Convicts in Victoria c1840-c1854

The dataset is a partial transcript of a register containing 14 lists held in the Public Record Office, Melbourne, Victoria (VPRO)'. The register is a series of 14 convict administration lists (sometimes called returns) for what is now Victoria, then the District of Port Phillip, part of New South Wales up to 1851.

The dating of some of the lists is slightly ambiguous but they appear to have been compiled from approximately 1840 with annotations continuing to about 1854 listing convicts in Victoria managed by local government officials tracking the assignment of the convicts and the issue of tickets of leave, pardons and details of runaways. The register passed to the custody of modern Victorian archival authorities.

The original register is titled 'VPRS 110/P0 Register of Convicts (VA 856) Colonial Secretary's Office, c.1838 – 1852'. The register is also labelled by VPRO website as 'Register of convicts, 1842 – 1854 VPRS 110/P0'. A pdf copy of the original has been made available to view on the VPRS website (www.prov.vic.gov.au).

Only two of the lists have been transcribed for this dataset. These are List 1 and List 14:

[1] Assigned servants 1840-1843: 'Alphabetical return of convicts in the service of Government, and in assigned service in the district of Melbourne and the Counties of Bourke and Western Port'. This lists name of convict, ship and year of arrival, authority number, name of assignee of how employed and date of ticket of leave, pardon or certificate of freedom. This list is undated but may be dated to about 1840 because it lists convicts arriving in the Australian colonies up to that year and annotates ticket of leave, pardons and certificates as they were issued during 1840-1843 [pp1-30 on original, pp 3-36 on pdf].

[14] 'Nominal List of Ticket of Leave Holders in the Melbourne Police District & district of Port Phillip year 1847'. Lists name of convict, ship of arrival, date and number of ticket, occupation, remarks (usually name and

location of person assigned to 'in whose service') [p258-238 on original, pp 258-299 on pdf].

The remainder of the lists will be transcribed at a later date. List [12] 'Nominal List of Ticket of Leave Holders in the Melbourne Police District & district of Port Phillip year 1845' records that John 'Aylet' per *Barossa* 1839 with a ten year sentence was employed as a waiter at the Melbourne Club under a ticket of leave. In 1847 he was working for W H Barnes of Melbourne. The Convict Death Register had reported that he died in Parramatta Hospital, Sydney, in 1840, but convict records indicate that he was very much alive in Melbourne in the 1840s. The 1840 death entry was an error made by Superintendent of Convicts Office clerks. The burial register of St John's Church of England Parramatta notes that John Ollick, a convict per *Barossa* aged 24 had died at the General Hospital at Parramatta on 7 January 1840. His name appears on the arrival muster of the convict ship *Barossa* as John *Hollick*. The clerks missed this record and decided John Aylett per *Barossa* was the recently arrived convict who had died and wrongly entered his name on the Convict Deaths Register. BDA facilitates the identification of 19th century clerical errors like this which can be corrected with annotations and links over time.

Following is a description of each of the 14 lists on the original document:

[1] See above.

[2] Tickets of Leave 1843: 'Nominal list of ticket of leave holders in the district of Port Phillip 1843'. This lists name of convict, ship of arrival, date and number of ticket, some occupations and sentences, and a field sometimes listing place of residence and employer issued [pp31-70 on original, pp 36-79 on pdf].

[3] 'Applications for Tickets of Leave commencing 1st January 1843'. This lists name of convict, ship and year of arrival, when forwarded to employer and name of employer, sentence and answer to the application (granted or refused, usually giving reason for refusal) [pp71-75 on original, pp 81-89 on pdf].

[4] 'Applicants for Pardons - Conditional P Gazette Apl 1 1845 see page 96'. List giving name of convict, ship and remarks column for date of gazettal 1845-1854 [pp93-99 on original, pp 90-99 on pdf].

[5] 'Certificates of Freedom delivered'. Lists name of convict, ship and year of arrival, number of certificate, date delivered [pp100-101 on original, pp 100-103on pdf].

[6] 'Applications for alteration of Tickets of Leave'. Single page listing Wilson Cornwall per Middlesex, date forwarded 12 Oct 1847, answer: granted [p104 on original, pp 104 on pdf].

[7] 'Tickets of Leave'. Single page listing convicts' names [undated, c1843] listing ship of arrival, number of ticket issued from 1836-1843, remarks containing date 1843 [p105 on original, unnumbered on pdf].

[8] ''Certificates of Freedom'. Single page listing one convict's names [undated, c1843] listing George McGuire per Royal Charlotte certificate number 42/120 [p106 on original, unnumbered on pdf].

[9] 'Pass register' Lists name of convict, ship of arrival, purpose of pass, period of pass [pp107-111 on original, pp 129-130 on pdf].

[10] 'Fees received'. Lists name of convict, ship of arrival, under what circumstances fee received, how disposed off and amount of fee [p142 (sic) on original, p 112-113 on pdf].

[11] 'Nominal List of Ticket of Leave Holders in the Melbourne Police dist[rict] & dist[rict] of Port Phillip year 1844'. Lists name of convict, ship of arrival, date and number of ticket, occupation, remarks (usually name and location of person assigned to name of person assigned to 'in whose service') [p144-167 on original, pp 114-161 on pdf].

[12] 'Nominal List of Ticket of Leave Holders in the Melbourne Police District & district of Port Phillip year 1845'. Lists name of convict, ship of arrival, date and number of ticket, occupation, remarks (usually name and location of person assigned to name of person assigned to 'in whose service') [p169-192 on original, pp 162-209 on pdf].

[13] 'Nominal List of Ticket of Leave Holders in the Melbourne Police District & district of Port Phillip year 1846'. Lists name of convict, ship of arrival, date and number of ticket, occupation, remarks (usually name and location of person assigned to 'in whose service') [p193-217 on original, pp 210-257 on pdf].

[14] See above.

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For Victorian records included in the BDA see:

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