

BDA Source Description Pages

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Apprehended Convicts NSW 1832-1842

In the 1830s the New South Wales Principal Superintendent of Convict's Office published notices in the *New South Wales Government Gazette* (NSWGG) giving descriptions of convicts who were at large after absconding from their employer's custody.

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.

Also published was a 'List of runaways apprehended during the past week'. This lists name of convict, ship of arrival and employer from whom absconded or location (but no description). These lists have been used to create this dataset.

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

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

For of all Convict records included in the BDA see:

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

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