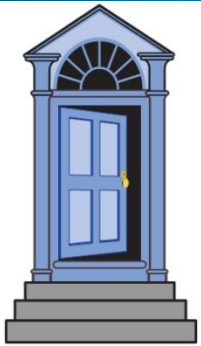


# Bring Your Ancestors to Life Using Court of Petty Session Records

Shauna Hicks

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

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



# Introduction

- ▶ What are Court of Petty Session (CPS) records?
- ▶ Where to find the records?
- ▶ Any indexes and finding aids?
- ▶ What ancestral stories can they tell?
- ▶ If you don't like surprises, don't look!



# What are CPS records?

- ▶ Local court records
- ▶ Relatively minor crimes
  - Drunk and disorderly
  - Obscene language
  - Assault
  - Wife/child desertion
  - Breaking and entering
  - No visible (lawful) means of support
- Check out other court records too!





James Street, Beenleigh ca 1887 – Court House on the left

Image Local Studies Library, Gold Coast City Council

[www.goldcoast.qld.gov.au/library/local-studies-library-10111.html](http://www.goldcoast.qld.gov.au/library/local-studies-library-10111.html)



In the depositions  
 This afternoon at 4 o'clock I was called by John Johnston a labourer residing in Beenleigh, I saw the <sup>Countess</sup> Mary Anne from the  
 Cunningham. Just on Friday morning last at 6 o'clock in the morning,  
 she came back again in about half an hour and stopped at the  
 Cunningham's. I went out to the door and asked her what she had  
 had to do with the English man, she said a piece of cloth in my  
 hand that I told her the fact, she said she put it, then to an  
 end of cloth behind her and the cloth touched her and she fell on her  
 back she being out that I hit her, I said I did not do it, I told her that  
 I said, that was the first plan for her, I told her this was no plan for  
 her with the English man.

24 Oct 1887  
 Beenleigh

Witness statements also  
 very useful

By the Court  
 I have sworn before me this  
 24th day of October 1887 at Beenleigh  
 McCampbell R. L.

Adam Johnston  
 Master



McCampbell R. L.

4 Nov 1887  
 Beenleigh

246  
 my husband and I are not living together. I have never lived with  
 him since the warrant was taken out on Sunday night he asked  
 for a shilling and I said I had no shilling to give him (my sewing  
 machine was stolen between 3 and 5 o'clock on Monday morning last)  
 I suspect my husband for taking it  
 I bought <sup>and paid for</sup> the machine myself. you did not offer me maintenance.  
 you said he would stop with the children if I would clear away.  
 I said I did not hear anything about rations I said I would  
 stop and take care of the children. I did not tell you to  
 go up the line and change <sup>your</sup> name and I would follow you up  
 in a month. I did not tell you to come as a boarder and change  
 your name. I told you to sleep in your own tent. I did  
 not tell you I didn't want meat from you.  
 I have not lived with any man. you never caught any man  
 with me last Tuesday fortnight. I thought he told I was living  
 in  
 Maria Johnston

Taken and sworn before me  
 this fourth day of November 1887 at Beenleigh  
 McCampbell R. L.



Nambour Aug 2016





- ▶ In September 1886 Maria summoned Adam for maintenance at Ipswich where he was ordered to pay 10s a week. His brother became surety for him but Adam absconded.
- ▶ Maria Johnston and John Bolton arrived in Beenleigh in January 1887 and lived in tents along the Southport railway line.
- ▶ In June 1887 Adam Johnston was arrested for disorderly conduct.
- ▶ On 24 October 1887 Maria summoned Adam for assault and the following day Adam stole his wife's sewing machine.
- ▶ On 3 November 1887 Maria summoned Adam for maintenance and he was advised to pay 12s a week.
- ▶ Adam was charged with wife desertion and bound to pay 12s a week and two sureties of £15 each or in default six months imprisonment.
- ▶ After he was sent to gaol, Bolton and Maria moved to Pimpama and were living there in January 1888.
- ▶ The Rev Mr Martin claimed that Adam was living with another woman and that he was not quite right in his mind.



evening.

At the Police Court to-day, before the police-magistrate, Adam Johnson, on remand from Stanthorpe, charged with having deserted his wife at Bundamba, was remanded till Friday next. George S. Palmer, alias Geo. Herbert Palmer, was charged with having obtained goods from Francis Porter by means of false pretences. After hearing evidence the bench discharged the accused.

The *Brisbane Courier*  
26 Aug 1886 via Trove

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

The *Brisbane Courier*  
28 Aug 1886 via Trove

on a relapse.

At the Police Court, yesterday, before the police-magistrate, Adam Johnson, on remand, pleaded guilty to having deserted his wife. As defendant said his spouse had told him to go, the complainant's evidence was taken. She said that when residing at Oxley, some seven months ago, he had gone away to look for work up the line, as he said; she had seven children, and defendant had not since then contributed to the support of them or herself. The bench ordered defendant to pay 10s. a week for twelve months for his wife's support, and to find sureties for carrying out the order. John





# 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	Yrs. 51	Ft. in. 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.

Nambour Aug 2016



The Hon. Secy.  
 The Comm. Secy.  
 7/16 - H.M.  
 11. Sept. 1894  
 Approved  
 723  
 4  
 M. J. Galt  
 Bursant 10th September 1894  
 Sir,  
 I have the honor respectfully to  
 apply under the regulations for such  
 remuneration you may deem me  
 worthy of for the services I have  
 performed while unpensioned here -  
 I have undergone a course of two  
 months and have throughout the  
 whole of the time been employed at  
 hard labour  
 I have the honor to be  
 Sir  
 Yours most obedient Servant  
 John Carnegie  
 A. R. P. Edwards  
 the for. of the fact

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



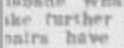
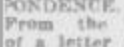
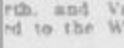
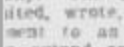
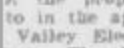
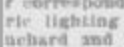
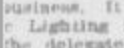
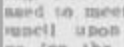
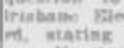
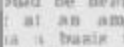
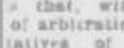
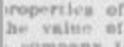
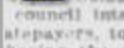
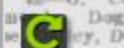
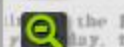
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[Why are there text errors?](#)

## ALLEGED ARSON\* OASB.

At the South Brisbane Police Court yesterday, before Messrs. - W. Yaldwya, P.M., T. Austin, and E. Allen, J.J.P., a middle-aged man named **John finn** Jerw appeared in custody charged with wilfully and unlawfully setting fire to a dwelling, house in Hampstead-street, Woolloomgabba, last Sunday morning. Sub-inspector Geraghty conducted the prosecution. Constable Coman stated that at about 7.30 on the morning of the 30th instant 1M saw defendant in Balaclava-street, Woolloomgabba, when he said to ttrm, "Where did you sleep last night?" He replies, "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 «? be« tween !» 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 tor 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 dont



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FATAL BOXING CONTEST.

Tags (1)

[John Finn](#)

Lists (1)

Login

Appears in these lists:

[Finn Family in QLD](#)



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## 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, Woolloomgabby, 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 Lebher. 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, Woolloomgabby, 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-nailed 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

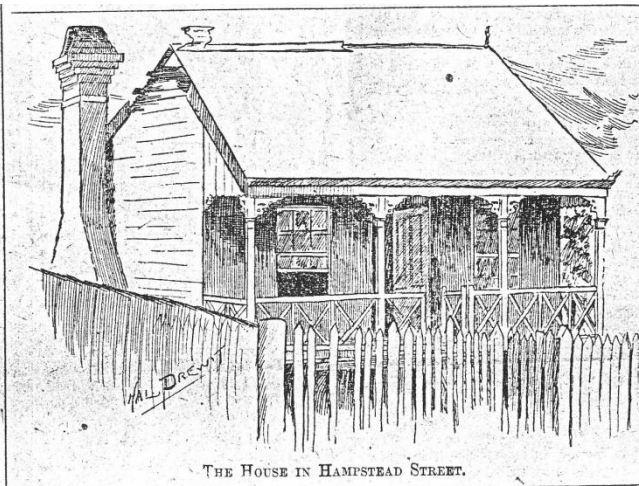
until the Sunday morning, about half-past six, when his daughter saw her father at Mrs. Nolan's, and when she asked him



MISS MARY FINN.

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"Finn was a little the worse for liquor at that time"



THE HOUSE IN HAMPSTEAD 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.

Brisbane Truth



**NORTHERN SUPREME COURT.**

("Townsville Star," May 18.)

(Before His Honor Mr Acting Justice Paul.)

**IN CHAMBERS.**

Swales and others v. Smyth—Summons for appointment of manager and receiver. Mr Havard for plaintiffs. Order—J. C. R. Boyce to be appointed receiver and manager as per summons, for 15 days from this date. Power of receiver and manager limited as per order in Taylor v. Neate, with liberty to apply by motion on 31st instant to continue. Notice of this application and terms, and that there is a motion to be moved on 31st instant to continue the appointment, may be sent by wire signed by the Registrar of the Supreme Court, Townsville. Costs of this application to be costs in the cause.

In re John Trevaskis, of Charters Towers, cyanider. Petition for adjudication in insolvency in forma pauperis. Mr Havard (town agent for Mr W. F. R. Boyce) for petitioner. Order—As prayed. Fees remitted. Statement, 5th June; first meeting, 6th June. Mr C. S. Norris, Official Trustee, to be trustee.

In re Joseph Alfred Wall, of Townsville, laborer. Petition for adjudication in insolvency in forma pauperis. Mr F. Milford for petitioner. Order—As prayed. Fees remitted. Statement, 30th May; first meeting, 31st. Mr C. S. Norris, Official Trustee, to be trustee.

**IN THE SUPREME COURT OF QUEENSLAND.**

**TOWNSVILLE.**

**IN INSOLVENCY.**

**In Forma Pauperis.**

**MR ACTING JUSTICE PAUL.**

**JOHN TREVASKIS** of Charters Towers, in the Colony of Queensland, Cyanider, was adjudged insolvent in forma pauperis on the 17th day of MAY, 1899. The first meeting of creditors will be held at the Principal Registry, Supreme Court, Townsville, on the 6th day of JUNE, 1899, at Eleven O'clock in the Forenoon.

**UNTIL** the Election of a Trustee, all persons having in their possession any of the effects of the insolvent, must deliver them and all debts due to the insolvent must be paid to Mr Charles Sydney Norris, the Official Trustee in the estate. Creditors must forward their proofs of debts to the Official Trustee.

**CHAS. S. NORRIS,**  
Registrar.

**W. F. R. BOYCE,**  
Solicitor for Insolvent,  
Charters Towers.  
Town Agents—  
**HOBBS AND HAVARD,**  
Solicitors,  
Townsville.

*The Northern Miner*  
19 May 1899 via Trove

*The Northern Miner*  
20 May 1892 via Trove

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



# THE WEATHER FORECAST[?]. (By Telegraph.) BRISBANE, August 31.

The Northern Miner (Charters Towers, Qld. : 1874 - 1954) Saturday 1 September 1900 p 4 Detailed lists, results, guides

... China-men were struck ouu The Wif - dwonion case of Mary Tro vas'vis v. John Treva-skis, was struck out. ... 242 words

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## Lists

Trevaskis family SA & QLD just added

## Tagged (None yet)

Trevaskis

## Comments (None yet)

## Electronically Translated Text

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

Fix this Text

No corrections yet

THE WEATHER FOBECABfe

(By Tfrtograph.) !

HRI SB AXE. August :U .

Again fail, ur uu v wruiij.'j'. is -

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; niuu^rate boas.

At the Police Court ou Friday, be  
fore the P.M., Robert Close was fined

NORTHERN MINER. SATURDAY

### THE WEATHER FORECAST.

(By Telegraph.)  
BRISBANE, August 31.

Again fail, of the weather, as reported over a large area, notwithstanding thunderstorms, with abundant rain, and comparatively hot weather otherwise reported, moderate seas.

At the Police Court on Friday, before the P.M., Robert Close was fined £1 or seven days for using obscene language. In the case of Sick Chew v. Ah Fat, being found in a common gaming house, in which Mr Boyce appeared for the complainant, and Mr Cotham for the defence, the complaint was dismissed, the complainant to pay £2 2- professional costs and 10/- interpreter's fee, in default levy and distress, or 14 days. In the similar case of Sick Ch w y, Foo Kee, in which Mr Boyce appeared for the complainant and Mr Cotham for the defendant, the complaint was dismissed, the complainant to pay £2 2- costs, in default levy and distress, or 14 days. Lee Jick, proceeded against by Sick Chew on a similar charge, was fined 5/- with £2 2- costs, in default levy and distress, or 14 days, 24 hours being allowed for payment. Mr Boyce appeared for the complainant and Mr Cotham for the defendant. Several other similar cases against Chinamen were struck out. The wife desertion case of Mary Trevaskis v. John Trevaskis, was struck out, there being no appearance of the complainant.

### FRIEND TO FRIEND

It is not so much what the newspapers say, as what neighbors say to

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"john trevaskis"

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The wife desertion case of Mary Trevaskis v. John Trevaskis, was struck out, there being no appearance of the complainant.



Charters Towers Court House ca 1888 image  
courtesy State Library of Queensland





NOTICE.

I WILL not be responsible for any Debts contracted by my wife from this date.

JOHN TREVASKIS.

August 3, 1901.

*The Northern Miner*  
3 Aug 1901 via Trove

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

Originally found while looking at microfilm for a death or funeral notice for John's mother

**POLICE COURT.**  
**THURSDAY, 30th JUNE.**  
(Before Mr. F. P. Parkinson, P.M.)

At the Police Court on Thursday morning, two inebriates pleaded guilty to drunkenness, and were discharged.

Mary Trevaskis sued John Trevaskis for assault, but there was no appearance of either party, and the case was struck out.

Lottie Thiek sued Arthur Gorley, wages; adjourned to the 1th July.

The Inspector of Slaughter Houses proceeded against John Greig for a breach of the Slaughtering Act.

Mr. R. Wynn Williams appeared for the prosecution. There was no appearance of defendant, and the case was heard ex parte.

*The Northern Miner*  
1 Jul 1904 via Trove

**POLICE COURT.**  
**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16.**  
(Before Mr. F. P. Parkinson, P.M.)

At the Police Court on Friday, Mary Trevaskis sued John Trevaskis for assault. Mr. W. F. R. Boyce appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. S. N. Johnson (Johnson and Francis), appeared for the defendant, who pleaded guilty and was fined 10/-. 3/6 costs of Court, and £1/1/- professional costs, in default seven days.

F. Jones, licensee of the Club House Hotel, was granted leave of absence for two weeks, Mrs. Lydia McGrotty in charge.

*The Northern Miner*  
17 Dec 1904 via Trove





## POLICE COURT.

THURSDAY, MARCH 10th 1905.

(Before Mr. E. Eglinton, P.M.)

Child Desertion.

At the Police Court on Thursday, Mary Trevaskis proceeded against John Trevaskis, the lawful father of two children, namely Norah Trevaskis, aged nine years, and John Trevaskis, aged nine weeks, on the ground that he had left them without adequate means of support. Defendant pleaded guilty and was ordered to pay the sum of 15/- per week for twelve calendar months, the first payment to be made forthwith, and afterwards fortnightly.

*The Northern Miner*  
17 Mar 1905 via Trove

## POLICE COURT.

MONDAY, 24th JULY, 1905.

(Before Mr. P. W. Pears, P.M.)

At the Police Court on Monday morning, two offenders pleaded guilty to drunkenness, and were discharged. John Trevaskis for the same offence was fined 5/- or 24 hours in the lock-up.

*The Northern Miner*  
25 Jul 1905 via Trove

## FATAL MINING ACCIDENT.

CHARTERS TOWERS, Jan. 18.—John Trevaskis was killed in the monkey shaft of the Day Dawn Gold Mines to-day. A braceman accidentally pushed a truck into the shaft, and it fell on Trevaskis, who was 50ft. below, and killed him.

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

*The Brisbane Courier*  
19 Jan 1906 via Trove



**CUTTING AND WOUNDING.**—Assie Gunder-  
sen was charged with cutting and wounding  
one William Trieschmann, in a humpy off  
Ann-street. After the evidence of the  
arresting constable had been taken the accused  
was remanded until Tuesday.

City Police Court, *Brisbane Courier* 24 Oct 1885

City Police Court, *Brisbane Courier*  
31 Oct 1885

Aase but variants found include  
Osie, Ossie, Asie, Assie

**CUTTING AND WOUNDING.**—Osie Gunder-  
son was charged with having on the 22nd in-  
stant seriously assaulted one William Thuesch-  
mann. Sub-inspector Graham prosecuted. Dr.  
Lyons deposed that on Thursday, 22nd instant,  
the man Thueschmann was brought to his resi-  
dence by Constable M'Donnell; Thueschmann  
was bleeding profusely from a wound on the  
face and was so faint from loss of blood  
that he was obliged to place him lying hori-  
zontally on the ground while he dressed the  
wound, as the man was too weak to sit up; he  
found Thueschmann suffering from a deep in-  
cised wound about 2½ in. in length, extending  
to the bone; the wound extended over the  
right eyebrow to the side of the nose; witness  
sewed the wound up and dressed it, and had  
been attending Thueschmann up to the present  
time; the wound was a very serious one, and  
Thueschmann was still in a precarious condi-  
tion, and complained of severe pains in the  
head. William Thueschmann deposed that he  
knew the accused, who rented a room in his  
house; about 8 o'clock on Thursday evening,  
22nd instant, while passing out into  
the yard at the rear of his building,  
he received a blow on the forehead just  
as he was stepping down off the veranda,  
and on turning round he received another blow  
over the eye with a piece of firewood  
by the prisoner, who held the wood in her two  
hands; when she struck him the second time  
the accused said, "You will get it now;" after  
receiving the second blow he fell back on the  
ground, and was carried into his house by his  
wife and daughter; he was subsequently taken  
to Dr. Lyons, who dressed his wounds; the  
only reason he could suggest for the accused  
having assaulted him was that on the 19th instant  
he reported her to Inspector Marlow for cruelty  
to three puppies; recently his wife sum-  
moned the accused for making use of obscene  
language, but the case was dismissed. Sophia  
Thueschmann and Mrs. Thueschmann corro-  
borated the previous witness's evidence, after

**CUTTING AND WOUNDING.**—Osie Gunder-  
son was charged with having, on the 22nd in-  
stant, seriously assaulted one William Thuesch-  
mann. Sub-inspector Graham prosecuted, and  
Mr. Porter appeared for the accused. The  
evidence for the prosecution having been read  
over to the prisoner, she was fully committed  
to take her trial at the next Criminal Sittings  
of the Supreme Court, commencing on Monday,  
23rd instant. Bail was allowed, accused's hus-  
band in £80, and one surety in £80.

City Police Court, *Brisbane Courier*  
7 Nov 1885



# Where & How to find CPS records?

- ▶ State Archives (original records)
- ▶ Newspapers (clues and details)
- ▶ Police Gazettes (clues and details)
- ▶ Subscription Databases



# Indexes and Finding Aids

- ▶ Newspapers
- ▶ Police gazettes
- ▶ Brief guides, fact sheets
- ▶ Portal websites





At the Caboolture Court of Petty Sessions on Tuesday, 1st instant, before the police-magistrate and Messrs. M. Battersby and J. A. Bourke, J.J.P., the following cases were disposed of:—  
J. D. Mellor v. M. M. Halloran, detention of property, £20. Verdict for plaintiff; all goods in possession of defendant to be returned to plaintiff, with 5s. costs of court. Francis Jolly v. Michael Stapleton, £3 17s. 10d.; verdict for plaintiff, £1 16s. 7d., with 7s. 6d. costs. J. T. White and Co. v. Philip Fritz, dishonoured promissory-note, £18 5s. 6d.; no appearance of defendant; verdict for plaintiff with 5s. costs. Thomas Ryan, charged by the police with making a disturbance in a public place, was fined 5s., and on another charge of obscene language was fined 10s. The fines were paid. Timothy Broderick, for obscene language, was fined 10s. Crown Lands Ranger v. John Harrison, illegally cutting timber on Crown lands; fined £5, or six hours in the cells. David O'Sullivan sued Robert Campbell under the Master and Servants Act for £3 wages. After hearing the evidence of plaintiff and one witness and the statement of defendant the case was adjourned for fourteen

Just a typical day:

- Detention of property
- dishonoured promissory note
- public disturbance
- obscene language
- illegally cutting timber on Crown lands
- unpaid wages
- sly grog selling

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

*The Queenslander*  
12 April 1890  
via Trove





Researching the archives

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researchers

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1983Justices of the  
Peace 1857-1922Naturalisations  
1851-1904Trustee files 1889-  
1929[Queensland State Archives](#) > [Researching the archives](#) > [Indexes](#) > Courts

## Courts

Entries in the indexes provide peoples 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.

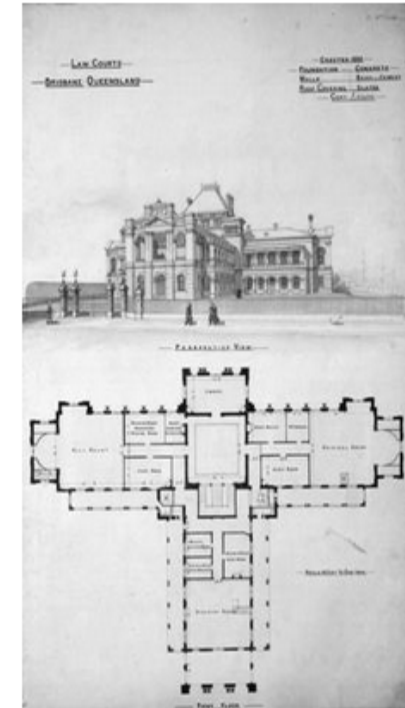
Copies of individual entries can be ordered, with details of costs provided on individual index pages. These prices apply to website and postal orders only. All prices are in Australian dollars, and include GST, postage and handling.

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

- [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,  
Digital Image ID 2576,  
architectural plan of the Law

### Indexes available under Open Data initiative

The indexes to Criminal depositions 1861-1885 are now available through the Queensland Government's [Open Data](#) initiative. The [Open Data indexes](#) are available in .csv and .txt format.

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





# Court records

## Brief guide 22 | Queensland State Archives

This brief guide gives an overview of the structure of the courts of Queensland. Queensland State Archives (QSA) holds archived series of records created by the courts. The QSA references to these records are in [ArchivesSearch](#) (the QSA catalogue).

### Supreme Court

Criminal and civil sittings of the New South Wales Supreme Court on circuit were held in Brisbane from 1850 to 1856. In 1857 a Resident Judge to Moreton Bay was appointed. The Supreme Court was established under the *Supreme Court Constitution Amendment Act 1861*. Initially, the Court held jurisdiction over all of Queensland. However, the Court was later divided into three districts, each delineating these Supreme Court districts is available in the Public Search Room at the State Archives, established in the following districts:

- Northern – Bowen in 1875, transferred to Townsville in 1889
- Central – Rockhampton in 1896
- Southern – Brisbane in 1857
- Cairns Registry – 1 September 1997

### Court of Petty Sessions, 1844 - 1965

Courts of Petty Sessions (CPS) were in existence at the time of Separation from the Colony of New South Wales in 1859. The Court held original jurisdiction in minor criminal offences with right of appeal to the District Court. From 1867 the Court could sit as a Small Debts Court, whose functions are described below. The Court could sit as a Police Court and, during the twentieth century, was also the place where a number of other types of court hearings were held such as the Licensing Court, Children's Court, and Coroners Court.

The Clerk of the Court of Petty Sessions often acted as agent for State and Federal Government Departments on matters unrelated to the justice system. It is not unusual to find records received from a particular Clerk of the Court of Petty Sessions about non judicial matters.

CPS records at Queensland State Archives date from 1844 however, not all districts are represented. QSA holdings vary in quantity and content. Under the *Justices Act Amendment Act 1964* the courts known as Courts of Petty Sessions were renamed Magistrates Courts (see below).

The records of the Courts of Petty Sessions include:

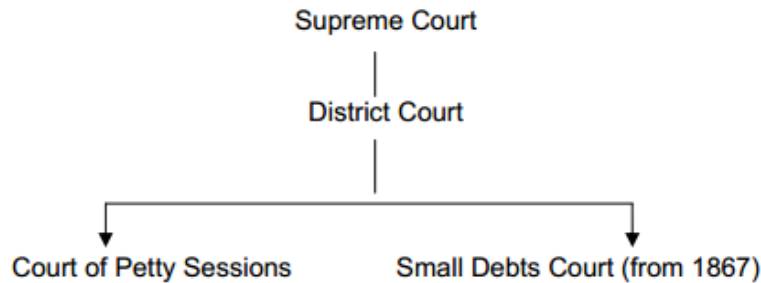
- Aborigines - records of the Protector of Aborigines
- bills of sale
- depositions in criminal and civil matters
- electoral rolls
- issuing of licenses, e.g., hotel, club, billiard, tobacconist, slaughterhouse, timber felling, auctioneer
- lease of Crown land
- Magisterial inquiries (inquests)
- maintenance case files
- minutes of proceedings in various Courts held in the CPS
- registration of firms
- registration of aliens
- unemployment benefits
- writs

[www.archives.qld.gov.au/Researchers/CollectionsDownloads/Documents/BG22Court.pdf](http://www.archives.qld.gov.au/Researchers/CollectionsDownloads/Documents/BG22Court.pdf)

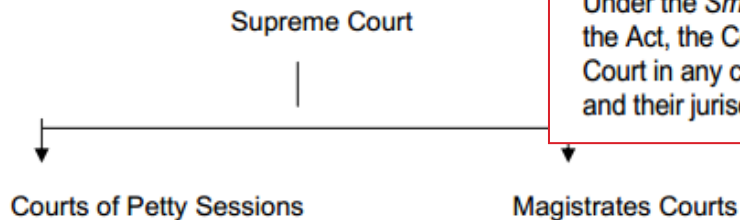


# QSA Brief Guide 22 Court Records

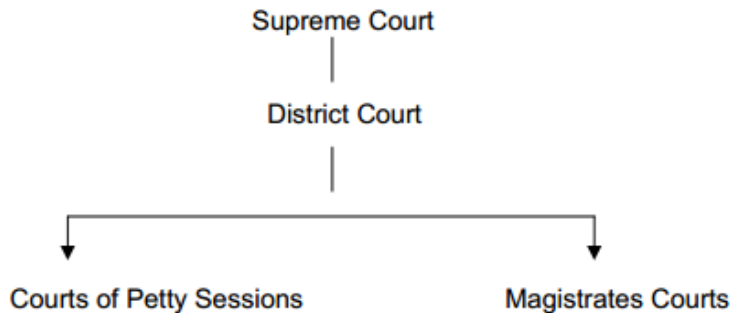
## Court Structure, 1858 - 1922



## Court Structure, 1922 - 1959



## Court Structure, 1959 - 1965



### Small Debts Court, 1867 - 1921

Under the *Small Debts Act 1867*, the Court of Petty Sessions could sit as a Small Debts Court. Under the Act, the Court held original civil jurisdiction for claims up to £50, with right of appeal to the District Court in any civil matter involving the sum of £10 or over. Small Debts Courts were abolished in 1922 and their jurisdiction passed to the newly formed Magistrates Court.

- **Children's Court** - set up in 1907 to deal with matters and offences about children under 17 years of age, e.g. applications for care and control, simple offences.
- **Industrial Magistrates Court** - set up in 1915 under the Queensland *Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act* to arbitrate in industrial matters. Appeals went to the Queensland Industrial Court. The Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Commission took over most of the arbitrator functions of the Industrial Court in 1961.
- **Coroners Court** - set up to inquire into certain types of death e.g. violent, sudden or unnatural death, death in prison or mental hospital and later, for disappearances. Inquests are also held in cases of fires and mining accidents.
- **Licensing Court** - set up in 1912 for the issuing of licenses including liquor, victuallers, billiards, bagatelle. In 1935 control of liquor licenses was assumed by the Licensing Commission. Further information on liquor licenses in [Brief Guide 14: Hotel Records](#).

Other judicial or quasi-judicial bodies include Fair Rents Court, Land Court, Local Government Court, Mining Wardens Court, Valuations Court





## Description

### ESTABLISHMENT:

Under the First and Second Charters of Justice (proclaimed in 1787 and 1814 respectively under the authority of Imperial Act 27 George III) justices of the peace appointed by the Governor were granted summary jurisdiction to hear petty criminal matters in the first instance without a jury.

The powers of justices of the peace and of police magistrates to sit as petty sessions were ultimately codified in the New South Wales Acts of 1835 (2 Victoria 2) and of 1850 (14 Victoria 43). This latter New South Wales Act ultimately formed the basis of the Queensland "Justices Act of 1886", which legislated for the appointment by the Governor in Council of districts for the holding of courts of petty sessions. The Court of Petty Sessions, Forsyth was proclaimed by the Governor in Council on 28 July 1911.

Under the "Justices Act Amendment Act 1964", from 1 January 1965 onwards: all courts of petty sessions districts were deemed to be magistrates courts districts, all places previously appointed for the holding of courts of petty sessions were deemed to be places for the holding of magistrates courts, all clerks of petty sessions were deemed to be registrars of magistrates courts.

### FUNCTIONS

Under a number of further Acts, the establishment of a place for the holding of a court of petty sessions was deemed to establish a number of further courts, for example, magistrates courts, fair rents courts, small debts courts. This agency definition will however be concerned purely with the court of petty sessions sitting as this court.

Courts of petty sessions had petty criminal jurisdiction and jurisdiction for summary actions of ejectment between lessors and lessees. Petty criminal jurisdiction is a complicated matter of law involving numerous Commonwealth and State statutes but can be briefly described as jurisdiction over summary trials of simple offences and committal proceedings for indictable offences sent to the Supreme Court.

In practice, if not in statute, courts of petty sessions were divided into three courts: police court (prosecutions commenced by police), summons court (prosecutions and proceedings for ejectment commenced by private prosecutors) and traffic court.

### PORTFOLIO CONTROLLING:

Attorney General 29 Jul 1911 - 22 Oct 1919

Minister of Justice 22 Oct 1919 - 7 Apr 1920

Attorney General 7 Apr 1920 - 14 Nov 1957

Minister for Justice and Attorney General 14 Nov 1957 - 31 Dec 1964

### NOTE:

Magistrates Courts were already in existence when Courts of Petty Sessions ceased to operate in 1964 and they took over most of the functions formerly carried out by the Petty Sessions Courts.

## Basic agency description, Queensland State Archives





## Quarter Sessions Cases 1824 to 1837



Not digitised

[Search the Index](#)

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



Subjects:

Courts

Indexes

Quarter Sessions

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## Quarter Sessions Guide

The Quarter Sessions was a circuit court and met three times a year at each location. It composed of two or more magistrates, presided over by an elected Chairman who served the entire colony. The Quarter Sessions court was an intermediate court with greater powers than the local court or bench but not as great as the Supreme Court. It could hear all crimes and misdemeanours where the crime was not punishable by death



Subjects:

Quarter Sessions

Courts

Crime



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Bench of Magistrates Index

Criminal Court Records Index

Criminal Depositions (Deposition Books)  
Index

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Search the Index >>

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## Overview

The case papers are numbered and arranged chronologically and usually include the name of the of the person tried, date, place, verdict and sentence for the years 1824-37. They generally contain the indictment which gives a statement of the crime and circumstances.

Depositions are often included, which are the sworn statements of the accused and/or witness(es) which were given before the police or magistrates.

- Record series in the index: **NRS 845** (part)
- Entries in the index: 6,000+



## A note about the index

The Index contains entries for the following areas:

- Bathurst Nov 1832-Aug 1836
- Campbelltown Jul 1828-Aug 1836
- Liverpool Nov 1824-Jan 1828
- Maitland Feb 1830-May 1836
- Newcastle Aug 1826-Feb 1829
- Parramatta Feb 1825-Aug 1836
- Sydney Nov 1824-Jul 1837
- Windsor Nov 1824-Aug 1836

[www.records.nsw.gov.au/archives/collections-and-research/guides-and-indexes/quarter-sessions-cases](http://www.records.nsw.gov.au/archives/collections-and-research/guides-and-indexes/quarter-sessions-cases)



# Criminal Depositions (Deposition Books) Index

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A note about the index

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[Bench of Magistrates Index](#)

[Criminal Court Records Index](#)

[Gaol Inmates / Prisoners Photos Index](#)

## Search the Index >>

Includes criminal actions at country area Quarter Sessions relating to cases of a non-capital nature etc. The Index records: registration number, name of defendant, place and date of committal, offence and where committed for trial for the period 1849-1949.

- Record series in the index: **NRS 849**
- Entries in the index: 65,800+

## A note about the index

The column "Alleged Offence" is the offence for which the person was charged. Researchers need to check additional court records (where they survive) to determine the outcome of a trial and whether the person was found guilty or not guilty. Further research may also be carried out using gaol records if the individual served a prison sentence.

[www.records.nsw.gov.au/archives/collections-and-research/guides-and-indexes/criminal-depositions-deposition-books-index](http://www.records.nsw.gov.au/archives/collections-and-research/guides-and-indexes/criminal-depositions-deposition-books-index)



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## Court Records



Public Record Office Victoria holds the records of many Courts. The most commonly accessed court records are:-

- Supreme Court of Victoria (VA 25490) 1852-current
- Registrar of Probates (VA 2620) 1960-current
- Master in Equity, Supreme Court (VA 2624)

1852-1948

- County Court (VA 686) 1852-current
- Court of Insolvency, Melbourne (VA 2304) 1871-1928
- Licensing Court of Victoria (VA 2955) 1917-1954
- Children's Court (VA 4597) by 1942-current
- Melbourne Children's Court (VA 4190) 1907-current
- Coroners Courts (VA 2263) 1840-1986

\*Many of these records will be subject to closure under S9 of the Public Record Act 1973.

There are also other types of court records held by PROV and the most valuable of these to researchers are:- Divorce records, Wills and Probation Administration Files and Civil Court Records.

PROV also holds the records for many courts in various localities throughout

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## Online Indexes



### Index to Court of Petty Sessions Register of Applications for Victorian old-age pension, North Melbourne 1902-c.1908

[BACK TO >](#)  
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*Search this index to find people who applied for the old age pension in North Melbourne between 1902 and 1908.*

 [Need some help?](#)

Family Name:


Given Name:

Street Address:

Number of Records  
to display:

(Max. 5000)

☐ Advanced Search 

**Search**

**Next steps:** Search this index to find people who applied for the old age pension in North Melbourne between 1902 and 1908.

**Related record series and information:**  
VPRS 13353

<http://prov.vic.gov.au>





Search for Research Data



Advanced Search

Browse by Subject Area



Browse by Map Coverage



Home / Public Record Office Victoria / Collection

# Court of Petty Sessions Index to Convictions



## How to Use this Index to Convictions

If you already know the date, or the approximate date, on which a petty sessions criminal case was heard you do not need to look at this index. Consult the series information for the Court of Petty Sessions/Magistrates' Court Registers, or, if the case involved an infringement of a Commonwealth Act or the defendant usually resided in another state, consult the series information for the Court of Petty Sessions/Magistrates' Court Commonwealth Register.

If you do not know the date on which a petty sessions criminal case was heard this index may help you if the person was convicted of the charge. The index does not include references to cases where the person was not convicted. Look for the surname of the person convicted under the appropriate alphabetical section. You may need to look through the whole alphabetical section to find the entry you are looking for. Make a note of the date of the conviction and, if given, the

## Data Access

<http://www.access.prov.vic.go...>

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<http://prov.vic.gov.au/provguide-25>

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Victorian Archives Centre

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Queensland State Archives ✕

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This index was compiled from a selection of registers recording immigrant arrivals at various Queensland ports, as created by the Immigration Department for the period 1882 to...

CSV

### Mackay Hospital admissions 1891 to 1908

3 recent views 26 total views

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medical care (4)

<https://data.qld.gov.au/dataset?tags=Queensland+State+Archives>





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[ARCHITECTURAL RECORDS](#)  
[BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES](#)  
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[PASSENGER LISTS AND IMMIGRATION RECORDS](#)  
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[PREMIER, CABINET AND PARLIAMENTARY RECORDS](#)

## COURT RECORDS

A significant component of the State Records Office collection is comprised of records created by the various Western Australian legal courts. The State Records Office holds court records from:

- The Supreme Court of WA
- Resident Magistrates
- Other Courthouses - over 100 courthouses located throughout the metropolitan and country areas of Western Australia. These include Police Courts, Local Courts, Licensing Courts, Coroners' Courts and Children's Courts.

## Supreme Court of WA

The records of the Supreme Court of Western Australia are the most extensive collection of court records held by the State Records Office. These are among the most important documents extant in Western Australia, constituting the foundation of the State's legal system and providing a unique source of information on the social, political and economic development of the State. The records date from the cradle days of the Colony





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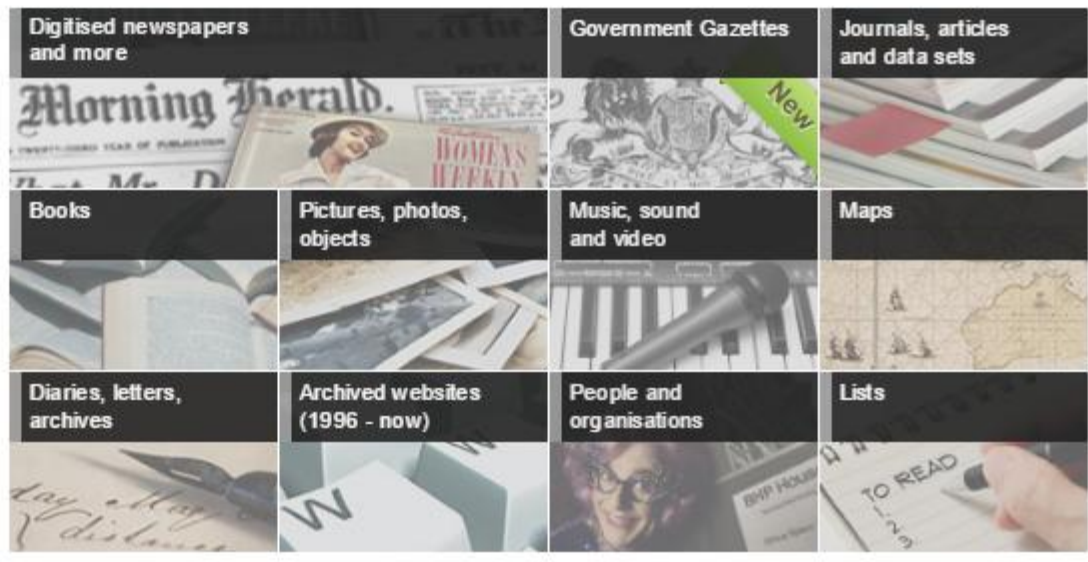
## News

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	<a href="#">Northern Territory Parliamentary Index</a>	Institutions & organisations	Government
	<a href="#">Old Age Pension Applicants 1908-1909</a>	Institutions & organisations	Government
	<a href="#">Victoria Parliamentary Papers</a>	Institutions & organisations	Government
	<a href="#">New South Wales Police Gazette</a>	Institutions & organisations	Courts & legal
	<a href="#">Queensland Criminal Reports</a>	Institutions & organisations	Courts & legal
	<a href="#">Queensland Police Gazette</a>	Institutions & organisations	Courts & legal
	<a href="#">South Australian Police Gazette</a>	Institutions & organisations	Courts & legal
	<a href="#">Tasmania Reports Of Crime</a>	Institutions & organisations	Courts & legal
	<a href="#">Victoria Police Gazette</a>	Institutions & organisations	Courts & legal



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	<a href="#">South Australia Reports Of Crime</a>	Institutions & organisations	Courts & legal
	<a href="#">South Australia Destitute Women 1855-1860</a>	Institutions & organisations	Government
	<a href="#">Wallangarra Quarantine Admission Registers 1918-1919</a>	Institutions & organisations	Hospitals
	<a href="#">South Australia Civic Record</a>	Institutions & organisations	Government
	<a href="#">Tasmania Police Gazettes</a>	Institutions & organisations	Courts & legal
	<a href="#">Victoria Police Gazettes</a>	Institutions & organisations	Courts & legal
	<a href="#">New Zealand Jury Rolls</a>	Institutions & organisations	Courts & legal
	<a href="#">New Zealand Pensions Granted 1868</a>	Institutions & organisations	Government
	<a href="#">New Zealand Prisoners Pardoned 1860-1862</a>	Institutions & organisations	Government
	<a href="#">Queensland Court Records</a>	Institutions & organisations	Courts & legal
	<a href="#">Queensland Licences</a>	Institutions & organisations	Courts & legal
	<a href="#">Queensland Police Gazettes</a>	Institutions & organisations	Courts & legal
	<a href="#">Queensland Unclaimed Letters</a>	Institutions & organisations	Postal service





## Results for Australia &amp; New Zealand records

## Your search criteria

John

First Name

Carnegie

Last Name

1837

Year Of Birth



Edit search

New search

Australia & New  
Zealand ▼

All Categories

Armed Forces &amp; Conflict (0)

196 results

Order by Relevance ▼

Who

When

Where

Last name

First name

Born

Died

Event

Record set

Location

Carnegie

John

—

—

1859

Victoria  
Marriages 1836-  
1942

Victoria, Australia



Carnegie

John

—

—

1861

Victoria  
government  
gazettes

Victoria, Australia



Carnegie

John

—

—

1861

Victoria  
government  
gazettes

Victoria, Australia



Carnegie

John

—

—

1865

Queensland  
police gazettes

Queensland, Australia



Carnegie

John

—

—

1869

Queensland  
police gazettes

Queensland, Australia



Carnegie

John

—

—

1873

Queensland  
unclaimed letters

Queensland, Australia







# Queensland Police Gazette Index 1864-1874 Transcription

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First name(s)	John
Last name	Carnegie
Year	1869
Date	6 October 1869
Topic	Prisoner discharged from Her Majesty's Gaol, Brisbane during the month of September 1869; native of Scotland
Volume	VI
Page	71
State	Queensland
Country	Australia
Record set	Queensland police gazettes
Category	Institutions & organisations
Subcategory	Courts & legal
Collections from	Australia & New Zealand

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# Card Catalogue

Searchable listing of all record collections

Title

Keyword(s)

Search

or Clear All









☒ Only records from Australia

Filter By Collection

Census & Voter Lists	3
Birth, Marriage & Death	4
Immigration & Travel	15
Newspapers & Publications	3
Stories, Memories & Histories	4
Maps, Atlases & Gazetteers	1
Schools, Directories & Church Histories	6

Results 1-25 of 50

Sort By Popularity ▾

Title	Collection	Records	Activity
 New South Wales, Australia, Police Gazettes, 1854-1930	Convict, Criminal, Land & Wills	1,504,131	
 New South Wales, Australia, Gaol Description and Entrance Books, 1818-1930	Convict, Criminal, Land & Wills	985,082	
 New South Wales and Tasmania, Australia Convict Musters, 1806-1849	Convict, Criminal, Land & Wills	277,066	
 Australian Convict Transportation Registers – Other Fleets & Ships, 1791-1868	Immigration & Travel	122,459	
 New South Wales, Australia, Government Gazettes, 1853-1899	Convict, Criminal, Land & Wills	632,812	
 New South Wales, Australia, Registers of Coroners' Inquests, 1821-1937	Convict, Criminal, Land & Wills	218,764	
 New South Wales, Australia, Index to Deceased Estate Files, 1923-1958	Convict, Criminal, Land & Wills	445,416	
 New South Wales, Australia, Convict Indents, 1788-1842	Convict, Criminal, Land & Wills	140,175	

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





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## The Police Gazette of Western Australia

The Police Gazette of Western Australia (1876 onwards) is a valuable resource for researching police and criminals in Western Australia.

Information can be found under various headings: apprehensions (name of person arrested, arresting constable, charge and sentence); police appointments, dismissals, discharges, promotions, resignations and transfers; tickets of leave, certificates of freedom, and conditional pardons issued to convicts; physical descriptions of prisoners (name, condition, build, age, height, hair and eye colour, visage, complexion, trade, nationality and distinguishing marks); deserters from military service; escaped prisoners; expirees leaving the colony; inquests (where held, date, before whom, name and date of death of person, verdict); licences (publican, gallon, eating, boarding and lodging houses, railway refreshment rooms, wine and beer, colonial wine, spirit merchants, club, wayside house, packet and billiard table - name of licensee, name of hotel etc and town or district given); missing friends; prisoners discharged; people tried at Quarter Sessions (name, offence, district, verdict, how disposed of); special inquiries; stealing in dwellings; and warrants issued.

With thanks to the Friends of Battye Library and the Sholl Bequest, the Police Gazettes 1876-1900 have been digitised and are fully text searchable.

### Indexes

Indexes were compiled for each year of the gazette under the headings noted above. Usually under each heading you will find the name of a person with the



[www.slwa.wa.gov.au/find/eresources/police\\_gazettes](http://www.slwa.wa.gov.au/find/eresources/police_gazettes)







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- [India and Sri Lanka \(Ceylon\)](#)
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- [New Zealand](#)
- [Newspapers](#)
- [Occupations](#)
- [Other countries](#)
- [Pictures and images](#)
- [Probate and will records](#)

## ► Criminal and court records

- [New South Wales \(4\)](#)
- [Queensland \(2\)](#)
- [South Australia \(1\)](#)
- [Tasmania \(3\)](#)
- [Victoria \(3\)](#)
- [Western Australia \(1\)](#)

### 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 searchable. Information can be found under various headings: apprehensions; police ... [more](#)

### Judy Webster's Genealogy Indexes & Advice

This site has 53,000+ names of local, interstate and overseas persons mentioned in records in Queensland, Australia. There is also 135+ pages of advice and indexes original records held by Queensland ... [more](#)

### Linc Tasmania - Family History

This site is designed to explore Tasmanian ancestry using the following categories: Aboriginal Ancestry; Arrival or departure; Birth, death or marriage; Convict life; Education; Work; Home; Life as a ... [more](#)

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



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## [Criminal and court records](#) ► [Tasmania](#)

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### [Linc Tasmania - Family History](#) ►

This site is designed to explore Tasmanian ancestry using the following categories: Aboriginal Ancestry; Arrival or departure; Birth, death or marriage; Convict life; Education; Work; Home; Life as a ... [more](#)

### [Decisions of the Nineteenth Century Tasmanian Superior Courts](#) ►

Currently decisions 1824-1843 are available. Subject and case indexes are available plus an index to legal cases in Tasmanian newspapers. [more](#)

Showing items 1 - 3 of 3

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



### To find a Court of Petty Sessions:

- search [ArchivesSearch](#) (the Queensland State Archives catalogue)
- select the exact phrase option from the Using picklist
- type the court name in the search for field, e.g., Court of Petty Sessions Nanango
- click the Search button, and view the results

QSA  
BG22

## Archives Search - Basic Search

To search, enter a word, phrase or Previous System location number in the box below. Further information can be found in the [ArchivesSearch Help Guide](#).

### Enter Search Criteria

Search for

[Search Help](#)

Using

Choose to match: all of the words ('and' search)  
any of the words ('all' search)  
the exact phrase

Sort results by

Sort the results by title, ID number or date

Display  results on each page.

Choose to see 5, 10, 20 or 30 records per page





## Search Result Summary

Results grouped by category. Click 'View Results' to see each set of records.

## Search Results Summary

	Category	Matches
<a href="#">View Results</a>	Agencies	2
<a href="#">View Results</a>	Series	1
<a href="#">View Results</a>	Items	0

## Agency Search Results

Click on the required Agency title/abstract to view its details and see a list of Series.

## Matching Agencies

Agency ID	Title / Abstract	Start Date	End Date
663	<a href="#">Court of Petty Sessions, Beenleigh</a> Held original jurisdiction in minor criminal cases.	1/7/1869	31/12/1964
2330	<a href="#">Magistrates Court, Beenleigh</a> The Magistrates Court is the local court where all criminal and many civil cases first enter the court system.	3/4/1922	Current

## Series Search Results

Click on the required Series title/abstract to view its details and see a list of Items.

## Matching Series

Series ID	Title / Abstract	Start Date	End Date
11025	<a href="#">Deposition and Minute Books</a> Particulars of cases heard in the Court of Petty Sessions, Beenleigh	1/1/1871	31/12/1910

## Agency Details



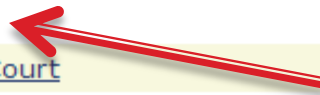
Click on the series title to view series details.

Agency ID	663
Title	<b>Court of Petty Sessions, Beenleigh</b>
Agency Type	Magistrates Court
Start Date	1/7/1869
End Date	31/12/1964
Date Notes	N/A
Abstract	Held original jurisdiction in minor criminal cases. <a href="#">Go to Description...</a>

## Series

[\[hide\]](#)

Series ID	Title	From	To
11021	<a href="#">Record Book of Small Debt Cases</a>	1/1/1871	30/6/1881
11025	<a href="#">Deposition and Minute Books</a>	1/1/1871	31/12/1910
11026	<a href="#">Judgment Book, Small Debts Court</a>	1/6/1885	30/4/1901
11023	<a href="#">Plaint Book of Small Debts Court</a>	1/6/1885	31/3/1915
7663	<a href="#">Bench Record and Summons Books</a>	4/2/1911	27/3/1958
7668	<a href="#">Record of Liquor Licence Applications</a>	25/11/1935	24/3/1943
7667	<a href="#">Registers of Liquor Licences and Licensed Premises</a>	25/11/1935	31/12/1964
7664	<a href="#">Register of Tobacconists' Licences</a>	1/1/1938	31/12/1950



## Police Watchhouse records, Queensland

### People Arrested and Victims of Crime

Receive email when this page changes (private & spam-free, powered by ChangeDetection)

These records at Qld State Archives are useful for genealogy, especially if you are researching the **'black sheep' of the family** or someone who committed a very minor offence or was a **victim of crime**.

Police Station watchhouse charge books and Court of Petty Sessions police charge bench books often provide **clues to sources for further research** (Court, prison and mental asylum records, criminal depositions, murder files, Police Gazettes and other police records, etc.) Although the registers vary in format, most give **date, town, prisoner's name, aliases, age, occupation, religion, state or country of origin, education level, offence, and how disposed of** (fine or term of imprisonment, or whether sent to a reformatory, asylum etc. or discharged, cautioned, or committed for trial at which court and when). Some show **previous convictions** and **prisoner's signature and property**, and on rare occasions a **physical description**. Some **victims of crime** are named. There are occasional references to **illegitimate children** (I have seen one listing names, addresses and occupations of the child's mother, maternal grandparents and putative father).

**Offences** include theft, drunk and disorderly, breaking and entering, child (or wife) desertion, having no visible lawful means of support, attempted suicide, being of unsound mind, inciting to riot, beating a horse, assault, murder, supplying opium to an Aboriginal, and being a neglected child. **Children** appear in the records as both offenders and victims.

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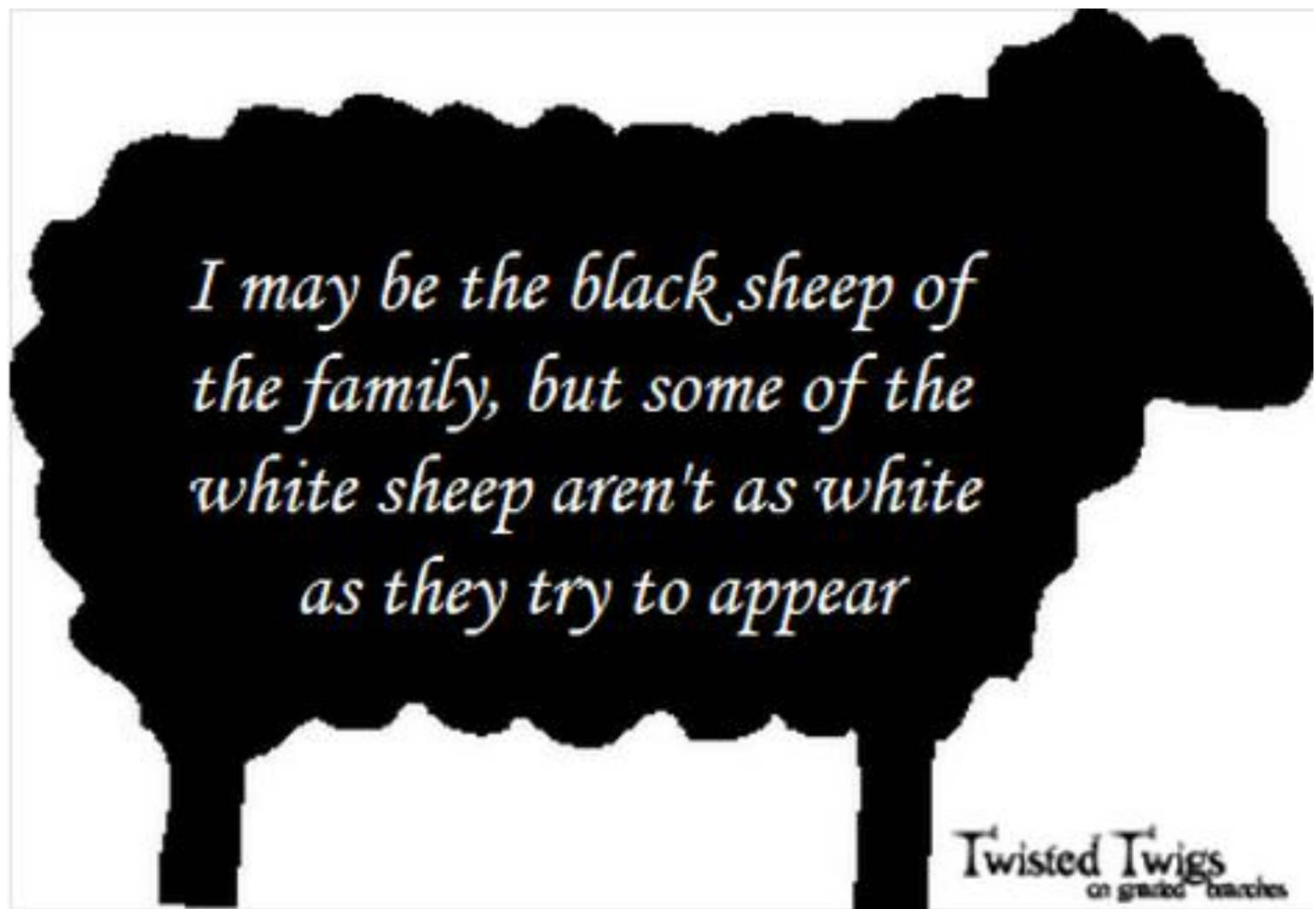
**Pre-1900 watchhouse records are known to exist for these towns** (there may be others). Links open in a new window.

- 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

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

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). I published the index, and [names are online](#).





[www.facebook.com/pages/Twisted-Twigs-On-Gnarled-Branches-Genealogy/269836083081714](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Twisted-Twigs-On-Gnarled-Branches-Genealogy/269836083081714)



# Conclusion

- ▶ Ancestors could be either criminal or victim
- ▶ Prepare to be shocked (or don't look!)
- ▶ Remember the context of the times in which they lived
- ▶ Lots of ways to find the records – think laterally
- ▶ Have fun and happy searching

