

George Phillips – Scindian Convict #30

George Phillips was enlisted in the British Army and located at the Bury Barracks when he was court-martialed for being absent without leave, drunkenness and offering violence to his superior officer. For this crime he was sentenced to 14 years' transportation. He spent time at Millbank Prison before being transferred to Portland Prison on 28 April 1849. He was held here until being collected by the Scindian on 28 February 1850 for transportation to Western Australia. Phillips was held aboard the Scindian for 24 days following the vessel's arrival in the Swan River Colony on 1 June 1850. When he was taken ashore on 25 June he was described as being a 30-year-old soldier.

Phillips' employers and locations before receiving his ticket-of-leave have been recorded in Convict register Cons 1386, vol. 1, p 3:

Name and residence of Master - John Stanton, Perth, Cooper,

14 April, John Dearden, Perth, Labourer

16 June, John Weedon, Freshwater Bay

11 July, employed in carrying firewood by boat to Fremantle

8 Sept, boating with ...? Cousins up the Swan

26 Sept, passed to Fremantle to get into hospital at Establishment

7 October, passed to Fremantle to work boat between Perth and ...? place for G. Glyde

Applied 13 October 1851 for ticket-of-leave for Champion Bay to Mary ...? One year at 2. 10. 0 £ per month

Calling – Collier

Wages - £15 per annum

District for which he has a ticket-of-leave – Perth originally for Upper Swan, transferred by letter of Comptroller-General dated 12 February 1851.

Height – 5 ft 7 ½ in, hair – dark and a little grey, eyes – blue, visage and complexion – long, sunken and slightly florid, appearance and marks – Square-built – slouching walk, wound on right thigh – D -in left side.

Date of transfer to the district of 15 October 1851 - Champion Bay to enter service of G. Mining Company (Geraldine Mine, Northampton), 2.10.0 per month for one year.

17 April 1851 – Rec'd from employer John Stanton – sixteen shillings and 8 d in account of passage money –

14 April 1851 – notice of having the entered the service of John Dearden of Perth and 26 May rec'd from employer (Dearden) thirteen shillings and 4 d on acc money –

16 June Half Yearly report delivered

11 July gave for fourteen days to carry firewood by boat –

3 Sept – rec'd from Phillips ... sterling on acct passage money –

8 Sept pass for Upper Swan for 14 days.

A few months after receiving his ticket-of-leave Phillips is mentioned in the *Inquirer* on a charge of fighting in the street:

Inquirer, Weds 22 October 1851, p 3, Police Intelligence, Perth

Oct. 14— George Phillips, a ticket-of-leave man was brought before the Bench, charged with fighting and quarrelling in the street. Ordered to pay constable's expenses, and discharged.

On 2 August 1852 Phillips arrived in Fremantle from the Champion Bay District to enter hospital at the Convict Establishment. It is not known what ailment he was suffering from.

His conditional pardon was issued 21 January 1854 at Fremantle. Nothing further can be confirmed regarding Phillips following this time.

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Sources:

Erickson, R., O'Mara, G., *Convicts in Western Australia 1850-1887 : dictionary of Western Australians*. Volume IX, p 438;

Fremantle Prison Convict Database;

National Library of Australia, Trove Digitised Newspapers:

The Inquirer and Commercial News, Wednesday 22 October 1851, p 3;

Portland Prison Register, PCom2_383, 369-376, courtesy of Bevan Carter;

State Records Office of Western Australia, Convict Registers: Cons 1386, vol. 1, p 3, Cons 1156 R17, R21A, R21B, V12.

With grateful thanks to Diane Evans and group for Midwest Convict Database information.