

BDA Source Description Pages

<https://www.bda-online.org.au>**Chronological register of convicts at Moreton Bay 1824-1839**

This dataset is a register of convicts sent to Moreton Bay in what is now Queensland between the years 1824 and 1839 when it served as a penal colony for convicts who had committed secondary offences in New South Wales.

The register records the name of the convict, ship and date of arrival in the colonies, sentence, trade or occupation, court date and place of colonial conviction, colonial offence, secondary sentence and remarks (the later usually date of death or absconding or date returned to Sydney).

The original documents (ref DR23442) held by Queensland State Archives have been transcribed from pdf copies placed by the archives on their website at this location:

<https://www.archivessearch.qld.gov.au/items/ITM869689>

Records currently online comprise convicts sent to Moreton Bay in the years 1824-1827. The remaining parts of the register for the period 1827-1839 will be transcribed in the future.

In 2012 this register was among a group of documents placed on the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisations (UNESCO) Australian Memory of the World Register.

Background

The Moreton Bay penal settlement was established on the site of the modern Brisbane suburb of Redcliffe in September 1824. About 54 people sailed from Sydney on the ship *Amity* including Surveyor John Oxley, Lieutenant Henry Miller of the 40th Regiment (to be the commandant of the Moreton Bay Penal Settlement), Allan Cunningham, botanist, a contingent of troops and about 30 convicts. The settlement was relocated in May 1825 to a new site in what is now the Brisbane City centre.

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Commandant Henry Miller brought his pregnant wife Jane with him. In October 1824 she gave birth to a son at the Redcliffe encampment, named Charles Moreton Miller. The baby was baptised at Sydney a year later. The baptism record transcript is on BDA:

Charles Moreton son of Henry Miller, and Jane [NSW AUS]; Born 5 Nov 1824 Born at Moreton Bay [QLD AUS]; Baptised: 22 Oct 1825, Registered at St Philip's Church of England, Sydney.

Sources:

Queensland State Archives, Brisbane, Chronological register of convictions and alphabetical register of convicts at Moreton Bay Penal Settlement, ID S5653 14/09/1824 - 15/11/1839, ref DR23442).

<https://www.archivessearch.qld.gov.au/items/ITM869689>

National Museum of Australia. 'defining Moments: Founding of Brisbane':

<https://www.nma.gov.au/defining-moments/resources/founding-of-brisbane>

Wikipedia, Moreton Bay entry:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moreton_Bay_Penal_Settlement.

Historic Queens Wharf website, Brisbane, biographical item re Henry Miller.

<http://queenswharf.org/people/captain-henry-miller/>

State Library of Queensland, Moreton Bay Penal Settlement 1824 to 1842:

<https://www.slq.qld.gov.au/blog/moreton-bay-penal-settlement-1824-1842>

Bronwyn Cunnington, *The family of Captain Henry Miller : from Ulster to Australia, a journey*, Beechworth, Victoria : Bronwyn Cunnington, [2016].

Source description page written by Michael Flynn, February 2023.

For other miscellaneous convict record datasets included in the BDA see:

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

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