

James Campbell, 6852, *Merchantman*

Researched by Marcia Watson

James Campbell arrived at Fremantle on 16 February 1863, having already served six years of his ten-year sentence. He was granted a Conditional Pardon on 27 January 1865.

James departed from Fremantle on 17 February 1865:

Ship *Briton*, 510 tons, Captain D. Fleming, for Singapore. Passengers — J. Campbell and G. Parker. Cargo of 400 bags flour, 3 hbds. pickled fish, 180 tons, 84 hhds., and 38 bags sandalwood; 34 horses, 5 cows, and 13 tons hay, &c.¹

Williamstown Court, Victoria, 18 May 1865. — Yesterday, before Messrs. Call and Mason, James Campbell was charged with being a prisoner of the Crown illegally at large in Victoria. Senior Constable Witcher of the water police said that he arrested the man on Wednesday evening when he boarded the brig *Syren* from Singapore. On being questioned, the prisoner denied that he had ever been to Western Australia, but the constable, having a suspicion of the man, searched his box and found a conditional pardon setting forth that lie had been transported from Nova Scotia in July 1857, for 10 years, for desertion from the army and theft. It appears that he received the ticket-of-leave in January last and immediately started for Singapore, where he shipped on board the *Syren*.

The prisoner, having acknowledged the offence, was sentenced to six months hard labour on the roads. His Worship also directed that the £10 found in the man's possession should be forfeited and that he be compelled to leave the colony within three weeks of the expiration of his sentence. Mr Call complimented the officer on his skill in ferreting the prisoner out, and expressed a hope that it would not pass unnoticed by the constable's superiors.

Captain Robert McEnchern, of the *Syren*, was complained against for committing a breach of the Convicts' Influx Prevention Act in bringing the prisoner in the last case from Singapore to this port. Mr Pentland appeared for the defence and urged that the master had shipped the man there in ignorance of his ever having been a prisoner of the Crown. Under the circumstances, the Bench inflicted the small penalty of £9 and 5s fees.²

Victoria Prisoner Index:

No 7238, James Campbell³

Illegally in the colony. Convicted at Williamstown on 19 May 1865, and sentenced to six months hard labor on the roads.

James was:

Age 34 in 1865, 5'5½", fresh complexion, light brown hair, hazel eyes, medium nose, medium chin, light eyebrows, small visage, medium forehead, native of Glasgow, stonemason, E.C. of Scotland, read and write, 10st 5lbs, S...ral scar on forehead, scar under left ear.

History: In *Merchantman* from Bermuda to Swan River in 1862, under sentence of Ten years for desertion from 63 Regt. To PP [Port Philip] per *Syren* from Singapore in 1865; from Swan River to Singapore per *New Britain (sic)*, proper name.

HM Gaol: 19 May 1865, the Police Magistrate ordered that Ten pounds of money found on the prisoner should be forfeited.

31 August 1865. Authorized for discharge on 19 September 1865.

No further trace found of James Campbell.

¹ The Inquirer and Commercial News (Perth, WA : 1855 - 1901), 22 Feb 1865, p2

² The Herald (Melbourne, Vic. : 1861 - 1954), 20 May 1865, p3

³ <https://prov.vic.gov.au/archive/172739EB-F3A9-11E9-AE98-8B4AA78465D6?image=652>