

RICHMOND STREET LIFE
The Lives of Emancipists, Paupers & Settlers
Richmond, Tasmania
1870 – 1900

Taken from the Richmond Police Records

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Introduction

Richmond police charge books reveal an insight into the social life of Richmond in the late Victorian era. Attitudes to former convicts, many of them destitute, of employers to employees (under the restrictive Masters to Servants Act), of so-called mates, toward woman and to children are all revealed.

The period was typified by contrasts in poverty and wealth.

Homeless men and women - and children - called either tramps or, by my old friend Alf King who first got me into this historical game, as 'trackers'. The centre of their life was the streets, byways and, if they could afford it, one of the three hotels - the *Bridge Inn*, *Lennox Arms* and *Prince of Wales Hotel*. Alcoholism was the main immediate cause of law breaking; but the poverty behind their lives is harder to grasp.

A forgotten characteristic of the era is the use of aliases or pseudonyms - nick names - part of a great Australian tradition.

The prudery of the Victorian era also comes across, as children are sentenced for stealing fruit, and for letting off fire crackers.

Another noticeable trait is the unequal treatment between emancipists and free born. Even when charged with trivial offences, former prisoners were treated harshly by Richmond magistrates

The lives of two street people, both emancipists, Kitty Dixon and Tommy Shaw, remembered by Alf King (b 1896), illustrate the period.¹ A third local identity, Mary Crawley, also transported, remembered by other Richmond locals, managed to keep above the law by acquiring a small cottage and living to 102 years old, dying in 1916. But like Kitty Dixon, Mary was Irish born, smoked a clay pipe and she had also begun life by living 'on the town.'

Kitty Dixon

Kitty's name was part of the folklore of the Richmond district, recorded by Libby Jones. She was recalled as smoking a clay pipe, living for a while in the *Long House*, a vanished cottage near the Duck Holes Rivulet. Alf King remembered her as a friend of his grandmother's. When I interviewed him in 1977, he recalled a visitor to his grandmother Bridget Sullivan Jupp's house at the top of Grass Tree Hill. While Bridget was from Co Killarney, the visitor, Kitty Dixon, was another Irish-born emancipist, this time from Co Sligo. Alf King:

My Grandmother Levi Jupp lived up there in the old place on top of the hill. (i.e. the former *Shelstone Hotel*) I used to go up there with Mother. We used to walk from down here where we lived on the *Swallowfields*, go up with Mother when I was five years old, go up to Grandmother; Grandfather (Jupp) was dead then.

There was an old girl who lived with her - Kitty Dixon. She came out from Ireland, Kitty did. Came out as a girl; lived with her all her life. I remember she used to smoke a clay pipe. Most of them used to smoke

1 Richmond- POL 582, AOT.

a clay pipe, woman that is. My mother never smoked, Mrs Fenner never smoked, or the women round home, but poor old Kitty and my Grandmother up there, (i.e. the top of Grass Tree Hill), they smoked. But I never remember any of the other women smokin'; only the tracker women - they used to smoke a clay pipe. All clay pipes - you never seen no other pipes. There were hundreds of women that did tracking along the road.²

A surviving volume of the Richmond police charge book brought her to life, but only after sorting through her six aliases. From 1870 to 1890, Kitty appears charged with periodical drunk and disorderly offences, usually in Bridge Street, Richmond. She is described as a house servant, although the only place of employment ever referred to at Richmond is the property *Inverquarity* in 1890. She was married to David Cockbell (transported per *Navarino*), and was occasionally charged with him and others for similar offences. All were described as having 'no fixed abode.'

Kitty the Convict House-maid from Sligo

Kitty was transported as Catherine Thompson in January 1847, aged 24. At 4 ft 10 1/2 inches, she had brown hair, a round head and face, with a freckled face, 'much pock pitted', with brown eyes and small nose and chin.

She was tried in Durham, but was from Co Sligo, Ireland. Her real name was Catherine Casey, but was also known as Donaldson. She was transported (*Elizabeth & Henry*) for "stealing a silk handkerchief", and had previously had a 4 month conviction for stealing a snuff box.

She left behind a family of father Thomas, mother Nancy, and sisters Elizabeth & Margaret. Kitty had few offences recorded on her convict conduct record. She had been in the Richmond district in 1849, then worked for William Archer and Thomas Ashton in the Sandy Bay area. After having her ticket of leave revoked in 1852, she was at Kingston when granted freedom in 1857, and reappeared in the Richmond district by 1870.

However, she seems to have been known in Launceston in the interim.

Police Office Tuesday June 15 – Sarah Hargraves, Ellen Moriarty, George Palmer, Ann Singleton, James Lynch and Catherine Dickson, drunk and incapable, were fined 10s each. Isabella Peters, an old offender, was fined 20s for the same offence.³

In February 1874 Kitty was charged with Mary Barber (*Navarino*, 7 years), and Jane Elliott (per *Reliance* ex New Zealand) with being drunk and incapable in Edward Street, Richmond.

² Peter MacFie interview, Alf King, Tape 4, 13/4/1977.

³ Launceston Examiner 15 June 1858

Kitty Dixon's Richmond Offences.

8/2/1874

1 pm. Mary Jeffrie Barber (*Navarino*, 7), 3 pm Catherine Dickson (*Elizabeth & Henry*, 7) Jane Elliott, (*Reliance* from NZ) - all drunk & incapable in Edward Street.

15/4 74 Catherine Dixon, (*Elizabeth & Henry*), 7) house servant., Drunk & Incapable, Bridge St.

15/4 74

Catherine Dixon (*Elizabeth & Henry*), 7) house servant., Drunk & Incapable, Bridge St.

29/4/1876

Catherine Dickson (*Elizabeth & Henry*), aged 49. House servant of no fixed abode - incapable & disorderly, no visible means.-7 days Hard Labour Hobart House of Correction.

24/4/1881

Catherine Cogbill/Coghill alias Kitty Dickson , transported as Thompson, age 50 (*Elizabeth & Henry* 1) 7 years ;

plus William Medlar, age 76, shoemaker per *David Malcolm*, and John Hutchinson, labourer per *Navarino*. Suspicion of felony-dish.

6/8/1890

Catherine Dickson house servant *Inverquarity*. Drunk & Disorderly Bridge Street. Paid 5/-

Tommy (the Roundhead) Shaw

Tommy Shaw (per *Barossa*) appears as a regular offender in the Richmond police charge book in the 1870s, with repeated appearances before the magistrate for drunk and disorderly.

A 100 years later, in 1977, he was remembered as 'Tommy the Roundhead' in folk-lore by Alf King. This pseudonym however, was not just folk tradition, but was recorded against Shaw's name when he was charged in May 1876 for resisting arrest. He was sentenced to three months hard labour. His place of residence is given as Dulcot. According to Alf King, he lived in a house at the corner of the lane where I live at Dulcot (the corner of the Esplanade and George Street).

Among co-offenders for drunkenness at Richmond were other Dulcot residents, including Edward Sloane (with whom he was charged with fighting in the Bridge Inn), Thomas Phillips (alias McIvor per *China*) and Patrick Keady (per *Blenheim*). Sloane, transported (per *Pensongee Bomongee*) also lived at Dulcot.

From Shaw's conduct record, 'Tommy the Roundhead' was very appropriate, as his conduct record describes him as having a 'high and broad' forehead, with long head, large nose, mouth and chin, with black eyes and hair, a ruddy complexion and reddish whiskers.

Tried aged 27 in 1840 at Gloucester for housebreaking, Shaw arrived on the *Barossa 1* in 1842. From Sandhurst, his trade was bricklayer, but on the voyage out he was chief barber and recommended by the surgeon.

After probation at the Rocky Hills, then Saltwater River convict stations, he was moved to Hobart, then sent to Campbell Town after several charges for drunkenness. By 1860 he appeared in the Richmond district.

26/12/1871

2.30 pm Thomas Shaw and Edward Sloane fighting in the *Bridge Hotel*

14/5/1872

Patrick Keady , 44, (*Blenheim 4*, 7 years) labourer, Richmond Drunk & disorderly, *Bridge Inn*.

no. 2. 24/ 9 /1873

Disturbing the peace, *Bridge Inn* (with Thomas Shaw, labourer, of Dulcot, ditto) 14 days Hard Labour Hobart Town

3/1/1873

Thomas Shaw, per *Barossa 1*, 15 years, labourer, Dulcot. Disturbing the peace.

Thomas Phillips (alias McIvor, *China 14*) stole from dwelling house of Ben Jacobs, Richmond, 1 dress, 1 coat, 1 comforter - 12 months Hard Labour.

Thomas Shaw, (**Barossa 2**, 15), damaged glass, prop of James Cavey, *Lennox Arms*.

5/5/1876

Thomas, as 'Tommy Roundhead' per *Barossa*, aged 55 Cambridge, labourer, d & d in Bridge St, resisting arrest 24 hrs or 3 months Hard Labour - allowed 10 days.

Mary Crawley

Another elderly resident recalled by people I interviewed in 1996 was Mary Crawley.

On her 99th birthday in 1914, Maria Crawley was interviewed at Richmond and claimed to have been 'born at Chatham Barracks, 106 days before Waterloo.' She was quoted as saying she left;

... Waterford, Ireland, where she was born, in the ship *Maria Hanson* (sic) (Capt Plunkett), she set foot in Hobart Town as it was then called...⁴

Partly right; she sailed on the convict transport *Maria (2)*, one of 165 female prisoners who arrived in VDL on 23 August 1849. The Captain was FW Plank (not Plunkett) - nearly right again.

Mary explained how she 'entered the services of a builder by the name of Biggs on the site now occupied by *Highfield Hotel*.' (This assignment is not recorded.)

⁴Mercury 5/3/1914 p4 c8

Two years later, in 1851, she took up her abode at Richmond and immediately got employment at a Mr Ashmore's.

This was true, as Mary's convict conduct record details she was assigned to Mr Ashmore, Richmond. An employer list details that;

Maria (sic) Callaghan per *Maria* was on wages of £9 pa for a period of 12 months assigned to William Ashmore of Richmond.

She started her employment on 17 March 1853 however, not 1851.⁵

However, her reason for moving to Richmond were more contentious. In 1852 she had been charged in Hobart Town with 'fighting' and being a 'common prostitute,' with a note on her record that she was not to be employed in Hobart Town.⁶

By 1914 she was Richmond's 'oldest identity... She is wonderful hale and hearty and very fluent in speech.' She explains she 'married twice, her second husband, the late Mr Crawley, (who) has been dead many years.'⁷

The newspaper extolled how Mary Crawley was 'hale and hearty' and her 'well-known personality had graced the town of Richmond for 63 years, being its oldest identity.'

As she stated, Mary was married twice. On 30 January 1854 at Richmond, Mary Calligan (sic) aged 30, wed her first husband Thomas Hill (transported per *Marquis of Hastings*) aged 40. They appear to have had no children.

When Thomas Hill died in 1876 aged 62, they were living at Enfield - north of Richmond. Two years later, Mary married William Crawley, aged 61 (transported per *Equestrian*) at Richmond on 20 May 1878. (William had also been married before, to Margaret Ryan (per *Arabian*) in September 1851.⁸)

Despite having been transported aged 17, William Crawley was far from tolerant of the under-class in his new home.

On 20/12/1881 Ellen Cooley, native, ages 22, no occupation, stealing , handkerchief, part of a comb, 1 reel of cotton, and other articles, property of William Crawley. 6 months Hard Labour Hobart.

Mary and William's marriage was probably turbulent; in 1884 a court record lists Mary being charged by William with stealing some of his property.

13/3/1884 Mary Crawley per *Maria* FS, wife of William Crawley. Charged by husband with stealing 35 pounds in coins and banknotes on person, 8/9d, knife, tobacco pipe, and 3 keys. Discharged.⁹

5CON 30/1/44. AOT

6CON 41/22.

7Mercury 5/3/1914 p4 c8

8Pioneer Index.

9POL 582

1996. Mary Crawley Remembered

In 1996 I interviewed local identities, Douglas (known as Tum) and his sister Mary Joseph at their home in Bridge Street, Richmond.

I asked them about elderly folk they remembered in Richmond when they were young. They recalled a frail Mary Crawley being cared for by local families.

PM Do you remember a Mrs Crawly?

MJ Yes, her mother used to go down, when she lived down, *Laurel Cottage*. That little cottage near the school, and Mum and her sister and other girls, the Lincoln girls, used to go, and she used to smoke a clay pipe, and Mum and her cousins, the Lincoln girls, and Mum's sister, they used to go down and peep through the window. At her smoking a pipe.

DJ It was just a slab house, near that *Laurel Cottage* there, and down in the hollow there, before you get up to the big brick one, a little old slab house there, and Ginger Wright, he used to go there, before he went to the war, he used to go and cut her wood for her. Go and cut her wood. And people used to take her pension there. Get it from the post office and take it to her. So she would undo her door, snatch it around, and shut the door. [laughter].

PM She was a real old hermit, was she?

DJ She was a real old Irish woman, she was.

MJ She used to smoke a clay pipe.

DJ And she used to wear big men's hob-nailed boots, she used to be walking about in. But they used to cart her wood you know. Cart her wood and put it on her woodheap, and somebody would come along and cut her wood for her. She never asked, or anything.

MJ Or course, those Wright boys were kind to her. They used to cut the wood for her.

PM Looked after her?

MJ Yes.

PM Her husband wasn't alive at that stage?

MJ No.

DJ No, she lived there alone, I think.

MJ Yes, after she left there. When she got very ill, and she went to live in where the two cottages are, what they made into two units. Down near those two trees on the corner. And a Mrs Langridge

took her in, and they cared for her until she died. Mrs Langridge's daughter only died last week. Yes.

PM What was her name, by the way? Mrs Crawley?

MJ I don't know what her Christian name was.

PM I have seen reference to a Mary Crawley.

MJ That would probably be her, I reckon. It was only the one name that I've heard Mum speak of.¹⁰

Mary died in 1916; a photo in the *Tasmanian Mail* newspaper shows her sitting outside her small cottage in Richmond.¹¹

Folk Names and Aliases

13/12/1875

Sarah Miller as 'Sally the Whip', per *Jane*, 7 years . House servant. Larceny under 10 pound; taking and carrying away a roller towel, of the goods and chattels of John Shipley. ##

John Smith (alias 'Lagger' Smith), per *Emperor Alexander*, life) Drunk & Disorderly in municipal park. 5/ or 24 hrs ##

5/5/1876

Thomas Shaw as 'Tommy Roundhead' per *Barossa*. Aged 55, Cambridge, labourer. drunk & disorderly in Bridge St,, resisting arrest 24 hours or 3 months Hard Labour-allowed 10 days. ##

15/1/1877

James Woods as 'Dandy Jim', of no fixed abode, per *Boddington FC*. Common nuisance Edward Street. ##

17/2/1877

John Betts as 'Whistling Jack", no fixed abode, fl, age 70, *Blenheim 1* Drunk & Incapable Bridge Street. ##

3/1/1880

Elijah Elton alias Nelmes (?). Age 70. aka by the cognomen of 'Flash Jack, the "Sepon Flasher", Ticket of Leave, per *Emily* Drunk & Incapable Edward Street. ##

5/11/1881

Chas Cullen (Darky) invalid per *Sir S Baker*, alias *lala couta* man of colour (sic) Drunk & Incapable 7 days Solitary Confinement

¹⁰ 1996. PMA. Peter MacFie Interview, D & M Joseph , Richmond.

¹¹ *Tasmanian Mail*, 15/6/1916, p19.

2/2/1887

James Martin no fixed abode per *Lord Peter* Free by Servitude,, aka Murray and 'Jim the Soldier'. Stealing a cotton shirt and vest , property John Edwards, and 1 felt hat , property Alf M Bailey from their tent at the Coal River. 12 months Hard Labour. ##

112/3/1887

James Tremalay, coloured man , a Sikh, at Gerald Bailey's, Esq, Richmond. Drunk & incapable at premises of his master, Mr Bailey. 5/- ##

23/10/1878

William Harrison alias 'Billy the Ringer', per *Tortoise*, 10 years , a splitter, age 54. At Evandale absent from services of Chas Whittle. ##

5/11/1879

James O'Neal alias 'Chumsey' Neale, cook at *Richmond Park*. identified to George Neil Asia 5, ##

Women before the court

*Mary Mooney (*Midlothian* 7 years) wife of John Mooney, Richmond. Drunk & Disorderly, Bridge Street- 5/- or 24 hr solitary confinement.

Margot Gibbons (*Emma Euphoria?* 15 years) and 10-wife of Alex Gibbons - Drunk & Disorderly Franklin Street- 1 pound or 14 days imprisonment.

Ellen Medlar (*Margaret* 15 years) wife of William Medlar, shoemaker, (per *David Malcolm*, 15) drunk & incapable Bridge Street. Imprisonment 3 months Hobart Hard Labour

*Grace Barnes - (alias Templeton, & Shillinghaw and Kneebone (per *Hector*, 15 years) drunk & incapable. Thomas Kneebone Drunk & Disorderly same day.

*Fanny Mahoney, native, Argyle Street- stealing 8 yds dark print & 8 of white muslin & satin ribbon prop of Mary Mahoney - not guilty

20/11

Elizabeth Sparkes- *Cadet* 2 yr wife of William Sparkes. Richmond. Drunk & Disorderly, Bridge Street.

27/12

Hannah Jackson (*Tasmania*) wife of Thomas Jackson, Jerusalem, James Wilson (*Emily*, 7) , labourer at Mrs Searles, *Laburnum Park*- severally charged - being idle and disorderly person behaving in an indecent manner in a open place , Bridge Street., 14 days Hard Labour Hobart Town.

8/2 /1874

1 pm. Mary Jeffrie Barber (*Navarino*, 7 years), 3 pm Catherine Dickson (*Elizabeth & Henry*, 7) Jane Elliott, (*Reliance* from New Zealand) - all drunk & incapable in Edward Street.

15/4/1874

Catherine Dixon, (*Elizabeth & Henry*), 7) house servant., Drunk & Incapable, Bridge St.

Eleanor Thompson charges Gavin Thompson. (*Blenheim 3*) , left her & child with no means of support. On warrant at Port Sorell. Charge withdrawn.

23/1/1875

Alice Newman (*Daniel Meara, Cork*) free, in service of Richard Lewis, *Bridge Inn*. Drunk & Disorderly in *Bridge Hotel*. 5/- or 24 hrs.

20/11/1875

Mary Mahoney and son James 13 years old. Taking away a quantity of bread & meat of John Lord of *Richmond Park*. 1 months imprisonment Hard Labour.

7/12/1875

Son James Mahoney, found wandering without any proper guardianship and not having any visible means of support... sent to the certificate ??training school for 3 years .

13/12/1875

Sarah Miller as 'Sally the Whip', per *Jane*, 7 years . House servant. larceny under 10 pound; taking and carrying away a roller towel, of the goods and chattels of John Shipley. ##

29/4/1876

Catherine Dickson (*Elizabeth & Henry*) aged 49. House servant of no fixed abode - idle & disorderly, no visible means.-7 days Hard Labour, Hobart House of Correction.

7/10/1876

Ann Raynor per *Rajah 7* aged 65, of Richmond. Drunk & Incapable

17/10/1876

Mary Till ,45, house servant. Drunk & Incapable

25/12/1876

Ellen Jones, native of colony wife of William Jones, itinerant grass broom maker. Drunk & Disorderly

26/12/1877

2.30 pm Thomas Shaw and Edward Sloane fighting in the *Bridge Hotel*

31/9/1879

Agnes Riley, late domestic at John Eadem, *Rose Hill*, Richmond. ..being big with child, was delivered of a female child being born alive, the said child died, and endeavouring to conceal...by throwing dead body...down a privy etc, committed to Hobart Town for trial.

[Agnes was found guilty of concealing the death of her infant and sentenced to 6 months imprisonment.¹²]

21/11 /1879

Helen Cooley, aged 18 daughter of John Cooley, Edward Street, Richmond. Idle & disorderly.

-later 21/1/1880

Wandering abroad etc imprisonment Hard Labour House of Correction Hobart Town. (charged by Anderson)

24/5/1881

Catherine Johnstone per *Colombus*, Dulcot. Disturbing the peace, *Lennox Arms*. 1 hr solitary.

24/4/1881

Catherine Cogbill/Coghill alias Kitty Dickson, transported as Thompson, age 50 (*Elizabeth & Henry* 1) 7

plus William Medlar, age 76, shoemaker per *David Malcolm*, and John Hutchinson, labour *Navarino*. suspected of felony- discharged.

20/12/1881

Ellen Cooley, native, 22, no occupation, stealing handkerchief, part of a comb, 1 reel of cotton, and other articles, property of William Crawley. 6 months Hard Labour Hobart.

10.4.82

Ellen Toolan or Campion per *Blackfriars*, Free by Servitude, tramp, Drunk & Incapable, *Lennox Arms*.

12/8/1883

Mary Sloane per *Beulah*, free, laundress.

13/3/1884

Mary Crawley per *Maria* Free by Servitude, wife of William Crawley. Charged by husband with stealing 35 pounds in coins and banknotes on person, 8/9d, knife, tobacco pipe, and 3 keys. Discharged.

20/1/1886

Mary Ann Smith, basket maker, no fixed abode per *Coramandel* aged 49. Drunk & Incapable

16/1/1890

Mary Carroll, hawker, no fixed abode, *Blackfriars*. Stealing 1 china mug *Bridge Hotel*, property Fred Price.

¹² Mercury, 24/9/1879,p.2.

6/8/1890

Catherine Dickson house servant *Inverquarity*. Drunk & Disorderly Bridge Street. Paid 5/-

Men before the Court

6/4/1872.

Hugh Cameron , 46, (*Rodney 1*) 14 years - travelling with McPhillips thrashing machine- drunk & incapable - Bridge Street as above.

14/5/1872

Patrick Keady , 44, (*Blenheim 4*, 7 years) labourer, Richmond drunk & disorderly, Bridge Inn.

no. 2. 24 /9 /1873

Disturbing the peace, *Bridge Inn*. (with Thomas Shaw, labourer of Dulcot, ditto) 14 days Hard Labour Hobart Town.

23/6/1872

John Whelan, 50, (*Sovereign*, 10 years) carpenter at Mr Wilkins, on enclosed premises- 5/- also damaging one of the doors of the gaol; fined 10/-

27/6/1872

Edward Sloane (*Pensongee Bomongee*, life) farm labourer charged several times obscene language etc Drunk & Disorderly, 51, Drunk & Disorderly i5/- or 24 hrs (with wife, Mary Whitton per *Beulah*.

18/7/1872

David Cockbell or Corsley or Lord, 50, *Lord Lyndoch 2*, 7, Drunk & Disorderly, Bridge St, 24 hrs Solitary Confinement

11/12/1872

William Smith , 58, (*Canton 10*) shepherd at Capt Ogilvy's, *Inverquarity*. Drunk & Disorderly, Bridge Street. 5/ or 24 hrs.

3/1/1873

Thomas Shaw (*Barossa 1*), 15, labourer, Dulcot. Disturbing the peace;

Thomas Phillips (alias McIvor) (*China 14*) stole from dwelling house of Benjamin Jacobs, Richmond, 1 dress, 1 coat, 1 comforter- 12 months Hard Labour

Matthew Clark (*Cadet 1*, 7 yr) labourer at George Shipley, baker, Richmond. Committing a nuisance 10/- fine or 7 days Hard Labour.

18/10 73

William Knight, native, son of Thomas Knight, Richmond, aged 10, feloniously stealing a quantity of flowers the property of J. Kendrick in his garden in Richmond growing in the 19th inst to the value of 1/-, 2/6 or 7 days Hard Labour. ++

11/12/1873

Thomas Toplis Free by Servitude, 45, (*William Jardine*, 7 years), labourer aggravated assault, Sarah Lydenham, Free by Servitude, *Aurora*. Sarah Lydenham, charged with disturbing the peace. Fined 20/- or 1 months Hard Labour or fined 10/-

26/3/1874

Henry Raynor 47, (*Stratheden* 7) gardener, stealing a quantity of fruit growing in the orchard of Thomas Ryly at Richmond, 13 apples, 2 pears of the value of 6/- and one pruning knife- discharged, aged 14.

18/5/1874

Edward Sloane. (*Pensongee Bomongee*, life) Drunk & Incapable, 5/- 92 sixpences, 5 figs of tobacco, pipe, ginger beer bottle containing rum.-5/-

27/5/1874

William Wright, aged 14, son of Thomas Wright, shoemaker Richmond. In Bridge Street...let off a firework contrary to the provisions of the 29th vide no 10 section 180. fined 2/6 ++

21/7/1874.

Edward Kelly (*Waverley*, 7 years,) stonemason aged 54, & Joseph Kelly, *Egyptian* 1), labourer. Both charged with stealing money & chattels 4 months Hard Labour

21/7/1874

Cornelius Cooley, Richmond, labourer & native. Unlawfully assaulted Jeremiah Cooley with grievous bodily harm at *Carrington*.

Thomas Shaw (*Barossa* 2, 15) damaged glass, property of James Cavey, *Lennox Arms*.

6/3/1875

Dominic McBride (*Samuel Boddington*, 15) stonemason, forgery at Richmond, remanded.

1873

- Several men from *Campania* railway line charged with Drunk & Disorderly in Bridge Street Richmond.

John Smith (alias 'Lagger' Smith), per *Emperor Alexander*, life) Drunk & Disorderly in municipal park. 5/ or 24 hrs ##

4/2/1874

William Ross 54, (alias William McKay (*Nile* 14) labourer. Larceny, at Richmond, 1 pr tweed trousers, 1 pr worsted stockings, 1 striped shirt, of James Warburton. 12 months Hard Labour

11/4/1874

John Cooley, native age 10, stealing a bunch of grapes in the garden of Samuel Daniels, value of one penny.- 5/- or 48 hrs House of Correction Richmond. ++

10/187/1875

George Mullins (51) (*Hyderabad 2*, 7 years) labourer, stealing at Dulcot from Edward Sloane, and from old man known as "Old Peter". Discharged.

14/8/1875

William Moebus 30, free shoemaker, conducted self in a violent manner in the Police Office, Richmond. (1 watch and chain, bunch of keys, 4/- 1 pocket knife, silk handkerchief.) 10/- guilty plea.

11/8/1876

John McGowan, age 60, Richmond, Drunk & Disorderly Bridge Street fined.

John Wilson , age 50, Mt Stewart (*Elphinstone*), labourer, employed as gardener by George Stokell. Drunk & incapable Bridge Street. 5/-

17/2/1877

Two bricklayers Andrew Freeland, (*Coromandel* ,14) age 50, James Lynch, (*Equestrian*), 50, bricklayer in employ of Thomas Clements, Richmond. Drunk & Incapable. 10/- both.

7/4/1877

Michael Toomey, (*London 2*, 7 years) age 55, Dulcot, labourer. Drunk & Incapable Bridge Street 5/- or 7 days.

28/6/1877

Rob Lowe, native, 29, in employ of Robert Young near Richmond viz *Marengo*, 24 bushels oats. 3 months Hard Labour

27/7/1877

David Dickers, quarryman, Kangaroo Pt, (per *Sir Robert Peel*, 10 years) age 52. Drunk & Incapable at *Prince of Wales Inn*.

27/12/1877

James Rickman, Richmond shoemaker in employ of Thomas Reid, (per *Radcliffe 2*, 7) age 59. Drunk & Incapable Bridge Street.

31/12/1877

Thomas Manning, (per *Eden 1*) age 70, Ticket of Leave, Cambridge. Drunk & Incapable.
Joseph Pace. Tea Tree farmer, (per *Neptune 1*) Drunk & Incapable

15/10/1879

George Wilson, gardener (per *Kinnear*), age 74. Drunk & Disorderly

do 21/10/1879

Prisoner undergoing sentence at Richmond goal on 21 made use of insulting and abusive language to Arthur Anderson, the keeper of the said goal. Solitary confinement for remainder of sentence. (WC Simmons)

27/10/1879

Thomas Grant , gardener to Mrs Searle, *Laburnum Park* (per *Guilliardine*) age 60. Drunk & incapable with John McNulty Free by Servitude (per *Orator*)

25/4/1881

Robert Rawson, Schoolmaster, Richmond, free. Found on premises of Martin Moebus of Richmond for some unlawful purpose... charge by Moebus, shoemaker- rep and discharged.

4/11/1880

William Lane, age 56 Free by Servitude, *Aboukir* stealing a load of firewood. Property William Gilcrist. 7 days Hard Labour, Richmond goal/

12/11/1880

John Seargeant, Free by Servitude, (per *Tory*, 15) age 47, shoemaker. Drunk & Incapable

9/2/1881

Thomas Cook, Free by Servitude, (per *Aboukir*, 7) 64, house breaking at Cambridge, home of James Hanslow stealing a purse & 3 pounds. Committed to Bellerive.

27/10 /1882

William Medlar stealing part of dead wood fence of William Brain, value one farthing- caution

30/10/1882

Repeated offence 3 months Hard Labour, House of Correction Hobart Town.

16/5/1883

Peter McNamara, (*Endora*) Free by Servitude, tinker/tinsmith. Drunk & Incapable

29/12 /1883

William Stonehouse age 11 and Arthur Cooley aged 10. Killed 18 fowls property William Bone (property on person-pewter whistle) surety of 10 p each and 12 months good behaviour. ++

14/6/1887

George Birchall, native , labourer. Having threatened to take away his life at *Summerhill*, Richmond, 14/6/1887 - 20 pound surety or 2 days imprisonment.

8/3/1888

George Fenner, aged 13. Stealing 31 rabbit skins, value 2/-, property Richard Drew. Two 10 pound sureties for 12 months good behaviour.

21/5/1888

Arthur Cooley, labourer, Richmond, native. Attempted rape on Elizabetha Daniels, at *Logie*.(witnesses Chas Bevan, Arthur Evans, Elizabetha Duggan, Elizabeth Daniels, of Richmond) committed to Supreme Court, Hobart.

6/1/1890

George Anderson, bootmaker, Richmond, native. Dunk & disorderly, *Bridge Hotel*. 5/- or 4 days. Paid.

28/8/1890

Michael J. Devitt, labourer, Richmond. Warrant for non-support of illegitimate child at Oatlands. Remanded to Oatlands.

15/5/1891

Arthur Cooley, murder of Mary Carmelia Letitia Ogilvy - list of witnesses. Committed Supreme Court.¹³

Tramps and the Homeless before the Court

Henry and Mary Ann Beecroft (*Alibi & Blackfriar*), & Ann Hale, native. Idle & disorderly persons wandering abroad in the open air, not having any visible mean of subsistence, & not giving a good account of themselves. Goods held- one bag containing portions of bread, meat, tea, sugar. 1 tomahawk, 2 pannicans, 1 skirt, 1 jacket, 1 child's brown hat, 1 apron, 1 brown apron, 1 hood. Second bag, 2 teaspoons, 3 knives, 2 forks, 8 boots, 1 linen jacket, 1 petticoat, 6 pieces of various old drapes, 6 pieces of bags. Discharged with caution.

William Bumstead, alias 'Cockney Bill' (*Mary*, life) disobeying summons of Alex Reid, of *Ratho*, Bothwell.

27 /11/1873

Benjamin Hughes (per *Lord Petrie*) a cripple from paralysis, no fixed place of residence and no lawful means of gaining a livelihood. 3 months Hard Labour, Hobart Town (two old bags, tin billy and pannican) Chas Turner Esq, mag.

25/12/1875

Cornelius Cooley (native of the colony) & Michael Devitt (n/c) labourer of Richmond. Accused of taking away one raw hide plough line of John Burrridge. Witnesses Richard Burrridge, Walter House, Roger Cane, John Kenny, Edward Sloane. Discharged.

5/5/1876

Thomas Shaw as Tommy Roundhead (per *Barossa*) aged 55, Cambridge, labourer. d & d in Bridge St, resisting arrest 24 hrs or 3 months Hard Labour, allowed 10 days. ##

21/7/1876

Frank Wilks, (per *Tamar*, FC) age 31, itinerant watchmaker. Stealing a watch 4 pounds at Surges Bay, remanded to Franklin.

¹³ Examiner 18 May 1891 p2 and Mercury 18 Aug 1891 p3

9/9/1876

Ellen Bryant, age 50, (per *Atwick*) Richmond, obscene language, Bridge Street, and William Bryant age ?, Edward St, unlawfully assaulting PC Redding, fined, or 1 months Hard Labour

15/1/1877

James Woods as 'Dandy Jim', of no fixed abode, (per *Boddington FC*) Committing a nuisance Edward Street. ##

17/2/1877

John Betts as 'Whistling Jack" no fixed abode, fl, age 70, (*Blenheim 1*) Drunk & Incapable Bridge Street. ##

3/9/1878

William Currie, Richmond, labourer (*Equestrian 1, 7*) aged 72. obscene language Bridge Street.

3/1/1880

Elijah Elton alias Nelmes (?). age 70. aka by the cognomen of 'Flash Jack, the "Sepon Flasher", t/l (per *Emily*) Drunk & Incapable Edward Street. ##

2/5/1881

William Layman, 19, and William Johnstone ,16, native to colony. Stealing firewood , property Hannah Cleburne- reprimanded and discharged.

5/11/1881

Chas Cullen (Darky) Invalid (per *Sir S Baker*). Alias *lala couta* man of colour (sic) Drunk & Incapable. 7 days Solitary Confinement

18/11/1881

James O'Neil, *Phantom*, Free by Servitude, itinerant tinsmith, Drunk & Incapable 7 days Solitary Confinement.

8/12/1884

William Medlar ibid, Free by Servitude, dealer, stolen one pencil holder, property of Arthur John Nichols..(ie Shopkeeper) 3 months Hard Labour

13/12/1886

George Hewitt & Thomas Lynch , both labourers of Richmond. Stealing cherries from garden of Benjamin Bone, Richmond, value 1/- fined 5/-

18/12/1886

William Curran, groom, travelling with an entire horse "Sir Walter Scott." stealing one pr spring side boots, 8/-, from the hut of William Montgomery on Prossers Rd near the Finger Post in the Municipality of Richmond.. 6 months Hard Labour

2/2/1887

James Martin no fixed abode (per *Lord Peter*) Free by Servitude, aka Murray and 'Jim the Soldier'. Stealing cotton shirt and vest , property John Edwards, and 1 felt hat , property Alf M Bailey from their tent at the Coal River. 12 months Hard Labour. ##

112/3/1887

James Tremalay, coloured man , a Sikh, at Gerald Bailey's, Esq, Richmond. Drunk & incapable at premises of his master, Mr Bailey. 5/- ##

18/5/1887

William Medlar, *ibid*, stealing a wooden fence paling, value 1d, property Patrick Gearien, Chas Street. Richmond. 20/- or 1 months imprisonment.

13/7/1887

William Medlar, *ibid*, aged 84, begging in a public place, Bridge Street. (witness Mrs Cornish, PC Cooley) 4 months imprisonment H of C

Masters & Servants before the Court

*** 29/7/1872**

Edward Levi Jupp- 47, (*Mandarin*, 14 years) farmer, Grass Tree Hill. Larceny not exceeding 10 pound July 1872, 1 coat value of 10/- of William Hughes. 3 months Hard Labour Hobart Town

3/8/1872

Charge by Samuel Dickson, *Glen Ayr*, stealing one fork, one dung fork, one back chain and belly band. Discharged.

***2/8/1872**

William Wheeler 71, (*Southwark* 2) charcoal burner. Absent 'g from service of Richard Goodwin, blacksmith.) discharged with costs 23/ to employer

John Bates, shoemaker (*Barossa*) absenting from *Churchill* (ie WC Simmons) before completion thereof according to contract. 10/ or 14 days Hard Labour

William Jones (*Marion* 1, 7) labourer, absent from *Richmond Park* before lawful completion of contract. (9d in silver, 2 knives, padlock, pipe & tobacco) 40/- or 2 months Hard Labour

9/1/1873

Henry Lloyd (*Somerset*, life) gardener absent from *Richmond Park* 1 pound or 1 months goal Hard Labour

116/6/1873

John Rose , free, blacksmith. Absent from William Yule, master, blacksmith.

13/5/1874

Maurice Neil, (*Tory*, 15 years) labourer with Fred Gaby, Drunk & Incapable, Bridge Street.

28/8/1874

William or Jeremiah Wheeler(*Southwark* 2, 7) charcoal burner. Absent from William Yule, blacksmith.3/3/1875

Henry Mason (*Augusta Jessie*, 7 years) cook at *Richmond Park* in service of John Lord. Stealing a qty fruit growing in the orchard of John Lord at *Richmond Park* -8 apples(6d), -3 months House of Correction Hobart Town.

20/11 74

Mary Mahoney (*Barretta*, 7 years) house servant , *Richmond Park*, qty bread, meat, 1 knife of John Lord.1 month Hard Labour

18/1/1876

Michael Reardon (per *Nile* f/c) blacksmith in employ of William Yule. Drunk on masters premises, contrary to Masters & Servants Act. 1856. Discharged with caution to master.

27/3/1876

Edward Sloane (*Pensonbee Bomongee*) labourer of Dulcot. Drunk & Disorderly and Mary Whitton, wife of Edward (per *Beulah*) Free by Servitude, 5/- or 7 days Hard Labour Hobart.

29/4/1876

William Read (*Rodney* 1) labourer left services of Chas McRorie.

11/5/1876

David Fenner or Richmond, labourer in employ WS Wilkins. Native free, aged 19. Feloniously assaulted Louisa cook/Whelan with intent to rape. Discharged.

John Brown (per *Lady Kennaway*, 7 years) , sawyer, aged 45. Escaping Richmond Gaol. 2 years Hard Labour House of Correction Hobart Town.

20/5/1876

Annie Webster, native, age 19, house servant. Stealing 8 pocket handkerchiefs, 1 pair cuffs, prop George and Mrs Villen, *Morville*. 1 month, imprisonment House of Correction Hobart Town.

19/4/1878

Alexander Gibbons, Richmond , licensed hawker, (per *Neptune*, 7) age 61. Obscene language in Bridge Street. Drunk & Incapable. 23/10/1878

William Harrison alias 'Billy the Ringer' (per *Tortoise*, 10 years), a splitter, age 54. At Evandale absent from services of Chas Whittle. ##13/2/1879

Thomas Pugh, shepherd, *Lowlands* (per *Maria Soames* 1) age 54. Killing and stealing 1 lamb at *Lowlands*, property, Misses Martha, Jane and Harriet Butcher of *Lowlands*; remanded.

5/11/1879

James O'Neal alias 'Chumsey' Neale, cook at *Richmond Park*. Identified to George Neil (*Asia* 5) ##

6/11/1879

John Wilson, *Runnymede*, gardener, (*Mt Stuart Elphinstone*), age 50. Absent without leave from George Stokell, *Stockdale* before term of agreement. *Bridge Inn*. * 6/10

Henry Noble (*Sir George Seymour* 7) ostler, *Bridge Inn*., charged by master Robert Lewis, licensed victualler, of Drunk & Disorderly on his premises

* Thomas Johnstone, (*Maida*, 10) groom at *Bridge Inn*, Richmond. Larceny as a servant, qty of porter, value 3/- of master Robert Lewis, *Bridge Inn*. 3 months Hard Labour

27/3/1874

Thomas Wright (*Anson*) groom, 55 years. Hired servant of Robert Lewis, conducting himself in a violent manner towards his master on his premises at Richmond. *Bridge Hotel*. -reprimanded & discharged. Convicted of stealing 2 one pound bank notes. 6 months Hard Labour

4/5/1879

James Stubbs, Richmond, ostler *Bridge Inn*, (*Lady Kennaway*) Obscene language

13/7/1880

Thomas Dean age 54, *Campania*, Free by Servitude, (*Hyderabad* 3, 7), labourer. Drunk & Disorderly in *Prince of Wales*.

14/6/1884

John Oliver Taranna, FC, Drunk & Incapable in *Prince of Wales*.

Juveniles before the Court

18/10/1873

William Knight, native, son of Thomas Knight, Richmond, aged 10, feloniously stealing a quantity of flowers the property of J. Kendrick in his garden in Richmond growing in the 19th inst to the value of 1/- . 2/6 or 7 days Hard Labour.

27/5/1874

William Wright,, aged 14, son of Thomas Wright, shoemaker Richmond. In *Bridge Street*...let off a firework contrary to the provisions of the 29th vide no 10 section 180. fined 2/6.

11/4/1874

John Cooley, native age 10, stealing a bunch of grapes in the garden of Samuel Daniels, value of one penny.- 5/- or 48 hrs House of Correction Richmond. ++

29/12 /1883

William Stonehouse age 11 and Arthur Cooley aged 10. Killed 18 fowls property William Bone (property on person-pewter whistle) surety of 10 p each and 12 months good behaviour.

Millers Cottage at Court

14/8/1875

William Moebus 30, free shoemaker, conducted self in a violent manner in the Police Office, Richmond. (1 watch and chain, bunch of keys, 4/- 1 pocket knife, silk handkerchief.) 10/- guilty plea.

25/4/1881

Robert Rawson, Schoolmaster, Richmond, free. Found on premises of Martin Moebus of Richmond for some unlawful purpose. Charge by Moebus, shoemaker- rep and discharged.

End of an Era

By 1900, it was nearly fifty years since the last of the convicts were transported to Van Diemens Land. Most of them were dead, making way for another generation of the homeless and destitute to pass through the courts.

No longer do people have the name of their transporting ship and their sentence attached to their own name as a matter of course at every phase of their life as more of them are native-born.

Not all convicts had a happy ending, even after they attained their freedom. All they could aspire to – such as these residents of Richmond – was a drink at the pub to ease their pains. And all too often this ended up in the Richmond courthouse with their fate in the hands of the local magistrates who varied from extremely harsh to extremely forgiving.

There was little consideration for ‘mitigating circumstances’ or for medical conditions. Martin Moebus, the shoemaker who worked at the old Millers Cottage, received a fine rather than help with what may have been a psychiatric problem.¹⁴

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¹⁴ Perhaps William Moebus had a health problem. Zeehan and Dundas Herald – 18 January 1906 “William Moebus, an elderly boot maker, residing at Eyre street, Ballarat, committed suicide at the local Hospital at an early hour this morning. He was admitted to the institution a few days ago suffering with severe abdominal pains

Last night he became very violent, and had to be strapped to the bed. During an interval between the inspections he managed to place a strap round his neck, roll to the floor, and hang himself.”

Robert Cowburn, or the Violent Richmond Overseer “Harlequin Bob”

Robert Cowburn was a convict, constable and road gang overseer. He was the capturer of murderer Charles Routley after becoming a member of Lt Governor George Arthur's “elite” Field Police. Born circa 1800 he was sentenced at Lancaster on 25th October 1819 to seven years transportation for felony. A 5 ft 9ins tall cotton spinner from Semsbury, Lancaster, Cowburn had tattoos on his right arm- ‘RC ECTL’ & a woman - and on his left arm, a sailor & crucifix. He arrived in Van Diemen's Land per *Maria* (1) on 1st December 1820.¹⁵

From colonial records & newspaper reports, Robert Cowburn illustrates the violent brutal personalities used as middle managers by the George Arthur's regime to intimidate members of chain gangs. Cowburn emerges as a merciless overseer, also treating his wives and other lower ranking men - and their wives - with equal contempt & violence. But how did he obtain this independent status?

Robert Cowburn married three times.

His first wife was Ann Carnes, whom he married in Clarence on 1st April 1827, only 6 years after his arrival.

He married Mary Davis on 3rd December 1830 at Sorell. They had one daughter, Mary (baptised 7th October 1831).

Robert Cowburn's third wife was Catherine Bloomfield (née Allender) and they married on 8th March 1869 at Sorell. He and Catherine had twelve children, starting with twins Margaret and Elizabeth on 1st July 1866). Others included Aaron (born 9th July 1868) and Henry (born 26th April 1873).¹⁶

Cowburn had an erratic convict record. On 9th February 1824 he absconded from the Police Barracks in Hobart and was only apprehended three months later, on 9th May. He received 100 lashes and was downgraded to a 3rd class prisoner to be held in the Police Barracks. He disappeared again several weeks later, and was at large for over a week until re-captured on 4th June 1824. He then received 50 lashes and was sent to Macquarie Harbour to serve the remainder of his sentence. Here he served time with a murderer from the Pitt Water area, Charles Routley.

Cowburn held his ticket of leave in November 1828 when he was bound over to keep the peace towards Robert Batkins for six months.¹⁷ The following month he was again bound over to keep the peace for six months, this time with Robert Bailey.¹⁸ Cowburn

¹⁵ CON 23/1.

¹⁶ Aaron Cowburn married Florence Eliza Richardson, the daughter of Charles and Angelina Richardson. Aaron was a miner on Tasmania's West Coast. Florence died aged only 39, leaving 8 children. (Wood, Trish *The Convict & the Carpenter- a History of Mary Springham and William Hambly and their descendants*, Hobart, 1990, p. 91.)

¹⁷ Batkins was a convict who arrived in 1821 per Countess of Harcourt. He was buried in Hobart on 8th March 1836. He was 26 years old.

¹⁸ Robert Cowburn Conduct record. online

also had a consistent history of abuse of female partners, including his first wife, Anne Ward.¹⁹

On 4th February 1829 Cowburn was charged with being a runaway convict, and being drunk and disorderly in the street. Although acquitted on the charge of being a runaway, he was fined 5s. for the latter offences. In April 1829 he was again fined 5s. for being drunk and disorderly. On 12th October 1829 Robert Cowburn was charged and found guilty of "Assaulting and Beating Mrs. Christian last night at the Female House of Correction." Cowburn was fined 50s. for this offence. In September 1830 he was again charged with being drunk, and was fined 20s. Cowburn was charged with assaulting and beating a woman again on 22nd February 1831 - Mrs. Laing, wife of Chief District Constable Alexander Laing- then posted to Richmond from Sorell. Cowburn was admitted to bail with £10 0 and a surety of £10. W.H. Glover and Henry Nicholls were the magistrates in this case, Cowburn's first court appearance in the Richmond Police District.

Cowburn was instrumental in gaining evidence from the murderer Charles Routley. Feigning friendship, Cowburn shared a night in a hut on Rosny Pt with Routley, gathering evidence which led to Routley's death sentence. As a result, in May 1830, Robert Cowburn 318 received a Free Pardon, and transferred to the Field Police, a move approved by Lt Gov George Arthur.²⁰ With this new status he was appointed overseer at Richmond.

The Field Police was George Arthur's secret weapon in his war against black- markets, bushrangers and the now increasingly aggressive aboriginal Tasmanians defending their homeland.

In April 1832 W. Jarritt accused Cowburn of assaulting him - case dismissed, and Jarritt ordered to pay costs. James Gordon and T.A. Lascelles were the magistrates. The following month Cowburn was again before court facing assault charges, this time against James Wheatley. The charge was similarly dismissed, this time by W.T. Parramore and J.H. Butcher. Six days later he was again before the magistrates, charged with assaulting Joseph Robinson and "threatening to shoot him". Parramore dismissed the charge.

19LC 440/1. In 1828, while cohabiting near Kangaroo Point, Ann Ward charged him. "3/9/1828. Complaint of Ann Ward, I am a free woman and I have been living with a free man named Robert Cowburn at Mrs Lord's Farm near Kangaroo Point. On Sunday night last between 8 & (o'clock at night RC and myself were to look for his bullocks which had been left out late for the purpose of feeding, I said to Coburn you go one way and I'll go the other when he immediate began to attack me, and struck me a violent blow on the head which knocked me down. Robert Cowburn has frequently in the habit of ill treating threatening me so that I consider myself in danger from the acts. I therefore pray that Robert Cowburn may be compelled to enter into a bond to keep the peace towards me. Ann Ward her mark.

20 Hobart Town Courier, 1/5/1830, P. 2.

Cowburn was a constable in November 1832 when he was charged by James Gordon with stealing 20 shingles. Gordon's fellow magistrates J. H. Butcher and W.T. Parramore dismissed the charges.'

Cowburn was overseer of the chain gang at Richmond at this time & seemed untouchable. His ruthless treatment of fellow prisoners is detailed below.

On 17th January 1832 Cowburn applied for a grant of a second-class allotment at Richmond. He intended 'erecting a stone building with a frontage of thirty feet and sixteen feet deep.' In his application Cowburn stated:

"I am married and have one child - that I am employ [sic] at _____ ? Overseer of the Chain Gang and have no house, Lodging, or allowance for... Lodging from Government - that I have performed great service to the Colony by breaking up Routley's Gang."²¹

The Surveyor-General's office noted that "R. Cowburn rendered service to the colony by breaking up Routley's infamous gang of Bushrangers."²² Cowburn was granted a second-class allotment in Richmond, Lieutenant-Governor approving the application on 22nd February 1832.²³

The *Colonial Times* in May 1832 recounted the following incredulous story concerning Robert Cowburn's treatment of prisoners from the Richmond Chain Gang :

"Is it true that Robert Cowburn, alias 'Harlequin Bob', overseer of the Chain Gang of this place (Richmond), charged one of the gang under his orders before the Acting Police Magistrate [Mason], for the time being, with neglect of duty, in being longer than ordinary in carrying water from the river to the habitation of the said overseer, and that the prisoner was discharged with this injunction – that he was to do whatever his overseer directed him to do – and that he should on the following day, instead of carrying three turns of water for the same party, carry four, and should he be an unreasonable time in performing this task has overseer was directed to report him? Query – is such the usual employ of prisoners in the Chain Gangs throughout the Colony?"²⁴

ADD HERE²⁵

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²¹ AOT LSD 1/107/p.702. Charles Routley was executed in 1830.

²² AOT LSD 1/107/p.702

²³ AOT LSD 1/107/p.702.

²⁴ Colonial Times, 2 May 1832, p.2 c.4.

²⁵ AOT CON 31/6 p.106.

Lieutenant-Governor approving the application on 22nd February 1832.²⁶ The *Colonial Times* in May 1832 recounted the following story concerning Robert Cowburn:

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Robert Cowburn was using his powers for self improvement.

McCullocks Inn Brawl

Examination on oath of

George Willoughby, who saith

Yesterday afternoon about 4 o'clock I called at Mr. McCullocks Public House, to get some refreshment, I had half a Pint of Rum between myself and my man, I was perfectly sober, as my man went away with the cart Constable Forster came in – there were two persons of the name of Riley – Peter McCulloch, John McGuinty and a man named Robinson who had lived with Mr. D. Lord, and others. I was drinking a Glass of Rum inside when the Constable brought an axe inside, - I had previously heard a disturbance outside, but I did not know what it was about. – There was a man lying drunk on the floor – in the room when the Constable entered, - the Constable asked me his name, I said it was Riley (He is a grey Headed Man) the Constable endeavoured to raise the Man it was the short Riley that was lying down, - the other Riley followed the Constable in, and struck me on the Eye, the mark I now show, as I was sitting on a form, - The Constable endeavoured to interfere, and Riley struck him on the breast, - we remained afterwards for about ten minutes, when I left with the Constable, - Had had previously seen the tall Riley strike the other one, but that was before the Constable arrived, I saw Mrs. McCulloch come into the room, She did not stop, but requested the men to go away, No other disturbances took place in the room where I was, but what passed outside I do not know, as I did not leave the room, - I had Simon McCulloch call Peter McCulloch out of the room – I had my back towards the door at the time, - hearing a scuffle I turned round and saw Peter McCulloch on the ground, but how he came there I do not know. I should be able to identify all the individuals I saw there.

George Willoughby, his mark

Sworn before us this 12. Day of September 1835.

²⁶ AOT LSD 1/107/p.702.

Appendices

Robert Cowburn's Later Life Around Pitt Water

Beginning in 1850, as series of altercations occurred between Robert Cowburn and the First Fleet fisherman, John Gwynne.²⁷ By this time, Robert Cowburn was living among the bush on the sand-spit of Seven Mile Beach. These altercations resulted in Cowburn smashing the windows of Gwynne's cottage at the Lower Ferry. His anger was sparked by Cowburn's daughter seeking refuge with Gwynne and his wife Anne, who was then assaulted by Cowburn.

30/4/1851

Robert Cowburn Free by Servitude age 49.

At Pittwater assaulted Anne Gwynne against the peace.

Anne Gwynne. I am the wife of John Gwynne. I reside at the Lower Settlement Pittwater. I know the Defendant Robert Cowburn. On Sunday the Defendant came to the back door of my house – there was no-one in the house at the time but the daughter of the Defendant and myself. When he came in he asked where his daughter was. I said she was here. , he turned round and kicked the sash out. I got up and said, Cowburn don't do that and he knocked me down on the floor. Before I got up her had the other window knocked out. I ran out of the house and cried 'Murder.' The constables came up, Robert Cowburn said 'I broke the windows and you know where you can put me.' My husband was away at the time, he did not return until after Cowburn had gone. When Cowburn came up his daughter said, 'Oh Mrs Gwynne, there's my father, shut the door. I shut the door and was fastening it.

Defendant cross questioned. Anne. I did no at any time obtain money to buy liquor ... She gave me 2 shillings to maintain her.

There was light in the house when you came to the door. The light was burning when you came in. In thought the light was the constable.

I was standing in the room close by your side when you assaulted me. Yours daughter was in the bedroom... .. I never dressed your daughter in men's clothing and sent her out as a fisherman.

Constable Frederick Storey. Defendant requested me to accompany him to Gwynne's as his daughter was harboured there without his consent. When I got within a few yards of the house I heard the Defendant say, 'I'll blow your brains out.'

²⁷ LC 484/1

Margaret Cowburn. I am the daughter of Robert Cowburn. On Tuesday last week I went to Mrs Gwynne's house. I went of my own accord. I left my father at Mr Isles and went there. My father came for me that night. I stayed there of my own accord. I was not kept by the Gwynnes. I went out fishing one night. Mrs Gwynne said she had better put a pair of Mr Gwynne's old trousers on to keep me warm. (verifies actions of her father)

... I had never been at Gwynne's before. I was afraid to go back to my fathers.

DISCHARGED.

Cowburn was charged only with 'breaking windows' and was ordered to pay 35 shillings damages and costs, within 14 days or 1 month House of Correction.²⁸

In May 1833, Robert Cowburn resigned from the Field Police.²⁹ He probably didn't build in Richmond as by 1839 he was living at Sandy Pt, Seven Mile Beach when he was a witness in a sheep theft- unreliable as ever – and visiting Robert Thorne's *Rose & Crown* Inn at the Lower Ferry.³⁰

Cowburn died at Sorell aged 75 years on 3rd August 1873.

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²⁸ LC484/2,

²⁹ Hobart Town Courier 15/3/1833, P.

³⁰ Colonial Times, 23 April 1839, page 5.

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