GEORGE PAUL 1820 - 1884 VAN DIEMEN'S LAND CONVICT FROM MARSHWOOD DORSET

Researched by David Bartonⁱ



(L) Looking across Marshwood Vale by Thomas Girtin (1775-1802)

1. GEORGE PAUL IN DORSET 1820 -1844

THE PAUL FAMILY IN SHAVE CROSS MARSHWOOD DORSET

George Paul grew up in Shave Cross, Marshwood Dorsetⁱⁱ. His parents Joseph Paul (1785 -1867) and

Elizabeth 'Betty' Cooke (1786 -1879) baptised George in the parish church of St Mary's in Netherburyⁱⁱⁱ a 9 miles distant from Marshwood on the 5 November 1820. Both parents, unable to write, left their *X* mark in the parish register.

Three related Paul households lived in Shave Cross a small hamlet of farms and cottages centred around the Shave Cross Inn. The families were:

- *George's parents* JOSEPH PAUL and Elizabeth Betty Paul nee Cooke and his siblings William; Sarah; Job; Hannah and James.
- *George's Uncle* AARON PAUL *the elder* a Master Shoemaker, his 1st wife Sarah Paul nee Slade and then from 1830 his 2nd wife Betty Paul nee Perrott. ^{iv}
- George's cousin AARON PAUL junior, the son of Aaron Paul the elder, a farm labourer at Broad Orchard Farm, a dairy farm of 109 acres, with his wife Mary Ann Paul nee Hallett.^v

MARSHWOOD AND ITS INHABITANTS

In the 1841 Census the Marshwood population was around 480 persons, the majority of them working on farms.

1841 Census transcribed by Ron Adams for the OPC Project opcdorset.org

MARSHWOOD HOUSEHOLDERS AND THEIR OCCUPATIONS - does not include actual living in each household:

Farmers (28); Agricultural labourers (60); Shoemakers (5); Thatchers (4); Shopkeepers (2); Carpenters (4); Dairymen (4); Blacksmiths (2); Paupers (2); Dairywoman (1); Mason (1); Military (1); Nurse (1); Publican (1); Schoolmaster (1); Washer (1); Wheelwright (1)

Farmers in Marshwood hired married agricultural labourers with families living in rented cottages as well as other single young men and women as farm servants giving them board and lodgings in the farmhouse or outbuildings. Single women servants were paid about £2 10s a year. All farm servants had to find their own clothing^{vi}

Marshwood Vale was largely pastoral and the farms were described as:

Dorset County Chronicle Thurs 3 Nov 1825

Desirable Corn and Dairy Farms situate in the fertile vale of Marshwood

(R) A ploughman guides his plough across a field helped by a boy.W. Graig 1834 Source: welcomecollection.org

To survive, George's parents would labour well into their old age^{vii}. His father Joseph, paid day wages with few if any work rights, lived in a cottage which he rented. In a good year, he could earn £15 and his employment was both casual and seasonal^{viii}. Joseph's wife and children, needed to work to provide a third of his household income.

As a small boy George helped in the fields to drive small birds from the turnip seed and rooks from the grains and as a teenager was hired out as a servant to farmers who in return gave him food and lodging. It was not unusual for George to work long hours and any payment he received was a mere pittance and probably not as much as he thought he deserved.



In the 1841 Census ,George aged 20 years, is a farm servant lodging at Top House, a property of 40 acres.^{ix}. His work involved him ploughing, harrowing, sowing seed, tending and weeding a variety of crops, harvesting with scythe, sickle and spade, working with animals, herding cows and milking and maintaining farm equipment.



PAUL FAMILY THE DORCHESTER COUNTY GAOL AND HOUSE OF CORRECTION

(Above) The Dorset County Gaol built in 1793. Illustration by Hutchins Dorset County Council

From 1830 -1844 four members of George's family were incarcerated in the Dorchester County Gaol.^x When he was 10 years old his father went to prison for one week.

Joseph Paul aged 44 Labourer Marshwood Married. *Stealing reed*. Hard labour one week. 22 March 1830



Dorset County Chronicle Thurs 15 April 1830 pg. 4 Joseph Paul, charged with stealing two bundles of reeds the property of John Tucker of Symondsbury [pleaded guilty]. Hard labour one week ^{xi}

William Paul aged 33, Marshwood Labourer Single (George's eldest brother) George Paul aged 21, Marshwood Labourer Single Both convicted of *Stealing a Turkey* 3 calendar months hard labour. 15 June 1843

Sherborne Mercury Sat 1 July 1843

William Paul and George Paul for stealing a hen turkey, three months each with hard labour

Job Paul (George's 2nd eldest brother) aged 24 Marshwood Labourer Single. *Assault* 14 days prison. 1 March 1843

de de 504 Job. Paul 24 Marshwood Laborer. Singter - Sloy log apault-

George Paul aged 23 Labourer. 3 charges. 31 December 1844.

Received in Dorchester Gaol 7 Nov 1844.

George Paul is described in the Dorchester prison register as being :

5 ft 2¾ inches; dark brown hair; dark grey eyes. Marks – a cut over the left corner right eye brow; a cut in the middle of top lip; both little fingers x bent

Inside Dorchester gaol there was a Chapel, infirmary, gaol keeper's house, and single cell accommodation for the different categories of prisoner: females, debtors, felons, convicts, condemned. The gaol was run on two principles of industry and reflection. Firstly, the prisoners were encouraged to work and allowed to earn a small wage from the proceeds of their industry. Secondly the solitude of their cells would cause them to reflect on their crimes *to restore them to society in an improved state*^{xii}.

MARSHWOOD PARISH AND LAWBREAKING

Source: historyhome.co.uk

Between 1824 and 1830, rural crime rates increased by 30% - mainly poaching and food thefts. Pauperism, desperation and discontent were almost universal in agricultural areas.

It is not unusual to find names of Marshwood labourers in the Dorchester Prison Admission Registers e.g., Thomas Lane (24) hard labour for 3 months for stealing apples; George Furzy (21) poaching; George Champ (65) stealing leather; Aaron Richards (32) hard labour for 21 days for misbehaviour in a workhouse; William Gudge (28) stealing seed and later transported for stealing a pick axe; William Record (54) hard labour one month for trespassing; John Bradford (26) for stealing a leather bridle; John Sperle (22) for stealing a jacket. Sarah Hallett, an agricultural labourer's daughter aged 12 years, served one calendar month hard labour in 1830 for damaging a fir tree.

The Dorset prison entries, 1830 -1845, show that the majority of offences committed were by labourers stealing food and clothing e.g., cabbage plants, potatoes, jackets, shoes, wood, bread, turnip greens, cheese, two cakes etc. ^{xiii}

2. TRANSPORTED BEYOND THE SEAS FOR THE TERM OF TEN YEARS

George's transportation sentence was recorded in the Dorset County Sessions Register and made news in the Dorset County Chronicle.^{xiv} On hearing the judgement George's family, and others living in Shave Cross, would have believed that *beyond the seas for the term of ten years* meant George would never be seen again as the Government would be permanently rid of George - the distance and expense made his return the most distant probability. The Dorset judges and magistrates wholeheartedly supported transportation and the county would provide its share of some 137,000 men and 25,000 women transported to Australia in the 80 years after 1787^{xv}.

Dorset Quarter Sessions Order Book 1836-1845

(R) transcribed Whereas George Paul Convicted before the Court of Felony for which Offence he was sentenced to be transported beyond the seas for the Term of Ten Years. It is therefore in pursuance of an Act of Parliament made and passed in the fifth year of the reign of His Majesty King George the Fourth intituled 'An Act for the

Ditto Whereas George Paul was Couvieked before this Court of Felowy for which Offence he was sentenced to be transported beyond the deas for the George Paul Term of Ten years It is therefore in pursuance of an act of Parliament made and paged in the Ten Years, fifthe years of the Reign of His majesty - King George the Fourth infituled " an act for the Fransportation of Offenders from Great Britain " Ordeced and adjudged by the Court that the said George Faul be transported beyond the skas accordingly for the Term of Fen years to such Place of Places as Her Majesty by and with the advice of Her Frivy_ Conneil may direct /_

Transportation of Offenders from Great Britain' ORDERED and adjudged by the Court that the said George Paul be transported beyond the seas accordingly for the Term of Ten years to such a Place or Places as Her Majesty by and with the advice of Her Privy Council may direct



(L) Brass milk pans of the period Source bing.com

Dorset County ChronicleThurs26 December 1844George Paul, for stealing three brass milking
pans, the property of Robert Cox ofMarshwood, also for stealing one pair of
boots and one piece of leather,
the property of William Smith and Aaron Paul
of Shave Cross.

George was transported for stealing one pair of boots from his uncle Aaron Paul the shoemaker at Shave Cross. William Smith, a farm labourer with 8 children would have paid Aaron more than a week's wages, the sum of 13 shillings, to have his boots made. The one piece of stolen leather came from Aaron's cottage workshop. Robert Cox the owner of the three brass milk pans was a yeoman farmer at Shave Cross farm where other Paul family members would have found work at one time or another.

Dorset County Chronicle Thursday 2 April 1846

[advert describing Robert Cox's Shave Farm] comprising convenient farm house, stable, barn and outbuildings and divers closes of Arable, Meadow and Pasture Land and Orchard

MILLBANK PENITENTIARY WAITING TRANSPORTATION



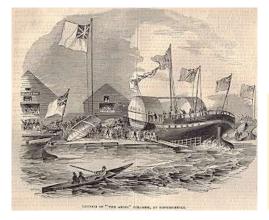
(Above) The Millbank Penitentiary on the River Thames was a holding depot for convicted prisoners waiting transportation to Australia. Picture source criminalgenealogy.blogspot.com

When George's transportation judgement was handed down in Dorchester, he was sent to the Millbank Penitentiary in Westminster London and this was done overnight. ^{xvi} The prison building towered three storeys above the riverbank with prison steps down to the river's edge. Millbank had been converted into a prison depot in 1843 and served as a holding centre for both male and female newly convicted felons, before they were dispatched to the Woolwich docks to board hired convict ships.

George was incarcerated in Millbank for 4 months until his final penal settlement destination was decided. He then, with other prisoners handcuffed in pairs, were taken on one of the Woolwich Company's steam packets, the *Ariel* and *Nymph*, moored alongside the steps of the Milbank Penitentiary, and conveyed down the Thames to Woolwich for transportation to Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania). From the moment the penitentiary gates opened and George filed out would have taken only a few minutes, and have been his last footsteps taken on English soil. None of the prisoners names were read out or given to any bystanders^{xvii}.

Morning Advertiser Tuesday 11 March 1845

A detachment, consisting of 3 serjeants, 3 corporals and 44 rank and file, from the 11th Regiment of Foot marched from their headquarters at the Artillery Barracks Brompton enroute to embark on the convict ship *Theresa*, of 497 tons burden, Captain Bacon master. The ship drops immediately to Woolwich to take convicts. The above detachment under the command of Lieutenant Scott with Assistant Surgeon Grey. Six women and seven children belonging to the troops proceed with the Convict Guard. This regiment expects to furnish another draft shortly



(L) the launching of the paddle steamer *Ariel* 120 tons built in Rotherhithe in 1844 which was used to transport prisoners from Millbank Penitentiary to the Woolwich docks. Source: London Illustrated News

Kentish Gazette Tues 1 April 1845

The Ariel and Nymph Woolwich steam packets on Monday conveyed 110 convicts each, from the Millbank prison in Westminster to the Theresa hire convict ship transport at present moored off the Royal Arsenal Woolwich

3. THE CONVICT SHIP THERESA TO VAN DIEMENS LAND

George Paul (Dorchester) Quarter Bl December 1844 Jen

(L) George Paul's entry in the Australian Convict Registers 1844-45

There were 16,256 convicts landed in Van Diemen's Land between 1841 and 1844. ^{xviii}

In 1845, the year of George's transportation, 18 convict ships arrived in Hobart Town carrying a total of 2,651 convicts^{xix}.

(R) old map Van Diemen's Land. The British first settled here in 1803 Source: Arrowsmith 1825

Aboard the ship *Theresa* for its voyage to Hobart Town were 329 persons of which, <u>220 were</u> <u>convicted prisoners.</u> They were housed *tween decks*, below the waterline and in the semi dark ,since candles were dangerous in wooden boats sealed with tar^{xx}.





(L) Photo of the convict ship *Success* built in 1840. She was of a similar size to the *Theresa*, which was a wooden barque, 497 tons, built in Calcutta in 1834

Source:pittwateronlinenews.com

On board the *Theresa* was Dr Colin A Browning , a medical superintendent employed by the Government who would, make eight voyages to the penal colonies between the years 1831 -1849. Besides his medical role he acted as a chaplain giving spiritual guidance to the convicts through prayer and education lessons.

Browning wrote a letter about his voyage on the *Theresa* to a friend in England in which he mentioned the ship having *thirty-three schools* or groups of prisoners who regularly gathered in classes for literacy training, specifically using Christian literature as the medium of their education.^{xxi} So effective was this schooling that when the ship arrived in Hobart all the prisoners aboard were

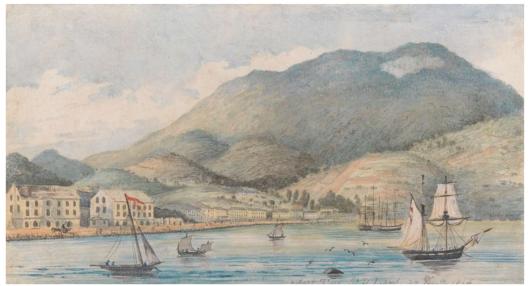
able to read. The men's reading skills were examined, and having passed the exam, they were given Bibles and other books as prizes for their diligent work.

GEORGE PAUL LEARNT TO READ ON THE THERESA

Surgeon Superintendent Records Voyage 250 Convict Department Register Libraries Tasmania Paul George, London Theresa Dorset. Stealing Brass Milk pans from Robert Cox. In Dorchester. Turkey 3 months. Labourer nr Bridport. Surgeons Report: Very Good. Read. Single 24

Dr Browning noted in his report that 220 sets of irons onboard the *Theresa*, as well as other brutal punishments, were never used. *No person was ever given any lashes, nor was a single prisoner required to be placed under the care of a guard.* He went on to write that while experiencing severe weather, with waves breaking over the ship, the men assembled below decks for their daily meetings. *The men would sit tight against each other to keep themselves from being thrown about.* Browning, while reading the lesson and sermon, had to hold on tight with both hands to be able to brace himself while the ship was tossed and rolled about. Repeatedly, the Christian training *was held under such conditions,* with *torrents of water pouring down the hatchways.*

4. ARRIVAL HOBART TOWN 1845



(Above) 1846 Hobart Town by Charles Gold. Source: Yale Centre British Art.

After a 98 day voyage, departing Woolwich on 28 March 1845 the *Theresa* arrived in Van Diemen's Land on 3 July 1845.

Hobart Town Advertiser Tuesday 8 July 1845

ARRIVALS JULY 3 Barque *Theresa*, 494 tons, 4 guns Brown master from London 1 April with 220 male prisoners. Passengers F. A. Browning RN Surgeon, Superintendent Lieut. Scott, F. Guy Asst Surgeon, Mrs Guy and child, 50 rank and file 11th Regiment, 6 women and 8 children

Hobart Town Advertiser Tuesday 22 July 1845 pg. 2

Commissariat Office Hobart Town

Will sell by Auction, at 12.O'clock on behalf of the Accountant General of her Majesty's Navy the Surplus Stores, Prison Fittings etc landed by the male convict ship *Theresa* - TERMS -Cash, and the lots to be cleared away immediately after the sale

5.CONVICT LIFE FOR GEORGE PAUL

In 1846, a year after George's arrival in Van Diemen's Land, the convict population peaked with 12,630 prisoners located in probation stations, depots, barracks and factories around the island.

Convicts were divided up into three main classes and George's freedom depended on him making progress, with good behaviour, through all of the three classes.

Dorset County Chronicle Thursday 20 April 1843

Correspondence between Secretary of State and the Governor of Van Diemen's Land ANNOUNCEMENT OF A SCHEME OF CONVICT DISCIPLINE

You will observe that henceforth the convicts undergoing the sentence of transportation will be divided into three classes .-

First – the probationary gangs who will be subject to hard labour without wages, under strict coercion and every penal privation consistent with health

Second- Those to whom probation passes will be granted, which will entitle them to work for hire: under certain restraints gradually diminishing, and for wages progressively increasing in proportion as their character for good conduct is established, and as they recede from crime, and advance in the habits of industry and virtue

Third- those who obtain tickets of leave which except the restraint of living within the penal colony, the constant survey of the controller of convicts, and the pain of forfeiture in case of misconduct, may be considered equivalent to a pardon, and to the restoration of liberty

 (R) George Paul's own page in the Conduct Register that reported his progress and behaviour.
 Source: CON 33/1/67 Image 167 Libraries Tasmania

GEORGE PAUL AND THE CONDUCT REGISTER

Until the end of his convict sentence, George's progress and behaviour is updated in the Conduct Register. His record shows a statement of his crimes, date and place of trial and 10 year sentence, whether married, and his religion. Remarks are made on his work assignments, as a bonded labourer, including any punishable offences. Instances of good behaviour are sometimes recorded.

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Below are the details of George's entry page in the Conduct Register. ENTRY 15981 PAUL GEORGE

Transported for: Stealing Brass Milk Pans. 2 convictions Mr Robert Cox. Dorchester for Turkey 3 months. Tried: Dorset Dorchester 31 Dec 1844 10 yrs. Surgeon report: Very Good [his behaviour on the Theresa] Embarked/Arrived: 4 July 1845 Protestant Can Read. Trade: Farm Labourer Height: 5 1¾ Age: 24 Complexion: Ruddy Head: Large Hair: Dark Brown Whiskers: Dark Brown Visage: Broad Forehead: Medium Eyebrows: Dark Brown Eyes: Hazel Nose: Medium Mouth: Small Chin: Medium Nat Place: nr Bridport. Marks: Tear over the upper Hand made large wart on back of right hand. Period of Labour: Eighteen Months [George for the first part of his sentence was placed in for 18 months in a work gang with hard labour and no privileges. These work gangs of 200-300 convicts lived in probation stations spread over the Island] Station of Gang: Port Cygnet PPH [Probation Pass Holder] 3rd George's progress is recorded as:

- 1845: 18 months labour gang at Port Cygnet Probation Station.
- 1846: Probation Pass Holder 3rd class
- 1847: Probation Pass Holder 2nd class
- 1850: Ticket of Leave
- 1852: Conditional Pardon -13 July

WORK GANG AT PORT CYGNET STATION 1845



(L) Early photo of Port Cygnet located 35 miles south west of Hobart Town on an inlet of the Huon River Source: trove.nla.gov.au

Port Cygnet probation station was planned to house 400 men with cells, bakehouse, chapel and officers' quarters. It was still undergoing construction when George arrived there in 1845.

George's first period of convict life was serving 18 months hard labour in a work gang and taken up in erecting the barracks, clearing and cultivating land, splitting timber for fencing, rolling logs, road building and undergoing duties as a servant for the station staff. The authorities provided Port Cygnet with a visiting magistrate from Hobart Town to deal with any convict offences and punishments.

The Courier Hobart Tuesday 11 February 1845

Tenders for the supply of the probation station Port Cygnet at the River Huon with the quantities of the undermentioned: Flour, fresh meat, tea, sugar, soap, yeast, hops, oatmeal, scotch barley, port wine, oil, cotton wick, straw

The Cornwall Chronicle Hobart Wednesday 8 October 1845

Yesterday his Excellency the Lieutenant Governor attended by the Comptroller- General of Convicts embarked on board the Government Schooner *Mary* upon a tour of the station at Port Cygnet

In 1846 George is recorded among Port Cygnet's 191 prisoners that work in gangs clearing land with the government's aim of selling improved acreage at increased prices to free settlers.

Hobart Town Advertiser Friday 16 May 1845

Port Cygnet is but 10 miles from the head of North West Bay – a good road would pass through much good land, now inaccessible, instead of the long tedious water communication down the channel, up the Huon and then up to Port Cygnet

Port Cygnet convicts were not always well behaved with some absconding and raiding the homes of local settlers for supplies and stealing clothes to change into from prison uniforms.

Hobart Guardian Wednesday 8 December 1847

The first that we shall notice is that the Port Cygnet Station which we have known to be in a mutinous state from some time back. At this station there are about 150 'youths' whose equal for everything that is bad, is not to be found, congregated in one mass, under heaven. These lads under the superintendence of only three officers who have not the least control over them, and what is worse, these lads commit depredations on the settler in the neighbourhood with impunity and one of the persons in charge at the Station has declared 'he would sooner superintend 500 men of the worst character than these boys at Port Cygnet'. Nor we say without fear of contradiction that the affairs at Port Cygnet are highly disgraceful

(L) 1848 Hobart Town by Francis Simpkinson de Wesselow. Source: Royal Society of Tasmania

Hobart Courier Saturday 14 November 1846

Absconders – last week three prisoners from the Port Cygnet station absconded and took to the bush [some absconders tried to make it to the whaling ships in nearby bays]. His Honor



expressing his regret he could not sentence them to imprisonment with hard labour, and to be well whipped

18.3.51 Reed bac 6. P host to winde in the to be

GEORGE PAUL CONVICT PROBATION PASSHOLDER

(L) Recorded in the Conduct Register are the names of masters that hire George as a Passholder Servant. Source Libraries Tasmania: Ref:Con33-1-67 image 167

After completing his 18 months hard labour in work gangs at Port Cygnet Probation Station George makes progress and becomes a 2nd Class Probation Pass Holder and is hired out as bonded labour to free settlers. A stipulation is made that he is *Not to reside in Hobart Town*.

HIRING DEPOTS AND A CONVICT PROBATION PASSHOLDER

As a probation passholder George leaves Port Cygnet Station and is sent to a hiring depot. The depots regularly advertise the number of Passholders (convicts) *available for disposal* by their skills and trade occupation. Between each work assignment the *passholder servant* would return to their hiring depot^{xxii} where they were fed, housed and supervised under strict regulations and not allowed to wander the streets. If they absconded, they were punished and returned to prisoner barracks.

Launceston Examiner Wed 5 May 1846

It seems there are about 2000 men for hire in the depots. Every useful man at a hiring depot is drawn off as soon as he gets in. Those who remain are such as are either unable or unwilling to work. I entertain not the shadow of doubt that if the 2000 men now in the depots were worth having as useful farm servants, they would have been engaged in a month

George is hired by six different Masters, from 1847 to 1851, and used by them for ploughing, sowing, dairy, fencing, building and other farm work.^{xxiii} Each master would sign a labour contract kept in a register at a local hiring depot or police station and had to maintain George in work, no less than one month and up to a term of 12 months, and could without warning terminate the contract. George could not refuse a contract for employment *at a reasonable wage* (defined as £7 per annum), nor refuse to be rehired by the same employer, nor terminate a contract without lodging a formal police complaint about his treatment which, if the case was not found, would make him liable for punishment. A masters word against that of a convict would have been generally trusted in any dispute. Farmers using convicts would have known their local magistrates of whom many were farmers themselves. Abusive language and absence from work and other misdemeanours were dealt with severely by a magistrate and could result in George finding himself in prison again and sentenced to hard labour.

George's workload was completely controlled by his master and as a bonded labourer he is assigned under the following convict regulations -

The Courier Friday 26 July 1844

Masters will be in every case be required to provide suitable lodgings and bedding for their servants and supply wholesome rations and scope according to the following scale of daily rations: 11b meat; 1½ lb bread or 11b bread and 21b vegetables; 1oz sugar; 1oz roasted wheat; ½ oz soap; ½ oz salt.

All Passholder convicts had to decently cloth themselves from their small wages.

LIST OF GEORGE'S MASTERS AND ASSIGNMENTS IN THE CONDUCT REGISTER

ASSIGNED TO BENJAMIN BERTHON

Cross Marsh and Green Ponds 14 January 1847



(L) Green Ponds Police station had a court house and district gaol. Source *-on the convict trail*

Benjamin Berthon (1784-1854) at Green Ponds was a wealthy landowner, and owned *Woodlands* a vast farm estate about 30 miles from Hobart Town. Berthon was a farmer, merchant, and stockman and appointed a JP and district police magistrate in July 1832.^{xxiv}

David Barton, Australia April 2023

1828 Auction Advert Hobart

THE ESTATE of Woodlands - nearly the whole of which is rich arable Land, inferior to none in this Island

The Courier Hobart Sat 4 Sep 1852

The Woodlands Estate – this fine estate the property of Benjamin Berthon Esq was submitted for Auction -the homestead with the yards, garden, stabling and 14 cultivated fields, 7 grass paddocks and various bush paddocks and run, all fenced, with another house and garden used as a dairy – the whole comprising 5156 acres [plus other Lots comprising 2000 acres]

Woodlands in the 1843 Census records the Berthon family as free settlers and hiring 18 assigned convicts working as stockmen, gardeners and domestic servants. **1843 Census Libraries Tasmania** Benjamin Berthon Household How many persons general reside in this establishment besides yourself: 25 How many of these Persons are Free: 7 Assigned convicts: 12 Ticket of Leave convicts: 6

Employed as gardeners, stockmen and persons employed in Agriculture: 18

A few months after George is hired by Benjamin Berthon he is punished for stealing two eggs.

(R) Two eggs Source: backyardchickens.com
GEORGE PAUL OFFENCES AND SENTENCES
Conduct Register Libraries Tasmania
6 May 1847
Berthon, Green Ponds. Miscreant- the Appropriating of two eggs the property of his master
Three days solitary [George will return from the Green Ponds gaol to Berthon's service again on 13 May 1847]



Egg prices on the Island were priced from 6d to one shilling a dozen^{xxv}. George's theft of two eggs could have brought him a harsher penalty. In the Hobart papers convicts passholders are frequently punished e.g., 6 months for stealing his master's eggs; 4 months to the roads for using abusive language to his master; 14 days solitary for being drunk; 6 months to the roads for absconding; 14 days solitary for neglect of duty to his master; 4 months to the roads for working for his own benefit and not his master.

ASSIGNED TO JAMES BRANSCOMBE

Kensington Farm 20 May 1847

Hobart Town Advertiser 1 June 1847

Young Trojan – Will serve Cows this season 5 shillings each at J Branscombe Kensington Farm O'Brien's Bridge

Assigned to work for James Branscombe at Kensington Farm. The farm, five miles from Hobart Town, fronted the River Derwent and was bounded on one side by a fresh water stream called Humphrey Rivulet.^{xxvi} In 1822 a gravel road from Kensington Farm to the Roseneath ferry had been laid by convicts. Larger land owners in the area were able to sell on plots of improved land by advertising the sale of cottages, acreage *with gardens, mills and rich land* at £30 per acre and *having access to the riverfront where vessels of 30 to 40 tons burthen could unload within easy distance of the farms*^{xxvii}.

ASSIGNED JAMES O'SULLIVAN

Peppermint Bay 14 August 1847

(L) Peppermint Bay, 23 miles south of Hobart Town, first settled by Europeans a year before George's arrival in Van Diemen's Land. Source: discovertasmania.com

Assigned to work for James O'Sullivan a farmer with land in Peppermint Bay



Libraries Tasmania

1847: 12 acres 3 roods Paid £71. James O' Sullivan Peppermint Bay, County of Buckingham 1848: 10 acres in D'Entrecasteaux

When George worked for O'Sullivan in Peppermint Bay a newspaper advert gives us a good idea of the type of work, he did for his master in cultivating land and building a cottage. *The Courier Hobart Wednesday 5 December 1849*

At Peppermint Bay, a *newly built brick cottage with 35 acres of first rate land, of which 10 are in cultivation*. On this land an abundant supply of the best blue gum and never failing stream running close to the cottage. Apply J O'Sullivan on the premises

ASSIGNED THOMAS BRANSCOMBE

Kensington Farm 28 September 1848



(L) Woven Straw Beehive. Source Live Auctioneers

Assigned to work for Thomas Branscombe, 1793-1853, at Kensington Farm, O'Brien's Bridge. Branscombe owned property in Hobart and farmed in the parishes of Glenorchy and Melville^{xxviii}

The Hobart Town Courier Frid 2 Dec 1836 pg.2

Glenorchy parish had a road built 33 feet wide, to turn off at the eight milestone on the Hobarton and Launceston Road [and proceeds] to Branscombe's farm

Branscombe kept cows, bullocks, poultry, sheep and was a beekeeper. He is the first farmer in the Colony to successfully grow red clover.

The True Colonist Frid 12 Feb 1836

Last year Mr Branscombe of O'Brien's Bridge succeeded in raising several pounds [red clover seeds] and this year he has a considerable patch of second crop, red clover, which has perfected its seeds and promises to yield a considerable quantity; he has the first that we have heard in the Colony of Colonial-grown red clover. This he attributes to the operation of Bees which are in great numbers in his neighbourhood

The True Colonist Frid 18 Nov 1836

TO Basket Makers [bee keeping baskets] Wanted a good basket maker who will get advantageous Employment. Apply to T Branscombe O'Brien's Bridge NB. Either Free or Ticket of Leave

There are newspaper reports of Branscombe taking legal action over theft and destruction to his property and he is not shy in expressing his dissatisfaction with any neighbouring settlers by threatening them with prosecution for stray cattle, unleashed dogs, broken fences, *mischievously damaging sapling trees* and trespass.

Hobart Town Advertiser Tuesday 18 April 1848

CAUTION Parties using the road through the farm are requested not to leave the gate open that leads to the main road. I hereby offer a reward of £10 upon conviction of the person or persons who are in the habit of stealing the rails belonging to my fences. Thomas Branscombe Kensington Farm

Hobart Town Courier Frid 24 Aug 1832

FIVE POUNDS REWARD – whereas on Friday night the 17th inst two Turkey, one a Cock and the other a hen, were taken by some person or persons unknown. The above reward etc. Thomas Branscombe O'Brien's Bridge

George would find Branscombe's a strict master. He is not lenient with bonded labourers and regularly punishes them for the slightest misdemeanours.

The Tasmanian Frid 26 Oct 1832 pg.7

Thomas Branscomb, a New -Town farmer was charged with assaulting and beating his assigned servant James Wicks, who had lived with him 3 years, without any offence being recorded against him. Wicks was returned to the service of the Crown, and it was ordered that Branscomb should not have a man in his stead

Colonial Times Tues 5 April 1836 pg. 8

Mr Branscombe complained his assigned servant had been drunk at Walton's public house and abusing his master, who is a very good tempered sort of man - His Worship, a check to the man's drunken propensities, ordered him six days on the tread wheel.

Colonial Times Tues 14 Aug 1838 pg.7

Mr Thomas Branscombe complained of several of his assigned servants, for wasting good provisions, by giving it to the dogs. He produced a most beautiful piece of round of beef which they had thus destroyed. They were ordered to take a spell on bread and water in a cell.

Hobart Town Advertiser Tuesday 5 January 1847

George Edwards was charged by Constable Williams with being absent from his master's premises without leave. Mr. Branscombe said Edwards was his servant and was absent from 12'o'clock on Saturday till about 3'o'clock on Sunday. He did not know where he was, he had not given him leave. Six months hard labour

ASSIGNED TO WILLIAM JAMES OVERELL

Glenorchy 24 October 1848



(L) New Town Bay where William James Overell farmed. Source: Henry Hall Baily Hobart 1860 -1900. Design & Art

Launceston Advertiser 14 Aug 1834 pg.4 1834 Survey Office grant of 300 acres to William James Overell, Glenorchy parish

Assigned to work for William James Overell, a builder and *Newtown carpenter* (1832) who farmed 350 acres in Glenorchy, at Humphrey's Rivulet, and a distance of 8 miles from Hobart.

During 1848 George worked for Overell improving his land and properties as master built cottages and developed farm acreage to lease out to tenants. ^{xxix}

Trumpeter General Hobart Tues 22 July 1834 pg.3

FARMS TO LET – Two farms, near O'Brien's bridge, one of 220 acres, with a comfortable Home and conveniences fit for the reception of a family, a large barn, out houses etc -the other of 130 acres. Also, a House and front shop with 2 windows in Argyle Street [Hobart Town]. Enquire William Overell, New Town.

(L) The Stepper. Source Sydney Living Museum

Hobart Guardian Wednesday 26 January 1848

Hales in the service of Mr. Overell at Glenorchy was charged with having been drunk and out after hours. Two months on the 'stepper'



A few weeks before George was hired by Overell another servant of his had been severely dealt with and given a 2 month sentence on the *stepper*. The stepper was as a machine powered by convicts walking continuously on small steps to turn a wheel. It was hard physical punishment and the men working on it had to power it all day. They walked for 40 minutes at a time, before resting for 20 minutes. The *stepper* was used to grind grain, and produce corn meal for the prisoners working at the Glenorchy Road probation station near O'Brien's Bridge.

15

Convict uniform. Source: Tasmania Times

Convict gangs at Glenorchy station worked building roads. Those prisoners who re-offended, were sentenced to hard labour and worked in chains and wore yellow prison uniforms. There were frequent reports of *daring and desperate men* called *bolters* absconding from the Glenorchy station and stealing items of clothing and food from local homes to make good their escape.

Colonial Times Tuesday 8 May 1849

Five bolters from the Glenorchy station kept up some excitement in the last quarter of this week. The country was scoured by the constabulary in

every direction for two or three days. The fellows succeeded in crossing the water after having pilfered some poor labourer's hut of flour, meat and cooking utensils

ASSIGNED TO JOSEPH REASON

Glenorchy 13 August 1849



(L) View of Glenorchy c 1910.Source: ourtasmania.com

Assigned to work for Joseph Reason (1824-1877). This was George's last assignment as a passholder servant before being granted a ticket of leave.

Joseph Reason was known as a Glenorchy builder and farmer and in some records his occupations were given as a stonemason and bricklayer. He was born in the Colony. His

father William Reason was acknowledged in Glenorchy as an *old colonist* as he was one of the first Europeans that arrived in the area.

Porchester , 10 , J. Reason , Gleursky Taul ligence

George Paul's name, assigned to J Reason at Glenorchy. Source: Convict Muster Book Ledger 1849 Tasmania

Joseph Reason kept horses and was a committee member of the Glenorchy Ploughing Association. His property was well cultivated and bordered that of Thomas Branscombe's farm. Close to Reason's farm was the Berriedale Inn a well-known watering hole and meeting place for the ploughing association, hunt meetings and the winning post for the Glenorchy steeple chase.

Source Libraries Tasmania

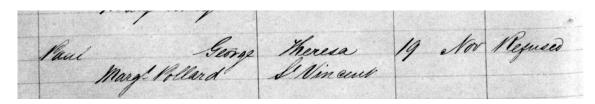
1848 CENSUS JOSEPH REASON, GLENORCHY^{XXX}.

Dwelling house built of wood. In residence 3 Free persons and one bonded farm servant. Joseph describes himself as a farmer



GEORGE IS REFUSED PERMISSION TO MARRY 1850

In 1850, while working as Joseph Reason's, as his passholder servant, George requests the permission of the Lieutenant Governor to marry but he is refused.



Source: Libraries Tasmania George Paul Theresa permission to marry Margaret Pollard. Refused Libraries Tasmania CON52/1/3 Page 352 19 November 1850

Margaret Pollard arrived on the convict ship *St Vincent* a few months before George Paul seeks permission to marry her from the Lieutenant Governor. Margaret, then aged 25 years and from Liverpool, was sentenced to 10 years transportation, convicted of: *stealing a watch, three times for vagrancy, acquitted for £60, twelve months for banknotes, 6 months for Pledging* [pawning].

The Lieutenant Governor's refusal comes a few months before George is granted a Ticket of Leave. Maybe his request to marry had been made *too early*! Stephen Hughes, farmer at O'Brien's Bridge, could have played a part in the refusal as Margaret is his bonded house servant. Shortly after Margaret entered his service, she is punished with 1 month's hard labour for absenting herself, without permission, from Hughes's property. Perhaps she went missing to meet George and thereafter Hughes would not contemplate the idea of Margaret having a husband on or near his property while she worked for him. The following year, when Margaret had left Hughes's service she does marry an ex- convict^{xxxi}.

TICKET OF LEAVE JANUARY 1851

The Conduct Register's final entry, that completes George's passage as a prisoner of the Crown, includes him granted a Ticket of Leave followed by a Conditional Pardon.

The Hobart Town Advertiser Friday 21 March 1851

The Lieutenant Governor has been pleased to grant Tickets of Leave to the following individuals: George Paul *Theresa* 22 January 1851

George would not have thought his Ticket of Leave was a *free pass* as the words may suggest. It came with controls on his coming and goings; his place of residence, conduct and employment. If George broke convict regulations his Ticket of Leave could be resumed at any time by the Lieutenant Governor with him reverting once more to being a prisoner of the Crown.

George had to follow the following rules with his Ticket of Leave Hobart Courier Sat 28 April 1849 pg.8

TICKET OF LEAVE REGULATIONS – the Lieutenant Governor has been pleased to approve of the following regulations for ticket of leave holders. Ticket of Leave Holders should:

- on arrival in a district must register there at the police office
- not to remove from one district to another without a Pass from the police magistrate
- not to be absent from their registered places of residence between the hours of 10.0' clock and daybreak, except in actual attendance on their employers or by a Pass
- in the months of December and June respectively must report themselves at the police office or forward to the police magistrate a medical certificate [when sick]

- be prohibited from entering any theatre or billiard room
- if destitute ticket of leave holders will be received into any hiring depots, and maintained at the expense of the government until they find employment
- be allowed to acquire and hold personal property and will be treated under the Hired Servants Act and other local laws applicable to free people
- bear in mind that their indulgence [holding a ticket of leave] is revocable, and that good conduct is the condition upon which it is held

GEORGE'S CONDITIONAL PARDON JULY 1852

George's Conditional Pardon was listed and gazetted in the newspapers and restored to him the rights of freedom enjoyed within the Colony. He could pursue his *lawful occupation in any part of the country as if he had never been convicted.*

Tasmanian Colonist Monday 19 July 1852.

REGISTER OF CONDITIONAL PARDONS 1850-1853

It is hereby notified to the undermentioned individuals that it is the Lieutenant Governor's intention to recommend to the gracious consideration of Her Majesty the Queen for Conditional Pardons available within the limits of the Australian Colonies and New Zealand Entry 5: Paul George. *Theresa*. Hobart 13 July 1852

George, since arriving in Van Diemen's Land in July 1845, had been forbidden to reside in Hobart Town and so it's not hard to imagine that this is where he went. With a shortage of labourers in 1852, Hobart was a thriving seaport and the third largest city in Australia with 24,000 inhabitants ^{xxxii}

6. GEORGE'S PASSAGE TO THE GOLDRUSH 1852



(Above) early photo of the port of Hobart. Source: Photographer S Clifford 1869

George found work around Hobart's wharves, warehouses, markets and docklands at the very time the gold rush on the mainland in Victoria, caused extreme excitement to the Island's inhabitants. Between 1851 and 1852, so many men left Van Diemen's Land to the gold fields, and never returned, that the adult male population on the island shrank by about 33%. Lieutenant Governor Denison, alarmed at the departure of the working population asked in vain for more British emigration as land under cultivation decreased by 18%. Inflation caused price increases in bacon, meat, leather, firewood, clothing and labour shortages resulted in high wages for those remaining workers.^{xxxiii}

Hobart Town Advertiser Frid 23 Jan 1852

So many ships arrive here miserably short of hands to work them

George was among the thousands of men who departed Van Diemen's Land in 1852.^{xxxiv} The Victorian government had offered of a reward of £200 to anyone finding gold within 200 miles of Melbourne. ^{xxxv}

George found a job working his passage as a crew member on the schooner *Creole* sailing to Melbourne, Victoria. ^{xxxvi} Most, if not all male passengers aboard the ship were heading to the goldfields near Ballarat.

The *Creole* was a schooner, a fast sailer, that had arrived in Hobart in July 1851 bringing a shipment of coal from Sydney. On arrival in Hobart the vessel was then advertised for sale and described as a *Clipper Schooner 143 tons burthen, 200 tons stowage, built in Baltimore and for inter-colonial trade*

Colonial Times Frid 1 Aug 1851

Clipper Schooner Creole. 143 tons. Draft of water (loaded) 7 feet.

Lying at Constitution Docks

Length of Hold: 89 ft. Breadth: 22feet. Depth: 7 ft. Built by the celebrated firm of Allan & Co Baltimore. Stowage below the decks is 200 tons, she can proceed to sea without ballast, having made the voyage from San Francisco with a clean hold. The Auctioneer can say with confidence the Creole is the most eligible vessel for the inter-colonial trade ever introduced to the port [bought by Mr. D. Hoy for £1,175]

Above: George Paul listed as crew aboard the *Creole* from Hobart Town to Port Melbourne a distance of 535nm. Source: Libraries Tasmania

Libraries Tasmania George Paul

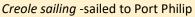
Crew member Ship: Creole

Departing 1 September 1852 Hobart to Melbourne with a crew of ten men, 85 passengers.

(L) Queens Wharf Melbourne in 1856. Source University Press

The *Creole*, made regular sailings from Hobart to Melbourne, carrying supplies for the miner's camps and taking passengers who were making their way to the gold fields.

Colonial Times Hobart Friday 1 August 1851





Melbourne with 800 posts and rails, 40,000 feet of timber, 15,000 shingles, 4,000 palings, 10 tons flour, ten tons

When George left Hobart on the *Creole* to Melbourne, he had little intention of returning to the island again. During the gold rush it was not unknown for a ship's crew to simply vanish the day before it was set to depart from Melbourne. *xxxvii*

7. THE GOLDFIELDS IN BALLARAT



(L) 1852 View of Forest Creek goldfields Victoria. Painting by S T Gill 1852

Gold, discovered in Ballarat in 1851, and an estimated 6000 diggers (miners) arrived weekly.

During its peak, 1851 -1853, Ballarat was considered to have the world's richest alluvial goldfields giving George the opportunity to work supplying the encampments, shops and mining villages that sprung up everywhere.

George, paid little if any money while he was convict labour, had to work his passage to Melbourne. He could not afford a miner's gold digging fee and buy the necessary digging equipment and supplies. To search for gold required a licence fee paid to the government for the right to dig. Miner's licences had been first issued in 1851 and cost 30 shillings a month (later reduced to £1 a month or £8 a year) and the fees were supposed to cover the cost of maintaining the police force on the goldfields.

Geelong Advertiser Thurs 29 January 1852

To the GOLD DIGGERS of BALLARAT and MOUNT ALEXANDER. T Wilkins begs to inform the above that he has on Sale upwards of 20,000 pairs of boots [gold washing boots] and shoes.

The Argus Thursday 1 January 1852

ROUTES TO THE DIGGINGS. Maps of Victoria showing the Mail Routes, Bush Tracks, Inns, Post Offices and Squatting Stations invaluable to all parties proceeding to the GOLD DIGGINGS. Price 12/6d each.

GEORGE PAUL DRAYMAN 1852-1856

George, found work as a drayman driving horses and carts for Melbourne agents carrying mining and building materials to the gold diggings and deliveries to the many shop stores set up to feed, clothe and equip the miners. As a drayman he was part of a constant stream of camel trains and horse teams leaving Melbourne with delivery orders including tin pans, waterproof hats, miners boots, spades, shovels, wheel barrows, felling axes, metal buckets, frying pans, hard wearing shirts, tweed blankets, ropes, tents, outdoor stoves, pharmacies and foodstuff.^{xxxviii}



(L) Early Blackwood main street showing General Store on left. Source: Blackwood Publishing

THE DIGGERS SWAG CASE The Argus Tuesday 1 April 1856

George Paul, a drayman to the diggings was charged at the City Court yesterday, by Mr. Merton, a carrier's agent in Swanston Street with stealing goods entrusted to his care.^{xxxix}

The complainant stated that in September last he gave into the custody of the prisoner [George

Paul] a load of goods, the property of various persons to carry to Mount Blackwood. Among these was a diggers swag, the property of a man called Jamieson which the prisoner never delivered at its address, notwithstanding that he had delivered every other article. The swag was given to the prisoner after he had signed the waybill and was added to the bill under his signature, in the presence of a witness.

On meeting the prisoner a few days back, he ran away but on seeing him again and asking him concerning the swag, he said he delivered it to Briggs Hotel instead of Mr Jacobs where it was addressed.^{xl} He had been summoned at the court for the value of the swag, and had had to pay £60 on account of it. It was stated that the prisoner could give a satisfactory account of what he did with the swag and the Bench remanded the case until Wednesday to enable him to do so.

The Argus Melbourne Sat 5 April 1856

GEORGE'S ACCOUNT OF WHAT HAPPENED.

The swag was addressed to be left at Mr. Jacobs store at Mount Blackwood and Mr. Jacobs was called to prove the prisoner had never delivered this. Maurice Keppel stated that a digger's swag was left at his store at Mount Blackwood, with his partner, September last, while he was in town ^{xli}

On his return the prisoner [George Paul] called for it and paid 10s for its storage. He could not make out the address and after storing the parcel for 3 weeks he took it away. The prisoner took it a few yards and opened it. It contained a tent and other articles which the prisoner sold on the spot.

The Age Melbourne Saturday 19 April 1856

GEORGE PAUL DISCHARGED

George Paul, so repeatedly remanded on a charge of appropriating a digger's swag was on Friday morning discharged by the City Magistrates, the detectives not having been able to procure any further incriminating evidence

Conveyances of swags by dray from Melbourne to Mount Blackwood occurred most days in the week and it is not uncommon to find newspaper adverts stating that *goods left and not collected, could be sold to defray expenses.*

8. PLOUGHING MATCHES IN BALLARAT

After George's scrape with the law, and his appearance at the City Court of Melbourne, we next hear of him when he is enters ploughing competitions and winning prize money with medals. His competition entries come as no surprise. Having worked on farms in Dorset and Tasmania, George had honed his skills in ploughing and by 1857, now aged 37 years, he would have been an expert ploughman.



(L) photo ploughing competitions c 1900 Australia. Source: mailandmercury.com.au

George learnt from an early age to plough, a task he would perform many times. Like other farm boys in Dorset, he assisted ploughmen, in all weathers, to plough straight and uniform furrows by controlling teams of horses. He ploughed on farms surrounding the Shave Cross Inn, where annual ploughing competitions were held and prize money given to those who had *best ploughed* a certain portion of land in a given time with two or three horses or bullocks.

Dorset County Chronicle Thurs 7 Oct 1841

The Boy Grew Up To Be An Expert Ploughman

The man was always at the plough, yet when he was away very frequently the plough was given up to the boy; and thus, the boy grew up to be an expert ploughman; and he had some boys of 13 and 14 years of age who could make better work than men of 35 or 40 could some years

George worked prolonged hours controlling a plough by holding the reins held between his little fingers. This may well explain the 1843 description in the Dorchester Prison Admissions Register, when he was aged 23 years, having *both little fingers bent* – likely caused by walking behind a plough, eleven to fourteen miles a day, holding the reins in his fingers.

It is entirely possible George spent a major part of his convict years in Tasmania, ploughing and cultivating fields for his Masters. When he finished working as a drayman in Melbourne, with the boom in population in the Ballarat region and the growing need for agricultural produce, there was a a demand for ploughmen.

Job vacancies seeking a *first class ploughman* appeared frequently in the Melbourne Argus and George's winning record in ploughing matches would have gone a long way in helping him secure work, moving from farm to farm, and increasingly better wages. The workload of tillage was spread over many months in the year and work would always be available and ploughmen could earn from 18-20 shillings a week in Ballarat.^{xlii}

GEORGE ENTERS BALLARAT PLOUGHING COMPETITIONS

The Ballarat Agricultural Society advertised its ploughing competitions as follows:

Star Ballarat Wednesday 17 June 1857

BALLARAT 2ND ANNUAL BALLARAT AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY PLOUGHING MATCH The Ploughing Match - undoubtedly good ploughing is essential to good husbandry and the skill and culture of the ploughman is deserving encouragement

The Star Ballarat Saturday 20 June 1857

The second annual ploughing match of the Ballarat Agricultural Society at the farm of Messrs. Johnston & Bowers near Mount Cavern, Dowling Forest. Between two and three hundred persons, including all the principal farmers of the district, and many persons from Ballarat mustered and there were no less 25 competitors entered the lists for the eleven prizes offered etc

George Paul, ploughman to Mr. Muir First prize £10, with a silver medal, value £3 to No: 5.

The Star Ballarat Frid 24 June 1859

1859 Ballarat Agricultural Society 4th Annual Ploughing Match on the farms of Messrs. Peebles & Pollard in the parish of Glenarvuel, Ballarat.

George Paul Ploughman Class B Third Prize £3. Horse Team

The Star Ballarat Frid 7 June 1861 pg.1

Ballarat Agricultural Society Annual Ploughing Match In a large paddock fronting the Rose of Australia Hotel on the road to Coghill's Creek

Class A George Paul Ploughman. Owner John Scott

The Star Ballarat Thurs 19 June 1862 pg.3

Glendaruel Agricultural Society Ploughing Match In a paddock belonging to Mr. McKenzie between Cattle Station Hill and Coghill's Creek

Class A – Horse Team. George Paul Ploughman. Owner A M McKenzie

Having finished ploughing in Ballarat, George in the early 1860's, sought work elsewhere and crossed over the Victorian border into the Colony of New South Wales, to an area known as the *Gold Country*, where he settled in Woodhouselee near Goulburn. ^{xliii}



9. WOODHOUSELEE IN THE SOUTHERN TABLELANDS OF NSW 1862-1884

(Above) Countryside around Woodhouselee and Pejar Creek Photo: Commercial real Estate NSW.

WOODHOUSELEE NEAR GOULBURN

The village of Woodhouselee, 18 miles from Goulburn, was first settled in 1853.

The Goulburn Herald & County of Argyle Advertiser Saturday 22 January 1853

THE GOLDEN ERA UNRESERVED SALE OF AGRICULTURAL FARMS AND TOWN ALLOTMENTS The Surveyor having completed his survey and plans [has] denominated the Estate and Township of WOODHOUSELEE. The farms, 60 in numbers, are from 20 to 100 acres each. The Township of Woodhouselee is situated on the western bank of that never failing stream of fresh water, known as Pejar Creek. The Village is laid out in allotments within the means of everyone and divided into 17 sections. 1 to 9 being in half acres; 20 in 2½ acres. The rest are form 3 to 6 acres. The Land – the richest quality capable of producing to perfection quantities of grain -fertile ridges, such as suitable to the purpose of the Grazier and Farmer

George would find work Woodhouselee preparing paddocks which were first ploughed and then planted with potatoes and turnips, turning the soil, before sowing hay and wheat crops.

Goulburn Herald Wednesday 12 March 1862

WANTED a good Farming Man, he must be a good driver of horses, also a good ploughman. Apply to Robert Flecknoe, Burrolin, near to Woodhouselee

Freemans Journal Saturday 14 June 1856

GIGANTIC TURNIPS – Some monstrous specimens of turnips of the Swedish kind were brought into town from Woodhouselee. Some weighed fully 25 pounds and we are assured that others grown on the same ground reached the gigantic weight of 40 pounds

GEORGE LIVED WITH HENRY GRAY IN WOODHOUSELEE.

Henry Gray, along with his brothers grew hay and wheat crops and leased large acreages in the Pejar Valley to run sheep and cattle.

The Goulburn Herald and Chronicle Saturday 5 February 1870

Henry Gray, Woodhouselee, 420 acres, rent £1 6s 3d, County of Argyle, parish of Wayo

In 1869 George reported his horse stolen at the police station in Goulburn

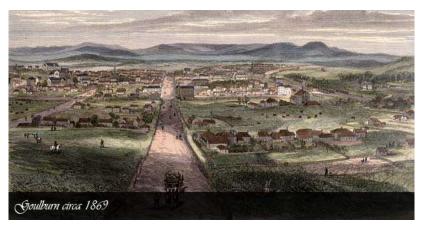
NSW Police Gazette & Weekly Record of Crime Wednesday 12 May 1869 pg.144 LOST HORSE

Bay Mare. AN over JC near shoulder, 25 under saddle. Lost Woodhouselee, near Goulburn, 1st March. George Paul, Woodhouselee

The Goulburn Herald and Chronicle Saturday 5 November 1870

I LIVE WITH HENRY GRAY^{xliv}

[George was a witness to a legal dispute over sheep that wandered on another farmer's property] George Paul deposed: I am a labourer living at Woodhouselee. I was near Mr Gray's place this day week; he was driving sheep of his run; he was on horseback; young Lynch was hunting them back: he picked up sticks and threw at Gray. I live with Henry Gray about a mile from Job Gray ^{xlv} and about a quarter of a mile from where I was cutting saplings for Gray's fence. I was cutting the timber myself. I stopped at the Emu Inn last night and Gray also^{xlvi}. The timber was not very thick between me and where the sheep were.



(L) Goulburn in 1863 became Australia's first inland city and in 1869 had 1,500 inhabitants. George frequently visited Goulburn.

George, well into his old age, lived at Woodhouselee where the locals provided their own entertainments with tea meetings, concerts and cricket matches.

Goulburn Evening Penny Post Tuesday 2 May 1882 WALLABY DRIVE AND CONCERT AT WOODHOUSELEE

A wallaby drive took place last Saturday at Woodhouselee and was followed by an amateur concert in the evening in Mr. W. Davis's woolshed. A goodly number of visitors from Goulburn were present and assisted in the day's enjoyment. About 150 wallabies were shot, but the sport was not up to former occasions. Each of the shooters contributed 5s towards the funds of the church. Afterwards the concert took place, when the shed was filled, the audience perhaps the largest that has ever taken place in Woodhouselee

GEORGE AND THE LIVERPOOL ASYLUM FOR THE INFIRM AND DESTITUTE.

By the 1880's George found himself among a generally known group of old men living in New South Wales that found themselves destitute. There had always been significantly more male convicts than women, and many remaining single, were unable to find a wife, or able to take care of themselves.

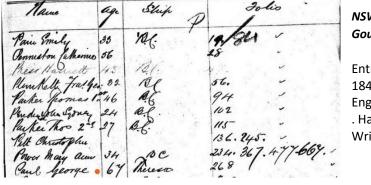
Goulburn Evening Penny Post Saturday 3 June 1882

FIRST OFFENCE - An old man named George Paul was brought up at the police court this morning, charge with drunkenness, and it being his first offence, was cautioned by Captain Rossi and discharged

The Goulburn Herald and Chronicle Saturday 26 January 1884

Drunkard- George Paul was fined 5s. In default 24 hours in gaol for having been drunk. Fined Paid

On the 18 October 1884, George aged 67 years, no longer able to work, and without visible means of support was brought before the Goulburn magistrates whom authorised a protection order for his admittance to an asylum a common practice then for similar poor elderly men and women.



NSW Gaol Description Entrance Book Goulburn 1884 -1885

Entry 268: George Paul. Ship *Theresa* 1844. Birthplace England. Church of England. Farmer aged 67 years. 5ft 7½. Hair dark grey. Eyes grey. Read and Write

THE LIVERPOOL MEN'S ASYLUM FOR THE INFIRM AND DESTITUTE



(L) The Liverpool Asylum for the Infirm and Destitute. Source: City of Liverpool & District Historical Society NSW

The Liverpool Asylum for the Infirm and Destitute, on the banks of the Georges River, was run by the New South Wales Government from 1862 until 1933 and provided refuge for infirm and destitute men, including youths.

Those able to assist in the Asylum's farm operations and workshop were paid a small daily wage. The year George entered the Liverpool Asylum the Inspector of Charities made his following report: *Freemans Journal Saturday 18 October 1884*

LIVERPOOL PUBLIC CHARITIES REPORT

In his annual report just published, the Inspector of Public Charities Mr Hugh Robinson says – ' at the Liverpool Asylum, the average daily number of inmates was 724; there were 206 deaths, at the average age of 66.76; the cost per head for maintenance was £13 15s; and the gross cost per head was £13 19s 4d

David Barton, Australia April 2023

(L) Three old men at the Liverpool Hospital. Photo: Liverpool Historical & District Society

Source: weekendnotes.com

What is remarkable is the background of some of the men that ended up here. It didn't matter who you were or what you had done, if you were down on your luck or simply had no one to look after you, you could have ended up here in Liverpool. Former convicts may have shared a ward with an army officer. Former politicians and lawyers associating with criminals. Farmers and failed businessmen. Men who were drawn to



Australia from around the world seeking their fortune in gold rushes were often left stranded and destitute. At its peak, some 900 men from around Sydney were crammed into its wards and dormitories. Over 10,000 inmates are buried in Liverpool's two cemeteries, almost all in unmarked pauper's graves.

GEORGE DIES 13 DECEMBER 1884

George was admitted to the Liverpool Asylum on the 20 October 1884. He died eight weeks later, on the 13 December 1884, and is buried in the Liverpool Pioneers Park, in the northern sector, in an unmarked grave.



Source: NSW Gaol Description Entrance Books Goulburn 1884 -1895 and NSW Hospital and Asylum Records Admissions & Discharges Surgeon Weekly Report. George's death certificate is available at the NSW BDM Registration No: 8736/1884

EPILOGUE

George, like many labourer's children in Dorset in the 1820's, was poorly nourished and ate a basic diet of tea, bread, turnips and potatoes. To avoid the risk of reducing his family to starvation level, his father needed both his wife and children to work. George, as a child would have spent hours in the fields alongside ploughmen, scaring birds and collecting up spare seeds. When he was 11 years old George's father was sent to prison for one week for stealing two bundles of reeds and George, also with two of his brothers, spent time incarcerated in the Dorchester County Gaol.

Dorset County Chronicle Thursday 15 January 1829

Crime is more abundant. The peasantry are poorer – our habits are changing and our gaols are full. The labourer's mind has become the victim of his poverty; therefore, he is more regardless of his character, of his morals and the education of his children

By aged twenty George was a farm servant, moving from farm to farm in the parish to better his chances at getting hired as an agricultural labourer. However, his life changed forever in 1844, when he was found guilty of stealing from a local farmer and from his Uncle Aaron Paul a shoemaker in Shave Cross. George's punishment to be *transported beyond the seas* for the Term of Ten Years would have reverberated in the local parish and cut deeply into family relationships. The Paul family were well known to Marshwood's inhabitants and Georges' fate would have been talked about in

the Shave Cross Inn and in nearby cottages and farms. Those officials in Dorset considering the *Peace and Civil Concerns of the County* ^{xivii} very much saw George Paul's convict passage as one way and were counting on him, like many others they sentenced to transportation, remaining in Australia for good.

George was incarcerated, with poor food and hard labour in Dorchester Gaol and the Millbank Penitentiary while he awaited his transportation to Van Diemen's Land. On the voyage there he experienced severe weather conditions. On arrival in Hobart George was placed in a convict gang for 1½ years of hard labour. He thereafter, through good behaviour and rigorous superintendence, had to demonstrate he could complete his sentence. He was assigned to masters where he basically provided free labour by ploughing, sowing and cultivating their fields, and clearing and fencing their land. It is not unreasonable to say that George played some part in increasing the wealth of his *free settler* masters adding value to their properties while his own prospect of freedom, even marriage, would be shaped and decided on by the Lieutenant Governor, colonial officials, magistrates and station superintendents.

As soon as George received a Conditional Pardon his self-determination in changing his circumstances showed he was not immune to seeking adventure, and some fortune, when he signed on as a crew member on the schooner *Creole's* voyage from Hobart for Melbourne.

The Hobart Advertiser Tues 27 January 1852

The gold seeking mania has affected all classes, labourers, merchants and shopmen, who by one consent, and as if by conspiracy, are leaving their employ, and creating the most astonishing confusion

Enjoying his new found liberty, he worked as a drayman transporting goods to the gold diggings, where George's material welfare would have increased rapidly. The city of Melbourne where *Canvas Towns* sprang up to house the tens of thousands of migrants arriving from around the world, seeking their fortune in the gold rush, would surely have come as a big surprise to George used to small village life and settlements in Dorset and Tasmania.

By the time of his death in 1884 George was one of those rare individuals, a past- convict, who had lived in three of Australia's six colonies – Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania); Victoria and New South Wales. George did not marry and was survived by his sister and a brother in Dorset.

What happened to George's family in Dorset

NAME George's father	MARRIAGE	CENSUS	OTHER
JOSEPH PAUL 1785-1867 baptised Whitchurch Canonicorum	1807 Sarah Bennett at Glastonbury St John 1809 Elizabeth Betty Cooke at Glastonbury St John	Ag Labourer 1841/1851/1861 Census Shaves Cross Marshwood	6 children Died aged 82 years Buried St Mary's Church Marshwood
George's mother ELIZABETH BETTY COOKE 1786-1879 baptised Glastonbury Somerset	1809 Joseph Paul	Ag labourer's wife Shave Cross Marshwood	Died aged 93 years Buried St Mary's Church Marshwood

George's brother WILLIAM PAUL 1808 – 1878 baptised Glastonbury Somerset	Single Shave Cross Marshwood	Rail labourer 1851 Census	Died aged 70 years Buried St Mary's Church Marshwood
George's sister SARAH PAUL 1815-1876 baptised Netherbury	1840 married George Legg Whitchurch Canonicorum	Carter's wife Stanton St Gabriel Stoke Abbott Beaminster	Four children Died aged 61 years Beaminster Dorset
George's brother JOB PAUL 1818- 1849 baptised Netherbury	Single Shave Cross Marshwood	Ag Labourer 1841 Census	Died aged 31 years Buried St Mary's Church Marshwood
<i>George's sister</i> HANNAH PAUL 1822 – 1888 baptised Netherbury 22 Dec 1822	Single mother with two children Shave Cross Marshwood	House servant, Washerwoman 1871 Charwoman 1881	Died aged 66 years Buried St Mary's Church Marshwood
<i>George's brother</i> JAMES PAUL 1827- 1887 baptised Netherbury	1847 marries Elizabeth Miller Whitchurch Canonicorum	Ag Labourer & Carter 1861 Ag Lab 1871/1881 Stanton St Gabriel Symondsbury	Died aged 60 years 8 children Buried St John the Baptist Symondsbury

ⁱ **Note on author:** Aaron Paul, my 4th great grandfather, was a shoemaker at Shave Cross from whom George Paul stole a pair boots that led him to be transported to Van Diemen's Land. With an interest in Australia's convict past, I have attempted to share George's story by bringing him to life again using newspapers, journals and legal documents.

ⁱⁱ *Marshwood* - a village and civil parish in west Dorset, situated on the northern edge of the Marshwood Vale approximately 5.5 miles northeast of Lyme Regis. The village stands on a line of hills between Birdsmoorgate and Lambert's Castle, and from the churchyard the whole Vale can be viewed to the south, with the coastal hills and the English Channel beyond.

George baptised in the parish church of St Mary's Netherbury – when George was born Marshwood did not have its own parish church and cemetery and family members were baptised, married and buried in the surrounding parish churches. Marshwood in the County of Dorset is a Parish which for nearly two centuries has been without a Parish Church – Source: Dorset County Chronicle Thurs 27 Nov 1834
 Aaron Paul senior (1789-1859) master shoemaker. Aaron lived in one of two cottages by the Shave Cross Inn. His neighbour was John Cox. Both cottages occupied 2 acres of land and Aaron, holding a freehold house and land, was registered as a Marshwood Voter in 1840.

^v **Aaron Paul junior** (1823-1884). In the 1841/51 and 1861 Censuses Aaron Paul junior, the son of Aaron Paul senior, worked as an agricultural labourer at Broad Orchard Farm, Shave Cross.

^{vi} farm servants, were given board and lodgings - Reading Mercury Saturday 11 January 1840

^{vii} *George's parents would work well into their old age* - in Marshwood's 1841 Census the oldest agricultural labourer was 77 years old

viii Agricultural labourers could earn around £15 – G Clark. Farm Labourer's Wages in England

^{ix} *George Paul, male servant in 1841 Census*- George lodged at Top House Marshwood working for John Hardy a yeoman farmer

* From 1830 -1844, four members of George's family were in the Dorchester County Gaol. Source: Dorchester Prison Registers 1827 -1839 & 1830 -1845 & 1838-1844

^{xi} *reed bundles* – reed sheaves for thatching were usually sold in lots of 100 each. Source: *Dorset County Chronicle 1830*

xii Restored them to society in an improved state - prison history

xⁱⁱⁱ **Poverty in Dorset and agricultural labourers in the 1820's** – Extract from *Rural Rides by* William Cobbett, an English pamphleteer, journalist, politician, and farmer who travelled through southern England on horseback tours in the 1820's.

45 years ago the labourers brewed their own beer, and that now none of them do it; that formerly they ate meat, cheese and bread, and they now live almost wholly on potatoes; that formerly it was a rare thing for a girl to be with child before she was married, and that now it is as rare that she is not, the parties being so poor that they are compelled to throw the expense of the wedding on the parish; that the felons in the jails and hulks live better than the honest labouring people, and that these latter commit thefts and robbery, in order to get into the jails and hulks, or to be transported; that men are set to draw wagons and carts like beasts of burden - it is no temporary cause, it is no new feeling of discontent that is at work; it is a deep sense of grievous wrongs; it is long harboured resentment; it is an accumulation of revenge for unmerited punishment.

xiv George's crimes recorded in the Dorset County Sessions register and reported at the time in the Dorset County Chronicle – Australian Convict transportation registers 1844-45 and the Dorset County Chronicle Thurs 26 Dec 1844 pg. 4

^{xv} *Transported from Dorset.* Transportation to the Australian colonies began in 1788 and ended in 1868. Hundreds of Dorset people were given sentences and sent *beyond the seas*. In one short time period alone, 1836-1845, *Orders for Transportation* were signed for the removal of 138 men and 6 women from the county. Source: *Dorset Quarter Sessions Order Book 1836-1845*

^{xvi} *prisoners taken overnight from Dorchester gaol to the Millbank prison.* The moment a transportation sentence was handed down in the Dorchester County Court the prisoner travelled overnight to Millbank arriving the next morning – Source: *Dorset County Chronicle Thurs 6 Nov 1845*

^{xvii} no names were read out or given to any bystanders – Source: <u>prison history</u>

^{xviii} **Between 1841 and 1844, in less than four years, there were 16,256 convicts landed in Van Diemen's Land**. Source: Libraries Tasmania

xix 1845 convict records, numbers of prisoners – Source: Convict records

^{xx} **Among the 220 convicts aboard the Theresa** was another convict from Dorset. James Cumblen *alias* Cumberland, aged 25 years from Sixpenny Handley transported for 7 years for stealing dead game from an Outhouse

^{xxi} Browning wrote a letter about the voyage of the Theresa dated 14 July 1845 to a friend in England. Extract from a letter to a friend in England dated C.S Theresa Hobart Town Harbour Tasmania July 14 1845 Quote from this letter – and death appeared not amongst us; 329 persons were embarked in England and 329 landed at Hobart Tasmania. Browning pg. 237 of his book The Convict Ship and England's Exiles (1856)

^{xxii} *Hiring depots*: a hiring depot opening in 1847, for male pass holders, was located at New Town Bay Farm which George would have used. The trade occupations of the inmates living in the hiring depot and the number available for hire were published. The hiring depots kept opening hours from 10am -6pm. Source: *Colonial Times 13 April 1847*

^{xxiii} **George's assignments as convict labour is entered into the Conduct Register** – Source: Con33-1-67 Image 167 in Conduct Register. Libraries Tasmania

^{xxiv} Benjamin Berthon 1784- 1854 - Berthon brothers were family merchants from the East India Company. Eight members of the Berthon family arrived in Hobart in 1832 on the ship Arab.

^{XXV} The price of eggs were from 6d to one shilling a dozen - Sources: trade adverts and prices for eggs in Hobart in the Trove Digitalised newspapers – <u>Trove</u>

^{xxvi} O'Brien Bridge - (Glenorchy) According to the Muster of 1809, Thomas O'Brien was granted 100 acres of land. During the next few years, a bridge was built across Humphries Rivulet a tributary of the Derwent River, laying adjacent to the O'Brien Farm. A vital crossing to local residents it became known as

David Barton, Australia April 2023

O'Brien's Bridge, standing as a local icon and used locationally in many Deed & Legal Documents in Hobart. Source: *fellowshipfirstfleeters.org.au*

xxvii Farms for sale at O'Brien Bridge. Source: The Tasmanian Hobart Saturday 10 March 1832

^{xxviii} Thomas Branscombe held property in Hobart and in the parishes of Glenorchy and Melville - (1840)
 property in Hobart Town 20 perches [505 sq metres]; (1842) 74 acres, 2 roods. Parish of Glenorchy,
 County of Buckingham; (1844) 100 acres. Parish of Melville, County of Monmouth – Source: Libraries
 Tasmania

^{xxix} **Overell, built homesteads and developed properties** - Land purchases and homesteads were located on both the north and south side of the Rivulet. By 1840, New Town consisted of about thirty homes, a few general corner shops and an inn. New Town also retained a convict presence since the establishment of a Government Farm. A hulk moored off Gellibrand Point during the probation period became known as the New Town Probation Station and accommodated convicts working in the district. Convicts working for the Department of Roads continued to be accommodated at the New Town Farm Station until 1846. In 1840-41, a stone bridge was built over the New Town Rivulet. Source: *ourtasmania.com*

*** 1848 Census Tasmania – Males (42,324); Females (15,712); Hobart population (21,429). Source: Cornwall Chronicle Sat 1 April 1848

^{xxxi} Margaret Pollard – contracted for 12 months to work for Stephen Hughes on 3 June 1850 and paid £7 per annum. In April 1851 Margaret, left Hughes's service and married ex- convict Luke Dales, from Bainton Yorkshire, who was sentenced to 7 years for stealing a coat, arriving on the ship Bangalore in 1852. Source: Libraries Tasmania

^{xxxii} **Hobart 1852 had 24,000 inhabitants and third largest city in Australia** - The Companion to *Tasmania* History (uts.edu.au)

^{xxxiii} Lt Governor Denison, alarmed at the departure of the working population - The Gold Rush in Victoria brought extraordinary dislocation and change to the population of Van Diemen's Lan. Between March 1851 and October 1852, so many men went to the gold fields that the adult male population dropped by about 33 percent (10,129), and many did not return. Lt-Governor Denison alarmed at the departure of the working population, asked in vain for more British emigration. Inflation caused price increases in bacon, meat, leather, firewood and trousers. Labour shortages resulted in high wages for remaining workers, and land under cultivation decreased by 18 percent. Source: University of Tasmania.

^{xxxiv} Leaving for the Gold Rush – George's last master Joseph Reason, where he worked for as a convict, left for Melbourne and went to the Victorian goldfields in October 1852 on the ship Yarra Yarra. Source: Libraries Tasmania

^{xxxv} The Victorian government responds to the excitement with the offer of a reward of £200 to anyone finding gold – Source: The Argus Sat 18 Dec 1852

xxxvi Creole schooner - The Creole was a colonial trader, it's crew changed regularly on the Hobart to Melbourne run. Customs records show the ship's cargo included: apples, beef, butter, cheese, confectionary, fish, flour, hams, household goods [bedsteads and chairs], ironmongery, oatmeal, palings, postal mail ,ropes, rum, sheep [400 sheep from Melbourne],shingles, tea, tobacco and wheat. Source: Libraries Tasmania

^{xxxvii} It is likely that George had any intention of returning to Hobart on the Creole – I checked the Creole's crew and passenger lists and did not find George mentioned on other voyages.

^{xxxviii} **Drays to the diggings** – Carrier agents in Melbourne would advertise four horse vans, covered drays and horse and bullock drays' going to the diggings and also job positions for draymen. *Merton & Co daily passengers & goods by first rate horse teams to the diggings. Drays ready to load for any of the diggings at the shortest notice.* Source: *The Argus 3 August 1854.*

^{xxxix} *Mr. Merton a carrier agent* –During the 1850's J. S. Merton of 22 Swanston Street regularly advertised his first-rate horse and bullock teams leaving daily to the diggings with passengers and goods as well as drays ready to load for any of the diggings at the shortest notice. Sources: Argus newspapers ^{xI} *Briggs Hotel* – the hotel was close to the gold diggings and provided entertainment for the mining camps. *Amusements Mount Blackwood. Mr Youle the inimical impersonator of negro character and comic singer takes a benefit week at Briggs Hotel; we may expect a rare treat that evening and there is no doubt he will have a crowed house. Source: Argus Tues 1 January 1856*

^{xli} *Maurice Keppel* – besides keeping a store in Mount Blackwood Maurice Keppel was the licensee of the Old Governor Bourke Hotel cnr Lonsdale & Spring St. Keppel advertised his hotel with *good stabling and skittle yard*. Source: *The Argus Monday* 28 July 1856

x^{lii} Ploughmen could earn from 18-20 shillings. Source: The Herald Mon 19 May 1862

xⁱⁱⁱⁱ **Gold Country, 30 miles outside of Woodhouselee** – the Gold Country refers to Tuena, Isabella, Bulong, Kangoola and the Abercrombie Diggings where gold was discovered in the 1850's. Woodhouselee in the 2016 Census had a population of 15.

x^{liv} *I live with Henry Gray* - Henry Gray (1830-1904), had a family of 23 children and kept horses and cattle as well as cultivating wheat and hay paddocks – Source: *Goulburn Herald & Chronicle Saturday 18* November 1876

x^{lv} Job Gray - Job Gray (1840-1914), brother of Henry Gay had 720 acres, a pre-emptive lease, at Pejar, about 20 miles from Goulburn, rent £1 2s annum. He ran sheep, employed shepherds and sold fat sheep on the Sydney market. Source: *The Goulburn Herald. Wednesday 18 August 1870*

^{xlvi} I stopped at the Emu Inn last night – the Emu Inn was in Auburn St, Goulburn and was a brick building, containing a bar, 13 rooms together with kitchen, stables, coachouse. Source: Advert placed in Goulburn Herald Wed 17 Nov 1861

x^{lvii} Those officials in Dorset considering the Peace and Civil Concerns of the County – broad term used to encompass the High Sheriff, judges, magistrates, constables in the County Courts. Source: the Dorset County Chronicle 1844