

Convict Bank Accounts

A new index has been added to the suite of online resources now available on State Records' website. The index to the series 'Warrants to pay convicts sums to their credit in the Savings Bank of New South Wales', 1837–70 (CGS 12221) includes over 1300 entries. This is the first part of a comprehensive index to the surviving records relating to convict bank accounts.

Convict accounts were created as a result of Commissioner Bigge's recommendation that a convict should not have access to money with which to 'purchase' a more comfortable life while undergoing punishment. The money was entrusted to the care of the Surgeon Superintendent on the voyage out from England and then deposited in the bank on arrival in Sydney. Friends or relatives could also deposit money to be held in trust or a convict could earn money for extra work or duties performed.

Convicts could not access the money until they showed evidence of reform, such as receiving a ticket-of-leave or pardon or on completion of their sentence. Extenuating circumstances, such as the need to pay for defence in a court trial, were also taken into consideration. Application could be made to access the sums held in their credit and, if approved, a warrant was issued which authorised the money to be withdrawn.

The indexed series contains the butts of warrants and gives the number and date of the warrant, convict's name, ship of arrival and condition (eg ticket-of-leave, free, dead). While the date range in the series title refers to the date of the warrant, many convicts included in the index arrived years prior to 1837 but only received the warrant on becoming free.

You can order copies of documents referred to in the index via the online order form:

<http://www.records.nsw.gov.au/publications/convicts/copyorder.htm>

Change of address

We haven't moved but ...
We have a new postal address:



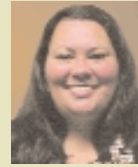
PO Box 516
Kingswood NSW 2747



Please amend your mailing lists
and contact details



New Aboriginal Liaison Archivist



Introducing Melissa Jackson, who started a 12-month stint as Archivist – Aboriginal Liaison at State Records in April, keeping the seat warm for Kirsten Thorpe who is on maternity leave ...

'I have been part of the Public Service 'family' for a long while now, with time spent at the Department of Housing as well as the Attorney General's Department. I come to State Records after 11 years as an Indigenous Services Librarian at the State Library of NSW.

I am of Bundjalang descent and have lived in Sydney all my life. After finishing high school I was accepted into the University of Western Sydney where I obtained my teaching degree, followed by librarian qualifications from the University of Technology, Sydney in 1999.

During my stay with State Records I aim to gain a greater knowledge of how government records relate to Aboriginal people, and assist in making those records accessible to Aboriginal researchers. I also hope to share my knowledge of how to access material at the State Library of NSW.



40th Community Access Point

In May, Alan Ventress, Associate Director, City, launched the 40th Community Access Point at Taree. As part of its intention to make the State's archives accessible to users, no matter where they are, State Records has created an Archives Resource Kit containing many of the key documents from the State's history, such as records of births, deaths and marriages, shipping indexes, naturalisation indexes, the Colonial Secretary's papers from 1788 – 1825 and guides to these records. Initially resource kits were distributed to 39 Community Access Points as far afield as Burke, Cooma and Inverell. Enthusiastic representations from the local community led to the Greater Taree City Library becoming the 40th Community Access Point. Resources include a Genealogical Research Kit generously donated by the Manning Wallamba Family History Society. Congratulations and thanks to all.

Upcoming Events

The History of Italian settlement in NSW

A joint event with Co.As.It. Italian Heritage

Sydney Records Centre

Saturday 31 August 2002, 10.00 am – 4.00 pm

\$25 (includes morning & afternoon tea & lunch)

bookings essential: Lindsay Allen ph: (02) 8276 5613

History Week: Railways and the Changing Landscape of NSW

A seminar exploring the development of the railway system in NSW, highlighting the Eveleigh project

Western Sydney Records Centre

Saturday 21 September 2002, 10.30 am – 3.30 pm

\$25 (includes morning & afternoon tea & lunch)

bookings essential: Lindsay Allen ph: (02) 8276 5613

Sydney's Colourful Past

A glimpse of some of the characters and stories from yesteryear, with a guided tour of the *Registry of Flash Men* exhibition

Sydney Records Centre

Thursday 19 September 2002, 10.30 am – 12.30 pm

FREE (includes morning tea)

bookings essential: Lindsay Allen ph: (02) 8276 5613

Skeletons in the Closet: a visit to State Records

A family history presentation to coincide with the Sydney 2002 Gay Games and Cultural Festival

Sydney Records Centre

Saturday 26 October 2002, 10.30 am – 12.30 pm

FREE

bookings essential: Lindsay Allen ph: (02) 8276 5613

Family History Online

Speakers from State Records, the Society of Australian Genealogists and the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages will explore the range of online resources now available to family historians

Western Sydney Records Centre

Saturday 16 November 2002, 10.30 am – 1.30 pm

FREE

bookings essential: Lindsay Allen ph: (02) 8276 5613

Why do we do that?

Why must white gloves be worn when touching original archives?

Everybody's hands produce oils — some more than others. These oils will transfer onto archive documents and cause damage. Paper, parchment/vellum and photographs are all affected. The transferred oil or grease creates marks on the surface and attracts dirt and dust. Over time the combination of dirt and grease causes paper and the surface of photographs to break down.

State Records has a new policy of issuing white cotton gloves to readers requesting original archives. There may be some exceptions: in some cases gloves can lessen the sensitivity of the fingers and make paper handling more difficult. This is particularly so with modern paper, which is much more brittle and susceptible to physical damage from handling. In this case, readers would be asked to ensure that their hands are clean and free from lotions, rather than be asked to wear gloves.

By wearing white gloves or keeping hands clean we will ensure that we protect originals for the future. *Emily O'Reilly, Conservator*

Volunteer Program Update

State Records volunteers are currently working on four projects. An index to convict pardons will be available on our website when completed. Other projects include an index to hotel plans and research into the Soldiers Settlement Scheme. The volunteers are also checking microfilm copies of 'Police Gazettes' and 'Public Service Lists'.

enquiries: Deborah Sims ph: (02) 9673 1788

email: volunteers@records.nsw.gov.au

Convict Journeys: Secondary Transportation

Speakers will look at the range of records relating to the secondary transportation of convicts

Sydney Records Centre

Saturday 7 December 2002, 10.30 am – 12.30 pm

FREE (includes morning tea)

bookings essential: Lindsay Allen ph: (02) 8276 5613