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Tickets of Leave Index 1849-1875

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History and Background

The following extract act from Ticket of Leave Circular to the Magistrates dated 1830 (in J. A. Ferguson, *Bibliography of Australia*) explains the different forms of remission of sentence granted to convicts in the Colony of New South Wades and states that A Ticket of Leave is a permission to the individual to employ himself for his own benefit, and to acquire property, on condition of residing within the District therein specified. It also explains, in detail, the regulations and conditions under which the convicts qualified for Tickets of Leave

The earliest Tickets of Leave which survive appear in 1810. However it is evident that there was a Ticket of Leave system operating before this time. On the 10 February 1801 Governor King reported to the Duke of Portland (*Historical Records of Australia* (hereafter *HRA*) Series I, Volume III, p.48).

‘All prisoners whose terms of transportation is not expired and are off the stores, or those with settlers, are to attend at the Secretary’s Office in the morning, to receive their tickets of leave Those who hold former tickets to bring them in. Those who neglect to appear will be immediately called in to Government labour.’

On 1 July 1805 a Government and General Order stated that

‘Several of the prisoners under sentence of the law who have been indulged with permission to he off the store on tickets-of-leave having neglected to attend die muster of yesterday, are ordered to public labour, and to be sent to some other settlement’

As several prisoners who have been allowed to be taken off the stores by individuals are let out to hire and otherwise secreted; If such prisoners are not immediately

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given up by the person employing them, or secreting those who are no longer with the persons to whom they were originally assigned, such person will incur the penalties already ordered, and the prisoner consenting thereto will receive a severe corporal punishment' (*Historical Records of New South Wales*, Vol. V, p.655)

As early as 1795 there was a system similar to a Ticket of Leave operating. This is evident in Governor Hunter's report to Portland dated 2 October 1795 (*HRA*, Series I, Vol. I, p.678):

'As great evils have arisen from the frequent passing and repassing of many idle and disorderly persons between this place [Sydney] and the settlements to the westward of it, in order to cheek such a nuisance as much as possible, the constables and watchmen of the districts of Sydney, Parramatta, Toongabbe, the Hawkesbury are hereby directed to examine all male and female convicts and all suspicious persons whom they may find in either settlement not belonging thereto, and are authorized to confine them if not provided with a written pass, signed by the Judge-Advocate at Sydney, Lieut't Macarthur at Parramatta, or officer commanding at the Hawkesbury; and as such passes will not be refused where there is sufficient reason for granting them, any person who is taken up for not having one will be punished.'

What this index contains

An alphabetical list of all known extant Tickets of Leave held in the Archives Office of New South Wales (AONSW) and issued to convicts between 1810 to 1848. It also includes Tickets issued to those who committed colonial offences some of whom were free but most of whom were reoffenders (recidivists) who arrived in the colony as transported convicts from England, Ireland, Scotland or Wales or other colonies of England or countries where the British Army were serving.

The index also incorporates those Tickets of Leave which were issued between 1824-1827 (AONSW 4/4060) which have previously appeared on AONSW Fiche 752-754 in the Genealogical Research Kit. This index was a typescript compiled from the Register of Tickets of Leave 1824-1827 In order to be consistent with the later ticket numbers which show the year the ticket was issued followed by the number of the ticket for that year (e.g. 36/142) the early series of tickets have also been given numbers in this manner.

This system of numbering is confirmed by a note found at the end of AONSW 4/4063 which relates to Tickets of Leave in 1827 and which reads:

"NB Nos 1 to 37 inclusive issued during the year 1827, are registered in a former Book, extending from 29th July 1824 to 8th March 1827 and containing Nos 203/ 1227 to 37/2422.

The 37 Tickets above alluded to as issued during this year, are numbered 1/2386 to 37/2422, in which series the upper number shews (sic) the Tickets issued during the year. the Lower number those since 3 December 1821, the commencement of the administration of Sir Thomas Brisbane.

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In the following series the tipper number stands for the year 1827, the lower for the number of the Tickets issued during that year.

No money to be exacted on Original Tickets of Leave but upon duplicates, per Colonial Secretary's letter 23/213, 21 March 1829 vide Gazette No.1634 19 March 1829."

Thus for example John AHERN who arrived on the *Batavia* 1818 appears on this new index as having two tickets one 24/295 and the other as 25/449. The first ticket appears on fiche 753 as 295/ 1229 and was issued on 29 July 1824. The other appears on fiche 754 as 449/ 1923 issued on 4 October 1825.

The majority of the more than 47,000 entries in this index are from the Ticket of Leave Butts, 31 March 1827 31 December 1875 (4/4063-4/4226, 4/4234). Each butt can provide the following information: prisoner's number, name, ship and year of arrival, master of ship, native place, trade or calling, offence, place and date of trial, sentence, year of birth, physical description, the district to which the prisoner is allocated, the Bench of Magistrates which recommended him and the date of issue of the Ticket. There are also notes of change of district, Conditional Pardon numbers and various other annotations on these Tickets of Leave.

NOTE that most of the letters whose numbers are noted in the margins on the Ticket of Leave Butts relate to the series of letters which were from the Principal Superintendent of Convicts. In general this series of letters have not survived although occasionally one is found in the general series of Colonial Secretary's Letters Received (CSLR).

NOTE that although there are over 47,000 names in this index there are some multiple entries. That is for a variety of reasons some convicts received more than one Ticket of Leave. The principal reasons were reoffending or losing a ticket. Approximately 160,000 men and women were transported to Australia and it is important to remember that not all received Tickets of Leave and that this index only covers the area New South Wales as it was at particular times during the period 1810-1875. That is there are Tickets of Leave issued for Port Phillip and Moreton Bay because there were part of the Colony of New South Wales at the time.

Difficulties encountered in compiling the index

Where a name was difficult to read on the Ticket of Leave Butt, it was checked back to the Convict indent of the ship on which the convict arrived. Where practical any aliases or notations of husbands or wives were added to the index. If the convict was not found on the ship indicated on the Ticket of Leave then a question mark (?) was placed after the name of the convict.

Missing Tickets of Leave and Clerical Errors

Occasionally the clerk made a mistake when issuing the Tickets of Leave and a number was missed. For example there are no Tickets of Leave numbered 35/153, 35/256, 36/2000 or 37/860. Other clerical errors occasionally occur. For example

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35/135 is actually numbered 35/153 but it has been indexed as 35/135 because that is what it should have been and it appears in that sequence.

Ticket 38/1391 is actually written as 38/1291 and 38/1399 is written as 38/1299 but they are indexed as they should appear thus as 38/1391 & 38/1399.

Michael Loyde (Loyde)'s Ticket follows 45/1562 but is actually numbered 45/1502. It has been indexed as 45/1502 and appears on Reel 959 in 4/4202 but will be found after 45/ 1562.

There are several instances of a Ticket of Leave butt being missed in the filming so if a number and reference is found on the index hut does not appear on the relevant microfilm a request should be made to the Archives Office of New South Wales to check the originals.

Most of these were noted and are:

36/879	37/1122	37/1252	37/1760	38/70
38/310	38/1407	41/1497	41/1787	41/2227
40/1126	42/2528	32/994	45/1343	

The early series on Reels 601 (COD 18) and 890 will need patience to search as they are often difficult to use. If searching in AONSW it is easier to search COD 18 (Copy of Document).

Ships of Arrival

Most of the ships on this index are convict ships. Where it was definitely known that a ship indicated on the Ticket of Leave Butt showed an incorrect year this was amended. Some ships made voyages every year or every second year over a considerable period Where it was not practicable to check the arrival of an individual the Ship and year were left as on the Ticket of Leave. Thus if a ship arrived in 1835, 1837 and 1839 it may often be shown as one of the years between. If no date was indicated and could not easily be established "nd" appears after the name of the ship. Where a ship arrived twice in one year (e.g. *Atlas* in 1802 and *Regia* in 1838) no attempt has been made to check on which voyage the particular convict arrived.

What you can find on a Ticket of Leave Butt

Other than the standard information on a convict which can be supplemented by looking at the Convict indent for the ship of arrival, additional information can be obtained from the Tickets of Leave. This can include the reason for the granting of the Ticket which sometimes involved assisting setting up new settlements for example John Hughes (TL 34/ 28). Anthony Joseph (TL 34/336), William Shean (TL 34/909) and George Waighman (TL 33/442) were at Port Macquarie and William Nexson (TL 34/8) was at Melville Island.

Spikeman (TL 31/700) obtained his Ticket of Leave on the special recommendation of the Missionary Society where he worked and Thomas Lewis Styles (TL 44/2975)

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requested his Certificate of Freedom because he thought his colonial sentence was illegal. With Styles Ticket of Leave is his colonial history.

Sometimes a Ticket of Leave was cancelled and the reason written on the Ticket. The main reason for the cancellation was usually that the Ticket of Leave was lost or mutilated and a new one was needed. At times the reasons can be most revealing. For example John Grover (TL 31/721) arrived on the *Anne* in 1810 and in 1831 his Ticket of Leave was 'cancelled by Penrith Bench for repeated acts of misconduct and particularly in supplying spirits to persons in his charge and allowing a woman sentenced to solitary confinement to remain in his own apartments.' Robert Mallett was granted his Ticket of Leave (TL 32/999) from the Maitland bench for supplying 'information which led to the capture of parties who plundered the house of his master' while Thomas Bentley (TL 37/680) was 'killed by Blacks with Faithful's Party while conducting stock across to Port Phillip.'

Sometimes the Tickets are annotated with other interesting information. For example Samuel Hall (TL 34/146) was under a colonial sentence when he died on Norfolk Island; William Lewis (TL 34/925) had a Ticket of Leave 'granted for assisting in the capture of the native black George Murphy'; Jacob Wagner (TL 34/667) had his Ticket cancelled for 'outrageous conduct', Thomas McGrady (TL 34/1542)'s Ticket shows he was only 12 when convicted at Carrickfergus [County Antrim, Ireland] in 1830; John Austin (TL 34/884) had his Ticket cancelled for a month because he was found in a public house on a Sunday during divine service and William Henry Jefferies (TL 35/99) received his Ticket for his involvement in the capture of two bushrangers, John Welsh per *Mangles* and William Boyne per *Ann & Amelia*.

Convicts who reoffended sometimes have their full colonial history cited either on or with the Ticket of Leave. For example see the following for Mary Neville per *Roslin Castle* 1836 (4/4168 AONSW Reel 946). This document appears between Ticket of Leave 42/2734 and 42/2735) which lists her offences from the first of June 1838. when she spent two months in the third class section of the female factory for disorderly conduct as a result of appearing before the Sydney Bench. She continued to offend and on 24 November 1840 she appeared before the Bench in Maitland and was ordered to spend 14 days in the cells for drunk and disorderly conduct. A total of 12 offences are shown here between June 1838 and November 1840.

Other Sources for Ticket of Leave information

Many applications for Tickets of Leave appear in the letters received by the Colonial Secretary (CSLR). The earliest Tickets of Leave appear on 4/4427 AONSW Reel 60 1 and are also copied on COD 18) and cover the period from 2 July 1810 to 3 October 1814. Because of the difficulty in finding this material a page number has also been included in this index. For example, Richard ADAMS who arrived on the *Indian* 1810 was issued with Ticket of Leave number 14/3 and this Ticket can be found on AONSW Reel 601, 4/4427, p.420.

Applications for Tickets of Leave, cancellations of Tickets of Leave and other mentions of Ticket of Leave holders may be found in the Colonial Secretary's Letters

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at the Archives Office of New South Wales and also in *The Sydney Gazette* or the *New South Wales Government Gazette* (see following for some examples).

Acknowledgments

This Index to the Tickets of Leave began as a project of the late Norma Tuck. She had completed indexing 4/4135 to 4/4186, a total of 13,674 entries when she died in 1990. The fulfilment of Norma's dream could not have occurred without the diligent work she put in to the commencement of the project. Joan Reese and Perry McIntyre began work to complete Norma's project at the end of 1991. The late Joan Reese returned to her own indexing project on Convict bundles in the Colonial Secretary's Papers but continued to give advice and support until her death, Perry McIntyre completed the project.

None of it could have been undertaken without the permission and assistance of the Archives Office of New South Wales and the staff in the Reading Room at Globe Street. Finally without Mr Brian Bell from Glenbrook to give all the computer advice and be ever present to avert computer disasters this project would still be in its infancy.

Abbreviations

Kath. Stew Forbes = Katherine Stewart Forbes 18 February 1830

Mt. Stew. Elphingstone = Mount Stewart Elphingstone 3 October 1849

us = uxor = wife of

nd = no date indicated

Nr = no record given

COD = Copy of Document

Some of the ships with names which vary have been standardised.

For or example the *Lord Lyndoch* rather than *Lord Lyndock*

Roslin Castle rather than *Roslyn Castle*

Surry rather than *Surrey*

General Stewart rather than *General Stuart*.

Tickets of Leave Index 1849-1875

The series which have been indexed from 1849 to 1875 are:-

Location	Ticket of Leave to		Dates from to		Reel (COD)
4/4216	49/1	- 49/166	1 Jan	- 12 Jun 1849	961
4/4217	49/167	- 49/415	12 Jun	- 24 Aug 1849	962
4/4218	49/416	- 49/662	24Aug	- 30 Nov 1849	962
4/4219	49/663	- 49/910	30 Nov	- 30 Nov 1849	963
4/4220	49/911	- 49/1157	30 Nov	- 30 Nov 1849	963

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4/4221	49/1158	- 49/1401	30 Nov	- 30 Dec 1849	963
4/4222	49/1402	- 49/	30 Dec	- 31 Dec 1849	964
	50/1	- 50/152	1 Jan	- 10 May 1849	964
4/4223	50/153	- 50/399	10 May	- 21 Jul 1849	964
4/4224	50/400	- 50/453	21 Jul	- 31 Dec 1849	964
	51/1	- 51/194	1 Jan	- 27 Sep 1851	964
4/4225	51/195	- 51/230	27Sep	- 31 Dec 1851	965
	52/1	- 52/127	1 Jan	- 31 Dec 1852	965
	53/1	- 53/89	1 Jan	- 24 Oct 1853	965
4/4226	53/90	- 53/133	24 Oct	- 31 Dec 1853	965
	54/1	- 54/52	1854		965
	55/1	- 55/22	1855		965
	56/1	- 56/48	1856		965
	57/1	- 57/31	1857		965
	51/1	- 58/9	1858		965
	59/1	- 59/10	1859		965
	60/1	- 60/11a	1860		956
	61/1	- 61/6	1861		965
	62/1	- 62/4	1862		965
	63/1	- 63/2	1863		965
	64/1 only		1864		965
	65/1	- 65/3	1865		965
	66/1 only		1866		965
	67/1	- 67/2	1867		965

Colonial Tickets of Leave 1849-1869

4/4227	49/1	- 49/15	2 Aug	- 31 Dec 1849	891
	50/1	- 50/39	8 Feb	- 28 Oct 1850	891
	51/1	- 51/63	15 Jan	- 9 Dec 1851	891
	52/1	- 52/128	19 Jan	- 2 Sep 1852	891
4/4228	52/129	- 52/174	12 Oct	- 30 Dec 1852	891
	53/1	- 53/182	23 Jan	- 1 Dec 1853	891
	54/1	- 54/15	27 Feb	- 27 Feb 1854	891
4/4229	54/16	- 54/204	27 Feb	- 22 Sep 1854	892
	55/1	- 55/58	1 Mar	- 1 Mar 1855	892
4/4230	55/59	- 55/198	1 Mar	- 15 Sep 1855	892
	56/1	- 56/107	5 Jan	- 4 Jul 1856	892
4/4231	56/108	- 56/202	4 Jul	- 15 Dec 1856	892
	57/1	- 57/134	Jan	- 31 Oct 1857	892
4/4232	57/135	- 57/158	31 Oct	- Dec 1857	893
	58/1- 58/113		Jan	- Dec 1858	893
	59/1	- 59/18	Jan	- 28 Feb 1859	893
4/4233	59/19	- 59/119	28 Feb	- Dec 1859	893
	60/1	- 60/49	Jan	- 27 Nov 1860	893
4/4234	60/50	- 60/53	27 Nov	- Dec 1860	893
	61/1	- 61/4	1861		893
	62/1	- 62/16	1862		893
	63/1	- 63/15a	1863		893

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64/1	- 64/4	1864	893
65/1	- 65/4	1865	893
66/1	- 66/2	1866	893
		1867 nil	
68/1	- 68/5	1868	893
69/1	- 69/2	1869	893
70/1 only		1870	893
		1872 - 1874 nil	
75/1 only		1875	893

Illustration of the last Ticket of Leave to be issued – 1875 (see last page)

(NOTE that Tickets other than those for colonial offenders sometimes appear here in 4/4234).

Information Pages written by Dr Perry McIntype who BDA also thanks for allowing her dataset to be added to the Database.

Historical resources available from the BDA Shop

<http://www.bda-online.org.au/shop>

For other Tickets of Leave included in the BDA see

<http://www.bda-online.org.au/sources/indexes-lists/>

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Imperial
TICKET OF LEAVE.

Surrendered ticket at G.O.
23-10-76 see letter book.
page 379

No. 7571

Prisoner's Number 37/710

Name Charles Perkins

Ship..... Norfolk (5)

Master John Gatenby

Year..... 1837

Native Place Essex

Trade or calling Laborer & Soldier

Offence Desertion

Place of Trial Kingston Canada

Date of Trial 19 June 1835

Sentence Life

Year of Birth 1809

Height..... 5 feet 8 inches

Complexion Sallow & Pock pitted

Hair..... Brown

Eyes..... Hazel

General Remarks... Eye brows meeting
powder marks back of left ear, small mole under
it. Perkins, a Wiltshire and numerous scars
from cupping on breast, Highland man and
flag, A.W. lower right arm, anchor
right hand - Highland wooden comb
over

Allowed to remain in the District of

Armedale

On recommendation of

Bench,

Dated 13/12/75

201-g 60

flag in hand, double breast pierced
with two darts and sword, flag,
flower pot, anchor, C.P.A.W.
and two holes lower left arm
two small holes back of left
hand, stern lower part of
shoulder

AONSW 4/4234, Reel 893 showing the last Ticket of Leave to be issued. This was issued to Charles Perkins who arrived per Norfolk in 1837 and shows a full physical description. Note that it was surrendered in 1876.