

WEST, Robert

Variations :

Alias :

Ship	Date arrived (Sydney)
Portland	26 March 1832

Shipping indent(s)

Fiche	Page	Reel	Shelf	Type
682	10		4/4017	Bound
699	43		X634	Printed

Trial (place, date)	Prev conv	Offence	Sentence
Norfolk Assizes 23 July 1831	Nil	Machine breaking	Life
Notes: Source = bound indent			

Age	Marr/S	Child'n	Relig	Educ	Native place	Country
50	M	3	Prot	None	Lynn	England
Notes: Source = bound indent						

Trade or calling	Height	Complexion	Hair	Eyes
Gardener (complete) soldier	5' 10	Dark sallow	Dk brown & grey	brown
Tattoos:				
Other features: lost several front teeth, scar on back of left forefinger				
Notes: Source = bound & printed indents				
Other arrival info (eg ships musters & papers):				

Assignment

On arrival, to JP Webber, Markham [Tocal] as per GG 15 August 1832 p238 (occupation shown as gardener) & SG 16 August 1832. (PRO HO10/29 says to JP Webber, Hunters River).
Oct-Dec 1834, transferred to C&F Wilson, purchasers of Tocal (see 'other' below)
At Tocal: 1832-36 Tocal occupation: (gardener?)

Freedom (year, details)

T.O.L. (none – died while bond)
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Colonial crime & secondary punishment

Date	Offence	In service of	Punishment
Sources:			

Colonial Secretary's correspondence

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NSW muster

1837	Age 58, Portland 1831, General Hospital Newcastle Age 60, Portland 1832, Wilson C&F, Paterson Note: the 1837 muster is a composite of the 1836 census with updates for 1837. The Portland did not make a trip to NSW in 1831, and both entries refer to the same person.
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Colonial marriage

Date	Place	To whom	BDM index reference
Permission to marry:			

Death

Date	Place	Age	BDM index reference
4 Dec 1837	Port Macquarie	55	As noted on indent & V1837 3000 21 & 306 44B
Note the above BDMs show he was buried at Port Macquarie on 5 December 1837, age 55, ship <i>Portland</i> , bond.			

Timeline

Date	Event
1832 Mar	Arrived Sydney and assigned to JP Webber, Markham [Tocal]
1834 Oct	Transferred to C&F Wilson, purchasers of Tocal from Webber
1836	Spent some time in Newcastle Hospital
1836	With C&F Wilson [Tocal], then transferred to Port Macquarie
1837 Dec	Died at Port Macquarie

Other (source, details)

Robert West was part of a mob that attacked paper mills at Taverham and Lyng near Norwich on 27 November 1830, causing between £2,700 and £5,000 damage to machinery at the two mills. (see Hobsbawm EJ & Rudé G (1969) *Captain Swing*. Lawrence and Wishart, London.) He was committed for trial in June 1831 and tried at the Summer Assizes held at Norwich Castle on 23 July 1831 (PRO London, PCOM 2/348, Calendar of Prisoners at Norwich Castle 1825-57).

He was found guilty of '*riotously assembling with others and with force demolishing machinery prepared for the manufacture of paper*'. He was sentenced '*to be hanged by the neck until dead*' (PRO London, E389/257 98628, Register of Sheriff's payments).

His sentence was commuted to transportation for life (PRO London, HO 6/16, Judges Returns and Correspondence 1831).

He was taken to the prison hulk *Leviathan* in Portsmouth and from there transferred to the ship *Portland* on 14 November 1831 (PRO London, HO 8/30, Quarterly Returns of Prisoners held on Hulks Sept 1830 - Dec 1831).

NSW GG 3 June 1835 p394. Between October and December 1834 transferred from JP Webber to C&F Wilson [transferred convicts were listed by occupation rather than surname, enabling identification of some individuals. West can be identified as the only 'gardener' among the Tocal convicts].

SR, Phoenix Hulk Entrance Book 1833-1837, 4/6286 [reel 819]. Robert West, *Portland*, Prot, gardener, life, admitted to hulk 15 December 1836 from Hyde Park Barracks to be sent as an invalid to Port Macquarie. Sent 26 December 1836.

Keywords

Protest, Hyde Park Barracks, Port Macquarie, 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