

SHEA, John

Variations : Shen

Alias : Morrison

Ship	Date arrived (Sydney)
Countess of Harcourt	21 December 1822

Shipping indent(s)

Fiche	Page	Reel	Shelf	Type
649	243		4/4008	Bound
		2749	X40	Irish

Trial (place, date)	Prev conv	Offence	Sentence
Cork City 1822, Spring Assizes		Highway robbery	7 years
Notes: Source = bound indent. Offence source = COF (see below). Irish indent records offence as "larceny from person".			

Age	Marr/S	Child'n	Relig	Educ	Native place	Country
19					Cork City	Ireland
Notes: Source = bound indent						

Trade or calling	Height	Complexion	Hair	Eyes
Reaper	5' 6 3/4	Sallow	Brown	hazel
Tattoos: nr				
Other features: Pug nose, lost 2 front teeth in upper jaw (noted on COF butts)				
Notes: Source = bound indent & COF butts				
Other arrival info (eg ships musters & papers):				

Assignment

Numerous, see Col Sec below	
Assigned to JP Webber [Tocal] on 2 April 1825	
At Tocal: 1825	Tocal occupation:

Freedom (year, details)

C.O.F.	29/0353, 10 Apr 1829, 4/4297 [reel 984], renewed 4 Feb 1831 vide No 31/61, this having been returned mutilated.
C.O.F.	31/0061, 4 Feb 1831, 4/4304 [reel 987], in lieu of 29/0353, reissued having been returned mutilated
C.O.F.	33/0964, 27 Aug 1833, 4/4317 [reel 991], in lieu of 31/0061, reissued having been returned mutilated. Notes year of birth as 1803, offence as "highway robbery" and physical features as noted above.

Colonial crime & secondary punishment

Date	Offence	In service of	Punishment
1824 Aug	Disobedience of orders	Mr Chandler	50 lashes
1827 Feb	Drunkenness, causing the loss of a shovel	Government, Newcastle	One month in Gaol Gang
1828 Feb	House robbery	(Penrith)	Death to 14 years transportation and hard labour in chains
1831 April	Stealing		2 yrs penal settlement (M Bay)
1833 May	?	Free	3 months labour Sydney Gaol
1834 Jan	?		6 weeks labour Sydney Gaol
1834 Mar	?	Free	3 rd class factory, 12 months
1834 June	Sodomy		2 years iron gang
1836 Aug	?	Free	2 months labour Sydney Gaol
Sources: see Col Sec and 'other' below			

Colonial Secretary's correspondence

1822 Dec 26 On list of convicts landed from the "Countess of Harcourt" & forwarded to Parramatta for distribution, assigned to Jos Morley at Prospect (CSLS, reel 6010; 4/3507 p.116)
1823 Mar 21-1824 Dec 10 On list of prisoners assigned (Fiche 3291; 4/4570D pp.113, 116, 117, 118) 21 March 1823, to Robert Stack, Liverpool, returned March 1824 to Prisoners Barracks 6 March 1824, to J Redman, George St 30 April 1824, to James Chandler, Botany 10 Dec 1824, to Margaret Emmerson, Clarence St, returned 4 March 1825 to Prisoners Barracks
1824 Aug 9 Servant to Mr Chandler. On return of convicts tried & punished at Liverpool (Reel 6023; 4/6671 p.33) Disobedience of orders, 50 lashes
1825 April 2 assigned to JP Webber, Newcastle (4/4522 reel 586)
1831 May 26. Jno Morrison/Shea, <i>Countess of Harcourt</i> , on hulk, on list to be forwarded to Moreton Bay. SR, CSLS to the Sheriff 4/3897 p98 [reel 1062].
1831 July 30. John Morrison alia Shea, <i>Countess of Harcourt</i> , on list of prisoners under sentence of transportation to Moreton Bay per <i>Eleanor</i> , to be properly ironed. SR, CSLS to the Sheriff 4/3897 p149 [reel 1062].
1833 April 30. Sydney, John Shea (Harcourt 2) on list of prisoners recently arrived from Moreton Bay in the <i>Isabella</i> and forwarded to Hyde Park Barracks. (CSLS, 4/3676 p562 [reel 1046]). Similar letter, same date, giving instructions for him, arrived on the <i>Isabella</i> , to be forwarded from the hulk to Hyde Park Barracks (CSLS 4/3898 p304 [reel 1063]). See also Phoenix Hulk Entrance Book 4/6282 p226, reel 819, Hulk entry 29 April 1833.
Note: there is only one John Shea, <i>Countess of Harcourt</i> on any trip to NSW (and no John Morrison)

NSW Census/musters

1822	(not found)
1823-25	
1828	Employed as a cooper with "Bridge Party – Murphys".

Colonial marriage

Date	Place	To whom	BDM index reference
Permission to marry:			

Death

Date	Place	Age	BDM index reference

Timeline

Date	Event
1822 Dec	Arrived Sydney and numerous assignments
1825 Apr	Assigned to James Webber at Tocal
1827 Feb	In Government service, Newcastle
1828 Nov	Working as a cooper in Murphy's Bridge Party
1829 Apr	COF
1831-33	Re-transported to Moreton Bay for stealing, returned April 1833.

Other (source, details)

1827 Feb 6 In Government service. Drunkenness which caused him to lose a shovel, the property of the crown, one month in the Gaol Gang. SR Returns of Trials, Newcastle Bench of Magistrates [COD 120]
1828 Feb 2. John Shea, <i>Countess of Harcourt</i> . Admitted to Sydney Gaol, from the General Sessions, Penrith for house robbery. Found guilty by the Criminal Court on 15 March and sentenced to death, commuted to 14 years transportation and hard labour in chains. Disposed to the hulk on 16 April 1828. SR, Sydney Gaol Entrance Book 1825-1828, 4/6430 [reel 851]. [Note: this entry is problematic, given the subsequent COF and other entries in the next few years. Was this sentenced further commuted or his conviction quashed? There is only one John Shea on the <i>Countess of Harcourt</i> to NSW regardless of year of arrival. The Phoenix

Hulk entry below confirms correct ship and year of arrival]

1828 April 16. John Shea, *Countess of Harcourt 1822*, labourer, tried Cork, native of Cork, original sentence 7 years for robbery, convicted by the Criminal Court Sydney on 15 March 1828 of burglary. Death commuted to 14 years transportation. Disposed to Moreton Bay. SR, Phoenix Hulk Entrance Book 1825-1831, 4/6281 [reel 819].

1831 March 11. John Morrison alias Shea *Countess of Harcourt* admitted to Sydney Gaol for six weeks labour for gambling in the street, and also for trial for stealing. Found guilty of stealing at Quarter Sessions 21st April and sentenced to two years in a penal settlement, disposed to Hulk 28th April. SR, Sydney Gaol Entrance Book 1830-1831, 4/6432 [reel 851]. See duplicate entry below.

1831 March 11 John Morrison alias Shea *Countess of Harcourt 1822*, bond, from Cork, Catholic, a cooper, admitted to Sydney Gaol 11 March 1831 for six weeks labour and trial. SR, Sydney Gaol Entrance Book 1831-1832, 4/6433 [reel 851].

1833 May 18. John Morrison, *C Harcourt 1823*, from Limerick, catholic, plasterer, admitted to Sydney Gaol for three months labour, discharged free 20 August. SR, Sydney Gaol Entrance Book 1833-1834, 4/6434 [reel 852]. [note two clerical errors – C Harcourt 1823 (no such voyage) and origin Limerick]

1834 Jan 20. John Morrison, *Countess of Harcourt 1822*, from Limerick, Catholic, labourer, admitted to Sydney Gaol for six weeks labour, discharged 3 March (?). SR, Sydney Gaol Entrance Book 1833-1834, 4/6434 [reel 852]

1834 March 13. John Shea, alias Morrison, *Countess of Harcourt 1822*. Admitted to Sydney Gaol (#770) with a 12 month sentence to the 3rd class factory. Disposed to the factory. SR, Sydney Gaol Entrance Book 1833-1834, 4/6434 [reel 852].

1834 June 12. John Morrison, *Countess of Harcourt 1823*, from Limerick, Catholic, servant, admitted to Sydney Gaol from Sydney Police for trial. Disposed to the Police Office 23 July. SR, Sydney Gaol Entrance Book 1834-1835, 4/6435 [reel 852].

1834 July 24. John Shea, *Countess of Harcourt 1822*. Admitted to Sydney Gaol (#1950) from the Sydney Police, remanded till the next day on a charge of sodomy. Disposed for examination by Police on 29 July 1834. SR, Sydney Gaol Entrance Book 1834-1835, 4/6435 [reel 852].

1834 July 29. John Morrison alias Jack Shea, *Countess of Harcourt 1822*, from Limerick, Catholic, labourer, admitted to Sydney Gaol from Sydney Police, for trial QS 21 July, Iron Gang 2 years, disposed to Hulk 23 Sept (?). SR, Sydney Gaol Entrance Book 1834-1835, 4/6435 [reel 852].

1834 September. John Morrison alias Jack Shea, C Harcourt 1822, bond on arrival, free on entry to hulk, cath, labourer, admitted to Phoenix Hulk 23 September 1834 from HM Gaol for 2 years iron gang. Disposed to HM Gaol 4 November 1834. SR, Phoenix Hulk Entrance Book 1833-1837, 4/6286 [reel 819].

1834 November 4. John Morrison, *Countess of Harcourt 1822*, from Limerick, Catholic, labourer, admitted to Sydney Gaol from Hulk for Georges River Iron Gang, discharged to the interior via Liverpool. SR, Sydney Gaol Entrance Book 1834-1835, 4/6435 [reel 852].

1836 August 3. John Morrison or Jack Shea, *Countess of Harcourt 1822*, from Limerick, Catholic, labourer, admitted to Sydney Gaol for two months labour, free 27 September 1836. SR, Sydney Gaol Entrance Book 1835-1837, 4/6436 [reel 852]

Keywords

Bridge party, lashes, Moreton Bay, Hyde Park Barracks, iron gang, Phoenix Hulk

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