

BDA Source Description Pages

<https://www.bda-online.org.au>**Absconded Convicts NSW 1814-1842**

From 1813 the New South Wales Principal Superintendent of Convicts Office published regular notices in the *Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser* (SG) listing names and descriptions of convicts who were at large after absconding from their employer's custody.

From about 1832 the notices were published in the *New South Wales Government Gazette* (NSWGG).

The text in 1832 declared that:

'The undermentioned Prisoners having absconded from the Individuals and Employments set against their Names respectively, and some of them being at large with stolen Certificates, and Tickets of Leave, all Constables and others are hereby, required and commanded to use their utmost exertions in apprehending and lodging them in safe custody: Any Person harbouring or employing any of the said Absentees, will be prosecuted as the Law directs.'

This was followed by a list of the convicts giving name, number, ship of arrival, occupation, employer, employer's location, and a description including height, colour of hair and eyes, complexion and sometimes marks and tattoos. The British or Irish place given can be either place of birth or place of trial. The lists are a valuable guide to the movement, employment and behaviour of convicts and the identity and location of their employers in these years.

The exact issue of the *Gazette* notice is given either in the main result, or by clicking on **About** in the **Source** column at right. Sometimes the notices appear in multiple issues of the *Gazette*.

This dataset covering the years 1814, 1822-23 and 1832-1842, during some of the peak years of convict transportation to New South Wales, has been extracted by Malcolm Sainty, Janette Partridge, Steve McMillan and Terry Eakin from digitized newspaper images on the National Library of Australia website www.trove.nla.gov.au.

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Information Page written by Michael Flynn 2021 (amended 2022, 2023, 2024).

For of all miscellaneous convict records included in the BDA see:

<https://www.bda-online.org.au/sources/convict-records/>

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