlc' (hard labour [in] chains), 'rep^d' (reprimanded), 'impt^t' (imprisonment), 'until f.o' (until further orders). Further abbreviations are listed in the book.

Miscellaneous notations: An Assignment period record may have the word 'Run' written across the page, usually an indication of the convict having absconded for good. References to enquiries from relations back home may also be seen, including the name and address of the enquirer. In addition, references to a convict's death or execution may also be listed. The value in such notations is that they can potentially lead us to other associated documents: trial references to trial records or newspapers, death references to the convict death register or inquests, absconding to notices of escape in the *Hobart Town Gazette*, and so on.

Freedoms: References to freedoms the convict gained may be interspersed through the offences. Keep an eye out for these, in particular (and on its own) 'T.L' (Ticket of Leave) followed by a date, and often in different handwriting. It is the date the Ticket was given. Don't mistake the date of an offence followed by 'T.L.' (or other freedom notation) as the date a convict gained the Ticket. In this case it means the convict was on a Ticket when the offence occurred. Other indulgences listed here can include 1st, 2nd or 3rd Class, Conditional Pardon ('C.P.', or 'C.Pardon', or 'Cond^l Pardon', Free Certificate or Certificate of Freedom ('Cert. Of Freedom', or 'Free Cert'), and Free Pardon. The notation is usually followed or preceded by a date.

Location notations: On the Assignment period conduct record they are found beneath the solid line across the bottom of the record (see Fig. 2). It mostly contains dates and abbreviations for locations, but can also include those for officials such as magistrates. Even though many convicts pre-1840 were assigned on arrival, this part of the record does not reveal details of the first person they were assigned to and where. Such detail may be revealed if an appropriation list is available.

Police Number	Name	Transported for / Gaol report / Hulk report / Ship / Arrival date
	Trial location and trial date / Sentence (years)	Marital status / Stated this offence / Previous convictions / Surgeon's report / Native place / Religion / Details of spouse
Trial details	Date of offence / Location and/or situation / Offence detail / Sentence / Magistrate / Approval date (Note the Magistrate's initials may be before further sentence comments, but are usually in brackets.)	
	Levels of freedom (These may or may not be interspersed with the offences.)	
Location notations (These may also extend along the left hand side of the record and up along the top above name and number).		

Figure 2: Record showing location notations

Locations are almost always preceded by a date (not followed by it) and abbreviated, for example: '18/7/34 PA Office' (18/7/1834 Port Arthur Office); '16/5/35 CPM' (16/5/1835 Chief Police Magistrate, '14/4/40 Oat' (14/4/1840 Oatlands). These notations can run into multiple lines and are generally in chronological order.

Examples:

Jan'y 28, 1826 / PB / D & dis^y on Sat^y last and found in a public ho'. Conf^d to Bcks for next 4 Sat^y afternoons. / PS./

Translates to: January 28, 1826 / Prisoners' Barracks [Hobart] / Drunk and disorderly on Saturday last and found in a public house. Confined to Barracks for next 4 Saturday afternoons. / PS. [Likely to be Principal Superintendent]/

Dec 18, 1827 / PW / Intox^d and absent from his gang yes^{t^y} with^t leave. Rep^d. / PS/.

Translates to: December 18, 1827. Intoxicated and absent from his gang yesterday without leave. Reprimanded. / PS/.

In the next issue I will look at background details on Probation period conduct records.

Your queries.

Following the last article I received a couple of queries from readers. One query related to a notation on the record of John Brown per *Commodore Hayes*. His record can be viewed here http://search.archives.tas.gov.au/ImageViewer/image_viewer.htm?CON31-1-1,433,257,C,80

At the bottom of his record amongst the locations is the one for 3/11/1857 that the enquirer was a little unclear about.

It reads Gaol Launceston. It ties in with the notation above it stating that he was tried at the Supreme Court in Launceston on 9/1/1858. He was obviously in gaol awaiting trial.

Another query related to some clarification regarding the differences in indulgences such as Ticket of Leave and Certificates of Freedom. A good source of information in relation to this, in fact to the system in VDL as a whole, can be found in the introduction in *Guide to the Public Records of Tasmania: Section Three: Convict Department* by PR Eldershaw which can be viewed here http://www.archives.tas.gov.au/guides/Con_guide.pdf.

In addition the enquirer wondered about the word 'Vide' appearing amongst the sentences. As mentioned above Vide is Latin for 'see' e.g. see (vide) Lt Governor's Decision, or see (vide) Memo of Principal Superintendent, etc. Also 'Sp.Bay' in the locations of one record refers to Spring Bay on the east coast of Tasmania.

If you have any problems about a specific aspect of a record you are having difficulty with, I am happy to try and solve it and share the solutions with others in future issues—especially if you have a tricky abbreviation or contracted word. Feel free to email me at: susan.hood@portarthur.org.au

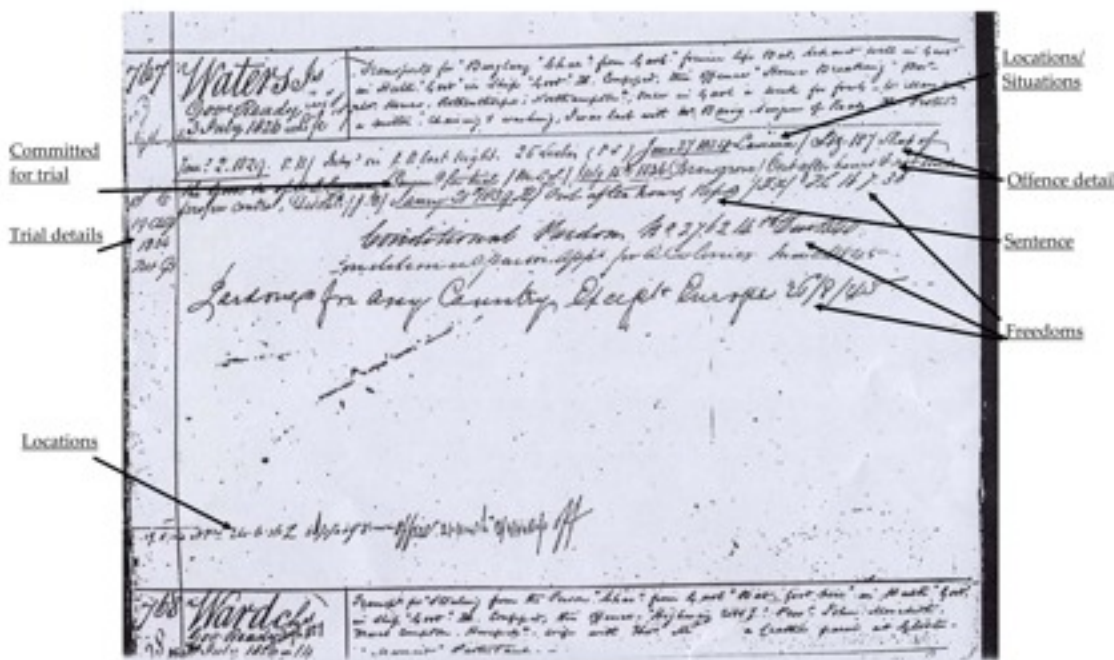


Figure 3: Sample showing some item locations

Who's Who & Where...

University of Tasmania

Associate Professor Hamish Maxwell-Stewart

Dr Alison Alexander

Associate Professor Alison Venn

Professor Haydn Walters

Associate Professor John Bass AM

University of Melbourne

Professor Janet McCalman

Dr Rebecca Kippen

Associate Professor Shyamali Dharmage

Dr James Bradley

Sandra Silcot

Claudine Chionh

Professor John Mathews

Gavan McCarthy

Australian National University

Dr Len Smith

Flinders University of South Australia

Associate Professor Ralph Shlomowitz

Dr Peter Gunn

All Souls College, University of Oxford

Dr Deborah Oxley

Monash University

Associate Professor Daminda Alahakoon

Professor Michael Shields

University of Guelph, Canada

Professor Kris Inwood

University of Ohio, Columbus

Professor Richard Steckel

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Centre for Health & Society,
University of Melbourne, Vic, 3010, Australia
(Victorian inquiries)

or C/- School of History & Classics,
Private Bag 81, Hobart, 7001, Australia
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Do you want your convict's original record transcribed?

The Port Arthur Historic Sites Resource Centre offers a range of services:

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We can provide copies of records relating to Tasmanian Convicts held at the Tasmanian Archive and Heritage Office. They can include:

- Conduct/Police record
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- Physical description
- Appropriation list
- Surgeon's report (of the voyage to the colony)
- Application for permission to marry

We can check a variety of indexes for further reference to a convict and can conduct a name search to determine whether a person arrived in Tasmania as a convict.

Transcriptions

For those having difficulty deciphering the abbreviations often found on conduct records, indents or description lists, we can assist by producing a typed transcription.

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Minimum Fee – \$35 (includes up to 1 hour search/transcription time).

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Additional costs include printouts @ \$0.66 per page, plus postage and packing.

Most basic searches take 1–2 hours and are completed within 4–6 weeks of request.

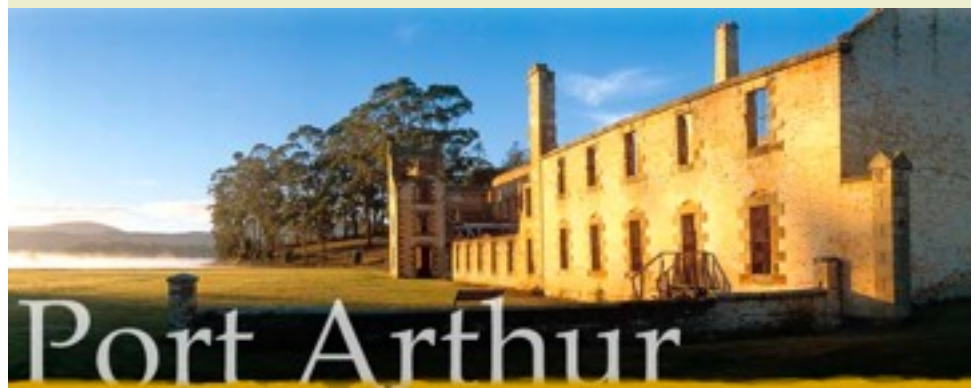
Go to <http://www.portarthur.org.au/index.aspx?id=7942> for the online enquiry form.

Contact

For more information about our Enquiry Service contact our Resource Centre

Ph: +61 (0)3 6251 2324 / 6251 2326

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Chainletter: edited by Prof. Janet McCalman (University of Melbourne) and Dr Alison Alexander (University of Tasmania).

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