

CATON, Thomas

Variations : Cayton

Alias :

Ship	Date arrived (Sydney)
Bengal Merchant	21 July 1838

Shipping indent(s)

Fiche	Page	Reel	Shelf	Type
733	78		X641	Printed

Trial (place, date)	Prev conv	Offence	Sentence
Lancaster Q Sessions 18 Oct 1837	1	House breaking	14 years
Notes: Source = printed indent. Prev conv was 9 months before trial			

Age	Marr/S	Child'n	Relig	Educ	Native place	Country
21	S		Cath	R & W	Lancashire	England
Notes: Source = bound indent						

Trade or calling	Height	Complexion	Hair	Eyes
File cutter	5' 3 qrt	Fair & freckled	Brown	brown
Tattoos: Mermaid with comb and glass in hands inside lower left arm.				
Other features: small scar on centre of forehead, ears pierced, nose declining. Scar on back of little finger of left hand.				
Notes: Source = printed indent. Notation on indent, Brother James Caton, a prisoner per "Exmouth" [the ship is incorrect, see note at bottom of next page]				
Other arrival info (eg ships musters & papers):				

Assignment

Assigned to F Wilson, Tocal, by July 1840 (See 'other' below)	
Still assigned to Wilson in 1844 (see MM below)	
At Tocal: 1840-44	Tocal occupation:

Freedom (year, details)

T.O.L.	46/1456 Maitland 26 November 1846, 4/4210 [reel 960]. Cancelled 22 February 1853 absenting himself from assemble without authority and neglecting to obtain employment out of the township as directed by the Bench – to serve a probation of six months Govt. 49/436 TOL PPT [as Thomas Carton/Cartor per Bengal Merchant 1838], 10 December 1849, 4/4273 [reel 979], on the recommendation of the Commissioner of Crown Lands Darling Downs. Allowed to remain in the Darling Downs District in the service of Mr J. M. Terrell [? hard to read], 12 months. 50/816 TOL PPT [as Thomas Cator per Bengal Merchant 1838], 30 November 1850, 4/4276 [reel 980], on the recommendation of the Commissioner of Crown Lands New England. Allowed to remain in the service of Edw'd O'Connell New England 12 mos. From SG 23 March 1853 p4, TOL cancelled, "illegally out of his district"; Armidale bench. 53/27 Maitland 3 May 1853, 4/4225 [reel 965].
C.O.F.	(not found)

Colonial crime & secondary punishment

Date	Offence	In service of	Punishment
1840	Absconded	Felix Wilson	
1844 Dec	Fighting	Mr Wilson	14 days cells & ret'd to Govt
1844 Dec	Absconded	Reynolds, Tocal	
1853 Feb	Absent from assembly	TOL	TOL cancelled, 6 months probation

Sources: see TOL above and 'other' below
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Colonial Secretary's correspondence

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Colonial marriage

Date	Place	To whom	BDM index reference
1854	Maitland	Marianne RILEY	V1854 107 100
Permission to marry:			

Death

Date	Place	Age	BDM index reference
Prob 1883	Gladesville	71 [sic]	1883/7216

Timeline

Date	Event
1838 July	Arrived Sydney
1840 Aug	At Tocal, assigned to F Wilson
1844 Dec	Transferred from Wilson to Government
1846 Nov	TOL for Maitland
1849 Dec	employed by JM Trerell [?] on the Darling Downs for 12 months
1850 Nov	employed by Edw'd O'Connell at New England for 12 months
1853 Feb	TOL cancelled
1853 May	TOL restored
1854	Married Marianne RILEY at Maitland

Other (source, details)

<p>NSW GG 5 August 1840 p729. Caton Thomas, Bengal Merchant (3), 23, Lancashire, file cutter... absconded from Felix Wilson, Paterson, since July 15.</p> <p>MM 28 December 1844 2.5. Thomas Cayton, assigned to Mr Wilson, brought before the Bench charged with fighting at the racecourse. Sentenced to 14 days in the cells, and to be returned to Government.</p> <p>NSW GG 10 Jan 1845 p37. Thomas Caton, Bengal Merchant, 1838, 28, Lancashire, file cutter, ears pierced, nose declining...<i>brother James Cayton, a prisoner per "Clayton"</i>, [absconded] from E Reynolds, of Joc:el [sic], district of Paterson, since 26th ultimo. [note: these two incidents are almost certainly connected. He probably ran from Tocal on Boxing Day to attend Maitland races. Reynolds leased Tocal from Wilson].</p>

Keywords

Brother

Thomas was a horsebreaker at Wollombi in 1856 when his daughter Catherine was born.

Note re his brother James: Indent indicated James arrived per ship Exmouth. NSWGG 10 January 1845 p37 (see above) indicated per ship Clayton. In fact, he arrived per ship **Camden** whose master was Clayton.

Note re emancipation: Thomas's 14 year sentence was due to expire on 18 October 1851 (14 years from date of conviction). A ticket-of-leave issued after that date implies his original term was extended as punishment for a colonial offence, possibly related to the 1840 absconding or to another, unknown court appearance. It was possibly a three year extension, in which case he would have been free by servitude (and without further need of a Ticket of Leave) from 18 October 1854 [further research required].

General information

Research on Tocal's convicts was undertaken by Brian Walsh. Please do not email or upload this document without acknowledgement.

For further information see the book *Voices from Tocal –Convict Life on a Rural Estate* by Brian Walsh, available from www.tocal.com

For contact details see www.tocal.com

research by Brian Walsh