

SUFFOLK, ELias

Variations : Elijh, Ely, Elijah

Alias :

Ship	Date arrived (Sydney)
Bussorah Merchant	26 July 1828

Shipping indent(s)

Fiche	Page	Reel	Shelf	Type
669	110		4/4013	Bound

Trial (place, date)	Prev conv	Offence	Sentence
Leceister 10 August 1827	Nil	Burglary	life
Notes: Source = bound indent. TOL butt notes trial as Leceister Assizes			

Age	Marr/S	Child'n	Relig	Educ	Native place	Country
30	M	3	Prot	R	Warwick	England
Notes: Source = bound indent						

Trade or calling	Height	Complexion	Hair	Eyes
Farm worker	5' 3 hlf	Fair	Brown	grey
Tattoos:				
Other features: broad face, mole on right arm. Scar on right hand near thumb. 2 small hairy moles on left arm. 3 small scars on forefinger of left hand.				
Notes: Source = bound indent. Notation on indent: "I.G." [iron gang]				
Other arrival info (eg ships musters & papers):				

Assignment

On arrival, to William Clayton, Patersons River, as per indent	
On 22 July 1829 from William Clayton (deceased) to James Webber [Tocal], see Col Sec 1836/37 with R Lethbridge, Patricks Plains (see 1837 muster)	
At Tocal: 1829	Tocal occupation:

Freedom (year, details)

T.O.L.	41/870 Port Macquarie 3 April 1841 on recommendation of the Port Macquarie Bench, 4/4150 [reel 940]. Altered to Patricks Plains 19 July 1841
C.P.	48/1144, 1 June 1848 (registered 1 August 1848) 4/4458 [reel 787].

Colonial crime & secondary punishment

Date	Offence	In service of	Punishment
1836 June	Stealing cabbages	Mr Lethbridge	100 lashes
1836 Nov	Absconding	Mr Lethbridge	50 lashes
1836 Nov	Leaving farm without permission	Mr Lethbridge	36 lashes
1837 Jan	Losing sheep	Mr Lethbridge	50 lashes
1837 Oct	Disobedience of orders	Mr Lethbridge	50 lashes
1837 Oct	Dishonest conduct	Mr Lethbridge	50 lashes
			Iron Gang [noted on indent]
Sources: see Col Sec and 'other' below			

Colonial Secretary's correspondence

20 July 1829 CSIL 29/5763 in 4/2040 from Princ Sup of Convicts to Col Sec. Have received a letter from James P Webber Patersons Plains requesting that the prisoners James Smith (Phoenix), Jno Shea (Borodino), Elias Suffolk (Bus Merchant) and Wm Andrews (Guildford) be assigned to him from the deceased William Clayton whose effects Mr Webber had administered.
22 July 1829 CSLS 4/3668 p455 [reel 1043]: the four men [see above] transferred to the service of James P Webber esq Patersons Plains.

13 February 1841 CSLS 4/3689 p35, reel 1053. From Col Sec to Princ Sup of Convicts, requesting police history of Elijah Suffolk, “who having rendered assistance in the capture of 3 armed bushrangers known as the Blacksmiths Gang on the Hunter”.

4 March 1841 CSLS 4/3689 p78, reel 1053. (having received police history), Elijah Suffolk (Bussorah Merchant) to be allowed a Ticket of Leave.

NSW Census/muster

1828	Ely SUFFOLK, labourer, age 31, assigned to William Clayton, Patersons Plains
1837	Eliza SUFFOLK, age 37, with R Lethbridge, Patricks Plains

Colonial marriage

Date	Place	To whom	BDM index reference
Permission to marry:			

Death

Date	Place	Age	BDM index reference

Timeline

Date	Event
1828 July	Arrived Sydney and assigned to William Clayton, Patersons Plains
1829 July	Reassigned to James Webber [Tocal] on the death of William Clayton
1836-37	Assigned to Mr Lethbridge, Patrick Plains
1841 Apr	Granted a TOL for assistance in capture of the Blacksmiths bushranger gang
1848	CP

Other (source, details)

NSW GG 23 November 1836 p905. Suffolk Elijah, Bussorah Merchant, 28-1558, Warwick... absconded from Robert Lethbridge, Patrick Plains, since November 6.

NSW GG 30 November 1836 p936. Suffolk Elijah, Bussorah Merchant, apprehended having run away from Robert Lethbridge, Patricks Plains.

SR. Colonial Trials and Records, Benches of Magistrates 1832-36, X709, p 46 [reel 662]. Patrick Plains **2 June 1836**. Elijah Suffolk (B. Merchant 1828, life, Mr Lethbridge). Stealing cabbages from a garden, 100 lashes (received 75 in presence of Captain Forbes and Mr H Glennie). Sheet signed by Chas Forbes JP.

SR. Colonial Trials and Records, Benches of Magistrates 1832-36, X709, p 69 [reel 662]. Patrick Plains **21 November 1836**. Elijah Suffolk (B. Merchant 1828, life, Mr Lethbridge). Absconding 50 lashes, leaving the farm without permission 36 lashes (received 50 & 36 lashes respectively, in the presence of Henry Glennie, Surgeon). [Note: these are consecutive entries and possibly a breach of Bourke’s 50 lashes rule].

The above two entries are also found in SR. Punishment Book (“Black Book”), Patricks Plains 1833-39, 7/3714, pp90-91 [reel 689].

26 January 1837. SR. Punishment Book (“Black Book”), Patricks Plains 1833-39, 7/3714, page91 [reel 689]. Suffolk Elias, Buss Merch’t 28, life, employed by Mr Lethbridge, charged with losing sheep, 50 lashes.

19 October 1837. SR. Punishment Book (“Black Book”), Patricks Plains 1833-39, 7/3714, page 142 [reel 689]. Suffolk Elias, Buss’h Merchant 28, life, employed by Mr Lethbridge, disobedience of orders, 50 lashes, and dishonest conduct, 50 lashes.

SR. Punishment Book (“Black Book”), Patricks Plains 1833-39, 7/3714 [reel 689].

SR, Newcastle Gaol Entrance Book 1840, 2/2007 [reel 756]. Elias Suffolk, Buss Merchant 1828, from Warwickshire, Prot, farm worker, #991 admitted to Newcastle Gaol **26 August 1840** from Maitland for trial. Disposed to Quarter Sessions, acquitted and discharged 5 November 1840.

SH 1 February 1841 p2 col 5 – some background on the Blacksmith bushranger gang.

Keywords

Lashes, iron gang, magistrates, bravery

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

SYDNEY HERALD

Feb. 1st 1841.

UPPER PATTERSON

Bushranging. -- In one of your numbers of last week, I perceive a letter signed "An Settler on the Upper Patterson," and as in inserting it you say your columns are open to such communications, I venture to address you on the same subject.

It is well known that amongst the hills that divide the Paterson and Williams Rivers, a party of Bushrangers have had their resting place these two years past, and from this they made their descents on the Hunter, where they perpetrated their robberies, and it is only lately that emboldened by impunity they have turned their lawless hands on the settlers of the district of their domicile. The party consists of four, has sometimes reduced to only two, but is always headed by the same man, the well known "Blacksmith," a runaway some years ago from Mr. Cory of the Paterson, and who is intimately acquainted with all the passes and ranges of that country. It is well ascertained that their den is amongst the ranges immediately adjacent to Wallarobba Hill, between Mr. Barnett's sheep station and Mr. Pilcher's farm -- eight or nine miles from Paterson Bench, and the same distance from the Dungog Bench, and on the verge of the public road from the one township to the other. Perhaps the Police Magistrates of these districts may not have known what many others less interested knew, that such men were resident in their districts; or may have felt that their means were inadequate to attempt a capture. At all events little or no pursuit has been mentioned lately, when after some outrages a few ticket of leave holders were sent out on search, but as a matter of course; their search was abortive. At present even a semblance of a desire to take the marauders has died away, and they are still in their haunts, doubtlessly concocting fresh incursions.

I perfectly agree with your correspondent that it would be judicious and most likely an effective step, for the Police Magistrates of these two districts to call upon the settlers to meet them on a certain day, and simultaneously approach the ranges from all sides, and thus at once purge their districts of the banditti that have so long infested them.

A NORTHERN RIVER SETTLER.

4/5659 Bench of Magistrates, Singleton Letter Book Aug 1837/June 1841 on AONSW reel 2738

Thomas Jackson Bengal Merchant 1835 life

Charles Riley John 1827 14 years

Elics? Suffolk Buss??? ????? life assigned to Robert Lethbridge and transferred with estate to Messes Brindoch brothers

James Cassidy Roslyn Castle 1834 14 years TofL

Joseph Mutch Georgiana 1829 14 years TofL

15th March 1841

Sir,

In conformity with the commands of the Governor communicated to me in the Colonial Secretary's letter of the 13th Ultimo directing this bench to report on the several claims of the convicts named in the margin who were instrumental to the capture of the bushrangers Sheldon, McIntosh and Larkins on the 5th Ultimo -- I do myself the honor to state that Jackson and Riley were the persons who sent information to Mr Brindoch which led to the apprehension of these bushrangers and Suffolk was the messenger who took it -- Riley and Jackson were of the party as likewise Cassidy and Mutch with several gentlemen when the bushrangers were surprised in their sleep and taken.

Were I required to give an opinion on the appropriate reward for the services of these convicts I would state that as Charles Riley will be free on the first of next month there is no better way than giving him a pecuniary

recompence of 30 pounds.

Thomas Jackson, James Cassidy and Joseph Mutch would I think be sufficiently rewarded by obtaining Conditional Pardons – and Elics Suffolk a ticket of leave for any southern district.

Percy Simpson Pol. Mag.

To – Prin. Sup. of Convicts

research by Brian Walsh