

# Missing an Ancestor? Try Looking Behind Bars

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# Introduction

- ▶ Don't always have to be embarrassed
- ▶ Boring people don't leave records
- ▶ Put the crimes into context of the times
- ▶ Find out all the details, not just the hard facts



# Finding Criminal Ancestors

- ▶ There is a family story
- ▶ Check indexes
- ▶ Browse newspapers
- ▶ Browse police gazettes



# Family Myths

- ▶ Always investigate
- ▶ Ancestors just don't disappear
- ▶ One family story was that GG grandfather had been eaten by a crocodile in Oxley Creek
- ▶ No death certificate. No inquest. No proof.



# The Real Story

▶ His wife said (1887)

“I was living at Oxley when he left me for a year and ten months.

I took out a summons before for maintenance at Ipswich about fourteen months ago. He was ordered to pay 10/- a week he did not pay it. He paid 8 pound 5 shillings as near as I remember. He gave me two pound about the beginning of July last.

I have got seven children to support. One boy is working, three are able to do for themselves but four are not.....,



Plan for report  
concerning his wife

B/C

Pl. of Lewis  
Simpson  
19.1.84

It appears that said  
Adam Johnson was summoned  
by his wife for maintenance  
at Ipswich about sixteen months  
ago and he was ordered to pay  
10<sup>s</sup> a week - his brother became  
surety for him and then absconded  
so that the wife derived no  
benefit from the order -

On 24<sup>th</sup> October last  
his wife summoned  
Johnson for assault - the  
case was dismissed as the  
wife was not injured and the  
correction was not more than

1.

a husband is entitled by  
law to exercise

On the following  
day or thereabouts he carried  
away his wife's sewing  
machine which compelled  
her to summon him for  
maintenance - the case  
was heard on 3<sup>d</sup> November  
last and he was ordered to pay  
12<sup>s</sup> a week for the support of his  
wife and four children -  
three others being able to get  
their own living -

When Johnson will  
consent to work he earns  
seven shillings a day and is

This incident throws a lot of  
light on the attitudes of men  
towards women in the past. A  
policeman was commenting  
on GG grandfather's alleged  
assault on his wife.

The case was dismissed as the  
wife was not injured and the  
correction was not more than  
a husband is entitled by law to  
exercise





# Queensland Police Gazette.

Containing Information received in cases of Felony, and of Misdemeanor, and against Receivers of Stolen Property, reputed Thieves, and Offenders escaped from custody, with the time, place, and circumstances of the Offences, and description of those who are not known; the appearance, dress, and other marks of identity, with every particular which may lead to their apprehension; and a Description, as accurate as possible, of Property that has been Stolen, Horses, &c.

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY.

VOL. XXXII.]

SATURDAY, 4TH MAY, 1895.

[No. 20.

## RETURN OF PRISONERS TO BE DISCHARGED FROM HER MAJESTY'S PRISON, ROMA, DURING THE MONTH OF MAY, 1895.

Name.	Where Tried.	Date of Discharge.	Offence.	Sentence.	Native of	Age.	Stature.	Make.	Complexion.	COLOUR OF		Remarks.
										Hair.	Eyes.	
Adam Johnson	Roma	1895. 2 May	Threatening language	1 month's imprisonment or £2 fine	Ireland	51	5 6½	Medium	Fresh	Light-brown	Hazel	A long scar on right side of head; small flesh lump behind right ear; minus two front teeth upper jaw; bald.
Charles Fritchard	Charleville	6 "	Larceny	3 months' hard labour	England	28	5 2½	ditto	Fair	ditto	ditto	Two large burn marks on left arm.
Charles Smith	St. George	11 "	Riotous conduct	2 months' hard labour	Canada	44	5 2	Stout	Sallow	Dark-brown	ditto	Two moles on left breast; several old scars on head; scar under left eye; cross on left forearm near wrist.




UTP Feb 2016



## Search

police gazettes

Clear search

Title ^	Category ^	Sub-category ^
 Queensland Police Gazettes	Institutions & organisations	Courts & legal
 Tasmania Police Gazettes	Institutions & organisations	Courts & legal
 Victoria Police Gazettes	Institutions & organisations	Courts & legal








**Police Gazettes  
not just criminals,  
also victims  
and missing persons**

Queensland  
only 1864-1874

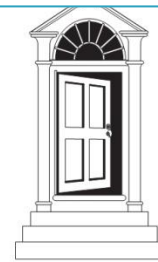
## Search

police gazette

Clear search

Title ^	Category ^	Sub-category ^
 New South Wales Police Gazette	Institutions & organisations	Courts & legal
 Queensland Police Gazette	Institutions & organisations	Courts & legal
 Queensland Police Gazettes	Institutions & organisations	Courts & legal
 South Australian Police Gazette	Institutions & organisations	Courts & legal
 Tasmania Police Gazettes	Institutions & organisations	Courts & legal
 Victoria Police Gazette	Institutions & organisations	Courts & legal
 Victoria Police Gazettes	Institutions & organisations	Courts & legal

[www.findmypast.com.au](http://www.findmypast.com.au)





# Card Catalogue

Searchable listing of all record collections

Title

Keyword(s)

police

SEARCH

or Clear All



Only records from Australia

Filter Titles



Convict, Criminal, Land & Wills

Filter By Collection

Land Records

1

Court, Governmental & Criminal Records

6

Results 1-6 of 6

Sort By Popularity

[Search entire "Convict, Criminal, Land & Wills" Category](#)

Title	Collection	Records
 <a href="#">New South Wales, Australia, Police Gazettes, 1854-1930</a>	Convict, Criminal, Land & Wills	1,504,131
 <a href="#">New South Wales, Australia, Returns of the Colony, 1822-1857</a>	Convict, Criminal, Land & Wills	79,904
 <a href="#">Queensland, Australia, Police Gazette Index, 1881-1945</a>	Convict, Criminal, Land & Wills	416,924
 <a href="#">Victoria, Australia, Police Gazettes, 1914-1924</a>	Convict, Criminal, Land & Wills	272,784
 <a href="#">South Australia, Australia, Police Gazettes, 1927-1947</a>	Convict, Criminal, Land & Wills	355,260
 <a href="#">Tasmania, Reports of Crime, 1861-1883</a>	Convict, Criminal, Land & Wills	99,449

<http://search.ancestry.com.au>





## Researching the archives

Overview of holdings

Coming to the archives

Catalogue

Resources for researchers

Indexes

Convicts / prisoners

Chronological register of convicts 1824-1839

St Helena prisoners 1863-1936

Toowoomba prisoners indexes 1864-1906

Courts

Hospital / sanatoria

Immigration

Indigenous

Lands

Professions

Orphanages and reformatories

Other

War

Newsletters and bulletins

What's new

Exhibitions

[Queensland State Archives](#) > [Researching the archives](#) > [Indexes](#) > Convicts / prisoners

## Convicts / prisoners

Entries in the indexes provide people's names, in alphabetical order, and include the Queensland State Archives references. The introductory section of each index provides background details and information on how to use the index.

Copies of individual entries can be ordered, with details of costs provided on individual index pages. These prices apply to website and postal orders only. All prices are in Australian dollars, and include GST, postage and handling.

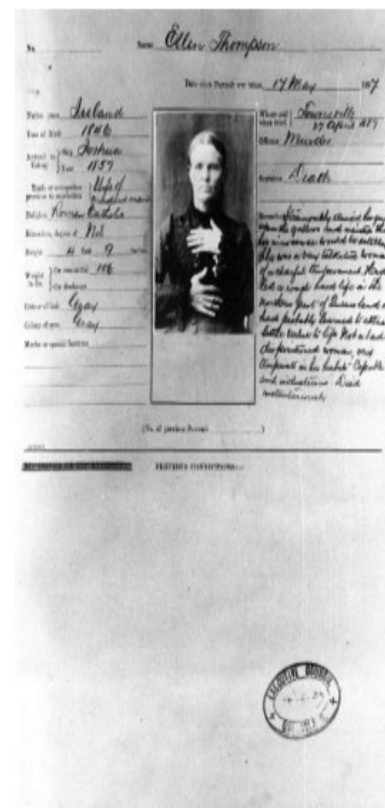
Please note, Adobe Reader is required to open and print these Portable Document Format (PDF) index files and is free to download from the [Adobe website](#).

If you have difficulty accessing PDF files from this website please [contact us](#).

### Indexes

- [Chronological register of convicts 1824-1839](#) (now providing direct access to digital copies)
- [St Helena prisoners 1863-1936](#)
- [Toowoomba prisoners 1864-1906](#)

Last updated 20 June 2014



Queensland State Archives, Digital Image ID 8657, photographic record, description and criminal history of Ellen Thompson, 17 May 1887



# Courts

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Please note, Adobe Reader is required to open and print these Portable Document Format (PDF) index files and is free to download from the [Adobe website](#).

If you have difficulty accessing PDF files from this website please [contact us](#).

## Indexes

- [Criminal depositions 1861-1885](#)
- [Divorces 1861-1894](#)
- [Equity files 1857-1895](#)
- [Inquests 1859-1897](#)
- [Instruments of renunciation 1915-1983](#)
- [Justices of the Peace 1857-1922](#)
- [Naturalisations 1851-1904](#)
- [Trustees files 1889-1929](#)
- [Wills 1857-1940](#)



Queensland State Archives

[www.archives.qld.gov.au/Researchers/Indexes](http://www.archives.qld.gov.au/Researchers/Indexes)



**Pre-1900 watchhouse records are known to exist for these towns** (there may be others).

- Aramac
- Birdsville
- Charleville, 1889-1893 (+ 1901-1904) (I published the index, and [names are online](#))
- Charters Towers, 1895-1896 and 1899 (I published the index, and [names are online](#))
- Cloncurry, 1874-1876 and 1887-1891 (I published the index, and [names are online](#))
- Coolgarra
- Crows Nest
- Croydon (index in progress)
- Dalby
- Goondiwindi
- Gympie ([1884-1886 names are online](#), plus advice re 1890-1931 index)
- Halifax
- Irvinebank
- Isisford
- Kamerunga
- Kilkivan
- Kuranda
- Leyburn
- Marburg
- Mareeba
- Mount Morgan
- Nebo
- Oakey
- Ravenswood (index in progress)
- Springsure
- Taroom
- Townsville

Some **1901-1904** records for Adavale, Augathella, Charleville, Cunnamulla, Eromanga, Eulo, Hungerford, Morven, Nocundra, Wooroorooka, Wyandra, Thargomindah and Upper Warrego are in a **consolidated index for south-west Qld** (which includes pre-1900 records for Charleville). The index has been [published](#), and [names are online](#).

[www.judywebster.com.au](http://www.judywebster.com.au)



All	Books	Pictures, photos, objects	Journals, articles and data sets	Digitised newspapers and more	Music, sound and video	Maps	Diaries, letters, archives	Archived websites (1996 – now)	People and organisations	Lists
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## Refine your results:

### ▼ State

Queensland (17)  
New South Wales (5)  
Victoria (1)

### ▼ Title

The Telegraph (Brisban... (6)  
The Brisbane Courier (... (5)  
The Macleay Chronicle ... (2)  
Townsville Daily Bulle... (2)  
Daily Standard (Brisba... (1)  
Morning Bulletin (Rock... (1)  
The Argus (Melbourne, ... (1)  
The Central Queensland... (1)  
The Courier-Mail (Bris... (1)  
The Richmond River Her... (1)  
The Sydney Morning Her... (1)  
Truth (Sydney, NSW : 1... (1)

### ▼ Category

Article (21)

## Digitised newspapers and more


Showing: 1 - 20 of 23 [Refine search](#)

Sort by: Relevance

### No title

*The Richmond River Herald and Northern Districts Advertiser (NSW : 1886 - 1942) Tuesday 11 August 1931 p 3 Article*


**Abstract:** Most Wonderful New Rose.—S. M. Gredy, a Portadown (Ireland) nurseryman, has perfected a now rose that has mystified French attar experts, says a 961 words

 Tagged as: Denis Patrick Finn

### FIVE YEARS' SENTENCE BATES ON BURGLARY CHARGE Police Make Remarkable Disclosures ROCKHAMPTON. February 10.

*The Central Queensland Herald (Rockhampton, Qld. : 1930 - 1956) Thursday 15 February 1934 p 50 Article*

**Abstract:** The concluding stages of the trial of Jack Bates, 41, and May Johnson, 35, who were charged before Mr. Justice Brennan and a jury yesterday with brea ... 3161 words

 Tagged as: Denis Patrick Finn

 Text last corrected on 8 March 2012 by ooohgetyou

### FOUR MEN REMANDED SUSPECTED PERSONS

*The Courier-Mail (Brisbane, Qld. : 1933 - 1954) Tuesday 3 April 1934 p 9 Article*

... , alias John Harrison, alias John Hardy (32), salesman, and Denis Finn, alias *Denis Patrick Finn*, alias ... 154 words

## Lists

[view all 1 results](#)



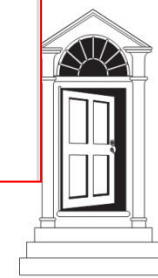
### Finn Family in QLD

Created by [shauhick](#), 25 items.

John and Sarah Finn and their children in QLD and northern NSW

Keywords: [Finn Family](#)

<http://trove.nla.gov.au>





Print PDF JPG TXT Cite Buy

## Lists

Finn Family in QLD (yours) x

Add to List

## Tagged

By you: Denis Patrick Finn x

Add Tags

Comments (None yet)

Add New Comment

## Electronically Translated Text

Fix this Text

Why may this text have mistakes?  
How to correct this text?

No corrections yet

## FOUR MEN REMANDED

### SUSPECTED PERSONS

Four men appeared in the Police Court yesterday, before Mr. W. E. H. Ferguson, P.M., charged with being suspected persons. They each pleaded not guilty, and were each remanded

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## FOUR MEN REMANDED

### SUSPECTED PERSONS

Four men appeared in the Police Court yesterday, before Mr. W. E. H. Ferguson, P.M., charged with being suspected persons. They each pleaded not guilty, and were each remanded on a bail of £20, with one surety of £20. Senior-Sergeant F. B. Kearney appeared for the prosecution.

Roy Matthews (21), motor mechanic, and Charles Davies (21), labourer, were each charged with having been found in a place adjacent to the warehouse of Noyes Bros. (Sydney), Ltd., Adelaide Street, Brisbane, with intent to commit an indictable offence. Defendants were remanded until April 6.

John Foster, alias John Harrison, alias John Hardy (32), salesman, and Denis Finn, alias Denis Patrick Finn, alias Johann Romanoff (35), salesman, were each charged that on March 31, at Brisbane, being a suspected person, he was found in the Town Hall with intent to commit an indictable offence. Both were remanded until April 9.

lace, 6  
o trees  
efeated  
ry, and

# 5 times a Night!

## Certain Relief in 24 Hours

from Bladder Weakness—  
Getting up Nights — New  
Way.

**BURNING** agony of frequent but scanty passing of water—weakness control by day and night—pains in back and legs, or down through the groins—headache and dizziness—these are nature's warning signs. Neglected, they may mean the surgeon's knife or life-long misery.

Read this letter and decide right now that your own trouble is going to be over in the next ten days!

"After suffering for about eight years from weakness of the bladder and inflammation—scalding urine, making it necessary to get out of bed five or six times at night—and using many so-called cures without any result, I used Dr. Southworth's Urodyne, with such good effect that I am very hopeful of getting relief without a dangerous and costly operation.—B.W.—, Edward St., Queensland."

Urodyne is the special treatment of a world-famous scientist (and was used in Dr. Southworth's private practice for over 40 years). Thousands of men and women all over the world have gained such astonishing relief that now Urodyne is dispensed by leading chemists only on strict condition of



<http://trove.nla.gov.au>



# What did your ancestors look like?

- ▶ Personal descriptions
- ▶ Scars and tattoos
- ▶ Photographs
- ▶ Sketches
- ▶ Other biographical details eg education, religion, occupation





# Keeping it in the family: father & daughter

My GG grandmother was

- ▶ aged 40, height 5ft 4 1/2ins, medium build, fresh complexion, brown hair, hazel eyes, second finger of her right hand dislocated
- ▶ She was Scottish, Presbyterian and could read and write
- ▶ The record also showed that she arrived in 1865 on board the **Sunda**.



# Tattoos forever

My GGG grandfather was

- ▶ aged 32, height 5ft 4 1/2ins, stout build, fresh complexion, brown hair, blue eyes
- ▶ Scottish nationality
- ▶ tattooed with the Montrose coat of arms on his right breast, bracelets on both wrists and American colours on his right arm



# Family Homes

- ▶ Life in prison
- ▶ Conditions in gaol
- ▶ Prison work
- ▶ Contributed to society





Petrie Terrace Gaol ca 1880s  
(Brisbane City Council image)



Brisbane Women's  
Gaol ca 1903 (State  
Library of  
Queensland image)

<http://trove.nla.gov.au>



# Times Have Changed

- ▶ My GG grandmother's first 'crime' was to fall pregnant at the age of 16
- ▶ Child raised by his grandparents
- ▶ Then has an unhappy marriage
- ▶ Alcoholism, prostitution, homelessness followed (when not in gaol)
- ▶ Eventually meets another man, becomes respectable, dies a very old lady
- ▶ Yet no one in the family has ever heard of her!



# Blame the Parents

- ▶ The family had several oyster farms in Pumicestone Passage near Bribie Island
- ▶ Whether or not I can credit her choice of profession to the aphrodisiac powers of the humble oyster or not, it does give me an alternative theory for her occupation
- ▶ Did she eat too many of her father's oysters while growing up?



**RETURN OF PRISONERS DISCHARGED FROM HER MAJESTY'S PRISON, FORTITUDE VALLEY, DURING THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, 1900.**

Name.	Where Tried.	Date of Discharge.	Offence.	Sentence.	Native of	Age.	Stature.	Make.	Complexion.	COLOUR OF		Remarks.
										Hair.	Eyes.	
Christina Campbell	Brisbane	1900. 1 December	Drunkenness	7 days' imprisonment or £1 fine	Scotland	45	4 11	Stout	Sallow	Dark-brown	Dark-brown	Minus teeth upper jaw.
Ellen Ferguson	ditto	6 "	Obscene language	1 month's imprisonment or £3 fine	ditto	39	5 4½	Medium	Fresh	Brown	Brown	Second finger right hand disfigured.
Maria Billson	ditto	7 "	Drunkenness	7 days' imprisonment or £1 fine	England	64	4 1½	Slight	Sallow	ditto	Blue...	Nil.
Ellen Murphy	ditto	7 "	Obscene language	48 hours' imprisonment or £2 fine	Ireland	56	5 1½	Stout	ditto	Grey	ditto	Blind right eye.
Mary A. McGregor	ditto	9 "	Drunkenness	14 days' imprisonment or £1 fine	England	46	5 2	ditto	ditto	ditto	ditto	Lame from rheumatism.
Ellen Hayes	ditto	9 "	ditto	7 days' imprisonment or £1 fine	Ireland	33	5 2	Medium	ditto	Brown	Brown	Second finger right hand disfigured.
Sarah Palmer	ditto	10 "	Obscene language	ditto	ditto	62	4 10	ditto	Pale	Grey	Blue...	Scar over right eye; lobe left ear s neck.
Sarah Martin	ditto	10 "	ditto	48 hours' imprisonment or £2 fine	Queensland	28	5 1½	Stout	Fresh	Brown	ditto	"I love F.H. Fred Hayes" right arm.
Catherine Ferguson	ditto	17 "	Drunkenness	7 days' imprisonment or £1 fine	Ireland	60	4 11	Medium	Sallow	Grey	ditto	Right wrist dislocated; scar right che
Mary Healy	ditto	21 "	ditto	ditto	ditto	39	5 5½	Slight	ditto	Brown	ditto	Nil.
Catherine Hannen	ditto	21 "	ditto	7 days' imprisonment or £2 fine	ditto	52	5 1½	Medium	ditto	ditto	Brown	Scar left eyelid; minus all her teeth.
Lizzie Kelly	ditto	22 "	Obscene language	48 hours' imprisonment or £2 fine	ditto	37	5 0	Stout	ditto	ditto	ditto	Nil.
Emily Meredith	ditto	25 "	ditto	7 days' imprisonment or £1 fine	N. S. Wales	58	5 4	Medium	ditto	Grey	Hazel	Mole right cheek; scar on chin.
Annie Maher	ditto	28 "	ditto	14 days' imprisonment or £2 fine	Ireland	49	5 1½	Stout	ditto	ditto	Blue...	Nil.

**ARRESTS REPORTED DURING THE WEEK ENDED 21st MAY, 1904—continued.**

Name of Offender.	Place of Arrest.	Nature of Charge.	If Arrested on Warrant or Otherwise.	Reference to Police Gazette or Criminal Offence.	How Case Disposed of.	Arresting C
Noswigmeaw (S.S.I.)	Plane Creek	Threatening words	No warrant	Nil	Fined £5 or 3 months' imprisonment	First-class Constable B
Ellen Chick, alias Ellen Ferguson	Barcardine	Vagrancy	ditto	ditto	3 months' imprisonment	First-class Constable J
George Hammond	Muttaborra	Hawking without a license	On summons	ditto	Fined £10 10s. and 10s. 4d costs or 3 months' imprisonment	At the instance of Acti
Thomas Henry Burchill	Cunnamulla	Stealing	No warrant	ditto	Committed for sentence, District Court, Roma, 14th June, 1904	Constable H. J. Housto
Frank Lyons	Nambour	ditto	On warrant	Police Gazette, 1904, page 193	Fined £2 13s. 3d. restitution, or 1 month's imprisonment	Constables W. Adams
Ditto	ditto	Stealing conjointly	ditto	Nil	Fined £2 or 1 month's imprisonment (cumulative with previous sentence)	ditto.
John Haygart	Ingham	Supplying liquor to a South Sea Islander	On summons	ditto	Fined £5 or 1 month's imprisonment	At the instance of Con
Wat-teet Win (kanaka)	ditto	Aggravated assault on a female	No warrant	ditto	4 months' imprisonment	Constable J. Brady.
Arthur Mason	Brisbane	False pretences	ditto	ditto	3 months' hard labour	First-class Constable B
Charles Hutchinson	ditto	Obscene language	ditto	ditto	Fined £5 or 3 months' imprisonment	W. E. Foster (C.I.B. Constable J. Sexton.



# Another GG Grandfather

- ▶ Age 52, Roman Catholic, height 5ft 7 1/2ins, proportionate build, sallow complexion, grey hair, blue eyes, weight 10 stone 12 pounds
- ▶ he could read and write
- ▶ walked lame, his left thumb was deformed, his nose sharp with a red mole under the left nostril and finally a mole on his left rib cage
- ▶ No photograph could ever give that much detail



# Newspapers (not just text)

- ▶ Caricatures
- ▶ Sketches
- ▶ Accounts of what happened – can be more informative than actual court records
- ▶ Look at all relevant newspapers of the day



## ALLEGED ARSON CASE.

At the South Brisbane Police Court yesterday, before Messrs. W. Yaldwyn, P.M., T. Austin, and E. Allen, J.P., a middle-aged man named John Finn appeared in custody charged with wilfully and unlawfully setting fire to a dwelling-house in Hampstead-street, Woolloongabba, last Sunday morning. Sub-inspector Geraghty conducted the prosecution. Constable Coman stated that at about 7.30 on the morning of the 30th instant he saw defendant in Balasclava-street, Woolloongabba, when he said to him, "Where did you sleep last night?" He replied, "Nowhere." Then he said to him, "Where were you last night?" to which he replied, "I was over in town." In answer to further questions he said that he arrived in town from Ipswich "between 9 and 10 yesterday morning." He also said that he came over here soon after dinner time. Witness then asked him how long he remained over here, and he said for a while, after which he went over to meet the half-past 5 train from Ipswich. Asked him then what time he came back, and he said, "I don't know; it was late; the shops and hotels were closed." Defendant did not know either what time he got home, and said later on that he slept on Nolan's veranda until he was awakened by the cold, after which he went for a walk round the cemetery, and had only just come back. Then asked him if he knew where Hampstead-street was, to which he replied,

"Yes, well." Defendant said that it was about a month ago since he was in the locality referred to, and denied that he was there on Saturday night. Witness then conveyed defendant to the watch-house, where he charged him with wilfully and unlawfully setting fire to a dwelling in Hampstead-street, Woolloongabba, on the morning of the 30th August. Defendant said, "What! Is it the place I was living in?" Witness said, "Yes." Defendant did not ask any questions. On the application of Sub-inspector Geraghty, a remand was granted till the 8th instant.

## ALLEGED ARSON IN SOUTH BRISBANE.

At the South Brisbane Police Court on Tuesday, before Messrs. W. Yaldwyn, P.M., and J. Austin, J.P., a middle-aged man named John Finn appeared in custody charged, on remand, with wilfully and unlawfully setting fire to a dwelling-house in Hampstead-street, Woolloongabba, on the morning of the 30th August. Mr. B. Papi appeared for defendant, and Sergeant Ryan prosecuted on behalf of the police. Constables Colman and Martin gave evidence as to finding marks of hob-nailed boots on the ground surrounding the house, and to taking plaster of paris casts of the impressions. One of these casts corresponded with the right boot of defendant. Emily Corrie, a married woman, living next door to the house lately occupied by defendant, and which he is charged with setting fire to, deposed to seeing a man enter the front gate of the property and try to wrench the gate off. He went away, returned, and subsequently went away again. She could not identify the man. During that night a fire occurred in the house next door to her residence. Evidence was also given by Mary Nolan and Mary Finn, and, on the application of the police, defendant was remanded till next Monday.

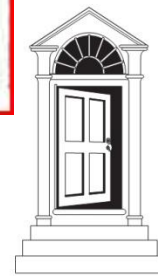
*Brisbane Courier*  
10 Sep 1903

*Brisbane Courier*  
15 Sep 1903

## SOUTH BRISBANE.

At the South Brisbane Police Court yesterday, before Messrs. W. Yaldwyn, P.M., and T. Austin, J.P., evidence was taken in the case of Frederick Whittaker, charged with stealing fish valued at 7s., the property of John Leber. Accused was further remanded till 17th instant, bail being extended. John Finn, on remand, charged with having wilfully and unlawfully set fire to a dwelling-house in Hampstead-street, Woolloongabba, on 30th August, was discharged after further evidence had been taken.

*Brisbane Courier*  
1 Sep 1903





# ALLEGED ATTEMPTED ARSON.

## Fire Brigade Prevents a Conflagration.

### Finn Charged With Firing the House.

#### Police Court Proceedings.

Last week John Finn was charged with wilfully and unlawfully setting fire to a dwelling house in Hempstead-street, Woolloongahba. The house is the property of Sub-inspector Burke. It would appear that on Saturday night, August 21, just one week after the bailiffs had been put in, Finn came down to Brisbane, as was usual with him at the end of each month, and, presumably, not finding his family at the house (in fact the place was still empty) he went to Mrs. Nolan's place, and, after seeing his family had some dinner, went away, and later on in the evening he returned and stayed at the house for about half-an-hour, leaving about 7 o'clock. About half-past

awakened by a noise, and found that the house next door was on fire. In reply to Mr. Papi this witness said that although the house had been empty for a week, the gates were not locked, but she had not seen anyone in the yard, and the Fire Brigade did not go there. A Mrs. Rasmussen, a widow, living on the other side of the house, gave evidence as to the fire, but she does not appear to have seen anyone about the place. The evidence of Constables Coman and Martin was to the effect that Coman arrested Finn early on the Sunday morning. About 3.30 a.m. on Sunday, August 30, in consequence of something he was told, Coman went to the house in Hempstead-street and found that a fire had recently taken place there. He examined the place and took possession of a piece of wire, a piece of burnt straw which looked as if it was a piece of hat material, and two pieces of burnt wood. Martin had previously visited the house about 2 a.m., when he found the place open, but no one about, and on going inside found the floors covered with water, and every appearance of a recently extinguished fire. He thought

#### THE FIRE HAD ORIGINATED IN ONE OF THE ROOMS.

in a corner by the brick chimney. Coman and Martin then went to Mrs. Nolan's house, where they saw Mary Finn, and subsequently they found Finn himself about 7.30 a.m. Coman asked him where he had stopped that night, and Finn replied, "Nowhere." In reply to further questions, Finn said he had come from Ipswich on the previous day, arriving in Brisbane about 10 o'clock in the morning, and about 3 o'clock in the afternoon had gone to Mrs. Nolan's, where he had dinner. He had stayed there some time, and had then gone to meet the 5.30 train from Ipswich. He did not know what time it was when he came back, but the shops and hotels were closed. He went to Nolan's verandah and went to sleep, and he woke up very cold. He then went for a walk round the cemetery, and told the constables he had not long been back. Coman took him into custody, and with Martin, about 9.30 a.m. went back to Mrs. Nolan's, where they saw Mary Finn, and obtained from her a pair of boots and an overcoat. They then went to the house in Hempstead-street, and Coman made an examination of the ground in the yard, where he discovered several

#### MARKS OF HOB-NAIL BOOTS.

He took impressions of them in plaster of paris. On the Monday at the watchhouse Martin showed Finn the boots and overcoat, and he said they belonged to him. On Sep-

tember 2, in consequence of what they had been told the two constables again went to the house in Hempstead-street, and took more plaster of paris impressions of imprints of hob-nail boots. The different plaster casts were all produced, and some detail evidence as to the similarity of the boots produced with the plaster casts was given. In reply to Mr. Papi, Coman said he had known Finn for two years before he arrested him, and that was how he knew where he lived. Mr. Nolan's house was about half a mile by the road from Finn's late residence. When he took the plaster casts of the footprints the ground was hard, but there had been heavy rain during the night, and there was no doubt but that the impressions had been made during the previous 24 hours. The big gates were open, and anyone could go in and out without hindrance. The house had been empty about a week before the fire, and the fire brigade had been there before he arrived. Constable Martin, under cross-examination, said he would swear the plaster cast was a facsimile of the

#### UNLIKE AN INCENDIARY

as it is possible to imagine, and followed the evidence with the closest attention. The evidence on Tuesday went to show that on August 29, the day of the fire, Finn came down from Bundamba, and to Mrs. Nolan's house. This was about 3 o'clock in the afternoon. Finn was a little the worse for liquor at the time, and Mrs. Nolan and his eldest daughter upbraided him for coming home in that state. They then told him that he should look after his children more, and informed him of how the bailiffs had been put into the Hempstead-street house, and the furniture seized and taken away, and that his family had found food and shelter from Mrs. Nolan. Finn was naturally very much upset at the direful news, and commenced crying. His daughter then got him some dinner, and advised him to go and get a bed at some boarding-house. After having his meal, Finn went away, leaving at Mrs. Nolan's his clothes, which included a pair of boots and an overcoat. He returned between 6 and 7 o'clock the same evening, and after a few minutes' conversation left saying he was going to see if a piece of wire he had put across the garden in Hempstead-street was still there. He took with him his overcoat. Before leaving he asked his daughter to go with him to see a house at Stanley Bridge on the following morning. This was

#### THE LAST THAT THE WOMEN SAW OF HIM

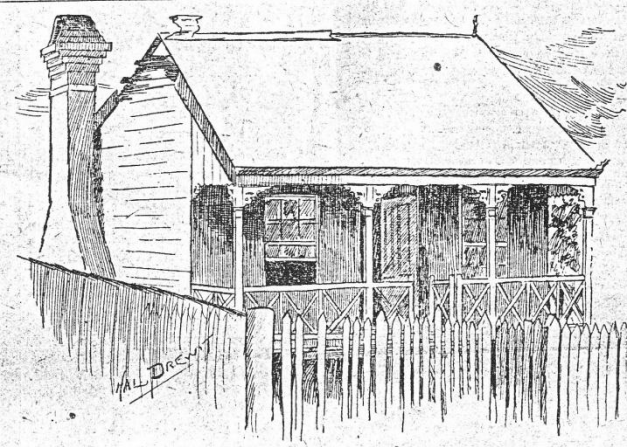
until the Sunday morning, about half-past six, when his daughter saw her father at Mrs. Nolan's, and when she asked him



MISS MARY FINN.

tember 2, in consequence of what they had been told the two constables again went to the house in Hempstead-street, and took more plaster of paris impressions of imprints of hob-nail boots. The different plaster casts were all produced, and some detail evidence as to the similarity of the boots produced with the plaster casts was given. In reply to Mr. Papi, Coman said he had known Finn for two years before he arrested him, and that was how he knew where he lived. Mr. Nolan's house was about half a mile by the road from Finn's late residence. When he took the plaster casts of the footprints the ground was hard, but there had been heavy rain during the night, and there was no doubt but that the impressions had been made during the previous 24 hours. The big gates were open, and anyone could go in and out without hindrance. The house had been empty about a week before the fire, and the fire brigade had been there before he arrived. Constable Martin, under cross-examination, said he would swear the plaster cast was a facsimile of the

“Finn was a little the worse for liquor at that time”



THE HOUSE IN HEMPSTEAD STREET.

where he had been, he replied that he had been on the veranda for some time. Previous, however, to this, about a quarter past four o'clock, Mary Finn had been seen by Constables Coman and Martin. She told her father that they had been to the house looking for him, and he said he would go and see them and find out what they wanted. Before leaving he changed his boots. A Mrs. Emily Corrie said she lived next door to the house in which the Finn's had lived, and had known them for ten months. On August 29 she was on her veranda waiting for her husband to come home, when she saw a man coming from the direction of a paddock on the opposite side of the street. It was dark but she did not see the man's face, neither did she know him at all. All she could say was that he had an overcoat on and was wearing a dark hat. The man went into the gate of the empty house, and into the back, returning to the front he pulled up a few plants, which he threw into the road. He then

#### TRIED TO PULL OFF THE FRONT GATE

but did not succeed. Leaving the house, he re-crossed the road, but at once returned and opened the big gates, also trying to pull them off, but failed to do so. The man then went away. During the night she was

boot. He could see certain nail marks missing, but he admitted he was not an expert. He was on his oath, and

#### HE THOUGHT IT WAS A FACSIMILE.

He was not there until after the fire, and could only say what he had heard. He did not see the fire. The daughter, Mary Finn, in giving her evidence, also stated that the family had been living in the house in Hempstead-street, which was the property of Sub-inspector Burke, for the previous 12 months, and that her father, who was working at Bundamba, only came home once a month. On August 22 the bailiffs had seized all the furniture in the house for rent. Her father was away at the time. He had not then been home for three weeks. This completed the evidence given on Tuesday, and Sergeant Ryan asked for a remand until to-morrow, September 14, as some of his witnesses were unable to be present until then. The bench granted the remand, and allowed bail in £80 and one surety of a similar amount.

Strange, but any amount of men remain single because they object to keeping another man's daughter, while they have no objection whatever to keeping another man's wife.



JOHN FINN.

1 o'clock the same night (or, to be precise, Sunday morning) the house in Hempstead-street, which the Finns had been put out of, was discovered to be on fire, but through the efforts of the neighbors and the South Brisbane Fire Brigade

#### THE CONFLAGRATION WAS EXTINGUISHED

because much damage was done. The police then took the matter up, and in a few hours arrested Finn, whom they charged with wilfully and unlawfully setting fire to a dwell-

Brisbane Truth



# Details of Family Life

- ▶ Dispelling family myths
- ▶ Little things you would never have known
- ▶ Name of the ship they arrived on
- ▶ Hardships they experienced





# Family Hardships Revealed

- ▶ My lame ancestor was a farmer
- ▶ On 9 June 1890 he wrote to the Lands Department asking for an extension of time to pay rent instalments. The letter states that he lost his crops due to wet weather.
- ▶ In addition he had broken a limb more than seven months ago and it was still difficult for him to do hard work.
- ▶ It must have been a very bad break or not fixed properly at the time as he was still walking lame 14 years later.



# Accidents Do Happen

## **ALLEGED UNLAWFULLY KILLING.**

Gundah Gunderson, on remand, appeared in the South Brisbane Police Court this morning (says Saturday's "Telegraph") to answer a charge of having unlawfully killed an old-age pensioner named Samuel Charlesworth, by knocking him down when accused was driving a sulky in Logan-road, on the night of the 4th of September. Accused was committed for trial at the next criminal sittings of the Supreme Court, to be held on the 3rd of November.

Drink driving and  
horse and buggy  
accidents





# Record Sources

- ▶ State Archives – NB Useful guide – *Criminal Records: A guide to sources in Queensland* (my Dip FHS 1992 thesis on my website)
- ▶ Specialist Groups Historic Gaols eg Fremantle, Boggo Road
- ▶ CoraWeb



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## ► Criminal and court records

- ... [New South Wales \(6\)](#)
- ... [Queensland \(3\)](#)
- ... [South Australia \(1\)](#)
- ... [Tasmania \(3\)](#)
- ... [Victoria \(4\)](#)
- ... [Western Australia \(1\)](#)

[Queensland State Archives - Online Indexes - Convict / Prisoner](#) ►

These indexes include: • Chronological register of convicts 1824-1839 (now providing free direct access to digital copies) • St Helena prisoners 1863-1936 • Toowoomba prisoners 1864-1906 ... [more](#)

[Findmypast - Pentridge Prison, Victoria - Prison Registers 1871-1960](#) ►

These records details prisoners from HM Pentridge Prison, the main prison in the Melbourne area. The records list the prisoner's occupation, place of birth, physical description, crime, other ... [more](#)

[Linc Tasmania - Tasmanian Names Index](#) ►

This site offers a single search across the following: • Arrivals (19th Century). Passengers and ships arriving, mainly in Hobart. Contains surnames A-K, L-Z to be added • Births (1803-1933). ... [more](#)

[The Police Gazette of Western Australia](#) ►

State Library of Western Australia has the Police Gazette of Western Australia 1876-1900 online and fully

[www.coraweb.com.au/categories/criminal-and-court-records](http://www.coraweb.com.au/categories/criminal-and-court-records)



## The State Archives

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[Deceased estates and related records](#)

[Education and child welfare records](#)

[Gaol records](#)

[Immigration and shipping](#)

## Court records

### [Bench of Magistrates Proceedings, 1788-1820](#)

This index includes criminal and civil cases, publicans' licenses issued/cancelled, constables appointed, controlling the markets etc. There are over 3000 entries.

### [Coroners' Inquests, 1796-1824](#)

### [Court of Civil Jurisdiction, 1799-1814](#)

The Minutes of proceedings show date of sitting, members present, the nature of the action, and the judgment of the Court. The arguments put forward by both parties are also summarised. Where an action concerned a business document (such as a promissory note), which was tendered in evidence, a copy of the document was normally entered up.

### [Criminal court records, 1788-1833](#)

This is a valuable resource relating to the New South Wales colonial justice system and will be of benefit to those of you researching criminals, convicts and crimes committed during the early years of the Colony. There are over 5000 entries in this index.

### [Criminal Depositions Received, 1849-1949](#)

Includes criminal actions at country Quarter Sessions relating to cases of a non-capital nature etc.

### [Divorce Case Papers, 1873-1930](#)

This Index now covers the years 1873-1923. There are over 20,000 entries covering a 50 year period. Entries for the letters F G H and I for the years 1897-1903 are missing. These entries will be added to the index shortly.

### [Quarter Sessions Cases, 1824-37](#)

The case papers are numbered and arranged chronologically. The papers usually include the name of the of the person tried, date, place, verdict and sentence. They generally contain the indictment which gives a



There are currently c.40,000 entries, from the photographic description books listing prisoners from the following gaols:

- ▶ Albury (1876-1929) [NRS 1966](#)
- ▶ Armidale (1894-1915) [NRS 1989](#)
- ▶ Bathurst (1874-1930) [NRS 1998](#)
- ▶ Berrima (1883-1888) [NRS 2021](#)
- ▶ Biloela (1885-1906) [NRS 2027](#)
- ▶ Broken Hill (1904-1929) [NRS 2057](#)
- ▶ Darlinghurst (1869-1914 - now complete) [NRS 2138](#)
- ▶ Deniliquin (1895-1929) [NRS 2191](#)
- ▶ Dubbo (1889-1920) [NRS 2202](#)
- ▶ Goulburn (1884-1930) [NRS 2232](#)
- ▶ Grafton (1894-1929) [NRS 2258](#)
- ▶ Maitland (1885-1898) [NRS 2326](#) and (1875-1903) [NRS 2327](#)
- ▶ Parramatta (1881-1930) [NRS 2397](#)
- ▶ State Reformatory for Women, Long Bay [NRS 2496](#)
- ▶ Trial Bay (1892-1901) [NRS 2549](#)
- ▶ Young Gaol (1894-1920) [NRS 2605](#)

[www.records.nsw.gov.au/state-archives/indexes-online/gaol-records](http://www.records.nsw.gov.au/state-archives/indexes-online/gaol-records)

## Index to the Gaol Photographs

We are progressively adding other gaols to this index in alphabetical order of the gaol.



**Note:** This index is not included in the Keyname Search.



State Records

Shauna Hicks  
History Enterprises

UTP Feb 2016







## PROVguide 58: Prison Records

### Courts and Criminal Justice – Prison Records

#### The administration of gaols and penal institutions in the nineteenth century

Prior to 1871 penal institutions and gaols were separately administered by officers located within the Chief Secretary's Department (VA 475). In 1871 under the provisions of the *Statute of Gaols Amendment Act 1871*, the Inspector-General of Penal Establishments assumed responsibility for the administration of gaols, and a Penal and Gaols Branch (VA 1464) was established within the Chief Secretary's Department. The branch was responsible for the management of Victorian gaols and penal institutions and the control and supervision of the adults and minors who were detained.

The earliest penal institutions were almost entirely punitive in emphasis, while gaols were used for the detention of prisoners not sentenced to hard labour, such as debtors, lunatics, the old, the destitute and children who had been convicted of vagrancy. For more information about records concerning the administration of prisons, probation and parole, and for records of individual institutions see [VRG 9 Prisons and Youth Training Centres](#) and [VRG 93 Corrections](#) on PROV's online catalogue at [www.access.prov.vic.gov.au](http://www.access.prov.vic.gov.au).

#### Records relating to gaols and penal institutions: a select list

Victorian prisons were required to submit information about the prisoners in their custody to the Penal and Gaols Branch (VA 1464) of the Chief Secretary's Department. There was no state-wide centralised registration of prisoners until 1985. In the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries it was common practice for a prisoner to be moved directly from the court where the trial was held to a local prison, such as Beechworth. If the trial took place outside the Melbourne area researchers are advised to consult the records of local prisons. For records of individual institutions see VRG 9 Prisons and Youth Training Centres on PROV's online catalogue.

<http://prov.vic.gov.au/provguide-58>





Public Record Office Victoria > HOW TOguide:58 How to view online male prison registers



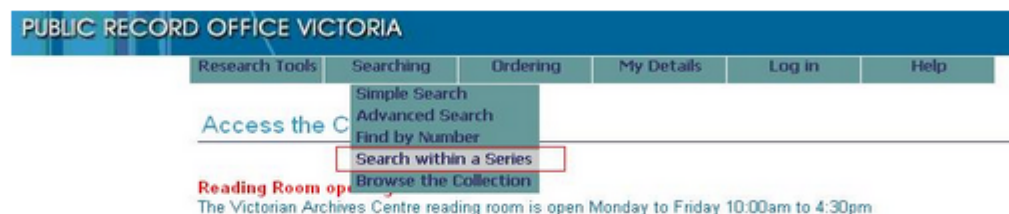
## HOW TOguide:58 How to view online male prison registers

### Viewing Online Male Prison Registers

The purpose of this How To*guide* is to assist researchers with viewing digitised Male Prison Registers created between 1850 and 1935. It should be read in conjunction with [PROVguide 58 Prison Records](#) and [PROVguide 20 Searching for Records Online](#) and [PROVguide 21 Ordering Records Online](#). Please note that as June 2013 not all of the digitised volumes have been made available online. The series is being transcribed by volunteers and uploaded as they become available. If you are unable to locate a prisoner, please see for [PROVguide 58 Prison Records](#) further information.

**Step 1:** Access PROV's online catalogue at [www.access.prov.vic.gov.au](http://www.access.prov.vic.gov.au).

**Step 2:** Select Search within a series from the Searching menu.



**Step 3:** Enter VPRS 515 (Male Prison registers) in the search box and the surname of the prisoner you require. Press the Search button to complete the search.



<http://prov.vic.gov.au/howtoguide-58>





## Central Register of Male Prisoners (selected volumes only)

Use this index to find information on male prisoners in Victoria. Please note that many units from this series are closed to public access due to their fragile state. Due to damage, some pages may be difficult to read.

[Return to Search Page](#)  
[Return to Research Page](#)

25 record/s displayed  
(83 record/s matched)

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Page</u>	<u>Prisoner Number</u>	<u>Prisoner Name</u>	<u>LinkImage</u>
20	130	12114	Brown, David	<a href="#">View page</a>
20	152	12136	Brown, Alexander	<a href="#">View page</a>
20	17	12004	Brown, Elisha	<a href="#">View page</a>
20	193	12173	Brown, William	<a href="#">View page</a>
20	240	12217	Brown, William; (Abraham Russell)	<a href="#">View page</a>
20	415	12382	Brown, Simon McMahon	<a href="#">View page</a>
20	9	11996	Brown, Joseph; (Edwards)	<a href="#">View page</a>
48	233	26527	Brown, John	<a href="#">View page</a>
48	265	26559	Browne, Edward; (Edward Brown); (Edw Brown); (E B Medcalf)	<a href="#">View page</a>
48	269	26563	Brown, John	<a href="#">View page</a>





No. 26563

Name

Brown John

Height ...	5-ft. 9"	Sentence.	6 Months	6 Months
Weight ...			In default	of Bail
Complexion ...	fresh		of	swiches
Hair ...	black			
Eyes ...	blue			
Nose ...		Date of Conviction.	14. 5. 94	1. 6. 00.
Mouth ...			arrested	
Chin ...			17. 9. 00.	
Eyebrows ...		Offence.	Threatening	Threatening
Visage ...			Life	Life
Forehead ...				
Date of Birth ...	1856.	Where and before whom tried.	St. Melbourne	St. Melbourne
Native Place ...	Victoria		Petty Sessions	Petty Sessions
Trade ...	Laborer.		St.	St.
Religion	Presbyterian		of Bench	of Bench
Read or Write ...	Both.			

Particular Marks.

Hole left side of mouth.

Previous History.

Previous History.

Married. 2. 4. 92. (arrested) 14 days Impr. 18. 5. 91. (Smuggling goods) 14 days. Impt. as John Brown

At what Station.

When Received.

Offences, Sentences, &amp;c.

Extensions by—

Visiting Justice.		Governor.	
M.	D.	M.	D.

Melbourne Gaol 14. 5. 94.  
Melbourne Gaol. 17. 9. 00.

21<sup>st</sup> July 1894 To Freedom by order of His Excellency, the Governor on entering into his own recognizance.

July 1901 warrants des. 22<sup>nd</sup> June 22. 2. 1 To Freedom by remission




## Gaols

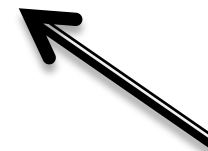
The State Records collection contains records documenting the gaoling of offenders, both within the police gaols and the wider gaol system. Records exist for the following:

Adelaide Gaol, Yatala Labour Prison, Gladstone Gaol, Mount Gambier Gaol, Port Augusta Gaol, Port Lincoln Gaol, Redruth Gaol and Wallaroo Gaol.

Police gaols can be located by searching for the name of the local police station.

State Records has created the following Fact Sheets for gaol records:

 [Photographs in Police and Gaol Records Fact Sheet](#) pdf 57.17kb



[Back to the top](#)



- ABORIGINAL RECORDS
- ARCHITECTURAL RECORDS
- BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES
- COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE RECORDS
- CONVICT RECORDS
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- POLICE RECORDS
- PREMIER, CABINET AND PARLIAMENTARY RECORDS
- PRISON AND GAOL RECORDS**
- RAILWAY RECORDS



## PRISON AND GAOL RECORDS

The State Records Office holds many relevant series of records relating to State prisoners, some of which date back to 1830 and document the establishment of Perth's first gaol. These early records relating to prisoners and prisons in WA can be traced through the records of the Colonial Secretary's Office (CSO). See also further information on how to access [CSO records](#).

Prison records during the convict period are also available although in many cases they are inextricably linked with the records of the Convict Establishment - as local prisoners during the convict period were classed as convicts. Records relating to prisons for this period can be located through the guide to [Convict Records](#).

The majority of records listed below span the post convict period and relate to prisoners held in Western Australian prisons, gaols and police lockups.

NOTE: Prison records have a restricted access period of up to 70 years. Please see the [Accessing Restricted Records](#) section for information on how to apply for access to restricted records.

### Departmental Records

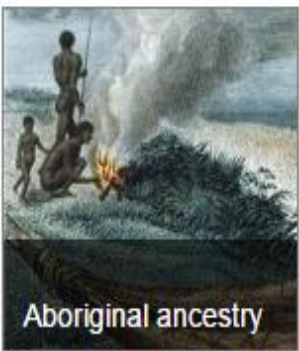
The Gaols Department was first listed as a sub-department of the Colonial Secretary's Department in 1917, following the appointment of the Comptroller-General of Prisons under the Prisons Act 1903. The Department was responsible for the functioning of all prisons and gaols within the State.

No.	Name	Residence	Religion	Trade	Profession	Occupation	Remarks
1038	Campbell John & Quinlan	Residence	Religion	Trade	Profession	Occupation	Remarks
1039	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1040	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1041	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1042	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1043	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1044	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1045	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1046	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1047	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1048	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1049	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1050	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

[www.sro.wa.gov.au/archive-collection/collection](http://www.sro.wa.gov.au/archive-collection/collection)







Aboriginal ancestry



Arrivals or departures



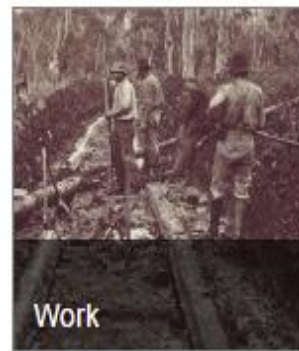
Birth, death or marriage



Convict life



Education



Work



Where someone lived



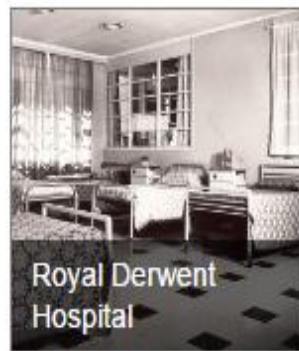
Life as a child in care



Court records



Prison records



Royal Derwent Hospital



Military records



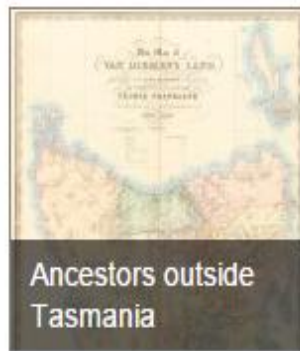
All guides to records



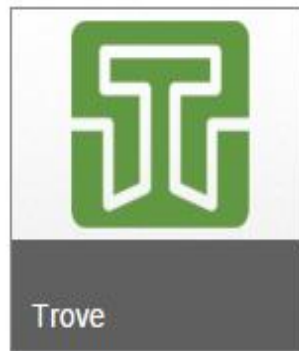
Getting started



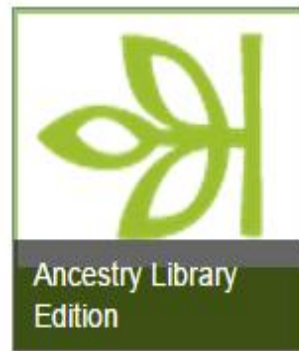
Other useful resources



Ancestors outside Tasmania



Trove



Ancestry Library Edition

[www.linc.tas.gov.au/family-history/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.linc.tas.gov.au/family-history/Pages/default.aspx)



## Braidwood Gaol Entrance Book 1856-1899

[Search the database](#)[Home](#)[Email Peter](#)

This database was compiled from the list of Register entries of the Braidwood Gaol, New South Wales for the period 1856-1899. Unfortunately the exact date & reason for admission was not recorded in the register. An approximate time period was interpolated by using the ages of some of the "inmates." It must be stressed that travellers and others used the gaol's facilities as it offered the cheapest accommodation.

The field structure is Alias|Gaol No|Ship|Arrived|State|Age|Birth Place|Sex|Creed|Complexion|Height (ft ins)|Occupation|Make|Hair|Education|Eyes|Remarks|Period

### Brief History

<http://members.pcug.org.au/~ppmay/braidwood.htm>

Quoting from pages 100 -101 of Netta Ellis' book titled "Braidwood, Dear Braidwood. A History of Braidwood and District":

*In 1861 a substantial two storeyed gaol and gaoler's residence costing £1819, was erected at the northern end of Wallace street, on the edge of the Police Paddock where the barracks for the Mounted police had been built twenty five years earlier. In 1862 the gaoler, R Waters, wrote frequently to Sydney requesting extra amenities; he wanted a well, a shelter shed, a shower bath for prisoners and a fenced area for growing vegetables. More secure locks on cell doors were necessary "to prevent a sudden rush by prisoners at night on a false call". In 1863 the cesspool at the gaol was reported to be "useless except for stagnant water". Dr Redhead reported that the latrines had been "receptacles of faeces of five hundred persons for the past ten months, and as the weather lately has been very muggy the contents emitted a most deleterious miasma which together with effluence arising from decomposition of soaked animal blood and the various*







# WELCOME TO FREMANTLE PRISON

  
-A +A | 

STEP INSIDE  
AND DO TIME WITH US

## QUICKLINKS



### Fremantle Prison Art Tour

Saturday 6th February - Join one of our experienced guides on this exclusive tour of various prisoner artworks. [more](#)



### Tunnels Tour - Family Passes

School Holiday Special: Family Passes for the Tunnels Tour available until 31 January. Normal tour conditions apply [more](#)



### Do you have a convict in your family tree?

We are now accepting applications for 2016 Descendants Certificates. FAQ's and pedigree chart available for download now. [more](#)



### Fourteen Decades: A History of Fremantle Prison

Featuring images and objects from the Fremantle Prison Collection. Open daily 9.00am - 5.00pm. Entry is free [more](#)



## TRAVELLERS' CHOICE™ 2015

Top 10 Landmarks — Australia

Fremantle Prison - WA's only World Heritage listed building.

[www.fremantleprison.com.au](http://www.fremantleprison.com.au)

Shauna Hicks  
History Enterprises

UTP Feb 2016







# LIFE & DEATH in the SUNSHINE STATE

Queensland history & hangings, sharks & beasties, ghosts & graveyards...

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23 January 2016

## Old Queensland Prisons #17: Blackall Prison (1891-1902)

The introduction of the *Prisons Act* 1890 in Queensland led to a shake-up of the prison system here, with attention paid to the official classification of police gaols and 'real' prisons. One gaol to be upgraded was at [Blackall](#), a small Queensland town lying some 500 km south-west of Rockhampton.

European pastoralists had arrived there during the 1860s and a village was in place by 1867. This was named Blackall and it later became the administrative centre for the local district.

Life & Death in the Sunshine State



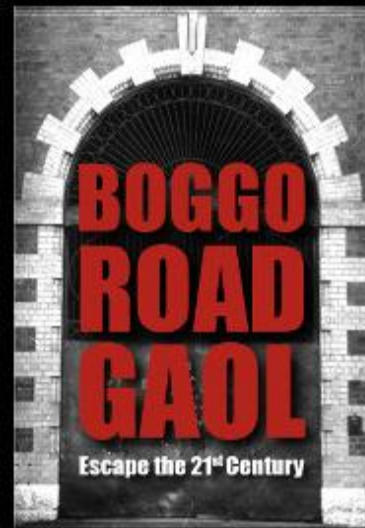
A Queensland History website produced by Brisbane-based professional historian Christopher Dawson, MPHA (Qld).

<http://boggoroad.blogspot.com.au>

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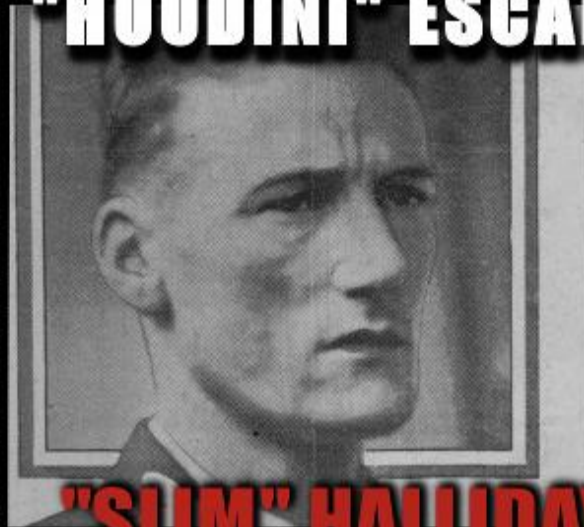
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BRISBANE AUSTRALIA

# "HOUDINI" ESCAPED BOGGO ROAD



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# BOGGO ROAD GAOL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Home Prison History Our Books BRGHS Boggo Rd Now Virtual Tour Museums Contact

## Boggo Road Gaol Historical Society

We are Queensland's leading prison history research organisation - a not-for-profit group working to research, preserve and promote this unique landmark.

This website is the premier internet resource on Boggo Road. Enjoy exploring it, and feel free to contact us if you have any queries.



**OUR BOOKS**  
Explore our fascinating range of affordable titles



**HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
All about us, our volunteers and our work



**BOGGO TOURS**  
Join the tour waiting list for when Boggo reopens



**BOGGO REOPENING**  
When will Boggo Road be fully reopened?



Boggo Road Gaol Historical Society

[www.boggoroadgaol.com.au](http://www.boggoroadgaol.com.au)



Shauna Hicks  
History Enterprises

UTP Feb 2016

### PLEASE NOTE:

Boggo Road will be refurbished @2016 before reopening fully and properly to the public. We recommend visiting Boggo after this time.

BOGGO ROAD GAOL  
**facebook**



BOGGO ARTS & HERITAGE ALLIANCE





# The Prosecution Project

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1889

## Become Involved



Become part of our research project by assisting with the digitisation and data entry of historical prosecution records.



## Search Historic Trials

Do you know your family's past? Search our database of Australian criminal trial records from more than 180 years past.

On this week in... 1908

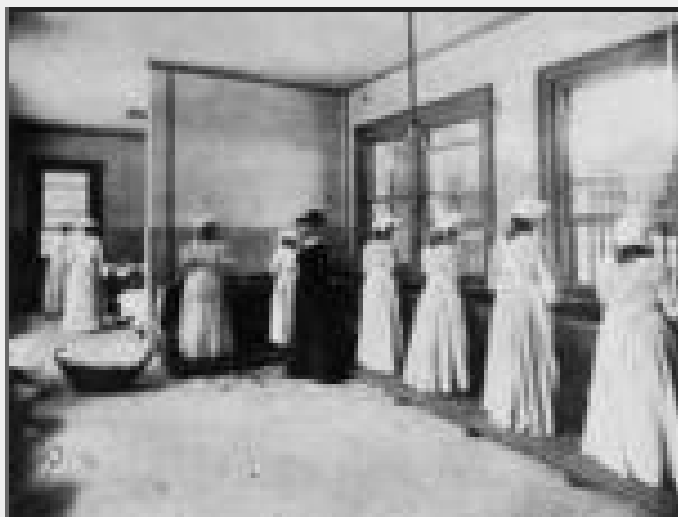
## Dismissal leads to destruction

<https://prosecutionproject.griffith.edu.au>

Shauna Hicks  
History Enterprises

UTP Feb 2016





Prisoners using the laundry facilities  
at the new female division of Boggo  
Road Gaol, Brisbane, 1903

State Library of Queensland



Prisoners having dinner in the  
exercise yard at the new female  
division of Boggo Road Gaol,  
Brisbane...

State Library of Queensland



<http://trove.nla.gov.au>





# Conclusion

- ▶ Don't be afraid to look, ancestors were human
- ▶ If it wasn't for them, we would not be here today
- ▶ The biographical and physical information is not always available elsewhere
- ▶ New resources – more online indexes, digitised records, ongoing
- ▶ Revisit your missing ancestors and maybe those brick walls will come down

