“To Fill Dishonored Graves”
Assembling life course data for transported British convicts

Hamish Maxwell-Stewart
School of History & Classics
1st assessment of the impact of transportation from conviction through to end of sentence

Look at long-run social and epidemiological impact.

and intergenerational
19 major vessels & all minor and local convictions missing

No differentiation between genders

Middle section of alphabet missing

Target male ships missing in Oxley data

Some data but substantially incomplete

Data for most voyages but level of data varies.

Physical descriptions added for females
### Record Coverage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Transported from the British Isles</th>
<th>Minor Vessels from Other Colonies</th>
<th>Minor Vessels Other Australian Colonies</th>
<th>Colonially Convicted</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AOT Index</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oxley</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Con 23</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Con 18/19</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Con 31/40</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Con 33</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Potential Linkage Criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NO. OF RECORDS</th>
<th>POLICE NO.</th>
<th>SHIP</th>
<th>TRIAL DATE</th>
<th>VOLUME NO. &amp; PAGE</th>
<th>DETAILS OF CRIME &amp; FAMILY</th>
<th>PHYSICAL DESCRIPT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>AOT INDEX</strong></td>
<td>81,575*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OXLEY</strong></td>
<td>34,624</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CON 23</strong></td>
<td>8744</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CON 18/19</strong></td>
<td>29902</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CON 31/40</strong></td>
<td>38540</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CON 33</strong></td>
<td>2435</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* = includes aliases and multiple convicts. Number unique individuals unknown. Est. 73,000

Total number of records = 195,820

Inherited data
**Record Linkage Approaches**

**Block by ship** — (in nearly every record)
Number on each ship from British Isles varied from 46-500

**Series of passes linking on**
1) Police Number, Ship and Name
2) Volume Number, Page and Name
3) Ship and Name

**Store data as a series of chains**
Matches fed into LKT — Record A - Record B
All the unique keys for records fed into LKT
LKT uses the keys to assemble the matched pairs into chains
If multiple births, deaths, police numbers, arrivals etc — an algorithm attaches flag to the chain

John Bass
JAMES SAVAGE per DUNCAN
Five records in chain

AOT Index
- BIRTH — 1814

Oxley Male
- CONVICTION — 1839-12-31
- SAILLED — 1840-12-16
- ARRIVED — 1841-04-18
- CONDUCT — 1841-04-18
- DESCRIBED — 1841-04-18

Con 18 Description

Con 31 Conduct

Death Record
- FAMILY — 1841-04-18
- DEATH — 1846-12-1

GENERATE LIFE COURSE EVENTS

Elam, Kent
- Kent Quarter Sessions, 10 years,
  Sheep stealing
  Prosecuted by Mr Rignan at Elam
- Duncan, Sheerness,
  Thos Grieves (Master)
  Wm McDowell (Surgeon Supt)
  Via Cape Town
  Days at sea 123

259 convicts embarked
259 convicts landed Van Diemen’s Land
- Aged 26
- Eyes Grey
- Hair Dark Brown
- Height 66.5 Inches
- Large scar on right shoulder scar on
  forefinger left hand

Church of England
- Labourer
- Ploughman
- Farm labourer

Single
- Father - John at Elam Kent
  7 Brothers - Martin, Austin, Robert, Edward,
  John, William, 1 Sister Jane. 2 near Dover,
  others at Elam, John in the Marines

Hobart Hospital
**LINKAGE RATES (MALES)**

Excluding links flagged as Bad

**ASSIGNMENT**

**PROBATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bad Links</th>
<th>Singletons</th>
<th>Linked 2</th>
<th>Linked 3</th>
<th>Linked 4</th>
<th>Linked 5</th>
<th>Linked 6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CON 31</td>
<td>31,887</td>
<td>97 %</td>
<td>97 %</td>
<td>97 %</td>
<td>97 %</td>
<td>97 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CON 23</td>
<td>8,744</td>
<td>97 %</td>
<td>91 %</td>
<td>91 %</td>
<td>97 %</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CON 33</td>
<td>2,435</td>
<td>97 %</td>
<td>75 %</td>
<td>75 %</td>
<td>75 %</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CON 18</td>
<td>19,315</td>
<td>97 %</td>
<td>97 %</td>
<td>75 %</td>
<td>75 %</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oxley</td>
<td>25,062</td>
<td>85 %</td>
<td>75 %</td>
<td>75 %</td>
<td>75 %</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male Deaths</td>
<td>7,380</td>
<td>92 %</td>
<td>75 %</td>
<td>75 %</td>
<td>75 %</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**LINKAGE RATES (FEMALES)**

Excluding links flagged as Bad

**CON 40**

- Bad Links: 6,673 (58%)
- Singletons: 12.5%
- Linked 2: 25.0%
- Linked 3: 37.5%
- Linked 4: 50.0%
- Linked 5: 0%
- Linked 6: 0%

**OXLEY**

- Bad Links: 1,238 (84%)
- Singletons: 12.5%
- Linked 2: 25.0%
- Linked 3: 37.5%
- Linked 4: 50.0%
- Linked 5: 0%
- Linked 6: 0%
NUMBER OF CHAINS = 62,226 (Records linked to at least one other record)

= Men  
= Women

Lack of Police Numbers for Female Convict Records
ADDITION MORE RECORDS

Absconding and Apprehended notices — Hobart Town Gazette 1824-1860

= 68,097

Hobart Town Gazette, Tickets of Leave, Certificates of Freedom, Pardons and Promotions.

= 182,696

Two Advantages

1) Add a police number to many chains without a police number.

2) Add the date that the convict became free.

Important because:

a) Should not have an entry in the Civil Register of Deaths if still a convict

b) Should not appear in the list of colonial departures

3) Identify runaways who were never apprehended
ADDING GAZETTE NOTICES

1. Appointments and dismissals from the Colonial Police
2. Ticket of Leave
3. Pardons
4. Certificates of Freedom

98% of male chains contain either a Gazette notice or a death in sentence
77% of male chains contain either a Gazette notice or a death in sentence
WILLIAM DOUCE
per DUNCAN

BIRTH — 1817

Saffron Walden, Essex, 1817

Tried with William Douce, Charles Thomson, Edward Warren and James Harwood all on board
Prosecutor John White, Depden
Prior Convictions: poaching 10 or 11 times; once 8 mths; 5 times 3 mths; once 5 mths; 2 mths; 1 mth and once for turnips 1 mth

Aged 19
62.75 inches tall

Father and Mother [Father]
James native place 2 brothers Richard and William on board; 7 sisters Mary, Sarah, Lydia, Sophia, Eliza, Emma, Phoebe; Sarah London and Llydia

Brickmaker

POSITION 3 p.85 Con 31/12

WILLIAM DOUCE

Saffron Walden, Essex, 1821

Tried with James Douce, Charles Thomson, Edward Warren and James Harwood all on board
Prosecutor John White
Prior Convictions: twice for poaching; 1 mth each time

Aged 23
63 inches tall

Relations as above

Brickmaker’s Labourer

POSITION 1 p.86 Con 31/12
Same place of trial
Same date of trial
Same sentence
Same ship
EDWARD KENNEDY
per ELIZABETH

December 1832 — Assigned to Mr Thomas Parker

26 July 1833 — Parker — Gross in subordination also assaulting his master and violently beating and assaulting his fellow servant. Original sentence extended two years and recommended to be sent to a penal settlement. MLS and JW. — Con 31/26

December 1833, Public Works

17 February 1834 — Road Party — Absent from the huts at an improper hour — 6 Mos Hard Labour Grass Tree Hill Recommended. WJP. — Con 31/26

19 March 1835 — Mack — Insolence and violent conduct in Mr Muir’s Public House — 36 Lashes and returned to his service. CPM. — Con 31/26


December 1835, Assigned to Mr A Drought

18 April 1839 — The remaining part of his extended sentence remitted by order of His Excellency, vide memo of P. Supt. — Con 31/26

Employment History

MR THOMAS PARKER
ROAD PARTY
GRASS TREE HILL
J. D. MACK
Macquarie District
ALEXANDER DOWNIE
Norton Mandeville
Hamilton
REV A. DROUGHT
Church of England Rector Green Ponds

Fellow Workers

367 John Andrews
1106 William Courtney
1338 William Counsel
1392 George Cornish
274 William Elliot
404 John French
723 Daniel Groves
504 James Leverett
595 Charles Lane
728 Charles Pizzie
1377 Andrew West
1379 John Wilson
211 Jane Boulter
347 Thomas Fisher
LINKAGE PROCESS

AOT Index
- Oxley
  - Con 18
  - Con 19
  - Con 23
  - Con 31
  - Con 33
  - Con 40
  - Con 41

Death Registers
- Burial Registers
- Despatches
- Conduct Regs
- Musters

1830 Muster
1832 Muster
1833 Muster
1835 Muster

Absconders
- Apprehended

Pardons
- Cert. Freedom

Departures

Civil Marriages
Civil Births
Civil Deaths

Link Chains
Sick Lists
Died in Sentence
Work & Punishment

BDM Victoria

18
PANOPTICON

Vs

TRANSPORTATION
Death rates male convicts and prisoners, Van Diemen’s Land, Millbank and Eastern State Penitentiary.

Assignment System, VDL, 1830-39
Probation System, VDL, 1840-53
Millbank Penitentiary, London
Eastern Penitentiary, Philadelphia