

### **Thomas Bott**

Bott Thomas; Convict Reg. Number – 6012; Term - 10y; Age – 37; Trial Place; - Derby;

Date convicted – 1859; Criminal Offence – Arson (set fire to a hay stack) aka [BOTTS]; Occupation – boatman; Single; Height 5' 4 1/2"; Hair – brown; Eyes – grey; Face – long; Complexion – dark; Build - middling stout; Distinguishing marks - Woman on left arm.

Lincelles - arrived in WA in 1862



This 904 ton ship was built at Moulmein in 1858. It was employed as a convict transport for Western Australia and left Portland, England on October 5, 1861 bound for the Swan River Colony, stopping at the Cape of Good Hope on the way. She carried the twenty fourth of 37 shipments of male convicts destined for Western Australia. The voyage took 115 days and the Lincelles arrived in Fremantle on January 28, 1862 with 80 passengers and 304 convicts [Erickson]. Edwin Gooch and William Crawford were the captain and surgeon respectively.

The two deaths recorded on the convict shipping and description lists were for William Pullinger (6004) and Stephen Butcher (6040) and other sources say they both died on the voyage out. There were 306 convict numbers assigned for the voyage ranging from (5895 to 6200) and the [Bateson] account also agreed that 306 convicts embarked and 304 arrived.

Of the 80 passengers mentioned above, 78 were pensioner guards and their families, the number being made up of 30 pensioner guards, 17 wives, 17 sons and 14 daughters. The other 2 passengers have not been accounted for but were possibly cabin passengers or regular soldiers.

Researchers consulting Ian Richardson's "Log of Logs" for further information about this voyage are advised to consult his second volume under the same title as it presents a revised and corrected entry for this particular voyage of the Lincelles.

William Crawford's surgeon's journal for the voyage is preserved in the Public Record Office (PRO) in London. Researchers can view a copy on the Australian Joint Copying Project (AJCP) microfilm reel 3181 which is held in most major libraries and archives offices throughout Australia.

This list is also an alphabetically sorted list of the names associated with each of the 306 convict numbers assigned to this voyage. The comments field gives alternative names attributed to the various convicts, many of which are not only spelling variations, but alternative names used in later life or in subsequent re-convictions. The age quoted seems to refer to the age of the convict and his appearance was recorded when the passenger list was created.

### **The British Newspaper Archive**

**Derby Mercury, Derbyshire, England**

**Wednesday 23 March 1859 – page 6**

<http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/viewer/bl/0000052/18590323/033/0006>

### **Derbyshire Assizes**

#### **Charge of Firing a Stack**

*Thomas Bott, 34, boatman, was charged with having on 6 February, set fire to a stack of hay, the property of Thomas Paddington, Stretton-en-le-Fields – Mr Barker prosecuted; prisoner was undefended. – The prisoner and a man named Ward were overheard talking about a fire at Bonsor's and prisoner said,*

*"Old Bonsor thinks I set it on fire." Ward said,*

*"You did fired it did you not," and prisoner replied, "Oh no."*

*The same night, prosecutor's stack was fired, and a collier named Finch was returning home from his work in the middle of the night, and saw the prisoner coming from the direction of the prosecutor's stock-yard. He was about 300 yards from the rick when he saw him.*

*Prisoner said, "Come on my lad, I'll pay for a quart of ale, at Goehera's public house."*

*Finch said it was too late, they had shut up, and prisoner replied, "Go along then, and someone will very soon have to look sharp round the corners."*

*A lad was returning home from work, the same evening, about 12 o'clock, and on getting to Brambar Bridge he saw a hay-stack on fire – Richard Fisher, plumber, Measham, was at Redford's beer house Measham, on 4 February. Prisoner was there also.*

*Witness was looking through the window and prisoner said, "What are you looking at – are you looking at old Bonsor's rick's?"*

*Witness replied, "Oh no, not particular."*

*Prisoner then said, "Perhaps you think I set it on fire."*

*Witness replied that he did but that he did not do it on purpose.*

*Witness asked him what he went to a boatman in Coxon's spinney for.*

*Prisoner said he was turned out of prosecutor's house and had been put into a roundhouse, but he would be one in with the b – – old b – –, before long.*

*The next day prosecutor's stacks were fired. Police Constable Ray, on hearing of the matter, went in search of prisoner. Prosecutor asked prisoner where he went to when he left his house that night, and prisoner replied,*

*"I don't know."*

*Prosecutor said, "How come you to go to the gate of the stockyard." and he replied, "I don't know."*

*Witness asked him his object of going to the stockyard, and he said he could not, nor could he tell where he had been during the evening.*

*He'd made no reply to the charge, and trembled very much.*

*Witness made further inquiries, and then returned to prisoner, who said, "This job is enough to make one never want more drink." and witness replied that it was.*

*Prisoner then said, "I shan't say whether I did it, or did not, but I will bet you 6d that I get off.*

*He was then searched, and a box of matches was found upon him.*

*The keeper of the Wooden Box lock-up, also told him the charge, and prisoner said, "You have to prove it."*

*He also said, "I went into the gate by the stack because it was the nearest way."*

*Witness has since examined the place, and finds that it does not lead to anywhere. After a careful summing up from his Lordship, the jury found a verdict of guilty. His Lordship, in passing sentence, said he believed that he had fired stacks before, and as a warning to others in this county, he would order him to penal servitude for 10 years.*

Ten years for arson seemed strange compared to Rudd's activities – fire could have caused death and yet a lesser sentence. The legal system hasn't changed over the years – known facts uncovered – guilt proven – guilty transported to a penal colonies correction?

