

BDA Source Description Pages

<https://www.bda-online.org.au>**Courts of Criminal Jurisdiction NSW 1788-1833 (also TAS, QLD & Norfolk Island)**

This dataset is a partial index to the minutes of proceedings, precepts, depositions and other records of trials in the New South Wales Court of Criminal Jurisdiction (1788-1824) and its successor the Supreme Court of Criminal Jurisdiction (1824-1833) preserved by New South Wales State Archives (NSWSA).

The index records date and place of trial, name, offence (sometimes), place of crime (sometimes), original remarks (by the original transcriber), BDA editorial remarks and SANSW references.

Until about 1820 trials were conducted in Sydney. In addition to those tried for crimes committed in then colonised parts of modern New South Wales, many prisoners included in this dataset tried prior to the early 1820s were sent to Sydney to be tried for serious crimes committed as far afield as Norfolk Island Moreton Bay (later Brisbane) and Hobart, Port Dalrymple and Launceston in Van Diemens Land (Tasmania). From 1821 some trials in this dataset were held in Tasmania and from 1829 at Windsor, Bathurst, Campbelltown in NSW and at Norfolk Island. Owing to a technical error, some results in this dataset have a field named 'Tried at' which should read 'Crime Place'. This error will be corrected in the near future.

The names indexed are usually the person accused or convicted of a crime. Some of the names of the victims or witnesses are indexed, but many of these have not been transcribed. The scrawled handwriting is difficult to read. For example, the prisoner whose name is transcribed as 'Richard Cuskitt' in 1808 can be linked to the convict recorded on arrival in the colony on the *Glutton* 1803 as 'Richard Kitt, otherwise Richard Carkett' (B#10011989401). This allows a correction of his surname transcribed from 'Cuskitt' to 'Carkett', as it was written on the court transcript.

Links and corrections of this nature will be made progressively by BDA, including the addition of names of victims, witnesses and persons mentioned in evidence that have not yet been transcribed. The index mainly covers 4,963 primary entries, mostly persons accused or convicted. BDA has cross indexed secondary entries of other names mentioned (victims, witnesses and aliases not indexed) making a total of 10,040 entries on the BDA version now online. Only a relatively small proportion of victims, witnesses and persons mentioned in evidence have been transcribed. These will be added to the BDA version over time.

If an individual cannot be located in a BDA simple search, users should use the [Advanced Search](#) page which will pick up any individual or alias not included in the main index owing to a technical indexing error or for some other reason.

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The online index at New South Wales State Archives ('Criminal Court Records Index 1788 to 1833' is searchable at www.records.nsw.gov.au). The index has been reproduced and edited with the permission of NSWSA. The records have been digitized by Ancestry.com.au but have not been indexed on that site as of June 2021.

The original records held by New South Wales State Archives (NSWSA) under the broad index title 'Criminal Court Records Index 1788-1833' are described by NSWSA as deriving from the following references:

NRS 2700 Minutes of proceedings [Court of Criminal Jurisdiction] 1788-1815
refs: 5/1147A&B; X905, 5/1149-50, 5/1119-21.

NRS 2701 Precepts 1788-1824
refs: 1788-1815: 5/1143; 5/1144A & B; 1816-24: SZ808.

NRS 2702 Miscellaneous criminal papers 1788-1816
refs: 1788-91, 1798-1800, 1802, 1805, 1807-16: 5/1152

NRS 2703 Informations, depositions and other papers 1796-1824
refs: 1796-1812: 5/1145-46; Oct 1816-Feb 1824: SZ776A-803; photocopy of SZ776A & B at COD405A & B, microfilm copy of SZ776C.

NRS 2707 Informations, depositions and related papers - Hobart and Launceston
Ref: SZ804-807

NRS 13477 Informations and other papers 1824-1947 [part only indexed]
ref: T19-T115

NRS 880 Papers and Depositions, Supreme Court Sydney and on Circuit 1824-1946 [part only indexed]
ref: [Item lists are not available electronically]

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For of all Court records included in the BDA see:
www.bda-online.org.au/sources/court-records

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